



How a Guatemalan peasant refugee portrayed an attack on his village



Credit: Nelson

The picture at the top of this page (with two details underneath) was painted by a Guatemalan peasant now living in a Mexican refugee centre at Motozintla. (He signed the picture but *AI* is not naming him to protect him from possible reprisals.) It is his portrayal of an army attack on his village in the northwestern department of Huehuetenango last May. At the bottom (right) of his picture he writes: "This is the village of Acál where the army massacred people on Wednesday 26 May 1982 when they were all in church. When they realized [what was happening], the soldiers had already surrounded the village. That is why we see many people dead and hanging and lying on the ground." The detail above, right, shows "a person hanging from a tree" and below that a hooded person pointing out two people, who are shown being shot by soldiers. The other detail, left, shows "the house of the late Pedro-Domingo Ordoñez . . . who was abducted by

Continued on page 8

Call for SA Govt. to end human rights violations in Namibia

AI has appealed to the South African Government to end detention without trial and the use of torture in Namibia, and to carry out a thorough review of the cases of all Namibian political prisoners.

The appeal was made in a letter to Prime Minister P.W. Botha and made public in a news release on 1 December 1982.

Criticizing the sweeping powers of arrest given to troops and the police—and the lack of protection for those seized—the letter said, "This system is bound to lead to abuse of the rights of detainees and to result, as it has, in cases of torture and reports of 'disappearances'."

The use of electric shocks, beating and other forms of torture has repeatedly been reported to *AI* and to church groups.

Shootings of civilians have been described by defectors from the South African forces and by Namibian, British and South African church representatives. *AI's* letter called for an independent inquiry into reported killings of this kind.

Urging a review of political prisoners' cases, *AI* said those held only for the non-violent expression of their views should be released immediately. Prisoners held without trial should either be charged and tried or released and the review should also benefit convicted prisoners whose trials failed to meet international standards of fairness.

Continued on page 7

Also in this issue: ●Yugoslav trials, page 2 ●Worldwide POC appeal, page 4 ●Political trials in China, page 8

Yugoslavia Kosovo trials: ill-treatment of defendants alleged

An ethnic Albanian from Kosovo province is reported to have been so badly ill-treated in custody that he was unable to stand trial with 18 co-defendants on charges of "hostile activity" in July last year.

The Yugoslav press reported later, in November, that Hydajet Hyseni had been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. At the July trial the authorities said he was not appearing because he was in "a depressive state".

However, according to unofficial reports received by *AI* he had been unable to appear because of ill-treatment after his arrest in December 1981. It is alleged that when family members were first allowed to visit him in prison he appeared unable to recognize them. He was later moved to Belgrade prison hospital for treatment.

AI does not know the circumstances of his trial, from which the press appear to have been barred. Journalists were later informed of his conviction and sentence.

In July his 18 co-defendants were sentenced to between four and 15 years' imprisonment after a trial in Pristina. The principal defendants had been accused of having founded an organization aiming at the forcible separation of Albanian-inhabited territories of Yugoslavia and their unification with neighbouring Albania.

From Yugoslav press reports it appears that duplicating machines, typewriters and arms were found in the possession of members of the group—although they denied planning to use violence and stated that their activities had consisted exclusively in propaganda.

There have also been allegations of severe ill-treatment of two other Albanians sentenced to imprisonment for political offences after a group trial of

nine intellectuals on 23 July in Pristina.

The principal defendant, Halil Alidema, a poet and history lecturer at Pristina university, reportedly told the court that he had been physically ill-treated during investigation proceedings. He was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment on charges of conspiracy and espionage.

A co-defendant, Ukshin Hoti, aged 39, a lecturer in political sociology at Pristina university, was also allegedly ill-treated after his arrest on 20 November 1981. During his investigation he was reportedly denied access to a lawyer, who was allowed to examine his case dossier only two weeks before the trial.

He is reported to have been accused of having supported nationalist demonstrations in Kosovo in 1981 by Albanians calling for the province to be granted republic status and to cease to be attached to the Republic of Serbia; of having written to the United Nations, read and commented on an Albanian emigre pamphlet, and made tape recordings of broadcasts by *Radio Tirana* (of Albania); and of having intended to emigrate to the USA.

