



UN Human Rights Commission takes Decisions on 14 Countries

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights took undisclosed decisions on nine countries, in addition to those already on the agenda (Chile, South Africa, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and the Israeli-occupied territories) at its 34th session (6 February-10 March). The nine countries—Bolivia, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malawi, Paraguay, Uganda and Uruguay—were publicly named by the Chairman of the Commission, after the Commission had considered them in the confidential sessions reserved for “situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights”.

AI had sent information on various countries to the UN, including information on Ethiopia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Paraguay, Uganda and Uruguay, but has no official knowledge that its information was relevant to the Commission's studies.

In another development, the Commission publicly considered the human rights situation in Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) and decided to ask the Secretary-General to transmit the relevant documents to the Kampuchean government, inviting its comments and observations.

The problem of torture was dealt with by a working group of the Commission. The group met four times during the course of the session to begin drafting a convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. This task had been assigned to the Commission by the UN General Assembly last December.

Two texts were presented to the group: one by the Swedish government which had initiated the General Assembly action last year and one by the International Association of Penal Law, which *AI* had collaborated in drafting. There are substantial similarities in the two texts. It was too early for the real process of drafting to get under way, but the Commission agreed that the group should meet before the next session of the Commission (1979) to work out concrete drafting proposals for the Commission. These proposals will be based on the existing documentation and on the comments of governments which the Commission has requested.

The Commission also approved the establishment of a working group of its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The group, if final authorization is granted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), will have the task of drafting a body of principles for the protection of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of

detention or imprisonment.

Lack of time prevented the Commission's discussion of conscientious objection, which has once again been postponed for a year. *AI* had submitted a statement on the question.

AI also made an oral intervention on the desirability of establishing a humanitarian assistance fund for persons whose human rights have been violated by detention or imprisonment in Chile, for those forced to leave the country and to relatives of persons in these categories. The Commission recommended that the General Assembly establish a United Nations Trust Fund for Chile to discharge these tasks.

AI was represented variously by Secretary General Martin ENNALS, Legal Advisor Nigel RODLEY and UN representative Margo PICKEN, as well as by its regular Geneva representatives, Henry JACOBY and Robert BANDLER.

RENEWED APPEAL TO DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

On 30 March *AI* renewed its appeal to the government of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) to answer allegations of continuing summary killings by the authorities. It pointed out that the government has, over the past three years, ignored communications from concerned bodies, including *AI*, regarding reports of human rights violations in Kampuchea.

AI welcomed the decision by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, taken on 8 March, to request the government to comment on the allegations of human rights violations in Democratic Kampuchea. The only official statement about these allegations was made in May 1977 by Foreign Minister Ieng SARY who denied that hundreds of thousands had been killed. “We only condemn the worst criminals,” he said.

AI referred to refugee reports that the
Continued page 4, column 1

HUNDREDS OF PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE IN IRAN

On 5 April, *AI* urged the SHAH of Iran to investigate the demands of hundreds of Iranian political prisoners on hunger strike in Qasr prison. It was then reported that the prisoners had refused drink as well as food.

AI was concerned that the prisoners should have a fair trial and that their health should not be further endangered. The reports that the prisoners were refusing water increased concern for their lives.

The hunger strike began on 12/13 March in protest against prison conditions and to request retrials before civilian courts. All had been convicted by military tribunals of crimes against the state. The prisoners also demanded less crowded conditions, uncensored newspapers and books, and better food.

On 30 March, *AI* had launched an urgent action campaign. Members appealed to the Shah to allow the prisoners' requests and to ensure that they received any necessary medical treatment.

• On 20 April *AI* was informed that the prisoners had ended their hunger strike after the Iranian authorities had agreed to comply with some of their demands.

THREE EXECUTED PUBLICLY IN PAKISTAN

The first public executions in Pakistan since the present government assumed office took place on 22 March, when three men, found guilty on 12 March of kidnapping and murder, were hanged outside Camp Jail, Lahore. *AI* was particularly concerned about these executions since they were the first public execution of death sentences to have been passed on civilians by a military court in Pakistan.

On receiving reports that the execution of the three men was imminent, *AI* cabled Chief Martial Law Administrator Mohammad ZIA-ul Haq on 22 March, expressing its concern at reports that the executions would be carried out in public that day. The cable urged General Zia to stop the executions and stressed the “dangerous precedent” that the execution of civilians following trial by military courts would set in Pakistan.

