



Two Million Signatures Sought for AI Petition

Former Prime Minister of Rhodesia Garfield TODD launched *AI's Prisoners of Conscience Year* in London at a news conference on 8 December by signing a worldwide petition for the release of all prisoners of conscience. He was joined by British Peer Lord AVEBURY and by ex-prisoners of conscience Martin SOSTRE (United States), Vadim DELAUNAY (Soviet Union), Angela SEIXAS (Brazil) and Didymus MUTASA (Rhodesia).

The conference was chaired by Professor Mumtaz SOYSAL, vice-chairman of *AI's* International Executive Committee, and an ex-prisoner of conscience from Turkey.

News of *Prisoners of Conscience Year* reached tens of millions of people throughout the world. *AI's* national sections organized press launches in Austria, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and the United States. In Italy and Switzerland *Prisoners of Conscience Year* was inaugurated by *AI* Secretary General Martin ENNALS. The Italian trade unions pledged their support for *Prisoners of Conscience Year*, in line with similar decisions taken earlier in the month by the International Metal Workers Federation, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the Socialist International.

A display of 15 art posters contributed by such internationally-known artists as Juan Miró and David Hockney opened *Prisoners of Conscience Year* in Spain, the United States and the Netherlands.

Swedish *AI* supporters marched through Stockholm, stopping at the embassies of all those countries holding prisoners of conscience to demand their immediate release.

AI's Nigerian Section hosted a special seminar on human rights.

In Paris, film producer Costa GAVRAS and folk singer Joan BAEZ joined former prisoners of conscience and IEC member Marie-José PROTAIS at the French opening of *Prisoners of Conscience Year*.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Gaston THORN wrote a special article for the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

Professor Soysal addressed a special launch meeting in Dublin, Republic of Ireland.

Messages of support for *Prisoners of Conscience Year* were received in London and Barcelona from Soviet ex-prisoner of conscience Leonid PLYUSHCH, Iranian poet and former prisoner Reza BARAHENI, from Prime Minister of South Australia Donald DUSTANT and the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions, among others. News of activities in other countries will be carried in the February Newsletter.

During 1977 *AI* will seek support from people on all continents to increase the efficiency of the organization's daily work for human rights.

In the words of Leonid Plyushch when announcing his support for *Prisoners of Conscience Year*, "the struggle for human rights is the struggle for the survival of our civilization"•

INDONESIAN PROGRAM OF RELEASES AND TRANSPORTATIONS

The chief of staff of KOPKAMTIB, the Indonesian state security agency, has announced a government program involving the release of detainees or their transfer to other islands, including Buru Island.

During the second half of 1976, *AI* organized international campaigns protesting against the continuing policy of sending released prisoners to Buru, which amounted to banishing them—often more than 1,000 kilometers from their homes and families.

The statement was made at a ceremony at Jakarta Army Divisional Headquarters on 1 December to mark the release on that day of 2,500 prisoners detained without trial in connection with the attempted coup

in 1965. The number was reported to include 1,430 in Sumatra, 863 in Java, 83 in Kalimantan, 80 in Sulawesi and 80 in Maluku.

About 150 of them were present at the ceremony where they swore allegiance to the government. Those released reportedly included university students, former government employees, a 72-year-old journalist and nine former members of the banned Indonesian women's movement *Gerwani*. The names and other details of the individuals released were not available.

The ceremony was also attended by ambassadors or *chargés d'affaires* of the United States, The Netherlands, Japan, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore and the United Kingdom, and the counsellor from the German embassy.

At a news conference afterwards, security chief Admiral SUDOMO said that those released were free to go home. He added that 30,934 prisoners remained in custody. Most would be released over the next three years, and the trials of those suspected of direct involvement in the coup attempt would be completed by the end of 1978.

However, Admiral Sudomo said that in order to provide employment opportunities for the released detainees, the government planned to create resettlement centers in Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi for those coming from these areas. But those released prisoners originating from Java, which was densely populated, would be sent to Buru and other islands.

He added that after their return to society, those released would still have to assure the government, by concrete deeds, that they had discarded the communist ideology. He announced that the press would be able to visit Buru in the new year•

FOUR PRISONERS RELEASED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Four prominent political prisoners were reported on 10 December to have been released in Czechoslovakia. The four men—Milan HUBL, Jiri MULLER, Antonin RUSEK and Jaroslav SABATA—had all supported the reform policies of Alexander DUBCEK in 1968. They have now been released on three years' probation, before the expiry of their sentences.

The four men were among the 46 supporters of the 1968 reform movement tried on charges of subversion in 1972. They are the last reported to be released from prison.

