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Rule of law violated by Singapore Government

Arbitrary arrest, detention without trial and torture of prisoners are being used systematically to stifle dissent in Singapore where some of the longest-term political prisoners in the world are now held.

The detention of opposition leaders, trade unionists, journalists, students and lawyers is documented in an *AI* report published on 31 January. The 60-page report calls for the release of three men held without trial for 17 years, among others.

It outlines a history of repression dating back to British colonial rule, and continued under legislation inherited from that period after Singapore gained independence in 1965. *AI* urges repeal of the Internal Security Act and other laws under which human rights violations have continued.

The report notes that public "confessions" from people who have never been brought to trial have become a virtual precondition for their release. The elementary rules of law are violated by extracting such "confessions" from prisoners who face indefinite detention, solitary confinement, and physical and psychological ill-treatment.

Detailed accounts of beatings, the use of electric shock and 72-hour interrogation sessions are included in the report. A number of prisoners have described being continuously drenched with cold water, in a room kept at low temperatures by air-conditioning machines, during interrogation.

AI calls attention to the cases of men who were first arrested in a 1963 crackdown on the opposition *Barisan Sosialis* (Socialist Front), which had broken away from Prime Minister LEE

Kuan Yew's People's Action Party (PAP), taking most of its membership. HO Piao and LEE Tse Tong have been held since 1963. Dr LIM Hock Siew, who had been imprisoned with them, was exiled to an island in 1978. Dr POH Soo Kai, also arrested in 1963, was freed in 1973, but re-arrested in 1976.

Waves of arrests continued in the 1970s. Lawyers who have tried to help political prisoners have been arrested, harassed and banned from contact with them.

The report makes detailed recommendations, calling on the Singapore Government to adhere to international law on individual rights, to allow detainees fuller access to lawyers and doctors, to ban torture and to implement other human rights measures.

An *AI* mission visited Singapore at the end of 1978, led by American lawyer Thomas C. JONES. The Singapore authorities refused to have any contact with the delegates or to allow them to visit detention facilities or interview prisoners □

Human rights abuses continue in Rhodesia

The British Governor of Rhodesia, Lord SOAMES, has so far failed to put an end to the detention without charge or trial of thousands of people and to resolve other outstanding human rights problems.

In a statement issued on 17 January *AI* said it welcomed steps taken by Lord Soames toward remedying injustices, including the release of a number of detainees, suspension of special courts martial, commutation of death sentences against 11 criminal prisoners, and the revocation of restriction orders.

But *AI* expressed dismay at the continued detentions, refusal to grant access by international observers to political prisoners, failure to take a firm stand against torture, or to end the secrecy surrounding executions.

The statement followed a visit to Rhodesia from 3 to 12 January by the organization's Deputy Secretary General, Dick OOSTING.

According to official estimates, some 5,000 detainees are still held under martial law regulations, but *AI* believes the real number may be considerably higher.

In addition, up to 6,000 convicted political prisoners are still believed to be held, many of them convicted by special martial law tribunals.

AI appealed to the British administration in Rhodesia to:

- release all remaining detainees immediately and unconditionally;
- grant immediate access by humanitarian bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross to martial law detainees and convicted political prisoners;
- issue public assurances that existing repressive legislation will not be used under British authority;
- take affirmative action on the question of torture and ill-treatment;
- make the names of all those executed since 1965 publicly available, with the dates and places of execution.

AI also reiterated its call to the President of ZANU, Robert MUGABE, to release immediately a number of prisoners held by ZANU in Mozambique □

Executions in Saudi Arabia follow summary trials

Sixty-three men were executed in Saudi Arabia on 9 January after being found guilty of taking part in an attack on the Great Mosque in Mecca in November.