NEW REPORTS OF EXECUTIONS IN CHINA

According to recent news agency reports, there have been a number of executions of political and criminal offenders in the People's Republic of China since the beginning of 1978.

In February, *Agence France Presse* (AFP)
Continued page 2, column 1

New reports of executions in China

Continued from page 1, column 3

reported that eight people had been executed in Hangchow, the capital of Chekiang province. Travellers reported that the executions had been announced in official public security posters which were displayed in several places around Hangchow.

The posters, dated 30 January, reportedly said that 13 "counter-revolutionary groups" had been disbanded in the city and eight of the leaders executed. The groups had a total of 32 members.

One group was accused of organizing "counter-revolutionary activities with political plans" and trying to spread "propaganda aiming at undermining the socialist system". The posters stated that this group's leader came from a "counter-revolutionary family". Similar charges were made against another group which was further accused of having procured arms and of having forced people by armed threat to supply the group with provisions.

Another AFP report said that a political offender named HO Chun-shu was executed in mid-February in Canton, for spreading "reactionary propaganda" abroad. The sentence was announced in an official court notice, two copies of which were seen in the main streets of Canton. The notice, dated 18 February, indicated that Ho Chun-shu, aged 45, was executed immediately after being sentenced. He was reportedly accused of producing a 200,000 word "counter-revolutionary" leaflet which was distributed locally and also sent abroad.

On 16 March, *AI* expressed extreme concern at these reports in a cable to People's Republic Chairman HUA Kuo-feng. In the cable, *AI* also referred to reports, from Tibetan exiles, that groups of Tibetans had been publicly executed in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, on 1 August and 1 October 1977.

AI again appealed that all death sentences be commuted on humanitarian grounds.

MORE ARRESTS AND SENTENCES OF HELSINKI MONITORS IN USSR

In February and March another two members of the Helsinki "monitoring groups" were imprisoned in the Soviet Union (February and March 1978 *Newsletters*).

On 16 February Pyotr VINS, a member of the Ukrainian Helsinki monitoring group, was arrested in Kiev. Mr Vins, who is the son of Georgy VINS, the imprisoned national leader of the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians and Baptists, was charged with "parasitism": that is, "shirking socially useful labour" for more than four months, a charge frequently used against dissenters in the USSR. Pyotr Vins was sentenced on 6 April to one year's imprisonment.

Grigory GOLDSTEIN, a Jewish would-be emigrant and member of the Georgian Helsinki group, was tried in Tbilisi on 20 March, also on charges of "parasitism". Mr Goldstein, who had not been detained before

his trial, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

On 29 March Myroslav MARYNOVYCH and Mykola MATUSEVYCH, members of the Ukrainian Helsinki group, were both convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" by the Kiev Regional Court, after a trial which lasted several days. Like their fellow group members Oles TIKHY and Mykola RUDENKO in 1977 (August 1977 *Newsletter*), Mr Marynovych and Mr Matusевич both received the maximum sentence applicable to them: 7 years' strict regime imprisonment and 5 years' internal exile.

In early March Malva LANDA, a member of the Moscow Helsinki group, was released from the sentence of 2 years' internal exile imposed on her by a Moscow court in connection with a fire at her flat. Malva Landa was told that her release was under an amnesty decreed for some categories of prisoners in November 1977.

As of early April 1978, 17 members of the Helsinki monitoring groups are imprisoned. Seven are serving sentences of imprisonment; nine are awaiting trial; and one, Anatoly MARCHENKO, is serving a sentence of internal exile imposed before the formation of the Helsinki monitoring groups. All 17 have been adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience.

PEASANT COOPERATIVE LEADERS DETAINED IN HONDURAS

On 22 March, *AI* cabled President Juan Melgar CASTRO of Honduras, requesting his intervention in the case of nine peasant trade union leaders who have been detained since 12 February 1977, and expressing concern at the apparently arbitrary nature of the detentions and other judicial anomalies in the case.