AI has expressed its satisfaction at the release to the Czechoslovak authorities, adding that the news was doubly welcome, as it was received on 10 December, the opening day of *Prisoners of Conscience Year*•

AI PUBLISHES BRIEFING ON GUATEMALA

As many as 20,000 people in Guatemala have suffered extrajudicial detention or execution since 1966 in what remains an almost daily occurrence, *AI* said in a 17-page briefing paper it published in December 1976.

The briefing paper quotes individual members of the government in Guatemala who have justified such killings as a response to leftwing and common criminal violence. The paper chronicles the practice of large scale extrajudicial execution of political

dissidents, common law criminals and ex-criminals, following extra-legal detention either by formally constituted security forces or by paramilitary groups. The paper stated that these groups operate with the knowledge and, at times, close cooperation of government authorities.

The briefing paper outlines the development of massive disappearances and summary execution as a routine political measure to counter leftwing guerrillas active in the late 1960s. It also traces the organization of largely civilian death squads such as *Mano*

Continued on page 4, column 3

IRISH DEATH SENTENCE APPEALS UPHELD

Appeals against the death sentences imposed on Noel and Marie MURRAY were upheld by the Republic of Ireland (Eire) Supreme Court on 9 December.

The court reduced Mr Murray's conviction from capital murder to ordinary murder. Since only certain categories of capital murder carry the death penalty, Mr Murray's sentence was altered from death to life imprisonment. The court found that the verdict of capital murder against Mrs Murray had not been adequately established in law in her first trial, and ordered that she be re-tried.

The new trial will probably be held early this year. If Mrs Murray is again convicted of capital murder she may again face the death penalty.

Mr and Mrs Murray had been sentenced to death in June 1976 after they were convicted of the murder of a policeman (December 1976 Newsletter)●

URUGUAY CONSIDERS BILL 'ON THE STATE OF DANGEROUSNESS'

Uruguay's Council of State is currently considering a bill "on the state of dangerousness" which punishes "inclination to commit a crime" with up to 6 years' imprisonment in a labour camp even though "no offence has been committed". It is expected to be passed by the council, the country's legislative body, and enter into law without delay.

The bill is modelled on laws conceived to deal with vagrants and beggars, but is to apply to political opponents.

Those liable to be declared "dangerous to the state" are people who, without committing a crime, show an inclination to commit offences under the Military Penal Code by believing in a "violent ideology" (such as marxism), consorting with political offenders or frequenting places used by them, or reducing confidence "in or outside the country" in the government's efforts to "restore the values of the nation".

Special courts presided over by civilian judges are created in the bill to decide on a person's "dangerousness" but there is no provision for appeal to a higher tribunal. The prescribed sentences range from house arrest with regular reporting to the authorities to 6 years in an institution with "a regime of labour".

Collection of relief money for families of political prisoners, as well as the defence of people on political charges, has been used as incriminating evidence in the courts. One of the few remaining defence lawyers in Uruguay, Mario Dell'Acqua, has recently been arrested. His cases include 25 political prisoners.

On 25 November, *AI* described the bill as an attempt to provide a veneer of legality to existing malpractices. It said that the broad wording of the bill combined with existing military legislation for judging civilians brings almost every Uruguayan citizen within its scope.

● *AI* Calls for Inquiry Into Arrests:

Also on 25 November, *AI* called on the Uruguayan government to initiate an independent inquiry into the circumstances

surrounding the alleged arrest of 62 people by the Uruguayan armed forces in Montevideo at the end of October.

The authorities announced the names of 14 of those arrested. But *AI*'s information is that these people were kidnapped in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, earlier last year, in some cases in the presence of eye-witnesses●

FORMER MINISTER REPORTED EXECUTED IN GUINEA

Former secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and former Minister of Justice in Guinea, Diallo TELLI was executed in November 1976, according to reports received by *AI*. He had been imprisoned since July on charges of participation in an alleged plot against the government of President Sekou TOURE in May.

While in prison with many other alleged plotters, Mr Telli is said to have "confessed" to his part in the conspiracy.

The plot was said to have been instigated by the Foulah, a large ethnic group to which Mr Telli belonged. The government is composed largely of members of the Malinke ethnic group.

AI had earlier cabled the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa, asking it to intervene in Mr Telli's case.

Diallo Telli was the OAU's secretary general from 1964 to 1972 before returning to Guinea and joining President Touré's government as justice minister●

THREE KURDS EXECUTED IN IRAQ

AI wrote to President AHMED HASSAN AL BAKR of Iraq on 8 December 1976 expressing "profound concern" at the execution of three Kurds, SHIHAB SHEIKH NOURI, JAAFAR ABDUL WAHID and ANWAR ZORAB (or ANWAR BRIZO). They are reported to have been hanged in Abu Ghreib prison on 23 November.