AI condemned the executions and expressed grave concern over the secret and summary trial procedures used. It called on the Saudi Government to abolish the death penalty and to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"Amnesty International hopes that

the public horror over these executions will stimulate the United Nations to take the necessary steps to outlaw the death penalty in its discussions scheduled to take place this year," Secretary General Martin ENNALS said. Abolition of the death penalty will be on the agendas of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in August in Caracas and of the UN General Assembly later in the year □

Afghanistan Appeal to release prisoners

AI urged the new Afghan Government to take immediate steps for the release of all political prisoners detained by the previous government. On the day after the coup which brought him to power, *AI* sent President Babrak KARMAL a cable containing the appeal and asking for a public announcement that the new government would ensure observance of human rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The cable stressed *AI*'s deep concern about serious human rights violations in Afghanistan, specifically during the previous one and a half years. An *AI* delegation which visited Kabul in October 1978 had expressed grave concern about allegations of torture of political prisoners, including General Abdul QADER and other former members of the government who have now assumed office in President Karmal's new government.

After the new government took power on 27 December, just over 2,000 political prisoners were released, according to officials quoted in *Le Monde* (11 January 1980).

President Karmal was quoted in the international press immediately after he took power as saying he would release all political prisoners, but officials were later reported as saying that they would not all be released.

In a second cable to President Karmal on 7 January, *AI* urged the new government to publish the names of all those released, and drew attention to *AI*'s estimate of September 1979 that there were at least 12,000 political prisoners in Kabul alone.

The previous government had announced that at least 12,000 political prisoners had died in detention after April 1978, and *AI* asked in its 28 December cable that the new government publish the names of these prisoners. In a letter of 23 November 1979 to the then President Hafizullah AMIN, *AI* had said that it was shocked by press reports that the Interior Ministry had published a list of 12,000 political prisoners, including professors, teachers, students, civil servants, mullahs, merchants, shopkeepers and "counter-revolutionaries" said to have died in Kabul jails in the 18 months following a previous government take-over in April 1978.

AI had already published a list of people reported to have been killed in custody after April 1978 in its 1979 report on human rights violations in Afghanistan. *AI* had also expressed deep concern about reports that 800 children had "disappeared".

At the time of going to press, *AI* was following announcements on Kabul Radio that "executioners of the Amin regime would be put on trial by revolutionary and religious courts" □

Guatemala Journalists abducted

Violence against the political opposition continues to mount in Guatemala, with daily abductions, torture and murder (January 1980 *Newsletter*).

José León CASTANEDA, a reporter for the newspaper *El Impacto* and Secretary General of the media workers union SIMCOS (*Sindicato de Trabajadores de los Medios de Comunicaciones de Masas*), was abducted on 16 November 1979. He was found badly tortured the next day, and died of internal bleeding the same day. Five days later, radio reporter Julio César HERNANDEZ was abducted and tortured. He is still in hospital in a serious condition.

Official action against the monthly magazine *Diálogo* has intensified fears for the safety of its editor, human rights activist Julia ESQUIVEL. On 6

December an employee of *Diálogo* was briefly detained in the Central Post Office in Guatemala City and told that postal services were no longer available to the magazine. Notices were posted advising postal employees to refuse service to *Diálogo*.

Julia Esquivel has been named on a death list published by ESA (*Ejército Secreto Anticomunista*), the Secret Anti-communist Army, a semi-clandestine "death squad" that acts in coordination with official security forces. ESA claimed responsibility for the murder of over 1,000 people in 1979.

Interior Minister Donaldó Alvarez RUIZ has denounced *AI* and others who criticize the violence as elements in a "worldwide conspiracy of calumnies against the Guatemalan regime" □

Detentions in Seychelles

Of 76 people detained in Seychelles on 16 November 1979 under security legislation, about 35 were reported to have been released by early January. Although the detainees had not been charged and the government had given no indication that they would be tried, President Albert RENE accused them publicly of involvement in a plot by foreign businessmen to overthrow the government with the aid of South African mercenaries.

