



Amnesty International

newsletter

November 1977 Volume VII Number 11



1977
Prisoners of
Conscience Year

AI Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

AI was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize on 10 October. Immediately after the announcement of this important tribute to its work, AI called on all governments to release all prisoners of conscience and to abolish torture and the death penalty. At the same time AI appealed to the public to sign its Prisoners of Conscience Year petition, addressed to all governments and to the United Nations, calling for the release of non-violent prisoners and universal respect for human rights.

The citation of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee stated that AI "...used its forces to protect the value of human life. Amnesty International has given practical humanitarian and impartial support to people who have been imprisoned because of their race, religion or political views. ..." AI welcomed the recognition by the committee of the essential link between peace and the fundamental human rights that AI has promoted since its inception in 1961.

AI expressed the hope that this important event will result in increased support for its work by individuals and organizations all over the world. It stressed that it regarded the award as an expression of appreciation and support for all those engaged in the struggle for human rights.

AI's International Executive Committee (IEC) will at its next meeting in November discuss how to use the prize of £80,000, which will be presented in Oslo on 10 December.

AI received numerous messages of congratulations from governments, organizations and individuals, including former prisoners of conscience.

AI PUBLISHES MAJOR REPORT ON INDONESIA

Up to 100,000 political prisoners are being detained in Indonesia according to a major AI publication, *Indonesia: An Amnesty International Report*, released internationally on 18 October. AI national sections are preparing a worldwide campaign to seek the immediate and unconditional release of the prisoners, many of whom have been held for 12 years without trial.

Announcing the publication, AI said: "The unchanging pattern of political imprisonment in Indonesia presents the gravest challenge to the concept of international responsibility for human rights. In no other country of the world are so many political prisoners held without trial for so many years, as in the Republic of Indonesia."

The 146-page report describes the background of political imprisonment in Indonesia and criticizes in detail violations of the constitutional and legal rights of untried prisoners. Evidence is presented that Indonesian political prisoners are held under the arbitrary control of the military authorities. Local military commanders may arrest and interrogate prisoners, and may permit the use of extreme and brutal torture, or use prisoners as servants or for forced labour. Relatively few prisoners ever come to trial.

AI estimates that there are more than 55,000 political prisoners in Indonesia, and that a more accurate total is probably 100,000. They were arrested after an attempted coup in 1965, when some middle-ranking army officers tried to destroy the leadership of the Indonesian army and assassinated six senior army generals. The coup attempt was crushed by surviving army leaders, who then accused the Indonesian Communist Party of involvement.

More than half a million people were killed during subsequent massive arrests and at least as many imprisoned. Although large numbers have since been released, a proportion were subsequently re-arrested. Arrests continue, and the total number of untried political prisoners has not changed significantly in four years.

The report is based on evidence received mainly from a wide range of sources in Indonesia. It describes the prisoners and their treatment over the years, the pattern of killing and of torture, and the widespread use of political prisoners as forced labour.

Over the years, the Indonesian government has promised to release prisoners or to put them on trial, but with no significant result. AI's view is that the only course now open to the Indonesian government is to release all untried political prisoners.

The Indonesian government announced in December 1976 that it intended to release all untried prisoners before the end of 1979 and said that many of these prisoners were to be "released" in "transmigration projects".

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AI REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE GDR

AI expressed its concern on 10 October that application of several articles of the German Democratic Republic's Penal Code was incompatible with specific articles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guaranteeing freedom of movement, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

In a 12-page briefing paper, AI estimated that there were several thousand political prisoners in the GDR, a high proportion of them serving prison sentences of between 1 and 3 years for trying to leave the country without permission, although the GDR authorities deny political imprisonment. Under an originally secret intergovernmental scheme, some 1,300 prisoners were released during 1976 by the GDR authorities and expelled to the neighbouring Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) against the delivery of scarce goods to the GDR. AI does not promote this 'buying-out scheme' or any other form of 'exchange' or 'buying out' of political prisoners. The turnover rate in GDR cases adopted by AI groups is high because as many men and women appear to be arrested and imprisoned as there are releases in any one year.

The briefing paper described the following human rights issues in the GDR as being of particular concern to AI:

- the existence of legislation leading to violations of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular of articles 12, 18, 19, 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- the continued practice of arrests, prolonged pre-trial detention and imprisonment of citizens who criticize official policy or practice or who try to exercise other internationally recognized civil rights in a non-violent manner;
- retention of the death penalty for a number of offences.