They had been tried by a revolutionary court in July on charges of forming an illegal political party. Five others were given prison sentences, and all were adopted by *AI* in September—except for Anwar Zorab whose name *AI* had only received shortly before (October 1976 Newsletter).

Reports reaching *AI* claim that the prisoners had been tortured during interrogation, tried *in camera* without legal representation, and that those condemned to death had not been given the right to appeal against their sentences.

AI urged the Iraqi government to allow an independent commission of inquiry to investigate all allegations of torture and to guarantee the right of legal representation and a fair and public hearing for all prisoners. It also asked the government to review its policy towards the death penalty and to consider the abolition of capital punishment, or at least to consider introducing the right of appeal for a person condemned to death by the revolutionary court and to consider reducing the number of offences punishable by death●

MORE DEATHS IN DETENTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Amidst reports of continuing detentions in South Africa, news has been received of the deaths in December of two more detainees (December 1976 Newsletter). Wellington TSHAZIBANE, an engineer, died within hours of his arrest by security police on 10 December.

Five days later, 30-year-old schoolteacher George BOTHA also died in security police custody in Port Elizabeth.

The authorities allege that both men committed suicide.

More than 430 people are currently reported to be detained under South Africa's security laws. They include more than 140 people held in preventive detention under the Internal Security Act.

● **Trade Unionists Banned:** In November, the South African authorities "banned" 25 trade union and human rights activists. They include Metal and Allied Workers' Union organizers Siphon KUBHEKA and Gavin ANDERSON, Loet DOUWES-DEKKER, chairman of the Urban Training Project in Johannesburg, and John COPELYN, Trade Union Advisory and Coordinating Council secretary in Durban.

Also banned, on 30 November, was a former staff member of *AI*'s International Secretariat, Eric ABRAHAM, aged 22, a Cape Town journalist and part-time correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and several European newspapers.

The banning orders, issued under the Internal Security Act, were each imposed for 5 years. They severely restrict the banned person's freedom of movement and social contact and prohibit the publication of his or her statements or writing. As a result, many banned people are prevented from following their normal profession●

AI PROTESTS AGAINST EXECUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA

AI cabled Ethiopian Head of State Brigadier-General Teferi BENTE, on 19 November 1976 to protest against the execution of 50 people during November. Those executed had been accused of various "counter-revolutionary crimes" and had been sentenced by military tribunals.

Since the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, the Provisional Military Council (the *Derg*) has enacted, and later extended, a penal code under which military courts may impose the death penalty for a wide range of offences. These include "economic crimes" (such as hoarding), bribery, illegally leaving the country and "sympathizing with anti-revolutionary organizations".

Several thousand Ethiopians have been detained in very poor prison conditions. They include students, female relatives of the deposed emperor, teachers, trade unionists, peasants and relatives of alleged opponents of the regime. Hundreds of other suspected opponents have been reported killed in recent months, and there have been allegations of torture●

Prisoners of the Month Campaign

Participants in the campaign are reminded that appeals must only be sent to the officials named at the end of each case. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner. It is important for the prisoner that messages to the authorities are worded carefully and courteously and that they are never sectarian.

Joseph Henry MENSAH, Ghana

Joseph Henry MENSAH was arrested in September 1975 after the appearance of a pamphlet in Ghana criticizing the economic policies of General Ignatius Acheampong's government.

A leading Ghanaian economist, Mr Mensah had been finance minister in the government of Dr Kofi Busia from 1969 until that government was overthrown by General Acheampong in the January 1972 coup. Mr Mensah was arrested at the time of the coup and adopted by *AI* while he was kept in detention without trial until July 1973.

After his release, he worked as a businessman in Ghana and became increasingly disturbed at what he considered to be the incorrect economic measures taken by the military government to deal with the country's economic crisis.

Shortly after his second arrest in 1975, he signed a statement in the presence of the police admitting authorship of the pamphlet which pleaded for a free discussion of economic policy. In the signed statement, he denied that two colleagues arrested with him, Dr Kwame KARIKARI and Ibrahim Codjoe QUAYE, had any connection with the pamphlet. He was, however, charged with sedition and his two colleagues with abetting sedition.

The trial of all three took place in October 1975 with a team of Ghana's most able lawyers acting for the defence. Mr Mensah denied that he had ever intended to incite the Ghanaian people against the government, but he said it was time to restore the people's right to choose their government by democratic means. *AI* has obtained a copy of the pamphlet, and it does not advocate any violent methods to bring about a change of government in Ghana.

All three defendants were found guilty. Mr Mensah was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment with hard labour. Dr Karikari to 6 years and Mr Quaye to 5 years. The three men now have the possibility of appealing against their conviction. The Court of Appeal has not yet announced a date for the hearing.