The nine—Andres Porfirio HERNANDEZ, Efrain RIVERA Pavón, Andres CHIRINOS, Dario ANDINO, Marcos NAJERA, Sergio SEVILLA, Pedro AVIAL, Leonidas HERNANDEZ and Oscar LOPEZ Banegas—were leaders of a banana cooperative at Isletas in the Bajo Aguan Valley, Northern Honduras. The cooperative was established following Hurricane Fifi's ravage of the area in 1974. After the destruction of the banana fields in Isletas, the main producing company, Standard Fruit Company, decided to close operations there. 700 workers lost their jobs.

In April 1975, 204 workers set up the Isletas Banana Cooperative, assisted by the government land reform agency. On 12 February 1977, 40 troops took over the cooperative's offices. The nine leaders were detained and accused of "misuse of public funds", a charge which, under the legal code, can only be made against public officials.

After being held incommunicado for five months, the nine trade unionists are now detained in Puerto de Trujillo prison, in the department of Colon.

On 31 March they were absolved by the

Trujillo Criminal Court, but the following day an appeal against the absolution was placed by the prosecution in the Court of Appeals in La Ceiba. The nine continue in detention pending a decision by the Supreme Court of Justice.

TRIAL OBSERVED IN EGYPT

On 13 March *AI* delegated Sir Osmond WILLIAMS, a British magistrate and former chairman of *AI*'s British Section, to observe the trial in Cairo of 16 adopted prisoners. The 16, who were arrested in September 1977, were charged under article 98A of the Egyptian penal code, which concerns the formation or membership of illegal political organizations, in this case, the Egyptian Communist Party and the Egyptian Workers' Communist Party.

Sir Osmond Williams met the members of the tribunal of the military court, and some of the defendants. He also had talks with Minister of Justice Ahmed Samih TALAAT. At the time of writing, the trial is still in progress.

ZAIRE URGED TO COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCES

AI appealed on 17 March to President MOBUTU Sese Seko of Zaire to commute 19 death sentences, including five *in absentia*, passed after a trial of 91 persons by a military tribunal in Kinshasa on charges of plotting to overthrow the government.

The remaining defendants, whose names have not yet been received by *AI*, were given various prison sentences. Immediately after the trial which began on 8 March eight military officers and five civilians were executed; one woman soldier was pardoned.

After the March executions President Mobutu declared in a resolution that he would be firm in dealing with plotters and would disregard all appeals from human rights organizations.

These executions brought to 27 the number of official executions carried out in Zaire in the months of February and March. In February 14 persons were summarily executed in Idiofa, Kwilu region, for their alleged participation in an armed rebellion.

MORE STUDENTS ARRESTED IN INDONESIA

It is reported from Jakarta that 150 students arrested during the past three months will be brought to trial in the near future. Over 100 new arrests took place during March, as students continued to protest against the uncontested re-election of President SUHARTO.

On 28 March *AI* wrote to Admiral SUDOMO, Head of KOPKAMTIB (the Indonesian State Security Agency), calling for the early trial or release of the students.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in March of the release of 163 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 85 new cases.

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.

Dr Virgilio BAREIRO Riveros, Anastasia Idolina GAONA and Severo ACOSTA Aranda, Paraguay

Dr Virgilio BAREIRO Riveros, Anastasia Idolina GAONA and Severo ACOSTA Aranda, three longterm political prisoners in Paraguay, have been detained without charge or trial for 12-13 years. They did not benefit from the amnesty on 30 March in which seven other longterm political prisoners were released, including Ananias MAIDANA Palacios who had been detained for 19 years.

Dr Virgilio Bareiro Riveros, a 52-year-old engineer is married with children. He was educated at the University of Asunción and later won a scholarship from the State Telephone Company (ANTEL) to study in Buenos Aires. He returned to Paraguay and subsequently became head of the Radio Communications Department of ANTEL and was largely responsible for setting up Paraguay's telecommunications system. He was accused of being a communist and of tapping government telephones and sending confidential information to Moscow. He admits to being a communist but denies the other accusations.

Dr Bareiro was arrested in August 1964 on his way home from the United States Cultural Center where he taught English. He was taken to the Police Investigations Department (*Investigaciones*) where he was reportedly tortured by immersion in an "electric swimming bath". During his 13 years in detention he has been held in a number of police stations and prisons. In March 1976 he is known to have gone on hunger strike for four weeks in protest against prison conditions and the "disappearance" of detained members of the Communist Party. His state of health is not known, but several of those who participated in the hunger strike were transferred to a military hospital.