He reportedly denied most of these charges but was found guilty of "association for the purpose of hostile activity" and sentenced to nine years' imprisonment. *AI* has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience.

The organization has received other allegations of ill-treatment of people arrested on political charges in Kosovo after early 1981. It has written to the Yugoslav authorities to urge an investigation into the treatment of Hydajet Hyseni, Halil Alidema and Ukshin Hoti during pre-trial detention and has asked for further information on the charges against a number of political prisoners in Kosovo whose cases it is investigating □

Pakistan Fears for health of detained Sindhi lawyer

There are fears for the health of a Sindhi lawyer who has been held without charge or trial for more than two years since the expiry of a one-year prison sentence imposed on him by a summary military court.

Rasul Baksh Palejo, Secretary-General of the left-wing Pakistan *Awami Tehriq* (PAT), Pakistan People's Movement, was among some 50 people arrested in Sind province in mid-October 1979, after President Zia-ul-Haq had announced the cancellation of general elections and the banning of political parties and political activities.

He was charged with "making objectionable speeches and raising slogans at illegally convened meetings", convicted and sentenced to a year in jail and a fine.

Prisoner of conscience

AI considered that he had been imprisoned for the non-violent exercise of his rights to freedom of opinion and expression and adopted him as a prisoner of conscience.

He was not released on completing his sentence in October 1980 and is being detained in Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore, under Martial Law Order No. 78, which provides for indefinite detention without charge or trial.

Although his health is reported recently to have deteriorated seriously he is said to be receiving no medical treatment. Reports reaching *AI* say he has low blood pressure and poor circulation, is unable to walk or do any work and is suffering from depression □

DEATH PENALTY

***AI* has learned of 67 people being sentenced to death in 16 countries and of 46 executions in seven countries during November 1982.**

Moroccan POCs go on hunger-strike

AI has received a letter signed by some 30 of its adopted prisoners of conscience in Morocco announcing their intention of going on a hunger-strike from 8 to 17 December 1982 to support their demand for the release of all political prisoners in the country. The signatories, held in Kenitra Central Prison, were arrested in 1976 or earlier.

Accompanying the letter were copies of open letters addressed to the Moroccan Minister of Justice, Parliament and political parties. In these letters the prisoners claim that their long imprisonment and the consequent suffering of their families are incompatible with the rights guaranteed under Moroccan law and international

human rights covenants that Morocco has ratified.

They call on the Moroccan authorities and the country's political parties to take a clear stand in defence of human rights, pointing out that as long ago as December 1977 Parliament unanimously called for the release of all political prisoners.

Campaign for Prisoners of the Month



Each of the people whose story is told below is a prisoner of conscience. Each has been arrested because of his or her religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated violence. Their continuing detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International appeals can help to secure the release of these prisoners or to improve their detention conditions. In the interest of the prisoners, letters to the authorities should be worded carefully and courteously. You should stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

Nkaka Chisanga PUTA, Zambia

A lawyer, aged 30, he has been detained without charge or trial since July 1981.

Nkaka Chisanga Puta was detained by Zambian security police on 2 July 1981 under a 28-day police detention order. After two weeks he was served with an administrative detention order signed by President Kaunda. Although valid for one year, detention orders under Section 33(i) of the Preservation of Public Security Regulations may be continually renewed, and detainees have no effective means of challenging their detention.

The Zambian authorities have said that Chisanga Puta is being detained because of his involvement in a plan to release detainees alleged to have plotted to overthrow the government—but no formal charges have been made.

AI believes he has been detained because of his professional and family connections with one of the main defendants in a major treason trial which began in November 1981 and involved his uncle, Valentine Musakanya, a former government minister. Chisanga Puta acted as his uncle's lawyer and in November 1980 successfully applied for his release on a writ of *habeas corpus*. (He was immediately re-detained under a new order.) The Zambian authorities are believed to have been embarrassed by the success of the *habeas corpus* application and by Chisanga Puta's other attempts to secure his client's release by legal means.