Please write courteously worded letters appealing for clemency for J.H. Mensah and his colleagues to: General Ignatius Acheampong, Head of State and President of the Supreme Military Council, the Castle, Osu, Accra, Ghana.

Franc MIKLAVCIC, Yugoslavia

Franc MIKLAVCIC, a 56-year-old district court judge in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, was arrested in his court on 17 May 1976. His

trial was held between 12-15 October in the town of Kranj in northern Slovenia. He had a reputation of being a fair judge with a notable concern for human rights. He was found guilty under article 101, paragraph 1, of the Yugoslav criminal code (endangering the territorial integrity and independence of the state), article 118, paragraph 2 (hostile propaganda) and article 320, paragraph 2 (disclosure of official secrets).

Mr Miklavcic was sentenced to 5 years and 8 months' rigorous imprisonment.

The case of Mr Miklavcic is closely linked with the case of the well-known catholic poet Edvard Kocbek. In 1975 Mr Kocbek, in an interview in the monthly Slovene magazine *Zaliv*, published in Trieste, Italy, ascribed the execution of several thousand Slovene anti-communists by partisans. After this interview, the official Yugoslav press started a campaign against the 70-year-old Mr Kocbek for misrepresenting Slovenian history.

The German Nobel Prize winner Heinrich BOLL headed international public appeals on Mr Kocbek's behalf.

In a later issue of *Zaliv*, Franc Miklavcic, a personal friend of Mr Kocbek and a wartime non-communist member of the Yugoslav Liberation Front, defended the poet's assertion. He maintained that Mr Kocbek's description of the execution of Slovenes at the end of the war in 1945 was based on true historical sources.

Part of Mr Miklavcic's sentence was based on his private diary, written between 1939 and 1976, which was alleged to advocate the unity of all ethnic Slovenes in a western-type democracy. The court, however, failed to prove that Mr Miklavcic wrote his diary for other than private purposes.

Please write courteously worded letters appealing for a reconsideration of Mr Miklavcic's case to: President J.B. Tito, Beograd, SFR Yugoslavia.

Andreas DEDOTIS, Greece

Andreas DEDOTIS is one of about 30 Jehovah's Witnesses who are at present imprisoned in Greece because of their conscientious objection to military service.

There is no right to conscientious objection in Greece, and the 1975 constitution reaffirms in article 4 that "Every Greek capable of bearing arms is obliged to contribute to the defence of the fatherland as provided by law". Article 13 of the constitution states that "No person shall be exempted from discharging his obligations to the state, nor may he refuse to comply with the laws by reason of religious convictions".

The average sentence passed on conscientious objectors is 4½ years' imprisonment. Most Jehovah's Witnesses have their sentences reduced on appeal and receive remission for good behaviour. But these reductions are usually of only theoretical benefit since a conscientious objector is called up again as soon as he is released, and if he still refuses to serve, he is sent to prison again. This can continue until he has passed the maximum military age of 40, and *AI* knows of many cases of men now serving their third term of imprisonment.

Andreas Dedotis suffers from deformative arthritis of the toes, and when he was first called up for military service three years ago, he was rejected because of his illness. He was told that after two years he would be completely discharged, but instead he was called up again. When he refused to do military service because of his religious beliefs, he was brought to trial.

On 23 February 1976, he was sentenced to 4½ years' imprisonment. The sentence was reduced to 1 year on appeal because he submitted evidence of his illness. He was released in September 1976, having been granted a remission of sentence for good behaviour.

After his release he was once again called up. Because he was late in presenting himself owing to family problems, he was charged with desertion. He is now imprisoned at Avlon prison while awaiting trial. His family are extremely worried about his health.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for his release to: The Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr Constantine Karamanlis, Athens, Greece, *and to:* The Minister of Defence, His Excellency Mr Evangelos Averoff-Tositsas, Ministry of National Defence, Holargos, Athens, Greece.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in November of the release of 86 adopted prisoners and took up 77 new cases.

ROMANIAN PRESIDENT COMMUTES DEATH SENTENCES

President Nicolae CEAUCESCU of Romania has commuted the death sentences on two Romanian citizens, Bogdan IORDANESCU and Nicolae ILLIES.

The two men had been sentenced to death by a military tribunal in August 1976 for economic espionage under article 157 of the country's penal code.

On 8 September, *AI* wrote to President Ceaucescu urging him to take all possible measures to ensure that Romania joins the growing number of countries which have effectively ceased to apply the death penalty, and to exercise his power of clemency to commute the death sentences on Mr Iordanescu and Mr Illies.

AI has written again to President Ceaucescu to express its pleasure at his decision.

AI ASKS PARAGUAY TO EXPLAIN DEATHS AND TORTURE

AI called on President Alfredo STROESSNER of Paraguay on 5 December to explain the recent deaths of a number of people at the hands of the police. Many of the victims had died after extensive torture. The victims are people suspected of any form of political opposition, including many peasants (October *CAT Bulletin*).