The report also states that dissent from the official line, whether political, religious or cultural, is severely discouraged. The report refers to censorship of press and communications, a heavily guarded frontier—including the Berlin Wall built in 1961—and severe restriction on freedom of movement, expression and association.

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AI Reports on Human Rights Violations in the GDR

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The briefing paper is the 12th in a series AI is producing to summarize available information on political imprisonment and other violations of human rights in individual countries.

Amnesty International Briefing on the German Democratic Republic (GDR), 12 pages, is published by Amnesty International Publications, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England and is available from AI's national sections. Price: 40 pence (US \$ 1.00) plus postage. Dutch, French and German translations are available from relevant national sections.

EMERGENCY REVOKED IN PAKISTAN

President Chaudri Fazal ELAHI of Pakistan revoked on 15 September the Proclamation of Emergency issued in 1971. He also repealed the 1971 Defence of Pakistan Ordinance.

AI had opposed the provisions for preventive detention without trial under both emergency and ordinary laws, and has recommended in its report published in May this year that these provisions in the Defence of Pakistan Rules—part of emergency law—and in other laws be revoked (June *Newsletter*). However, before revoking the emergency, the government had already introduced similar provisions for indefinite detention without trial under the provisions of Martial Law Order Number 12.

AI had also opposed other provisions for trying political prisoners by special courts and tribunals. Although the government has now abolished special tribunals under the Defence of Pakistan Rules (September *Newsletter*), provisions for the trial of political prisoners by special courts—under the Criminal Law Amendment (Special Court) Act of 1976—are still in force. Under these provisions, the special court in Hyderabad Jail continues to try leaders of the former National Awami Party (NAP). On 14 September the government set up another special court under this Act to try offences punishable under the High Treason (Punishment) Act of 1973.

In a letter to the editor of the Pakistan daily, *Dawn*, published on 11 August, AI Secretary General Martin ENNALS stated that the organization had urged the government to order the trial of the former NAP leaders in open court under ordinary procedures where all legal safeguards apply, or otherwise to order their release. The letter said: "We feel that such a decision would be in accordance with the policy initiated by the new administration".

APPEAL FOR AMNESTY OF LONG-TERM PRISONERS IN TAIWAN

Deep concern at the plight of political prisoners in Taiwan (Republic of China), who have been detained for 20 years or more, was the subject of an AI letter sent on 20 September to Taiwan President YEN Chia-kan.

Most of these prisoners were arrested in the early 1950s and include Taiwanese as well as Chinese mainlanders who came to Taiwan after the Nationalist government withdrew from the mainland in 1949. They were arrested under martial law for suspected pro-communist activities or sympathies, and charged with 'sedition' under the Statute for the Punishment of Sedition.

They were tried by military courts where practically all rights of defence are denied. Their cases were apparently never reviewed and their sentences were not considered eligible for commutation during a partial amnesty in 1975 after the death of President Chiang Kai-shek. The 1975 Commutation Act specified that convicted communists charged under article 2, paragraph 1 of the Statute for the Punishment of Sedition should not be granted commutation.

The majority of these prisoners are reported to be held in Green Island New Life Camp, a prison camp on an island off Taiwan's south-east coast. They live in total isolation, as the island's inaccessibility makes visits practically impossible.

Under existing law regarding collective responsibility, prisoners need two guarantors in order to be released at the end of their sentence. Those who have been in prison for 20 years or more are unlikely to be able to find such guarantors as they have probably lost track of relatives and friends after long isolation.

AI groups are currently appealing to the government for a special amnesty on humanitarian grounds for these long-term prisoners. Repeated inquiries to the government about these cases have met with no response. AI has asked the government to examine these prisoners' health and conditions, and to take steps to resettle them in society.

AI URGES JORDAN TO COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCES

AI urged King HUSSEIN of Jordan on 21 September to commute on humanitarian grounds six death sentences reportedly passed on 11 September. The condemned men had been found guilty of selling property in former Jordanian territory now occupied by Israel. The death penalty was introduced in 1973 when the sale of land in the occupied territories to the Israeli authorities was made an act of high treason.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS DETAINED IN SPAIN

In a telegram on 3 October to the Captain General of Spain's 4th Military Region, Lieutenant General Francisco Coloma GALLEGOS, AI expressed deep concern at the position of the 10 Spanish conscientious objectors detained in San Fernando military prison in Figueras.

The prisoners, currently awaiting trial are denied access to civilian lawyers and have been refused the right to select their own lawyer. The authorities have maintained

this to be justifiable as the prisoners are under military jurisdiction. However, this is in clear contravention of article 14 of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which was ratified by Spain on 27 April this year.