Anastasia Idolina GAONA de Acosta is about 55 years old. She is married with one son who was born in prison. She was arrested on 4 July 1965 for her alleged membership of the Communist Party and "involvement in a terrorist incident". There is considerable doubt as to the validity of these allegations in view of the fact that she has never been charged.

Severo ACOSTA Aranda was arrested on 7 June 1964 for his alleged membership of the Communist Party. He participated in the March 1976 hunger strike and in January 1977 he is known to have been transferred to Emboscada prison.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of these three prisoners, to: General Alfredo Stroessner, Presidente de la República del Paraguay, Casa de Gobierno, Asunción, Paraguay.

A copy of your letter should also be sent to the Paraguayan embassy in your country and to the Paraguayan press.

Heinz REINECKE, German Democratic Republic

Heinz REINECKE, 37-years-old and married with one son, is imprisoned in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for "incitement hostile to the state", a charge based on statements made by him in exercise of his right to freedom of expression. A sculptor by profession, he was last employed by a building concern in Leipzig. In 1969 he joined the *Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands* (SED—Socialist Unity Party of Germany), the ruling communist party in the GDR, because, he said, he wished to take an active part in the development of a new society. He appears subsequently to have become increasingly disillusioned by the SED, complaining that only the function of ordinary members was to approve and carry out decisions taken at a higher level.

In January 1976 Heinz Reinecke applied for official permission to emigrate with his family, citing his disillusionment with the SED and the fact that he had come to regard communism as an unrealistic utopia. His application was rejected, along with several subsequent ones. Both Heinz Reinecke and his wife were dismissed from their jobs and, it is alleged, were unable to claim unemployment benefits. Citizens of the GDR are not allowed to leave their country without official permission; those caught trying to do so are liable to be charged under article 213 of the GDR penal code with "illegal crossing of the border".

On 17 February 1977, Erich Honecker, head of state of the GDR, was interviewed by the *Saarbrücker Zeitung* in the Federal Republic of Germany. The full text of the interview was also published in the GDR press. Shortly afterwards, Heinz Reinecke wrote an open letter to Erich Honecker taking issue with much of what Mr Honecker had said. In his letter he accused the GDR government of failure to observe the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Heinz Reinecke was arrested in February 1977 and sentenced on 15 September to

4 years' imprisonment under article 106 of the GDR penal code. He is currently held in Brandenburg prison.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Heinz Reinecke, to: His Excellency Mr Erich Honecker, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, Berlin-Niederschöenhausen, Carl-von-Ossietzky-Strasse, German Democratic Republic.

Maher AL-KHAYYAT, Israel (Occupied Territories)

Maher AL-KHAYYAT, a 29-year-old pharmaceutical salesman from Nablus, Israel (Occupied Territories), is detained under article 111 of the Defence (Emergency) Regulations of 1945 used by the Israeli military administration to rule the Occupied Territories. Under this article the military commander is empowered to arrest and detain any person whom he considers as a threat to "state security" without having to give reasons or produce evidence of punishable activities.

Maher al-Khayyat was first arrested in 1968 on suspicion of inciting students to demonstrate. After interrogation, he was released and spent four years in Jordan. On his return to the Occupied Territories he was again arrested and interrogated for two weeks before being released.

On 16 June 1977 he was summoned to the military governor's office in Nablus, and allegedly questioned about inciting students to demonstrate against the military occupation. There he was shown two anonymous letters stating that he was a prominent member of *al-Fatah* (a Palestinian liberation movement), and that he was engaged in agitating students. He was summoned before a military court in Nablus on 5 July where his detention was extended by 60 days. After he reportedly denied these allegations, his lawyer Attorney Tsemel's appeal for his release on bail was refused, and on 2 September Maher al-Khayyat was placed under administrative detention.

The position of administrative detainees is usually reviewed every six months. The Review Board, appointed by the military commander, has only consultative status, the final decision resting with the commander. On 1 December Maher al-Khayyat appeared before the Review Board in Nablus prison, when he was apparently asked to state his case without being informed of any charges against him. On 18 December the board decided not to end his detention order, and Maher al-Khayyat remains in detention in Nablus prison.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Maher al-Khayyat, to: General Ezer Weizman, Minister of Defence, Jerusalem, Israel; and to: Professor Aharon Barak, Attorney General, Jerusalem, Israel.