Chisanga Puta is reported to have been badly beaten after his arrest. A *habeas corpus* action on his behalf failed in the High Court on 4 December 1981, although the judge reportedly found that he had been subjected to inhuman treatment and ordered that he be compensated. He is being held in Mpima Prison, Kabwe.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: His Excellency President Kenneth Kaunda/ State House/Lusaka/Zambia.

Mart NIKLUS, USSR

An Estonian biologist, aged 48, he is serving a 15-year sentence imposed in January 1981 for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

Mart Niklus was one of 45 Estonians, Lithuanians and Latvians who, on the 40th anniversary of the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of 1939, signed an appeal calling on the Soviet authorities to declare it void. Among other things, the pact led to Estonia becoming part of the USSR.

The appeal was signed on 23 August 1979. Mart Niklus was arrested the following April in Tartu, Estonia, and was detained until his trial in January 1981.

The principal charges detailed in his indictment accused him of listening with students to *Voice of America* radio broadcasts, making "anti-Soviet" telephone calls to Sweden and signing *samizdat* letters (those published privately, without official approval or censorship).

As an "especially dangerous recidivist" he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and five years' internal exile.

He had been convicted before, in 1959, for "rendering services to the international bourgeoisie"—giving Finnish students 15 photographs showing alleged shortcomings of Soviet life. For this he was sentenced to 10 years in a corrective labour colony. (While serving this sentence he made the first translation of Charles Darwin's works into Estonian.) After a review of his case he was released in 1966.

He is now held in the special regime section of Perm corrective labour colony No. 36. Prisoners there spend almost 24 hours a day in cells.

Please send courteous letters appealing for the release of Mart Niklus to: Mr Karl Kimmel/Procurator of the Estonian SSR/Prokuratura Estonskoy SSR/Mitshurini 7/200001 g. Tallin/Estonskaya SSR/USSR.

Seven members of the Kurdish community, Syria

Members of the Kurdish Democratic Party, they have been detained without charge or trial for more than nine years.

The seven were among a group of 12 Syrian Kurds who were arrested in July and August 1973 after sending a memorandum to President Hafiz al-Assad protesting against the "Arab Belt Plan". Described officially as "a plan for the establishment of model state farms", it involved in effect the transfer of the Kurdish population in Syria's northern border areas and their replacement by Arabs. By 1977, 12,000 Kurds were said to have been deported from the Jazira area.

AI adopted eight of the 12 detained Kurds as prisoners of conscience in 1974 and the other four in 1978. In 1980 it learned that five had been released.

The seven still detained are: Abdullah Mulla Ali, Hassan Osman Ibrahim, Muhammad Mulla Fakhri, aged 43, and Muhammad Khalid Abdul Rahman Sharaf, aged 48, all from the town of Qamishli; Ahmad Haj Sae'd al-Arbu, aged 49, from Malak; Amin Gulin, a teacher, from Akrim; and Hassan Ahmad Musa, aged 47, from Ali Furu.

Since their arrest in 1973, the seven have been separated and transferred at different times to various prisons in Damascus and Aleppo. Repeated appeals by AI groups to the Syrian authorities for their release and requests for information on their health and whereabouts have remained unanswered.

Please send courteous letters appealing for their release and for information on their whereabouts to: President Hafiz al-Assad/Presidential Palace/Damascus/Syrian Arab Republic; *and to:* Major-General Nasir al-Din Nasir/Minister of the Interior/Damascus/Syrian Arab Republic.

AI works on the cases of between four and five thousand known or possible prisoners of conscience at any one time. They are only the tip of the iceberg—for each name that is known to AI there may be 50 or another 100 that are unknown. Last month the organization launched an international petition for an amnesty for all prisoners of conscience everywhere.

Nobel laureates help to launch worldwide amnesty appeals

Seven Nobel Peace Prize winners, including Willy Brandt and Andrei Sakharov, have helped launch a worldwide signature drive by AI for the release of people imprisoned solely for their ideas or origins.