One of the most recent examples is that of Sixto MELJAREJO, a 26-year-old peasant from Quiindy, a town in the interior of Paraguay, who reportedly died in prison in September 1976 in unexplained circumstances. Señor Meljarejo had been arrested together with his 67-year-old father—who is still in prison—on 1 June. Both were transferred to the police investigation department, a known torture center in Asunción, the capital.

AI expressed deep concern about the "death of a young and healthy man after three months of having been placed under the direct custody of government bodies".

AI quoted the cases of five other recent deaths, reportedly under torture, and the names of several people who have been reportedly murdered in their homes by the police.

They included two peasant leaders who were decapitated in front of their wives and children in April 1976. The wife of one of them was later arrested and tortured. She is one of several women among the country's estimated 500-800 political prisoners who lost their reason as a result of torture.

In its letter to the president, AI referred to the gross violations of human rights by members of the security forces which were, apparently, condoned by the authorities.

SYRIA RELEASES AI ADOPTEE

AI-adopted prisoner AHMAD SHEIKH QASSEM of Syria was released at the beginning of December 1976 after 5 years' detention without charge or trial in AI Mezze prison. His release coincided with an AI urgent action campaign launched on 2 November which called for his immediate release. He was reported to be dying of a heart ailment and had not been allowed necessary medical treatment.

105 DETAINEES RELEASED IN MOROCCO AFTER HUNGER STRIKE

105 political detainees in Morocco were released on 8 December after taking part in a hunger strike. They had been detained without trial since November 1976. An examining magistrate announced that there was no case against them.

A total of 240 detainees in Casablanca prison went on hunger strike from 15 November to 4 December, in protest against the indefinite postponement of their trials. On 8 November they wrote to the minister of justice announcing their decision, and demanded to be either tried or released.

Those hunger strikers who remain in Casablanca prison were arrested early in 1976. They now total 135. The government gave an assurance at the end of the hunger strike that their trial would take place by February 1977.

The prisoners belong to the *Frontiste* movement which was started in 1970 by

young marxist intellectuals who were dissatisfied with the traditional opposition parties in Morocco.

A large number of *Frontistes* who had been detained since 1972 or 1973 were tried in July and August 1976. Many of them were acquitted or sentenced to less than 3 years' imprisonment, which they had already served by the time they were tried.

AI APPEALS AGAINST DEATH SENTENCES IN FRANCE

AI national sections appealed in November 1976 to French President Valéry GISCARD D'ESTAING to commute death sentences pronounced against Marcelin HORNEICH and his nephew Joseph KELLER. They had been condemned to death in June for the murder of two hitch-hikers and their appeal to the Supreme Court was rejected in October. They are still awaiting the result of an appeal to the president.

Four death sentences were confirmed by the court of appeal during 1976 and only one of these was commuted by the president. This was the death sentence passed against Moussa BENZAHRA, confirmed by the court of appeal in May and commuted by the president in August.

The death sentence against Christian RANUCCI was confirmed by the court of appeal in June and his appeal for clemency to the president was unsuccessful. His execution in July was the first to take place in France for three years.

A fifth person is due to stand trial in France on a charge carrying the capital penalty. This is Patrick HENRY, charged with the murder of a child.

GERMAN AI BANNER 'DID NOT INSULT SHAH OF IRAN'

An AI member in the Federal Republic of Germany has been cleared of charges of insulting the Shah of Iran during a demonstration. Jan MUHLSTEIN had placed a placard inscribed "Iran: the Shah confesses torture" on an information stand while acting as deputy leader of an AI demonstration on 15 October in Munich. The banner was confiscated and Mr Mühlstein arrested.

On 19 November, the Munich District Court rejected an application from the public prosecutor's office that its confiscation of the banner be confirmed.

In his defence against the charge of insulting a head of state, Mr Mühlstein produced several newspaper articles, including interviews with the Shah which appeared in the French newspaper *Le Monde*, in which the Shah was questioned about the use of torture in Iran. In the most recent interview the Shah stated, "Why should we not employ the same methods as you Europeans? We have learned sophisticated methods of torture from you. You use psychological methods to extract the truth; we do the same."

The Munich District Court ruled that "There can be no reasonable doubt that the statements of the Shah of Persia are correctly reproduced in this renowned independent French newspaper of world reputation. The assertion by the accused based on such statements that the Shah confesses to

torture is covered by the basic protected right to the free expression of opinion and the perception of justified interests".

AI APPEALS FOR RELEASE OF GDR PHYSICIST

AI on 3 December appealed to Erich HONECKER, Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for the release of Professor Robert HAVEMANN and several other GDR citizens.