Renewed appeal to Democratic Kampuchea
Continued from page 1, column 2

situation in Democratic Kampuchea since the change of government in April 1975 had been characterized by large scale killings. In 1975 and early 1976, refugees reported that many officers and soldiers of the defeated Republican Army had been executed in the months following the Khmer Rouge accession to power. Many refugees spoke of the summary execution of former Republican Army soldiers. Some had heard about the killings from acquaintances or from Khmer Rouge soldiers; others reported that they had seen mass graves or corpses in army clothing.

Khmer Rouge soldiers and local officials have sought to identify people who had held positions in the former administration. Urban professional people have been singled out by the authorities: there have been numerous accounts of such civilians being taken away and not heard of again. Many refugees believe them to have been killed.

Some observers have pointed out that it was possible that many people reported missing had, in fact, been forcibly transferred to work in remote areas. Until recently, there had been frequent reports of forced migration.

Father François PONCHAUD, a French priest who has interviewed more than 1,000 Cambodian refugees, stated recently: "The estimate that 100,000 Khmers have been executed must now be taken as an absolute minimum. It is possible that two to three times as many people have been executed".

Some observers have said that the phenomenon of large scale executions has now been replaced by sporadic killings.

In view of the continuing reports of killing, *AI* called upon the government of Democratic Kampuchea to allow independent international observers to visit the country and carry out investigations.

ZANZIBAR TREASON TRIAL: THREE MORE DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

Aboud JUMBE, Chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, has commuted three death sentences imposed at the 1973-4 treason trial. A total of 36 death sentences have now been commuted on appeal.

The new Zanzibar Attorney General, Damian LUBUVA, announced the decision on 30 March. *AI* cabled Aboud Jumbe, welcoming his decision and appealing to him to commute the remaining death sentences in the interests of national reconciliation. Only four others remain under sentence of death. They were sentenced *in absentia* and are detained on the Tanzanian mainland. They include Abdulrahman Mohamed BABU (*Prisoners of the Month Campaign*, October 1977).

Twelve of those sentenced in 1974 were released during 1977, 24 are serving long prison terms in Zanzibar while 13 others are detained indefinitely, without trial, on the Tanzanian mainland.

In a recent campaign *AI* groups appealed

for the release of these prisoners and for the death sentences to be commuted. In *AI*'s view they have been denied fair trial and were probably arrested for political reasons.

SAUDI ARABIA ASKED TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY

On 30 March *AI* wrote to King KHALID of Saudi Arabia expressing concern at the use of the death penalty and requesting that the government consider its abolition.

Islamic law, the only system of law in Saudi Arabia, prescribes the death penalty for certain well-defined offences: premeditated murder, adultery and brigandage (which includes violent crimes causing public disorder such as rape, kidnapping, and armed robbery). Over the past year, *AI* has received a number of reports of executions in Saudi Arabia for kidnapping, rape, and adultery.

The letter explained *AI*'s position on the death penalty and the work of international and inter-governmental bodies to bring about its abolition. The letter referred to the Stockholm Conference on the Death Penalty and the recommendations of the Stockholm Declaration (January Newsletter).

APPEAL FOR AMNESTY IN TAIWAN

On 29 March *AI* cabled Premier CHIANG Ching-kuo, following his recent election as President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), urging him on this occasion to grant an amnesty to all persons imprisoned for political reasons in Taiwan.

AI stressed in particular the plight of those political prisoners reportedly held on Green Island for more than 20 years, sometimes as long as 27 years, as well as the cases of HUANG Hua, CHENG Ming-chong, YEN Ming-sheng, TAI Yin-wu and others recently detained on political grounds.

Referring to Premier Chiang's past statements on the respect for human rights in Taiwan, *AI* expressed hope that he would give force to these views by acting to secure the release of all those imprisoned for exercising their human rights.

AI groups also appealed to the new President to grant an amnesty to political prisoners, particularly longterm prisoners who were excluded from a previous amnesty in 1975.

INDIAN SECURITY LAW TO BE REPEALED

On 23 March, the Indian government, led by Prime Minister Morarji DESAI, announced its intention to repeal the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and to withdraw a parliamentary bill providing for preventative detention after the repeal of MISA. If carried through, this would mean that, for the first time since independence in 1947, the Indian government would be without legal powers of preventative detention.