Among those held were Jacques CHEVALLEREAU, a French police adviser who was alleged to have organized the plot; Bernard VERLAQUE, editor and publisher of the banned weekly *Weekend Life* and freelance correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation; Chamery CHETTY, formerly Finance Minister in the government of James MANCHAM, which was overthrown in 1977; and Carlette TALL, a secretary, also detained in 1978. Other included businessmen, taxi drivers, teachers and civil servants.

The detentions came soon after schoolchildren in the capital, Victoria, demonstrated against compulsory National Service proposals, and anti-government pamphlets under the name of Resistance Movement (*Mouvement pour la Résistance*), attacked the government's socialist policies and made serious personal allegations against government leaders. The pamphlets' authors have not been discovered.

The detainees are held incommunicado in Union Vale prison. They have not been physically ill-treated, but are not permitted correspondence or family visits. The prison diet is reported to be poor, but hospital treatment has been provided for those who have been seriously ill.

The government has told *AI* that the detainees were helping police with inquiries into the alleged plot and were well treated. *AI* urged the government to try the detainees or release them, and it appealed for the release of women and sick detainees on humanitarian grounds. *AI* is investigating to determine whether the detainees are prisoners of conscience □

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in December of the release of 49 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 79 new cases.

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.

KISONGA N'Sunda, Zaire

A 26-year-old woman, formerly a non-commissioned officer in the Zairean army, is serving a life sentence after being convicted, with more than 60 other people, of complicity in an alleged plot against Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Adjutant-Chef Citoyenne KISONGA N'Sunda was one of 79 people, most of them military officers, tried by a military court in March 1978, after President Mobutu announced discovery of the plot the previous month.

Most of the accused were found guilty of complicity on the evidence of one officer's confession. The officer, Major Kalume Hamba, confessed to having regularly met others to discuss the conspiracy at a Kinshasa bar run by Kisonga N'Sunda's sister. This was denied by the other defendants who pleaded not guilty.

AI believes that Major Kalume's confession may have been made under duress and may have been a pretext for a purge of officers from southern and eastern regions of Zaire, as happened after a similar conspiracy trial in 1975.

On the day after the sentences were passed, 13 of those sentenced to death were executed by firing squad. President Mobutu commuted Kisonga N'Sunda's sentence to life imprisonment.

Kisonga N'Sunda is held at Ndolo Military Prison in Kinshasa, where conditions are reported to be harsh. The Zairean authorities have assured AI that she is allowed visits from her family, but she was in prison for more than 18 months before her three children, aged four, five and seven, were authorized to visit her. She is reported not to have been allowed visits from other family members.

AI believes that Kisonga N'Sunda is a prisoner of conscience, convicted for political reasons at a trial which did not conform to internationally recognized standards.

Please send courteously worded letters, preferably in French, appealing for the immediate release of Citoyenne

Kisonga N'Sunda to: Son Excellence Mobutu Sese Seko, Président-Fondateur du MPR et Président de la République, La Présidence, 10220 Kinshasa 2, Zaire.

Sylvio CLAUDE, Haiti

The founder of the Christian Social Democratic Party of Haiti has been arrested after being wounded during a raid on his party's headquarters. He is reported to have been ill-treated in prison again, after having been tortured during his first detention earlier in the year.

Sylvio CLAUDE was first arrested when he stood as a candidate in legislative elections against Madame Max Adolphe, Contreleur-Général of Police, in February 1979. He said later that he was beaten and given electric shocks to the soles of his feet after his arrest, before being deported to Colombia. He returned to Haiti in spring 1979 and founded the *Parti Démocrate Social Chrétien d'Haiti* (the Christian Social Democratic Party).

On 29 August 1979 the party headquarters was raided and a policeman shot M. Claude in the hand. He escaped through a window and reached the RGR radio station, whose director, Gérard Résil, allowed him to broadcast a statement about suppression of his party and his previous arrest in February 1979. M. Claude and M. Résil were arrested later the same day. M. Résil was later released and forced to publish an apology for allowing Sylvio Claude to "disrupt public order through seditious talk".