Professor Havemann, a 67-year-old physicist and marxist philosopher and a leading critic of some aspects of his government's policies, was arrested on 26 November and charged with "endangering order and security" in the GDR. The immediate reason for his arrest is generally believed to be his public protests against the expulsion of the songwriter Wolf BIERMANN from the country.

Mr Biermann left the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and moved to the GDR in 1953. He has since been an outspoken critic of both German governments. While he was on a three-week tour of the FRG in November 1976, the GDR authorities deprived him of his citizenship because of his allegedly "hostile performances". Besides Professor Havemann several other GDR citizens, including the writer Jürgen FUCHS, were arrested for protesting against Mr Biermann's expulsion.

Professor Havemann has been forcibly restricted to his home since his arrest, and the public is not allowed to enter its immediate vicinity.

AI Publishes Briefing on Guatemala

Continued from page 1, column 2
Blanca (White Hand) in which "for the first time civilians were systematically integrated into the security apparatus on a semi-permanent basis".

The paper details:

- the number of probable extrajudicial executions and their geographical distribution within Guatemala;
- the practice of torture, usually reported in conjunction with extrajudicial executions;
- the legal basis of paramilitary death squads;
- a high level of political violence from the clandestine opposition.

The paper states that from 1 July 1974, when President Kjell LAUGERUD of Guatemala took office, to April 1976, AI had catalogued 379 cases of deaths and disappearances in which extrajudicial execution is believed to have occurred. However, the paper also reports recent developments, including cabinet changes, that suggest President Laugerud may move to check the routine killings and disappearances.

Amnesty International Briefing on Guatemala, 17 pages, is published by Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England, and is available from AI's national sections. Price 40 pence (US \$1.00), plus postage and handling. Annual inclusive subscription price for 10 individual country briefing papers: £6 (US \$15.00) post paid.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER is published monthly by: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. Printed in Great Britain by Hill and Garwood Ltd, Fourth Way, Wembley, Middlesex. Available on subscription at £6 (US \$15) per calendar year.



amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

January 1977 Volume III Number 1

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Portuguese Left Accused of Torture

A special committee set up in January 1976 by the Portuguese Council of the Revolution claims that hundreds of citizens were arbitrarily arrested and often subjected to ill-treatment and torture when the left wing of the military governed the country. The abuses were said to have taken place between September 1974, the date of the fall of former President Antonio SPINOLA, and November 1975, the time of the alleged abortive coup by the extreme left.

In a report published on 3 December, the committee names the now disbanded military security force COPCON as the agency mainly responsible for the abuses. It said the arrests were frequently carried out on the basis of anonymous denunciations, often with blank warrants signed in advance, and sometimes without any warrant.

The worst treatment allegedly occurred at the headquarters of the Lisbon artillery regiment and the headquarters of the Lisbon military police. It included continuous beating during interrogation, drenching with cold water from hosepipes, forced running, threats to relatives, beatings on the soles of the feet, holding burning matches to the head and shining infra-red rays into the eyes for a long period. The report declared that "the most dissolute, sordid and diverse human passions opened the way for a tumultuous exhibition of collective degradation".

President Antonio Ramalho EANES immediately ordered a further investigation and the prompt dismissal from the armed forces of those directly involved in the ill-treatment and torture of detainees.

He also referred to the trials of former agents of the PIDE, the feared security police of the pre-1974 right-wing regime. At the first trial, concluded on 2 December, Alberto Raul de CARVALHO, a former senior PIDE officer, was deprived of his political rights for five years. Although the court found him guilty, it did not impose a prison sentence because of "extraordinary extenuating circumstances". This decision has provoked many public protests •

TWO TORTURED MEN FREED IN THE PHILIPPINES

Sentences of life imprisonment passed on two men who were tortured into confessing to robbery and homicide were reversed on 26 November by the Philippines Supreme Court.

The supreme court warned law officers against maltreating suspects to obtain confessions. It also called on the Department of Justice to take proper action against those soldiers of the Philippines Constabulary who had used "an impressive array of third-degree methods in extracting confessions" from the

accused. The court held that the conviction of the two men could not be based simply on extra-judicial confessions which were later repudiated. "Such confessions were procured by force, violence or threats," the court added.

The two prisoners were accused of killing a man in the town of Sultan Kudarat in January 1973. They told the court that they had been subjected to extremely painful maltreatment, including sexual abuses, while in custody.

In its warning, the court quoted a previous ruling which said: "It is timely to impress anew on police officials that the imperative requirements of truth and humanity condemn the use of force and violence to extract confessions from unwilling victims. There would be less than complete respect for the law if, in the process of enforcing it, lawless methods are employed" •

ATROCITIES CONTINUE IN UGANDA

Recent reports indicate a continuing pattern of government-sanctioned atrocities in Uganda, inflicted on various sections of the population. One of the latest victims, Jimmy PARMA, the chief photographer of the information ministry, was abducted in October in a Kampala street by armed men in civilian clothes, believed to be military personnel. His body was found several days later in a forest outside the capital.