AI cabled Prime Minister Desai on 29 March, welcoming the announcement and

asking for confirmation that the bill for preventative detention was being withdrawn. The bill had been discussed by an *AI* delegation visiting India in January (March Newsletter).

The scope of MISA, introduced in 1971, was considerably widened during the emergency declared by former Prime Minister Indira GANDHI in June 1975, to permit indefinite detention without trial and to refuse suspects the right to know reasons for arrest. The Act, together with the Defence of India Rules, was used extensively by Mrs Gandhi's government to detain peaceful opponents to its rule.

The majority of Indian prisoners adopted by *AI* in 1975 and 1976 had been held under MISA. *AI* had appealed to the former prime minister, on many occasions, to release them and to repeal the Act, and renewed its appeal after the new government had assumed office.

Amnesty International seeks

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amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

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MONTHLY BULLETIN

"Uruguay: Deaths Under Torture 1975-77"

"Soon after, someone else cut the ropes and the men fell to the ground. I can imagine the pain they were in. After being suspended like this for hours on end, all your blood runs to your arms and legs and to be dropped suddenly is agony. After falling, they were motionless. Yic, the man from Cerro, died. This was his last torture. . . Despite the prohibition against opening the coffin, those who did, saw his blackened legs and torn body."

— Excerpt from the testimony of a prisoner who witnessed the death of Nuble Yic, March 1976.

The case of Nuble YIC is one of 12 instances of death through torture in *AI's* publication *Uruguay: Deaths Under Torture 1975-77*, published this month. Señor Yic, a 52-year-old worker, was kept incommunicado for five months after his arrest in October 1975.

When his wife was finally allowed to see him at a military unit, it is reported that Señor Yic shouted, in front of guards and visitors, that prisoners were being tortured and killed and that he did not want his wife alone to be responsible for the information. He then described, still shouting, how he had endured four months of electric shock torture, submersion of his head under water and excrement for prolonged periods, suspension by his feet or hands, and had sharp objects forced under his nails.

The following day, 14 March 1976, a military lorry with heavily armed guards delivered a coffin containing his dead body to his wife.

The 12 cases documented by *AI* since 1975, and five cases of prisoners who have disappeared and are feared killed by the security forces, add to the already long list published by *AI* in its January 1976 leaflet, *Deaths Under Torture: 22 Known Cases* (March 1976 *Cat Bulletin*).

AI's 1976 international campaign against the use of torture in Uruguay centered on the 22 cases reported up to 1975. This campaign created much international concern at the plight of political prisoners in Uruguay. Since then, numerous governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals have joined in calling on the Uruguayan government to stop the torture. Despite the international outcry and despite having ratified the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, the Uruguayan government still ignores or refuses all requests for an independent inquiry into allegations of torture.

The government's attitude was made clear in the case of Alvaro BALBI, who died under torture on 30 July 1975. The Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States examined the case and in November 1977 resolved that "the facts which form part of the report relating to the death of

Señor Balbi are presumed to be true. Namely: "The body of Alvaro Balbi showed outward clear marks of violence". There are strong indications that Señor Balbi, who was detained by the authorities and was found dead after two days in prison, died as a result of the violent acts which the Commission presumes to have taken place."

On 15 December 1977, the Uruguayan government replied rejecting the competence of the IACHR in this case and pleaded reasons of national security for not providing the requested information regarding Señor Balbi's death in custody.

The 12 cases of death in custody described in *AI's* new publication show that many others have suffered the same fate as Alvaro Balbi. The five cases of disappearance raise important questions. Are these people held in secret detention? Or have they also died at the hands of the Uruguayan torturers? If they are dead, what has happened to their bodies? Disappearances and deaths under torture are the most extreme reflection of the continuing pattern of gross violations of human rights in Uruguay. *AI* continues to receive reports of arbitrary detentions, lack of legal safeguards, and systematic torture.

Copies of *Uruguay: Deaths Under Torture 1975-77* may be obtained in English from *AI's* national sections, or from the International Secretariat. A Spanish version is also available from the International Secretariat.