The petitions were launched on international Human Rights Day, 10 December 1982, and will be circulated throughout most of 1983 before they are presented to all heads of state and the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Peace laureates supporting the drive include Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, who won the prize for his efforts to protect human rights in Argentina, and Mairead Corrigan, awarded it for her work for peace in Northern Ireland.

Also signing was Coretta King, widow of the assassinated US civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, who received the prize in 1964.

The petitions call for the release of all prisoners of conscience—men and women imprisoned in many countries solely because of their political or religious beliefs, their colour or ethnic origin, who have not used or advocated violence. The amnesty is urged for thousands of such prisoners known to AI and all others who come within the definition.

The new appeal for a "Universal Amnesty for All Prisoners of Conscience" declares: "None of these people should be in prison. The fact that they have been arrested and punished because of their beliefs or origins is an affront to humanity."

The signers state their belief that "there is an indissoluble link between

human rights and peace". They say the amnesty would build international confidence, promote fundamental freedoms and advance respect for human rights everywhere.

The seven Peace laureates are Willy Brandt (Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), 1971), Mairead Corrigan (United Kingdom (UK), 1976), Sean MacBride (Ireland, 1974), Alva Myrdal (Sweden, 1982), the late Philip Noel-Baker (UK, 1959), Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (Argentina, 1980) and Andrei Sakharov (USSR, 1975).

Andrei Sakharov, noted Soviet scientist and human rights advocate, is currently confined to the city of Gorky in internal exile in the USSR.

Other Nobel laureates signing the first petitions were Heinrich Böll (FRG, Literature, 1972), Gunnar Myrdal (Sweden, Economics, 1974) and Elias Canetti (UK, Literature, 1981) □



The picture shows (top row, from left to right): Sean MacBride, Andrei Sakharov, Alva Myrdal and Mairead Corrigan; below her, the late Philip Noel-Baker; (bottom row, from left to right): Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Coretta King and (bottom right) Willy Brandt.

(Photograph of Philip Noel-Baker by John Birdshall/Rentasnap.)

A Universal Amnesty for All Prisoners of Conscience



THOUSANDS of men and women are in prison throughout the world solely because of their political or religious beliefs. Others are held because of their colour or ethnic origin. These are Prisoners of Conscience — none has used or advocated violence.

NONE of these people should be in prison. The fact that they have been arrested and punished because of their beliefs or origins is an affront to humanity. They should be freed unconditionally.

WE CALL FOR A UNIVERSAL AMNESTY FOR ALL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

WE BELIEVE that such an amnesty, backed by the United Nations and declared by all governments, is possible. It would give effect to the moral and legal principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

WE ISSUE this call in the belief that there is an indissoluble link between human rights and peace. An amnesty for all prisoners of conscience would be an unparalleled act in the building of international confidence and the promotion of fundamental freedoms. It would advance respect for human rights everywhere, securing thereby the foundations for justice, freedom and peace.



Name

Address

_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____

This Appeal extends to all those adopted as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International and to those falling within its definition of such prisoners. The appeal will be presented to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and to all Heads of State.

All signed petitions should be returned to Amnesty International's International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, United Kingdom.

About this appeal . . .

Prisoners of conscience have been the central concern of Amnesty International since the movement was launched. More than 20,000 individual cases have been taken up by Amnesty International groups over the years. It is impossible to calculate how many prisoners of conscience are held throughout the world today. Many are held in remote locations. Some have "disappeared" into secret detention. All, however, are detained solely for their political or religious beliefs or for their colour, national or ethnic origin. None has used or advocated violence.

In 1977, recognizing the continuing scale on which prisoners of conscience were being held in countries throughout the world, Amnesty International marked Prisoners of Conscience Year. One aim of that year-long campaign was to bring the issue of prisoners of conscience to the attention of the United Nations. A petition was delivered to the General Assembly and its text circulated to all member states.

At the 1981 session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Amnesty International called for international procedures to gather information on prisoners of conscience and to check on how member states have observed UN resolutions for the release of certain categories of prisoners, which have included prisoners of conscience.