Sylvio Claude is believed to be held at present in Fort Dimanche, Port-au-Prince, where several hundred political prisoners are known to have died before 1977.

AI believes that the reason for Sylvio Claude's arrest and the banning of his party was a surge of popular support for it.

Please write courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Sylvio Claude to: Son Excellence Jean-Claude Duvalier, Président à Vie, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Yuri BADZYO, Soviet Union

A 43-year-old Ukrainian philologist has been imprisoned in connection with a study he was working on which was critical of Soviet nationalities policy and its effects on the Ukraine. After a closed trial in Kiev on 21 December 1979, Yuri BADZYO was given the maximum sentence of seven years' imprisonment in a corrective labour colony and five years' internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

He was arrested on 23 April 1979 after the study was confiscated during a police search of his home.

Mr Badzyo has been an active sympathizer of the human and national rights movement in the Ukraine since the 1960s. In 1965 he was dismissed from his post at the Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences for protesting against the imprisonment of dissenting Ukrainian intellectuals. He addressed several other written protests to the authorities in the early 1970s, complaining of human rights violations and Russification of schools in the Ukraine. Because of his protests he was refused work in his profession and worked as a bread loader for eight years until his arrest.

From 1972 to 1979 Mr Badzyo worked on a study which his wife describes as "scholarly research of a historical and philosophical character on the contemporary situation of the Ukrainian nation within the USSR". Entitled "The Right to Live", it was a detailed critical study, from a Marxist viewpoint, of the course and consequences of Soviet nationalities policy in the Ukraine.

Mr Badzyo has a 17-year-old son and a 10-year-old daughter.

Please write courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Yuri Badzyo to the Procurator of the Ukrainian SSR, Mr F.K. Glukh. Write to: SSSR, Ukrainskaya SSR, g. Kiev, Kreshchatik 2, Respublikanskaya Prokuratura, Prokuroru, F.K. Glukhu.

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted on 17 December 1979 the following Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (*January Newsletter*). Each of the eight articles is explained by a detailed commentary; the full text is available from the United Nations and Amnesty International. The commentary indicates that the Code applies to all those who exercise police powers, including military authorities and state security forces. The rights which the Code obliges law enforcement officials to respect are those included in the International Bill of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. The commentary also stipulates that no official should be penalized for reporting that a violation of this Code has occurred or is about to occur and that officials may be justified as a last resort in bringing violations of the Code to the attention of public opinion through the mass media.

The Code will now be sent by the United Nations to all governments "with the recommendation that favourable consideration should be given to its use within the framework of national legislation or practice as a body of principles for observance by law enforcement officials".

United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials

Article 1

Law enforcement officials shall at all times fulfil the duty imposed upon them by law, by serving the community and by protecting all persons against illegal acts, consistent with the high degree of responsibility required by their profession.

Article 2

In the performance of their duty, law enforcement officials shall respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons.

Article 3

Law enforcement officials may use force only when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty.

Article 4

Matters of a confidential nature in the possession of law enforcement officials shall be kept confidential, unless the performance of duty, or the needs of justice, strictly require otherwise.

Article 5

No law enforcement official may inflict, instigate or tolerate any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, nor may any law enforcement official invoke superior orders or exceptional circumstances such as a state of war or a threat of war, a threat to national security, internal political instability or any other public emergency as a justification of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Law enforcement officials shall ensure the full protection of the health of persons in their custody and, in particular, take immediate action to secure medical attention whenever required.

Article 7

Law enforcement officials shall not commit any act of corruption. They shall also rigorously oppose and combat all such acts.

Article 8

Law enforcement officials shall respect the law and the present code. They shall also, to the best of their capability, prevent and rigorously oppose any violations of them.

Law enforcement officials who have reason to believe that a violation of this Code has occurred or is about to occur shall report the matter to their superior authorities and, where necessary, to other appropriate authorities or organs vested with reviewing or remedial power.