It was later revealed that Mr Parma had taken photographs of the partly burned body of Dora BLOCH, the 74-year old British-Israeli woman who disappeared after the Israeli rescue of hijack hostages at Entebbe airport last July. The Ugandan authorities have consistently denied knowledge of Mrs Bloch's death.

A month earlier, John SERWANIKO, editor of a Roman Catholic daily newspaper, was found dead in his cell at the central police station in Kampala. He had been under arrest for six weeks after leaflets criticizing President Idi AMIN had allegedly been found in his office. Two of his colleagues,

Bob KAKEMBO and Jim LUYIMA, now face treason charges, which carry the death penalty, before a military tribunal.

The Ugandan government still denies the massacre at Makerere University on 3 August, when the army attacked a large number of unarmed students demonstrating against the extremely poor living conditions of Uganda's rural population. According to reliable reports, more than 300 students were killed and a larger number subjected to brutal torture after arrest (September *Newsletter*).

On the other hand, the government has now implicitly admitted responsibility for the massacre of an unknown number of Kenyans after the Israeli raid on Entebbe by reportedly agreeing to pay compensation for their deaths. Uganda had originally accused Kenya of complicity in the operation. A number of Kenyans remain "disappeared" in Uganda.

According to a former inspector of the Ugandan secret police, who is now in exile, more than 300,000 civilians, 10,000 soldiers and 3,000 policemen have been killed during President Amin's five-year rule, but *AI* is not in a position to verify these figures.

The International Commission of Jurists submitted a report on human rights violations in Uganda to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1974. The case of Uganda will come up again for consideration next month before the UN commission •

TORTURE IN SPAIN CONTINUES

Despite the gradual liberalization in Spain during 1976, allegations of torture continue to reach the outside world, particularly from the Basque country.

Legal sources in the Basque provinces allege that torture has been widely used by Spanish security forces investigating the assassination of a government official and three policemen shot in San Sebastian on 4 October. The killings were reported to be followed by "three days of terror" during which security forces searched for suspects. Hundreds of people were temporarily detained for interrogation and, according to local lawyers, most of them were tortured before being released for lack of evidence.

The Spanish press is forbidden by law to report the violent police raids and the alleged ill-treatment of those arrested. However, the London *Guardian* of 11 November carried a report of a formal complaint by one of the victims, a 43-year old Roman Catholic, who said:

Continued on next page, column 3

appeals

'DISAPPEARANCES AND DEATHS FROM TORTURE' IN MOROCCO

Substantial evidence of the use of torture by the Moroccan police came to light during a series of political trials held in July and August 1976. Several of the trials were attended by *AI* observers.

Out of a total of some 350 political prisoners tried on various charges connected with their opposition to the government of King HASSAN II, more than 200 were either acquitted or sentenced to terms of less than 3 years. Many of the accused had been in detention since 1973, and some since 1972.

The reports of three *AI* missions to Morocco in April, July and August 1976 contain accounts of ill-treatment and torture of political detainees while held by police in secret detention centers.

The two main police centers where political detainees are held secretly are located in Casablanca. One is reportedly in the Moulay Cherif area of the city and the other in the cellars of the internal flights airport, ANFA.

Torture methods described at the trials included electric shocks administered to the eyes and the genitals, prolonged suspension from the hands and feet, beatings—especially on the head—stuffing rags soaked in excrement into the mouth until the victim nearly chokes, threatening with dogs, constant exposure to strong light, and prolonged (up to six months) blindfolding and handcuffing. Demands by defence lawyers at the trial that the responsible police personnel be named were refused by the court.

Out of a large number of members of the Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires (USFP) who were arrested in 1973, ten reportedly died as a result of torture. Among them was MOHAMED ZAKARIA LAABDI, who was first held at Moulay Cherif and then at ANFA. In early 1974, he was delirious, vomiting blood and suffering from a contagious skin disease, but the police reportedly refused to move him or to provide adequate medical care.

Nine others have disappeared since their arrest, and it is feared that they too may have died. Among them is ABDELLATIF ZEROUAL, a 30-year old teacher and popular leader of the leftwing opposition, arrested in November 1974 after being sentenced *in absentia* to life imprisonment in the summer of 1973 (February and November 1975 *CAT Bulletins*). It is now believed that he died after torture in Rabat five days after his arrest. When last seen by his companions, he was unable to walk and was being carried off on a sheepskin for further interrogation.