Despite these efforts and despite continuous work by Amnesty International groups working for the release of individual prisoners of conscience, the problem persists. Nearly half the member states of the United Nations are believed to be holding prisoners of conscience.

Amnesty International therefore decided to launch a worldwide public appeal for a Universal Amnesty for All Prisoners of Conscience. The appeal opened on 10 December 1982, Human Rights Day. It may be signed by any individual, institution or organization and will be presented by Amnesty International to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It is also being sent to all heads of state.

The Appeal

The appeal has been drawn up by Amnesty International. It takes into account international standards for the protection of human rights and the movement's own experience in working for the release of prisoners of conscience.

It is concerned solely with the question of

prisoners of conscience and does not touch on the other parts of Amnesty International's mandate. It aims to focus attention on the injustice of the continued detention of these non-violent prisoners. That imprisonment, in itself, violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The appeal is addressed both to the United Nations General Assembly and to all governments. It does not call explicitly for a UN resolution, but states that the amnesty would be consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and that such an amnesty backed by the United Nations and declared by all governments is possible.

The Amnesty for All Prisoners of Conscience is foreseen in the appeal as "an unparalleled act in the building of international confidence and the promotion of fundamental freedoms". The appeal is issued "in the belief that there is an indissoluble link between peace and human rights". This link was emphasized by Amnesty International when it received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. In his lecture, accepting the award on behalf of Amnesty International, the then Vice-chairperson of the International Executive Committee, Mumtaz Soysal, stated:

"We are gratified for this acknowledgement that the concern for peace and the promotion of human rights are inseparable. Peace is not to be measured by the absence of conventional war, but constructed upon foundations of justice. Where there is injustice, there is the seed of conflict. Where human rights are violated, there are threats to peace. . . ."

"People everywhere need to be continually reminded that violations of human rights, whether arbitrary arrest and detention, unjust imprisonment, torture or political assassination, are threats to world peace. Each violation, wherever it occurs, can set in motion a trend towards the debasement of human dignity. From individuals to groups, from groups to nations, from nations to groups of nations, in chain reaction a pattern sets in of violence and repression and a lack of concern for human welfare."

"This must never be allowed to start. And the place to stop it is at the level of the individual. Therefore, the protection of the rights of individuals to think freely, to express themselves freely, to associate freely with others and to disseminate their thoughts is essential to the preservation of world peace."

Albania

Hoxha announces detention of 'plotters'—and an amnesty

The First Secretary of the Albanian Party of Labour, Enver Hoxha, has announced that "a group of plotters" linked with the country's former Prime Minister—officially said to have committed suicide in December 1981—had been detained and were being investigated by the authorities.

The Albanian leader made his announcement in an electoral speech on 10 November 1982 in which he denounced the former Prime Minister, Mehmet Shehu, as having worked for US, Yugoslav and Soviet foreign intelligence services.

In the same speech he denied allegations made in Greece that thousands of members of Albania's Greek minority were imprisoned—he said only four were in prison for "political offences".

AI has the names of 13 Greeks it believes to have been imprisoned in Albania for up to 25 years for political reasons. First Secretary Hoxha announced also the proclamation of an amnesty decree, which came into force on 15 November. Although officially described as a broad amnesty, it excluded people convicted of the majority of the political offences specified in 13 articles of the criminal code under

the heading "Crimes against the State".

People sentenced to up to eight years' imprisonment for "anti-state agitation and propaganda" were granted release under the amnesty. People imprisoned for "flight from the State"—the lightest form of treason defined in Article 47 (which lists 10 other forms)—benefited by a remission of a quarter of their remaining sentences. Otherwise, political prisoners with only a year of their sentences left to serve were granted release.

The only other political offences not specifically excluded from the amnesty were "Provocation of war", "Genocide", "Incitement of hatred" and political offences against other socialist states.