Appeal to the United Nations for the abolition of the death penalty

We, the undersigned,

ALARMED BY

executions of political opponents and criminal offenders in many countries,

AFFIRMING THAT

the death penalty is incompatible with the right to life and the prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;

CONVINCED THAT

the abolition of the death penalty in all countries would represent a great advance in the respect of governments for the human person;

APEAL TO

the United Nations and its member states to take all necessary steps for the immediate and total abolition of the death penalty throughout the world.

Name

Profession or Title

Address

Name	Profession or Title	Address

As part of Amnesty International's growing program for the abolition of the death penalty this appeal is being signed by people throughout the world. It will be presented to the United Nations in connection with the debate in the General Assembly on the question of the death penalty scheduled to take place between September and December this year. Please copy or cut out this petition and return it with signatures to the office of the national section of Amnesty International in your country or to the International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2 7HF, England.

News in Brief

Taiwan

An order for the arrest of 101 people has been issued in Taiwan and according to reports reaching *AI* more than 60 have been held for their alleged participation in a demonstration to celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The demonstration, held in Kaohsiung on 10 December, ended in violent clashes with the police. It was organized by the opposition magazine *Formosa*. Those arrested include editorial and office staff of the magazine as well as its publisher HUANG hsin-chieh, provincial assemblymen CHANG Chun-hung and LIN Yi-hsiung, and lawyer YAO Chia-wen. Also among those arrested were former political prisoners.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

A four-member *AI* delegation visited the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 10 to 21 December 1979. The delegation was led by Thomas HAMMARBERG, former Chairperson of *AI*'s International Executive Committee (IEC) and Secretary General designate. He was accompanied by Suriya WICKREMASINGHE, Vice Chairperson of the IEC, Arlette LADUGUE of the International Secretariat, and Michael WILLIAMS, lecturer at the University of East Anglia. The delegation was received by Prime Minister PHAM VAN DONG and had discussions with members of the Vietnamese Lawyers Association and other officials. The delegation will report to the IEC on its visit.

Egypt

The trial of 176 people arrested in Egypt after food riots in January 1977 is still continuing (March and September 1977 *Newsletters*).

Charges against the 176, most of whom have been adopted as prisoners of conscience by *AI*, include membership of the Egyptian Communist Party and the Egyptian Workers Communist Party and instigation of the events of January 1977. All had been released on bail, although some had been re-arrested on similar charges.

In November 1979 two *AI* delegates, Thomas JONES, an American lawyer, and June RAY, a member of *AI*'s International Secretariat, went to observe part of the trial before the Supreme State Security Court in Cairo. They also met Procurator General Salah AL-RASHIDI and State Security Prosecutor Raga' AL-ARABI to discuss matters of concern to *AI* in Egypt □

USSR

Political arrests intensifying

A major crackdown on dissenters appears to be taking place in the Soviet Union.

More than 40 people were known to have been arrested in the previous three months, *AI* said on 15 January. In the same period, several human rights activists were given long sentences of imprisonment and at least two were confined to special psychiatric hospitals, the harshest form of psychiatric detention in the USSR.

Among those arrested or tried were nine members of unofficial groups which monitor Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions agreed at the 1975 Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Arrested in Moscow were human rights campaigner Tatyana VELIKANOVA, Helsinki monitor Viktor NEKIPELOV and religious rights campaigners Father Gleb YAKUNIN and Lev REGELSON.

Those arrested in the Ukraine included Helsinki monitors Vasyl STRILTSIV, Petro ROZUMNY, Yaroslav LESIV, Vitaly KALYNYCHENKO, and an associate of the group, Mykola HORBAL.

In Lithuania, two human rights and national rights activists, Antanas

TERLECKAS and Julius SASNAUSKAS, were arrested.

Baptists Ivan KIRILIUK, Vyacheslav ZAYATS, Viktor LYTOVCHENKO and Viktor DRAGA were sentenced on 3 December to 12, 10, seven and three years respectively.