All 10 prisoners have been adopted by AI.

KILLINGS OF LAY RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONTINUE IN EL SALVADOR

AI cabled President Carlos Humberto ROMERO of El Salvador on 26 September expressing dismay over continuing extrajudicial detentions and cold-blooded killings by security forces in the Salvadorean countryside. AI asked for special high-level measures to protect lay members of the Roman Catholic church who have increasingly suffered persecution although threatened killings of Jesuit priests were halted.

The cable specifically condemned the murder of two lay deacons on 26 August in the village of El Salitre when 50 to 60 troops of the *Guardia Nacional* and the *Policía de Hacienda* surrounded the village and detained the two men. Felipe de Jesus Chacon VASQUEZ was found dead the next day two miles away from the village. Eye-witnesses from the office of the Archbishop of San Salvador said the body was unrecognizable except for an old scar: "They cut his scalp from his head and stripped the flesh off his face". Serafin VASQUEZ was killed in his own home with machetes. The two men were religious leaders in the village, which has no resident priest, where they held religious and literacy classes in their own homes.

Government spokesmen claimed the men were killed when they attacked a patrol of the *Policía de Hacienda*, and that they were well known cattle thieves. However they also linked the killings with "periodic secret political meetings" in the area which allegedly gave the *campesinos* "political indoctrination".

Deploping the killings, AI pointed out that the two men were well known leaders of the "Cursillista Movement", a conservative lay catholic organization with many distinguished members from business and government circles; Señor Chacon Vasquez was a member of the national board of the movement and had reportedly done evangelical work with the present Minister of Justice.

JUVENILE SENTENCED TO DEATH IN MALAYSIA

A schoolboy was sentenced to death by the Penang High Court in Malaysia on 25 August for unlawful possession of a firearm. The boy was 13 years and 11 months old at the time of the alleged offence. His name was withheld at the request of the judge.

This is the first death sentence passed on a juvenile since an amendment to the Malaysian Internal Security Act in 1975 made such a penalty mandatory in cases involving illegal possession of weapons.

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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.

Julian LOPEZ PABLO—El Salvador

Julian LOPEZ PABLO, a peasant farmer, was taken from the health center where he was a patient in the village of San Pedro Perulapan on 19 October 1976 by men identifying themselves as agents of the National Police. They were accompanied by a village official of the para-military organization ORDEN. Nominally a civic organization headed nationally by President Carlos Humberto Romero, ORDEN is said to work closely with security forces in rural areas.

The police took Señor Lopez Pablo from the village in an ambulance and he has since "disappeared". Authorities deny he was ever detained.

Julian Lopez Pablo is a member of the peasant federations *Unión de Trabajadores del Campo* (UTC) and *Federación de Campesinos Cristianos Salvadoreños* (FECCAS). Both lead demands for agrarian reform in El Salvador, although agricultural trade unions have no legal status. Peasant organizations have become increasingly active since powerful opposition by land-owners' associations led to total abandonment of draft legislation for extensive agrarian reform proposed by the government of ex-president Arturo Armando Molina in 1976. Increased squatting on unused land by peasants and increasingly vocal peasant demands have been met by a steady escalation of governmental violence as well as violence by para-military forces acting with apparent impunity.

Although authorities have denied that Señor Lopez Pablo is in custody, *AI* believes he is currently held in one of the headquarters of the National Guard in the capital, San Salvador. Dr Alfredo Castro Quesada, another prisoner who "disappeared" after his detention (on 8 March 1977), and who was among a group of prisoners whom ex-president Molina in April specifically denied were in custody, was released without explanation at the end of August. Dr Castro Quesada, now in Costa Rica, has affirmed that a number of prisoners about whom *AI* has made inquiries are presently held incommunicado in basement cells of the National Guard headquarters. Those named by Dr Castro Quesada include Carlos Madriz, Lil Milagro Ramirez, Juan Jose Yanes, Sergio Vladimir Arriaza Chavarria, Luis Bonilla, and Ana Gilma Urquilla. Other recently released prisoners have confirmed Dr Castro Quesada's report, but, to *AI*'s knowledge, the authorities have not yet formally charged or tried any of those detained.

Please write courteously worded letters, asking that Julian Lopez Pablo and other

unacknowledged or "disappeared" prisoners be accounted for and either brought to trial or immediately released, to: Presidente de la República, General Carlos Humberto Romero, Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador.