AI does not know the exact number of political prisoners in Albania but many are said to be held in the prison camps of Ballsh and Spac, and in Burreli prison. About 1,400 political prisoners are reported to be in Ballsh. The number held in Spac camp—where prisoners mine copper in harsh conditions—is reported to have increased since the late 1970s and to have reached 1,500 in early 1982 □

Brazil: Appeal by priests rejected

Brazil's Superior Military Tribunal has upheld the convictions in June 1982 of two French priests and 13 peasants by a military court in Belém, which found them guilty of charges under the Law of National Security (see October 1982 *Newsletter*).

The priests, Father Aristides Camio and Father François Gouriou, both adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience, were sentenced by the Belém Court to 15 and 10 years' imprisonment respectively. One peasant was sentenced to nine years' and the others to eight years' imprisonment.

The convictions were upheld by the Superior Military Tribunal on 3 December. The priests' sentences were reduced: Father Camio's to 10 years and Father Gouriou's to eight years; but those passed on the peasants were unchanged.

The defendants have the right to appeal again to the Superior Military Tribunal □

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in November of the release of 51 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 133 cases.

Cairo prosecutor demands death sentence for 299

The prosecution is reported to have demanded the death sentence for 299 of the 302 members of the banned *AI-Jihad* organization who went on trial before the Supreme State Security Court in Cairo on 4 December 1982.

Charges against them include plotting to overthrow the government and fomenting violence in Assiut in October 1981, after President Sadat's assassination, which resulted in more than 80 deaths.

A number of defendants said they had been tortured during detention and gave the court names of officers they said had been responsible □

Namibia

Continued from page 1

The movement called for an independent judicial inquiry into reports of torture, often said to take place at secret detention centres. Investigation of torture reports is now in the hands of the South African military, who are implicated in many of the reports.

South African forces, controlling Namibia despite a 1966 United Nations decision to remove it from South African trusteeship, have been fighting guerrillas of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO). People suspected of supporting or belonging to SWAPO, including its legal political wing, have been prime targets of arbitrary arrests and detention.

Under South African security decrees, troops or police can arrest people and hold them incommunicado for 30 days, and detention can then be prolonged under the authority of the Administrator-General. Where the camps are and how many people are in them are closely guarded secrets but hundreds of people are believed to be held without trial at any one time and torture is reported regularly.

AI's news release called attention to several cases of people "disappearing" after being reported seized by security forces and to over 45 known political prisoners serving sentences ranging from five years to life.

DEATHS IN CUSTODY

The recent death in custody of two Namibian detainees was announced by the Commissioner of Police in Namibia, General Dolf Gouws, at a press conference in Windhoek on 26 November 1982.

Joan Hamukwaya, a primary schoolteacher aged 32, is said to have died under interrogation three and a half hours after his arrest.

Kadumu Katanga from the village of Kakoro is said to have been arrested while crossing the Okavango River from Angola into Namibia and to have died three hours later while being taken to hospital.

Both men are said to have been held by a special police counter-insurgency unit known as *Koevoet* (crowbar) at the time of their deaths.

General Gouws said that the two bodies had been sent to Pretoria for autopsy and that there would be a police investigation into the circumstances of the deaths.

Political trials in China

Information that a group of imprisoned editors of unofficial journals has been or is about to be brought to trial in the People's Republic of China is contained in a document reported to be the text of the court judgment against one of the group—Xu Wenli, sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment (see December 1982 *Newsletter*).

The document has been published by the Hong Kong Chinese language review, *Baixing*.

The Chinese authorities themselves have not made public any information on the trial of Xu Wenli or the others.

However, unofficial sources have confirmed that Xu Wenli, the former editor of an unofficial Peking magazine, was tried in the capital several months ago. *AI* is asking the authorities for information about these reports.

According to the *Baixing* document, Xu Wenli was tried on 8 June 1982 by Peking Intermediate People's Court and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment plus four years' deprivation of political rights on charges of organizing a "counter-revolutionary clique" and of "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation".

His conviction on these charges is reported to have been based mainly on the provisions of Article 98 and 102 of the country's Criminal Law.