Forcibly confined to special psychiatric hospitals were Anatoly POZNYAKOV, member of an independent trade union group, and Anatoly RUNOV, a dissenting Baptist.

• The December 1979 *Newsletter* reported that Ukrainian journalist and writer Mykhalo OSADCHY was in his seventh year in a "special regime" corrective labour colony. In fact, Mr Osadchy completed a seven-year term of imprisonment for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" early in 1979 and began the final part of his sentence: three years in internal exile. He was sent to a location near Troitsko-Pechorsk in a remote part of the Komi region in northwest Siberia. *AI* has recently learned that the authorities informed him on 3 December 1979 that they were charging him with "negligent destruction or damaging of state or social property". The charge carries a maximum three-year sentence □

Indonesia

Further releases announced

After releasing 105 prisoners on 20 December 1979, the Indonesian Government said it had released all untried political prisoners whom it did not intend to try, in accordance with its announced program.

In a telegram to President SUHARTO on 21 December, *AI* welcomed reports of the release of all B-category prisoners—those who were said to have been involved in the attempted coup of 1965 but against whom there was not enough evidence to bring them to trial. *AI* is still awaiting independent confirmation of the completion of the program.

Under the phased program which began in 1977, some 30,000 political prisoners, many of whom were detained for up to 14 years without trial, were released.

Those released on 20 December were detainees whom the authorities had said were "uncooperative", including novelist Pramudya Ananta TUR,

poet Rivai APIN and former parliamentarian Karel SUPIT (January 1980 *Newsletter*). They are, however, to be subjected to "strict surveillance", according to Admiral SUDOMO, Commander of KOPKAMTIB, the security agency. *AI* continues to be concerned at restrictions affecting the freedom of movement and expression and the employment of released prisoners.

In its 21 December telegram, *AI* urged President Suharto to grant amnesties to A-category prisoners, all but 23 of whom had been tried and sentenced at that date. According to government figures, 1,037 prisoners have been tried or are scheduled for trial. Of these, 262 have served their sentences. It was reported in December that under a new regulation, tried political prisoners were eligible for remission on the same terms as criminal convicts and that 331 prisoners were granted remission, of whom 118 were released □



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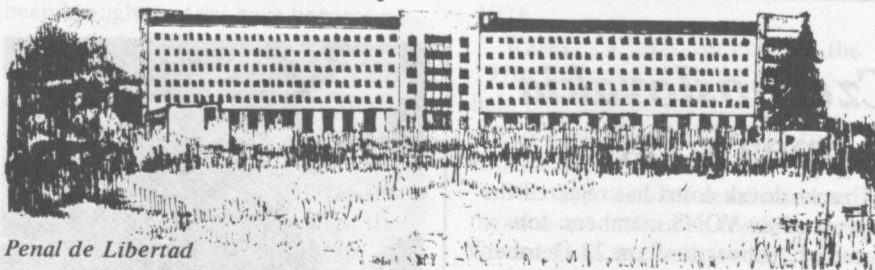
campaign for the abolition of torture

appeals

Amnesty International opposes the torture of prisoners in all cases, wherever and whenever it is practised. Any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a violation of the international human rights standards unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. International appeals can help to alleviate the plight of prisoners being subjected to cruel treatment. Your letters should follow carefully the instructions given below.

Fear for lives of torture victims in Uruguayan prison

A plan to provide a pretext for the liquidation of political prisoners is reported to be under way at Uruguay's main prison for political detainees, *Penal de Libertad* in San José, where intensified torture and ill-treatment have been reported.



Penal de Libertad

Letters to *AI* from prisoners' relatives in exile had already told of systematic beatings, mock executions, "emergency exercises" designed to undermine the prisoners' nerves, anti-Semitic abuse and death threats by guards, particularly against those held under maximum security on the second floor and serving the longest sentences. *AI* drew attention to these reports in Urgent Action appeals in November 1979.