Send copies to the diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

TRAN Van Tuyen—Socialist Republic of Vietnam

TRAN Van Tuyen, a 64-year-old former lawyer and politician, has been in detention in Vietnam since June 1975.

Born in North Vietnam, Tran van Tuyen entered political life in the 1940s and joined several political groups. In 1954, he was a member of the South Vietnamese delegation to the Geneva Conference. Secretary General of the South Vietnamese Nationalist Party from 1964 to 1975, he became Deputy Premier in the short-lived Phan Huy Quat government in 1965 and was elected to the Lower House in 1971 and 1974.

Tran van Tuyen defended political detainees of the Thieu government. He was chairman of the Bar Association of Vietnam and was once chairman of the Vietnam Chapter of the International League for Human Rights. Mr Tuyen also took part in numerous civic activities, including the Boy Scouts movement of Vietnam, of which he was a founding member, and the campaign to combat illiteracy.

After the change of government in South Vietnam in April 1975, all members of the former army and administration, as well as leading members of former political parties and organizations, were registered and later sent to "re-education" centers or camps. Mr Tuyen was sent to a camp in Long Khanh in June 1975. He was later reported to have been sent to another camp in North Vietnam then back again to South Vietnam. He is now apparently detained in a small cell in Chi Hoa prison in Ho Chi Minh City. According to *AI*'s information Mr Tuyen was sent from a re-education camp to a prison because he refused to sign a confession of crimes. Mr Tuyen is reported to have said that he had "committed no crimes against the Vietnamese fatherland or the Vietnamese people".

Mr Tuyen suffers from kidney, liver and heart problems which have reportedly worsened during his detention.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Tran van Tuyen to: Premier Pham van Dong, Office of the Prime Minister, Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Taisir AL-ARURI—Israel (Occupied Territories)

Taisir AL-ARURI was arrested, with a number of other Palestinians, on 21 April 1974 and has since been held in administrative detention without charge or trial. Mr Aruri, a qualified physicist, was born near Ramallah (West Bank) in April 1946. He began teaching mathematics in 1973 at Bir Zeit College, the only university in the Occupied Territories, some 20 kilometers north of Jerusalem.

Mr Aruri is being held under article 111 of the Defence (Emergency) Regulations used by the military administration to control the Occupied Territories. Article 111 specifically empowers the Israeli Military Governor to detain any inhabitant of the Occupied Territories whom he considers a "risk to the security of the state" without having to produce any evidence of involvement in punishable activities. Detention is normally reviewed every six months. The appeals board, however, is only consultative, enabling the military government to cite "security reasons" for renewing the detention indefinitely.

Mr Aruri's case was reviewed in July 1977 when he was ordered to remain in detention until a further review in January 1978. *AI* began investigating his case in February 1975, and in February this year he was adopted as a prisoner of conscience, as the Israeli authorities appeared unable to provide any evidence whatsoever of his involvement in violent activities.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Taisir Al-Aruri to: His Excellency Professor Ephraim Katzir, President of the State of Israel; and to: His Excellency Menahem Begin, Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Israel.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

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

Juvenile Sentenced to Death in Malaysia *Continued from page 2, column 3*

Since 1975, an estimated 45 adults have been sentenced to death for firearms offences. None has been executed, pending appeal to higher courts.

In the trial of the schoolboy, the court was not presented with any evidence of intent to use the firearms. Under the Internal Security Act, mere possession of the weapon carries the death penalty.

AI cabled the Malaysian government on 26 August to urge a reprieve of the death sentence passed on the boy and continues to urge the Malaysian authorities to refer the case to the State Pardons Board, which can order a reprieve.

• On 14 October the boy's death sentence was commuted and the State Pardons Board decided to send the boy to a juvenile reform school until he is 21 years old.

AI Publishes Major Report on Indonesia

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AI is asking the Indonesian government to stop the forcible transportation of political prisoners to permanent penal colonies on the pretext that this amounted to their release. As for the government's three-year release program, AI points out that further delay in releasing the prisoners is completely unjustified.

In recent years, the Indonesian government has announced the release of several thousand prisoners, but has refused any information identifying individuals or the prisons in which they were held.

Indonesia: An Amnesty International Report, 146 pages, is published in English by Amnesty International Publications, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Price: £2.00 (US \$5.00) plus postage. Copies can be obtained from AI's national sections.