Please send courteously worded letters, appealing for an impartial investigation into allegations of torture and prolonged secret detention, to: Sa Majesté le Roi Hassan II, Rabat, Maroc; and to: M. Abbes Kaissi, Ministre de la Justice, Rabat, Maroc ●

POLISH DEMONSTRATORS 'TORTURED'

The Polish Committee for the Defence of the Workers has complained that protesters against the government's announced food price increases last June were tortured by the police. The committee, which works openly in Poland for the adherence to existing legal norms, claimed in a letter to the Polish parliament on 15 November that police forced some detained workers to run—in some cases several times—between two rows of policemen who beat them with truncheons. They said other methods of ill-treatment included a painful method of cutting the prisoners' hair and beards with a knife.

According to this letter, the worst beatings were administered to workers from the Ursus tractor plant near Warsaw and from Radom, about 110 kilometers from Warsaw. "A total of 96 cases checked in Radom revealed 93 incidents of torture, and more than half of the 94 demonstrators arrested from the Ursus plant were also beaten up", the letter said.

Jan BROZNYA, from Radom, was allegedly clubbed on the head in the street four days after the June demonstration. A doctor at the police station examined him and said he had merely a "black eye". The following day he was admitted to hospital where he died on 30 June of a cerebral haemorrhage.

The committee further alleges that its own members have been victimized for such activities as attending trials and interviewing detainees' relatives. Scientist Miroslaw CHOJECKI was reportedly dismissed from the Atomic Research Institute on 21 October and questioned by the police for 13 hours about his committee activities. Ludwik DORN was allegedly handcuffed, beaten, choked and insulted with anti-semitic slogans after he and four other committee members tried to attend the trial of some of the worker demonstrators. These and other examples have been made public by the committee.

Please write courteously worded letters, asking for an official inquiry into individual cases of alleged ill-treatment of the June protesters and into the harassment of members of the Committee for the Defence of the Workers, to: Mr W. Berutowicz, Minister of Justice, Aleje Ujazdowskie 11, Warsaw, Poland and to: First Secretary of the General Committee Mr Edward Gierak, Polish United Workers' Party, Nowy Swiat, Warsaw, Poland. ●

COUPLE AND BABY MISSING IN ARGENTINA

The persecution of Latin American refugees living in Argentina was stepped up dramatically during 1976. Among the Uruguayan refugees alone, at least 70 were abducted. After interrogation and torture some of them were released by their unidentified kidnappers, who are believed to be connected with the Argentine and Uruguayan security forces. Others were found dead and mutilated. But

most of the 70 have disappeared completely.

On 27 September, a Uruguayan refugee couple, Jorge ZAFFARONI CASTILLA, aged 23, and his wife María Emilia ISLAS DE ZAFFARONI, were kidnapped from their home in Buenos Aires by a group of men carrying submachine guns. Their one-year-old daughter Mariana ZAFFARONI ISLAS was abducted with them.

Relatives of the family have unsuccessfully searched for the three and have made public appeals for help in finding them.

Please write courteously worded appeals to the Argentine authorities, asking them to take steps to protect refugees and to establish the whereabouts of the Zaffaronis and their baby, to: Exmo. Gral. Jorge Rafael Videla, Presidente de la República Argentina, Casa de Gobierno, Buenos Aires, Argentina; and to: General Albano Harguindeguy, Ministro del Interior, Balcarce 50, Buenos Aires, Argentina ●

Torture in Spain Continues

continued from page 1, column 3

"I was ordered to strip completely. . . they tied my hands behind my back and secured me to a table next to a bath full of dirty water. . . they forced my head into the dirty water. . . The feeling created in someone tortured like this is of wanting to die as soon as possible." He was also beaten before he was released for lack of evidence.

His complaint includes a medical report which corroborates the alleged maltreatment.

A very small number of torture allegations have been taken up by the courts. But though the charges have been corroborated, the responsible members of the security forces have received sentences of only 3 to 25 days' detention and fines. The only torturer to receive a longer sentence was a police inspector in the Canary Islands, who was sentenced to 5 months' imprisonment for severely torturing a prisoner in September 1975. He has yet to be tried for the murder of another prisoner ●

INDONESIAN BOY TORTURED FOR MINOR THEFT

The Indonesian press has recently publicized the case of a 14-year-old boy who was tortured for allegedly stealing a kilogram of cloves from a plantation. The reports said the alleged theft had taken place in the town of Lampung in southern Sumatra. The boy SULMANAN, was reported to have been so badly tortured that he is likely to lose both hands. The authorities have ordered an inquiry into the case.

Indonesian human rights activist H.J. PRINCEN has publicly protested against the treatment of Sulmanan as being an example of the excessive penalties imposed for minor offences in his country.

Mr Princen was himself in detention for one year following the student demonstrations that accompanied the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei TANAKA to Indonesia in January 1974 ●