INDONESIAN POLICEMEN CONVICTED FOR TORTURE

On 30 March, *Reuters* news agency reported the imprisonment of three police officers in Bogor, south of Jakarta, for torturing a detainee who later died. A military court sentenced two officers to 30 months and 15 days.

This is the first known occasion where police officers in Indonesia have been prosecuted for offences against prisoners.

HISTORIAN MALTREATED IN POLAND

Adam MICHNIK, a Polish historian who was held in preventive detention between May and July 1977 on suspicion of communicating details of human rights violations in Poland to the foreign media, was re-arrested on 11 February while attempting to lecture on contemporary Polish history in Krakow. The lecture was sponsored by an unofficial group of scientists and intellectuals, the Society for Scientific Courses (TKN).

Before his arrest, police raided the room where the 120-strong audience was waiting. The police threw tear gas and damaged the room extensively. None of the participants offered any physical resistance. The police beat Adam Michnik severely. He was dragged by his hair out into the street and kicked while lying on the pavement. Two student assistants at the lecture were similarly attacked.

Mr Michnik was released 48 hours later. Between 11 and 24 February, he was detained five times for periods of up to 48 hours and was severely beaten twice in Krakow and Wwoclaw during the same period.

SOLDIERS FACE MURDER CHARGES IN THE PHILIPPINES

On 20 February, The Philippines military authorities were reported to have dismissed a lieutenant colonel and eight soldiers accused of torturing a 20-year-old man to death. Six of the soldiers face murder charges. An investigation is pending of the Lieutenant Colonel accused of failing to intervene.

The murdered man, Renato DIASAN, was arrested on 24 October 1977, reportedly on suspicion of murder. According to relatives and the affidavits of two youths who were arrested with Diasan, he was found dead, with severe injuries to the body, several hours after his arrest.

The state of the proceedings against the soldiers is not known. The two brothers arrested with Mr Diasan, Jun and Benjamin BULAY, were reported released and, apparently, no further proceedings are being taken against them on the murder allegations.

The last widely publicized trial of accused torturers in The Philippines ended on 17 August 1977 when two junior officers charged with torturing Trinidad HERRERA were acquitted. Mrs Herrera's torture was medically documented (June and October 1977 *CAT Bulletin*).

appeals

Sofía DONOSO QUEVEDO and Sara Eliana PALMA DONOSO, *Chile* Señora DONOSO QUEVEDO and her two daughters Sara and Haydée were detained in Santiago de Chile on 16 January by agents of the National Center for Information (CNI—*Central Nacional de Informaciones*). Approximately one month later Haydée, a 32-year-old doctor, was found in Peru, near the border with Chile.

Haydée had reportedly been tortured for about 10 days in a place she believes to be the Villa Grimaldi torture center, then driven handcuffed to Tacna, Peru, where she was released on 20 February, with false identity papers given to her by the CNI agents.

Because she was illegally in the country, she decided to give herself up to the Peruvian police. She was questioned and held in a prison in Tacna until 6 March, when she was transferred to the capital, Lima.

After her release on 14 March, she was granted refugee status by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and is now living in another country. Her mother and sister, however, continue in detention in Chile.

It is believed that the three women were arrested because of Haydée's past activities. During the government of President Salvador Allende she had been a member of a group of doctors who supported him, called "*Médicos Patriotas*". Haydée worked in a children's clinic in a poor neighbourhood of Santiago. Immediately after the 1973 military coup a detention order was issued on her and she was forced to live in hiding, working as a domestic servant.

Haydée's mother, Sofía Donoso Quevedo, and sister, Sara Eliana PALMA DONOSO, were held incommunicado from 16 to 19 January and reportedly tortured. A Roman Catholic priest submitted *habeas corpus* writs on their behalf and on 20 January they were transferred to the Women's Correctional Prison (*Casa Correccional de Mujeres*). It is reported that they arrived in a very poor state of health and that Sara could not even stand.

Please send courteously worded letters requesting the immediate release of Sofía Donoso Quevedo and Sara Eliana Palma Donoso, to: Señor Sergio Fernandez, Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior, Edificio Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile.

Janos TOROK, *Romania*

Janos TOROK was arrested and publicly beaten in Romania in March 1975 while addressing a meeting of fellow textile workers prior to elections for regional representatives to the Romanian Grand National Assembly.