More recent reports, however, point to active preparations for a scheme called *Plan Atica*, named for the outbreak of bloodshed at Attica Prison in New York State in 1971. A training course for prison staff at *Penal de Libertad* is reported to provide for a three-stage operation. The first stage is to place common-law criminals in cells with political prisoners and bribe them to provoke violent clashes with the latter. Such transfers have already begun and the first incidents have occurred, according to the reports reaching *AI*. These transfers are also said to be intended to conceal the introduction of army and police

agents instructed to kill or wound certain political prisoners.

The second stage is reported to be the use of common-law prisoners to provoke an uprising. Finally, guards and troops are to use maximum violence against political prisoners. The intention would be to kill enough to reduce their numbers radically.

These preparations are reported to be accompanied by an intensification of torture, including the *plantón*, in which prisoners are forced to stand in a fixed position until they collapse. The worsening torture is said to be designed to increase the political prisoners' exasperation, already fuelled by the violence of the common-law criminals, and so help to provoke an uprising.

Please write courteously worded letters expressing concern at the reported Plan Atica and at reports that political prisoners have been subjected to ill-treatment by other prisoners encouraged by the authorities. Write to: Sr. Presidente de la República Dr Aparicio Méndez, Casa de Gobierno, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Yugoslav held in psychiatric hospital

A 27-year-old graduate in journalism has been confined to a psychiatric hospital in Belgrade since February 1979 for the non-violent exercise of his human rights.

In mid-1978 Vladimir MARKOVIC sent a circular letter to a number of people and institutions in Yugoslavia and abroad in which he quoted from interviews he had made with a number of well-known Yugoslav dissenters. In the letter he cited the prominent historian and veteran partisan fighter, Dr Tudjman, who while condemning war crimes committed in Croatia during World War II had also claimed that their numbers had been exaggerated by official Yugoslav statistics.

Following the publication of the letter in a Croatian emigré journal in August 1978, investigation proceedings were brought against Vladimir Markovic. On the instructions of the investigating judge he was sent for psychiatric examination to Belgrade prison hospital where he was diagnosed as suffering from paranoid psychosis and was recommended to undergo compulsory psychiatric treatment.

At his trial Vladimir Markovic was sentenced to compulsory confinement in a psychiatric hospital under Article 63 of the Yugoslav Penal Code on the grounds that he was liable to repeat his offence in the future. Under Article 63 compulsory psychiatric treatment with confinement can be applied only to people who are a danger to the environment. Although Vladimir Markovic has received psychiatric treatment as an outpatient in the past, a study of the legal documents of the case do not suggest that he is a danger to himself or to others.

Please write courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Vladimir Markovic. Express concern that he is apparently being confined for political rather than for medical reasons. Write to: Mr Luka Banovic, Federal Secretary of Justice, Savezni Sekretarijat za Pravosudje, Bulevar Lenjina 2, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

South Korea Fresh torture allegations

Torture was inflicted on some 20 Koreans arrested for taking part in a peaceful political meeting in Seoul, according to detailed reports received by *AI*. They were among 123 people arrested after a meeting held on 24 November to call for a new constitution to ensure democratic elections (*January Newsletter*).

The torture reports concern men taken to an Army Security Corps investigation centre after their arrest. They were stripped and given military uniforms. The men were first beaten with baseball bats all over their bodies. Then, in a systematic pattern, another torturer kicked the victim's chest, and another hit him repeatedly in the throat. After this, they are said to have been kicked repeatedly on both sides of the face, until their faces were swollen beyond recognition. They were also subjected to torture in which the victim was forced to squat with a thick stick behind his knees while a torturer trampled on his thighs.

The prisoners are reported to have been put in separate rooms, where each was attacked by a team of up to eight men.

It is reported that one prisoner's face needed three to five stitches, another's head needed seven to 10 stitches, and many lost consciousness several times.