AI URGES MALTREATMENT INQUIRY IN IRELAND

AI urged the government of the Republic of Ireland on 26 August to instigate an impartial inquiry into allegations that persons arrested on suspicion of involvement in terrorism had been maltreated in police custody. Irish Prime Minister Jack LYNCH was given a report of AI's own investigation into the allegations, based on the findings of a research mission to Dublin in June 1977. The delegates on the mission were Douwe KORFF, a Dutch lawyer, and Angela WRIGHT, a member of AI's International Secretariat.

AI gave details of allegations relating to a number of arrests during the period October 1975 to May 1977 and expressed its concern about some aspects of the laws relating to police custody. Under the Emergency Powers Act, which was introduced in September 1976, arrested persons may be detained for up to seven days without being brought before a court. AI found that the extension of the period of police custody from two to seven days had contributed directly to the alleged maltreatment. However, there was also a considerable number of apparently substantiated allegations of maltreatment of persons arrested before the Emergency Powers Act was introduced. The most common allegation was of beatings, and there were some allegations of deprivation of sleep, food and drink. AI expressed further concern that the Special Criminal Court, a special non-jury court set up to try persons charged with politically motivated offences, had rejected allegations of maltreatment in several cases examined by AI's delegates, despite apparently substantiated defence evidence of maltreatment.

In September and early October, it was reported in Irish newspapers that the Irish government was giving serious consideration to AI's submission. On 4 October, after a meeting of the Irish Cabinet (Council of Ministers), the government announced that it would not renew the Section of the

Emergency Powers Act providing for seven day detention of suspects by the police, which was introduced initially for one year and was due for renewal in October. Irish and British newspapers reported that AI's submission had been one of the subjects for discussion at this meeting. Further press reports say that on 4 October the Cabinet had also considered AI's request for an impartial inquiry into the allegations of police brutality. On 7 October the Irish government announced that it had appointed a special committee to study the concerns expressed in AI's submission.

CHARTER 77 SUPPORTERS JAILED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Jan PRINC, a signatory of Charter 77, the Czechoslovak human rights movement founded in January, was sentenced on 21 September by the district court in Decin, Northern Bohemia, to 3 months' imprisonment for disturbing public order.

Vladimír LASTUVKA, a physicist, and Ales MACHACEK, an agronomist, who had been in detention since January on charges of distributing Charter 77 (April Newsletter), were convicted of subversion (article 98 of the penal code) and sentenced to 3½ years' imprisonment by the District Court in Usti nad Labem in Northern Bohemia on 28 September. The proceedings were conducted in closed court.

• In the biggest trial since the publication of the Charter 77 manifesto the City Court in Prague in a closed session on 18 October sentenced four prominent human rights activists—three of them signatories of Charter 77—to prison terms ranging from 14 months to 3½ years on charges of subversion. Ota ORNEST, theatre director received a 3½ year sentence; Jiri LEDERER, journalist, received 3 years; Dr Frantisek PAVLICEK, theatre director, received a 17 month sentence suspended for 3 years and playwright Vaclav HAVEL was sentenced to 14 months, also suspended for 3 years. All four appealed against their sentences.

NEPAL ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF SECURITY ACT DETAINEES

Nepal's new Prime Minister, Kirtinidhi BISTA, announced on 17 September the release of political prisoners held without charge under the Public Security Act. Mr Bista was appointed Prime Minister on the resignation of Dr Tulsī GIRI and cabinet ministers on 9 September.

AI cabled the Prime Minister on 22 September, congratulating him on his appointment and welcoming the government's release of political detainees held without charge. AI also urged the review of cases of other political prisoners held for long periods without trial under the Raj Kaj Act.

AI is currently verifying the names of those released.

• Correction to September Newsletter "Poland Releases Nine Prisoners of Conscience" which states that AI expressed satisfaction that a judicial review had led to the release of five AI-adopted workers. The five workers were actually under investigation by AI groups.

AI SUBMITS REPORT TO LIBYAN PRESIDENT

On 18 August AI submitted to Colonel Mu'ammār AL GADDAFI, Secretary General of the General People's Congress, Libya (now named the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), a report based on the findings of an AI mission to the country in October 1976 (December Newsletter) and on subsequent developments in Libya.

In the report AI draws attention to the increasing problem of political imprisonment in Libya, and lists the names of all political prisoners (93 in all) whose cases have been taken up by AI. The report also draws attention to the inadequacy of basic legal safeguards in the country such as detention without trial, trial by special courts which are not bound by normal trial procedures, and the overruling of court decisions by administrative decree. The report expresses concern at general reports of maltreatment of some political detainees, particularly students and military personnel, who are alleged to have been subjected to ill-treatment and/or long periods of solitary confinement. It also expresses serious concern over developments in the past year in connection with the death penalty: the first executions for 23 years were carried out in Libya in April when at least 26 people were executed.