The accusations against him, according to the document, included holding "secret" meetings in Peking in June 1980 and forming a "Chinese Communist Alliance" as a "new form of proletarian political party" to "destroy the dictatorship of one party". He was also accused of planning with the same aim the publication of a "Study Bulletin" and the creation of a "Chinese Association for the Promotion of Democratic Unity" with an office in Hong Kong.

The document states that the second charge against Xu Wenli—"counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation"—referred to his speeches, writ-

ings and protests against some official measures and to their dissemination abroad. His articles are said to have "misled the public", to have included "slanders and lies" and to have "openly called for the reform of China's social system".

Although the document does not cite any of his articles, these accusations are believed to refer in particular to detailed proposals for democratic reforms made by him in an article in late 1980; this followed similar calls for reform by leading Communist Party officials. They refer also to his appeals on behalf of prisoners of conscience, in particular a public appeal in January 1981 for the release of Liu Qing, a co-founder of the *April Fifth Forum*, in which Xu Wenli called upon "the people across the nation", "democratic parties" and "overseas compatriots" to use their influence to secure Liu Qing's release.

Other editors named

The document also named several other detained editors of unofficial magazines as having been involved in Xu Wenli's "counter-revolutionary group". They are: Wang Xizhe, from Guangzhou (Canton city); Sun Weibang (alias Sun Feng), from Qingdao (Shandong province); Xu Shuiliang, from Nanjing (Jiansu province); Fu Shenqi, from Shanghai; Liu Er'an, from Anyang (Henan province). *AI* has adopted them as prisoners of conscience.

The document specifies that those named above and "others" involved in the same cities and "elsewhere" are all "to be dealt with separately"—that is, their trials have been or will be held separately in the cities in which each is detained.

About 20 editors and supporters of unofficial journals were arrested in various cities in the period April to August 1981, at the same time as those named above. Apart from Xu Wenli,

only Wang Xizhe and another editor of an unofficial journal from Guangzhou, He Qiu, are reported to have been brought to trial so far. Wang Xizhe was tried in Guangzhou on 28 May 1982 and He Qiu on 29 May 1982 (see August 1982 *Newsletter*). In neither case was there any official announcement about the trial.

According to sources in Hong Kong, the families of the defendants were not notified in advance about the trials, contrary to the requirements of the Law of Criminal Procedure which came into force in China in January 1980. It is also contrary to this law that no official record of the verdicts was made public.

Liu Qing, adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience, was reported recently to have been tried in Peking in similar conditions. No details of the specific charges against him or of his trial are known. He is said to have been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment after being tried in Peking in August 1982 for "counter-revolutionary" offences.

After his arrest in November 1979 he spent two years in a labour camp away from Peking, and wrote an account of his arrest and detention which eventually became available outside China (see January 1982 *Newsletter*). This is presumed to be the reason why he was brought to trial recently.

At the same time, the trial of five former prominent Red Guard leaders was said to be taking place in Peking in November 1982. They include two women, one of whom, Nie Yuanzi, became famous in China for putting up—at Peking University in 1966—the first big-character poster which marked the start of the Cultural Revolution. No official report about this trial either has been made public.

Recently there has been widespread coverage in the Chinese news media of trials of alleged "followers of the gang of four". Several such trials have taken place recently in Shanghai city, Yunnan, Heilongjiang and other provinces of former local and provincial leaders accused of varying degrees of involvement in attempts to "seize power" in connection with the case of the "gang of four" □

ATTACK ON GUATEMALAN VILLAGE *Continued from page 1*

the army"; above that is "Carmen's house. Her husband was abducted." According to the caption in the middle right of the top picture, "This is the school where the army confined many people . . . who were killed. We see . . . [a religious] sister hanging from the beam of the school." *AI* has received a number of reports of killings by soldiers in villages in the department of Huehuetenango during May 1982, and the grim details shown in the refugee's picture are typical of accounts of such attacks emerging both from within Guatemala and from Mexican centres and camps for Guatemalan refugees. During 1982 thousands of Indian peasants are reported to have been massacred in attacks on villages in several Guatemalan departments; eye-witness testimony repeatedly implicates the security forces in such massacres.

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