After the torture, the prisoners were moved to National Police Headquarters and interrogated for several days, during which they were beaten again and forced to sign statements saying they would not reveal their treatment, according to the reports.

Eighteen of those arrested after the meeting are due to stand trial for violating a martial law decree by holding an unauthorized meeting. Fifty-nine were given summary court sentences of 15 or 20 days, 19 have been released, and the circumstances of the rest are unknown. It is feared that those still in custody may also be subjected to torture.

Please send courteously worded appeals asking that steps be taken immediately to protect these prisoners from ill-treatment to: His Excellency President Choi Kyu-hah, The Blue House, Chogno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

AI urges US President to act on death penalty

AI has called on President CARTER to establish a presidential commission on the use of the death penalty in the United States.

AI Secretary General Martin ENNALS, making the proposal in Washington during a mission to the US, said the penalty was a serious violation of the most basic internationally recognized human right—the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. He also urged the President to oppose and, if necessary, veto proposed legislation on the death penalty.

Creation of a presidential commission, *AI* said, would reaffirm US Government commitment to human rights at home and abroad. The commission could examine such issues as the conflict of the death penalty with international and US constitut-

ional standards, crime deterrence, the social causes of the death penalty, and alternatives to it. Mr Ennals said *AI* hoped there would be a moratorium on executions while the commission did its work.

More than 590 men and women are currently under sentence of death in the US.

Mr Ennals said proposed federal legislation on the death penalty, under discussion in the Senate, was in direct violation of United Nations resolutions and conventions recently signed and strongly endorsed by President Carter.

Mr Ennals also called for an end to the segregation of prisoners under sentence of death in "death rows".

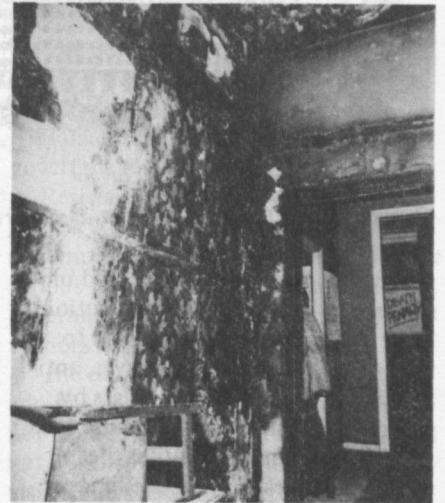
"To place men and women in special death sections where they can do nothing but wait to be killed is inherently cruel, inhuman and degrading," he said □

Czechoslovakia Appeals fail

A Czechoslovak court has rejected the appeals of six VONS members, convicted of "subversion" on 23 October, including playwright Vaclav HAVEL, against prison sentences ranging up to five years (*December 1979 Newsletter*). An *AI* observer, Austrian lawyer Henry GOLDMANN, was one of three lawyers detained when they attempted to attend the appeal hearing on 20 December. He was held for four and a half hours and then expelled from the country.

AI protested against the harassment of Mr Goldmann in a letter sent to Czechoslovak judicial authorities on 8 January. The letter pointed out that he had been granted an entry visa after explaining the purpose of his visit, and that this was the second time an *AI* representative had been harassed while trying to observe a trial in Czechoslovakia.

Another VONS member, actor Albert CERNY, was sentenced in a separate trial last year to three and a half years' imprisonment. Four others were released pending further investigation on 22 December. They are Jarmila BELIKOVA, psychologist; Ladislav LIS, lawyer; Vaclav MALY, Roman Catholic priest; and Jiri NEMEC, psychologist □



A powerful incendiary device caused considerable damage to the entrance to the Madrid office of *AI*'s Spanish Section on 11 December. One person was slightly injured in the resulting fire. It was the third and most serious attack on the office within a year.

AI called for a full investigation, and asked Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo SUAREZ to ensure protection for the Spanish Section. Police protection was provided for the office after a request from *AI* to the Interior Minister □

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