Recommendations made in the report include the request that the government consider declaring a general amnesty for all political prisoners in Libya during 1977, Prisoners of Conscience Year. The report also recommends that all detained persons be held in accordance with the penal code and constitution, and that immediate access to lawyer and family, early charge and trial and public trial by an ordinary court be guaranteed. With regard to the torture allegations, the report recommends that an independent commission of inquiry be instigated into all such allegations, that the results be made public, that those responsible be punished and adequate compensation be made by the government to the victims. Finally AI urges the government to abolish the death penalty in Libya.

National Section change of address:
The office address of the Pakistan Section is now: Amnesty International, Pakistan Section, 15 Beauty House, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi, Pakistan.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER is published monthly by: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Printed in Great Britain by Hill and Garwood Ltd, Fourth Way, Wembley, Middlesex. Available on subscription at £6 (US \$15) per calendar year.

20th Recent Death in Detention in South Africa

AI cabled South African Justice Minister James KRUGER on 13 September to urge an open and independent inquiry into the death of Black Consciousness movement leader Steve BIKO. Mr Biko was reported by the South African authorities to have died in Pretoria on 12 September while in security police custody. His was the 20th death in detention of a political detainee in South Africa since March 1976.

Announcing the death, Mr Kruger said Mr Biko had been detained at Grahamstown on 18 August with another black leader, Peter JONES. He had then been taken to Port Elizabeth police station where, seven days before his death, he apparently commenced a hunger strike. Mr Biko became unwell and after several medical examinations was transferred to Pretoria, where he reportedly died. The authorities told Mr Biko's mother of his death but did not inform his wife.

This version of Mr Biko's death was immediately challenged by his friends and associates, particularly by Donald WOODS, editor of the East London *Daily Dispatch*. Mr Woods claimed that Steve Biko had earlier told him that he would never starve himself or commit suicide while in detention.

Steve Biko was a most significant figure in South African politics. Aged only 30 at the time of his death, he was the acknowledged founder of the Black Consciousness movement. He formed four Black Consciousness organizations—South African Students' Organization (SASO), Black People's Convention (BPC), Black Community Program (BCP), and the Zimele Trust Fund, the last of which provides relief and rehabilitation assistance to families of political prisoners. These organizations, together with the Christian Institute and other anti-apartheid organizations, were all banned by the South African government on 19 October.

Because of his leadership potential, Steve Biko was constantly harassed and persecuted by the South African authorities. He was "banned" for 5 years in 1973 and was detained without charge on four separate occasions.

Mr Biko's death was one of a series during the past two years involving political detainees. Considerable suspicion surrounds the circumstances of all political detainees' deaths because of the unsatisfactory nature of official explanations. It is widely believed that several detainees at least have been tortured to death during interrogation by security police who then faked the circumstances to give the appearance of suicide.

Mapetla MOHAPI, for example, Steve Biko's close friend, was alleged by police to

have hanged himself with his own trousers and to have left a suicide note (September 1976 *CAT Bulletin*). Both his wife and a handwriting expert testified at the inquest that the note was a forgery, and another former detainee, Tenjiwe MTINTSO, claimed that, after she had been partly suffocated with a wet towel, a security police officer told her: "That is how we killed Mapetla". Other detainees are alleged to have hanged themselves or to have thrown themselves from the upper storey windows of the buildings in which they were being interrogated.

The South African government has consistently refused to set up an independent inquiry into political detainees' deaths. It has also refused to repeal the laws which provide for detention incommunicado and without trial for an indefinite period. It has rejected requests by the International Red Cross to be allowed access to detainees. For these reasons, it must be concluded that the South African government effectively condones the use of torture by its security police.

AMERICAN INDIAN 'BEATEN' IN PRISON

On 4 October *AI* wrote to Governor Edmund G. BROWN Jr. of California, USA, asking him to inquire into allegations that Richard MOHAWK, an American Indian at present on trial in Los Angeles, had been beaten by prison guards at Los Angeles County Jail on the night of 30 August.

A previous letter to Governor Brown on 14 July had appealed to him to ensure that Mr Mohawk and Paul SKYHORSE, also an American Indian, received adequate medical treatment. It referred to allegations, supported by medical testimony, that the two had been beaten while in Ventura County Jail.