After two weeks interrogation, during which he was allegedly beaten severely, he

was interned in a psychiatric hospital, Dr Petru Groza, on a court order. It is reported that he has been forced to receive regular injections of plegomazin, a strong sedative which induces a state of apathy.

Mr Torok is a member of the 2.5 million Hungarian ethnic minority in Romania. A long-time Workers Union member, he was selected to address his 2,000 fellow workers before the 1975 elections. He departed from his prepared speech and criticized the Romanian electoral system. He is reported to have complained that the Central Committee only appointed candidates of Romanian origin to represent an Hungarian-speaking area. He also criticized workers' rights and conditions in the textile industry.

He is reportedly still confined at the psychiatric hospital on charges of "anti-state propaganda" but he has not been brought to trial.

Please send courteously worded appeals, asking for the immediate release of Janos Torok, to: Dr Ioan Pricop, The Dr Petru Groza Hospital, Strada 13 Septembrie No 30, 3638 Dr Petru Groza, Judetul Bihor, Romania; and to: His Excellency Nicolae Ceaucescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Palatul Republicii, Bucuresti, Romania.

SPANISH SENATE REPORT CONDEMNS PRISON TORTURE

A Spanish Senate investigating committee report, released on 28 March, concludes that prison warders torture and ill-treat prisoners in Spanish jails. "In the majority of prisons, the stipulations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are not being carried out," the report adds.

Two weeks before the release of the Senate report, Agustin RUEDA Sierra, aged 25, an anarchist and member of the *Confederación Nacional de Trabajo* (CNT), died in Madrid's Carabanchel prison, allegedly as the result of severe beating received during interrogation there. Seven other prisoners were injured during the same interrogation session, according to an official statement.

The late head of Spain's prisons, Jesús HADDAD Blanco, dismissed the governor of Carabanchel because of Agustin Rueda's death and suspended, without pay, the other officers responsible, pending judicial investigation.

Further violence then followed when Jesús Haddad was assassinated on 22 March. The leftwing group GRAPO has claimed responsibility indicating that the killing was in order to revenge Agustin Rueda's death.

BOOK RECEIVED

Torture—The Grand Conspiracy (Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £10) by Malise Ruthven is an historical analysis of torture from Greek and Roman times, through its revival in the campaign against medieval dissent, its abolition in the 18th century in Europe and its re-emergence under

European colonial rule and in post-revolutionary Russia.

The author argues that the practice of torture was, and still is, almost invariably initiated by a weak regime fearful of organized opposition to its rule. This reaction is defined as the "grand conspiracy"•

INQUEST COMPLETED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Following the inquest into the death in detention of Dr Hoosen HAFJEJEE, *AI* called on the South African government on 16 March, to institute an immediate investigation into the conditions under which Dr Haffejee was detained in the 16 hours preceding his death. *AI* said that, like Steve BIKO and other political detainees who have died in detention, the evidence suggested that he had been severely assaulted shortly before he was found hanged (December 1977 Newsletter).

The inquest into Dr Haffejee's death concluded that he had died by hanging, but the magistrate declined to return a verdict of suicide. He went on to say that there was insufficient evidence to attribute Dr Haffejee's death to any individual, although his security police interrogators had not satisfactorily explained the infliction of wounds on his body. According to forensic experts consulted by *AI* and post-mortem evidence presented at the inquest, Dr Haffejee sustained these injuries 4-12 hours before his death, probably as a result of a physical attack.

The inquest into Dr Haffejee's death was attended on behalf of *AI* by Lord AVEBURY, a British parliamentarian. While in South Africa, Lord Avebury unsuccessfully requested permission to visit political detainees held incommunicado under section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

DETAINEES FREED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Several leading members of the black community held in preventive detention under the Internal Security Act were released during March. They included Percy QOBOZA, editor of the *World* newspaper, who was detained when the newspaper was banned on 19 October 1977, and Dr Nthato MOTLANA, chairman of the Soweto Committee of Ten. Also freed were Ellen KHUZWAYO, a member of the Committee of Ten, and Mrs Dimza PITYANA, whose husband, Barney PITYANA, is one of 50 black leaders still detained under the Internal Security Act. Dimza Pityana remains under a five-year banning order.

Several hundred other people are also believed to be detained without charge at the present time. These are detainees held incommunicado for interrogation purposes under section 6 of the Terrorism Act.