In a telegram sent to Governor Brown on 12 October *AI* appealed for an inquiry into the reasons for the continued detention of Mr Skyhorse and Mr Mohawk in solitary confinement and for the hunger strike reportedly maintained by the two since 27 September.

Richard Mohawk and Paul Skyhorse have been charged with the murder of a cab-

driver in 1974, but there are reasons to believe that the two men, who were both active in the American Indian Movement, may have been falsely implicated. Their trial is being observed on behalf of *AI* by Dr Eugenio VELASCO, a Chilean lawyer.

DEATH AFTER TORTURE IN SYRIA

AI has received reports of a further death as a result of torture in Syria. Abdel Ghani ATTAR, a businessman, believed to have been arrested at the beginning of September under recently introduced legislation against corruption, allegedly died after torture in detention in Damascus on 10 September. On 14 September, the London *Times* reported his apparent suicide, but *AI* has been informed by reliable sources that his dead body was pushed from the window of an upper storey in an attempt by the security forces to simulate suicide.

Mr Attar's brother Abdel RAHMAN, a prominent businessman engaged in the construction industry, was also arrested early in September, together with at least 16 others, by the newly established committee for combatting illicit gains.

During 1975 and 1976 nine deaths as a result of torture in Syria were reported to *AI* (October 1976 and November 1976 *CAT Bulletins*). *AI* interventions in these cases met with no response. Numerous allegations of torture have been received by *AI* over the past years, several at first hand. These reports indicate that torture is routinely practised for interrogation purposes. The most common methods are said to be beatings and electric shocks.

When the interrogation period is over, political prisoners are transferred from solitary confinement to communal cells. Family visits are said to be permitted only after signs of ill-treatment have disappeared. As, in the majority of cases, insufficient evidence is produced for charges to be brought, political prisoners may remain indefinitely in detention without trial or access to legal representation.

On 29 September *AI* called for a personal inquiry by President Hafez ASSAD into this latest report, and *AI* national sections have been asked to intervene. Syria's 1973 constitution specifically prohibits torture.

POLITICAL PRISONERS FLOGGED IN PAKISTAN

AI has received some reports from Pakistan claiming that the punishment of flogging is being imposed for political offences. A martial law decree issued on 27 July this

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appeals

MOROCCO: TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Numerous arrests took place in Morocco in June involving students and teachers suspected of belonging to radical socialist groups. The number of those arrested is estimated to be several hundred, but since the detainees are held incommunicado in secret detention centers a precise figure is impossible, and only a few have been named.

From recent evidence it is clear that political detainees are frequently tortured during interrogation by security police who attempt to extract confessions and the names of other alleged members of the left-wing movement.

Dissident groups who oppose the government of King HASSAN II have been subject to increasing repression in recent years. Major trials have taken place in August 1973, August 1976 and January 1977 involving persons alleged to hold marxist-leninist views. Most defendants have been charged with plotting against state security, but evidence against them has invariably related to the publications they have produced and their attempts to form political organizations to disseminate their ideas.

AI observers have attended each trial. Reports of the conditions in which suspects are secretly detained (sometimes for over a year) and details of torture have been substantiated by AI's own observers and those of other international organizations.

Methods of torture include suspension by the wrists and ankles, often for extremely long periods, electric shocks to the eyes and genitals, and beating especially about the head and often with metal instruments. After reports of the recent arrests reached AI, appeals were launched during July and August (August Newsletter).

However there has been no response from Morocco, and those arrested are still held incommunicado by the police. Renewed appeals should therefore be made to the Moroccan authorities.

Please write courteously worded letters, asking the Moroccan authorities to ensure fair treatment and legal rights for all students, teachers and other individuals arrested in recent months to: Sa Majesté le Roi Hassan II, Rabat, Maroc; and to: Monsieur Maati Bouabid, Ministre de la Justice, Rabat, Maroc.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS DISAPPEAR IN ALBANIA

Three Roman Catholic bishops have disappeared in the Socialist People's Republic of Albania following reported government prohibition of their religious duties.

Albania is officially an atheist country; article 37 of its new constitution "recognizes no religion and supports and develops atheist propaganda". Although the major Christian and Moslem religions have been

subject to harsh official repression for several decades, three Roman Catholic bishoprics had been allowed, until the beginning of this year, to hold limited church services for Christians in a number of centers.

The missing bishops are: Ernesto COBA (aged 65), titular bishop of Mideo and apostolic administrator of Shkodrë; Nicola TROSHANI (aged 62), titular bishop of Cisamo and apostolic administrator for Durrës and Lëzhe; and Antonin FISHTA (aged 75), titular bishop of Amizone and apostolic administrator for Pult.

AI has heard from reliable sources that the Albanian authorities prevented them from performing their religious duties at the beginning of 1977 and it is feared that they are being detained by the security forces and that they may have been maltreated in detention.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of the three bishops to: Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Albanian Worker's Party, Tirana, Albania.

REPORT OF TORTURE IN EGYPTIAN JAIL

A 23-year-old student from Cairo University, Ahmed Moustafa ISMAIL, was tortured while in detention in Cairo's Citadel Prison according to a reliable report received by AI. During his detention from January to May this year, prison officials subjected him to maltreatment which included the insertion of a stick into his anus. On 6 June Mr Ismail presented a written statement describing his prison treatment to Mr Moustafa Abdul WAHAB, President of the Court of Appeal.

AI is particularly concerned by this report of torture from Egypt as it is the first substantiated report received for some years.

AI wrote to Egyptian Minister of Justice Ahmed Samih TALAAT on 4 October, welcoming positive steps which have been taken by the present Egyptian government to bring those responsible for torture under the late president Gamal Abdul NASSER to trial, and requesting the minister to inform AI of the measures taken to investigate formally the case of Mr Ismail and to bring those responsible for his maltreatment to trial under the provisions of article 126 of the Egyptian penal code.

RECENT INQUIRIES INTO TORTURE IN BRAZIL

Recent moves by the widow of Vladimir HERZOG, the São Paulo journalist who died in the custody of the II Army in October 1975 (December 1975 CAT Bulletin), to reopen an official inquiry into the cause of his death have led to some interesting revelations.

Senhora Herzog's lawyers have filed a suit against Dr Harry SHIBATA accusing him of forgery, after he admitted publicly in August that he had signed the official autopsy, stating suicide as the cause of Vladimir Herzog's death, without having seen the body. Dr Shibata signed in the place of Professor Armando Canger RODRIQUES, whose name had been clumsily erased from the document. Despite Dr Shibata's confession and the call by the leader of the opposition party, Deputy Freitas NOBRE, for a "new and more profound investigation into the death of the journalists", the São Paulo police have decided to drop the case against Dr Shibata, who was recently awarded a peace prize by the government.

• However, in the state of Minas Gerais, the governor, Aureliano CHAVES, has called for a full investigation of police conduct in the recent torture case of Jorge Defensor VIEIRA. In April Senhor Vieira, a worker, was arrested by the local Belo Horizonte police. He was allegedly suspended on the *pau de arara* and given electric shock treatment and had objects forced into his anus. When he was taken down from the *pau de arara*, he was hung by a rope and beaten with a piece of rubber. He was transferred after a few days to a police station in Cidade Industrial where the maltreatment continued. During this time, the police threatened to kill him and throw his body in the river.

Finally however, he was left in a very poor physical condition outside the hospital of São Francisco de Annis. He has been in hospital recovering for four months, during which time his life was further threatened by the local police. Newspapers printing his allegations have also received death threats. Five members of the Legislative Assembly who visited Senhor Vieira in hospital in September announced that disciplinary action would be taken against the police.

The state of Minas Gerais has also appealed for an inquiry into the death of 14-year-old Josias LEANDRO, who was arrested in Belo Horizonte with his brother on 13 May and allegedly beaten to death. According to the official medical report, Senhor Leandro died of an internal haemorrhage on 7 July.

Political Prisoners Flogged in Pakistan Continued from previous page, column 3

year provides for up to 7 years' imprisonment and 10 lashes for violating martial law restrictions on political activity as well as for criminal offences.

AI has already expressed its concern to General Zia-ul HAQ, head of the military government, about the introduction of a decree of 10 July which increased punishments for those taking part in political activities and provided for the punishment of death or amputation of a hand for theft and banditry (August CAT Bulletin and September Newsletter).

According to one report at the end of August, a member of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali BHUTTO's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and 10 lashes by summary military court for "organizing a procession to welcome PPP Chairman Bhutto on his arrival in Islamabad on 26 August and raising objectionable slogans". Five other PPP workers were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment on the same charge.

In a speech to the press on 1 September, General Zia-ul Haq stated that the Islamic punishment of whipping would continue, but that "instructions are being issued that in future it would not be inflicted on bare parts of the body of the convicted person. It is the humiliating, rather than the punitive aspect of this punishment which is more important".

Islamic countries with similar legislation include Syria and Libya although such sentences have not been imposed in Libya since the law in question was introduced some years ago.