



Human rights consistently violated in Afghanistan

Human rights have been consistently violated in Afghanistan said *AI* in a report published on 19 September.

Thousands of political prisoners in the country are estimated to have been held without charge or trial. At least 12,000 political prisoners are being held in Kabul's Pule Charchi prison alone. The report states: "It is government policy to imprison any individual member of a political group whom the government considers to be in actual or potential opposition to its policies".

The report lists 33 well-known political prisoners, including former ministers, diplomats, academics and journalists, but does not disclose other names and details of torture for fear of reprisals against the prisoner or his family.

Whole families, including women and children, have been arbitrarily arrested together with those actually suspected of political offences. Some are reported to have been summarily executed and others have "disappeared" after arrest.

Among the 10 people the report names to have been executed or killed while in detention are two ministers of the former government and also the statesman, diplomat and scholar Mohammed Moosa SHAFIQ, who was Prime Minister of Afghanistan in 1973, and who was reportedly executed in the months after April 1978.

AI has received substantial information that political prisoners have been tortured by methods that include beatings, whippings, pulling of nails and electric shocks. The report identifies by name three members of the Afghan armed forces who are believed to have died in prison as a result of torture.

Much of the information contained in the *AI* report had earlier been presented to the United Nations in May 1979 in a communication to the Commission on Human Rights.

AI's report contains the text of its memorandum presented to President Taraki and Hafizullah AMIN (then Foreign Minister) in December 1978 following *AI*'s mission to Kabul in October. There has been no response from President Taraki or Foreign

Minister Amin to *AI*'s repeated requests this year to implement the recommendations of its memorandum.

On 23 September *Agence France Presse* reported President Hafizullah Amin's reaction to the *AI* report: "... As for the *AI* contention that the Afghanistan government had jailed 12,000 people since the revolution, Mr Amin said that the London-based group had a 'fertile imagination and is spoon-fed by the propaganda centers of Radio Peking, the BBC, the Voice of America, Islamabad and Teheran'."

On 16 September former Foreign Minister Hafizullah AMIN took over as President. He announced that all political prisoners "unnecessarily held" by the previous administration would be released.

AI welcomed the new President's announcement and urged the government to take immediate steps for the release of all untried political prisoners, to protect them from torture and ill-treatment, to immediately halt executions and to announce which of the well-known prisoners listed in the *AI* report would be released.

On 22 September President Amin announced he had released 60 political prisoners and that he had set up a commission to investigate the cases of people "being arrested and detained without coming before the courts".

However, to date *AI* has not received from the government any names of political prisoners released, nor is there any indication that those listed in the *AI* report have been freed under the amnesty □

Uruguay Torture decision

The Human Rights Committee set up under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in its first judgment on an individual complaint, has concluded that Uruguay has violated the right of a person not to be subjected to torture, the right to be promptly informed of charges and the right to a fair trial within a reasonable time.

In a decision adopted on 15 August, the Committee held that Señor José Luis MASSERA, a former Deputy to the National Assembly, suffered "permanent physical damage" as a result of torture in detention. The Committee pointed out that one of his legs was now "several centimetres shorter than the other". Sr. Massera has been in prison since 1975. *AI* has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience. His case has also been taken up by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (June *Newsletter*).

The Committee found that Uruguay had violated seven articles of the Covenant in Sr. Massera's case. The Uruguayan government did not contradict the evidence originally placed before the Committee in February 1977 by Señora Moriana Hernández VALENTINI DE BARRANO, a Uruguayan citizen resident in Mexico.

The complaint was lodged under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant. The Protocol enables an individual to submit complaints of human rights abuses in the case of states that have ratified both the Covenant and the Protocol. Uruguay is among the 22 states that have so far ratified both.

The Committee concluded "that the State Party is under an obligation to take immediate steps to ensure strict observance of the provisions of the Covenant and to provide effective remedies to the victims." □

German Democratic Republic

On 25 September the State Council of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) issued a decree announcing an amnesty to mark the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the GDR on 7 October. The releases are to take place over a two-month period following the anniversary.

Some categories of prisoners are specifically excluded from the amnesty, for example war criminals, people convicted of serious crimes involving violence and people sentenced to imprisonment "on several previous occasions". Apart from these exceptions the amnesty "applies to people who were sentenced with legal effect before 7 October 1979". The decree also stipulates that people serving terms of life imprisonment will have their sentence reduced to 15 years.

The terms of the amnesty decree are broad and leave government authorities discretion to release most prisoners of conscience known to *AI*.

Shortly after the anniversary two prominent dissidents, Rudolph BAHRO and Nico HUBNER, were released as part of the amnesty. Both were adopted as prisoners of conscience by *AI*. At the time of writing *AI* had received no further information about other prisoners of conscience □

Republic of Korea

AI has now received further information on the two amnesties declared earlier this year in the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

Eighty-six political prisoners were released on 17 July under an amnesty which marked the anniversary of the promulgation of the constitution, and a further 53 were released on 15 August under an amnesty on National Liberation Day. However, *AI* knows of more than 200 political prisoners who did not benefit from the amnesties. More than 10 people have been arrested on political charges since 15 August.

Of the 139 prisoners released under the amnesty, only three have been freed unconditionally. The remaining 136 have been released only under "suspension of execution of sentence". This means they will be kept under surveillance and can be re-imprisoned at any time without legal proceedings.

Among those released were 104 students, many of whom were due to be freed shortly. They are not

Releases

allowed to return to university to resume their studies.

PARK Man-cheol, a school teacher released on 15 August, is reported to have been beaten so severely in prison that he cannot stand up straight or walk without difficulty. Doctors say he needs surgery on his spine but they cannot guarantee the success of an operation □

Equatorial Guinea

Following the overthrow of President Francisco MACIAS NGUEMA of Equatorial Guinea on 3 August, Lieutenant Colonel Teodoro Obiang NGUEMA MBASOGO, leader of the Supreme Military Council, announced the release of all political prisoners in the country.

More than a thousand political prisoners are believed to have been released throughout the country, but a number of others are reported to have been summarily executed by the former President's forces during the two weeks between the coup and his capture.

Among those reported released from the notorious Blabich prison in the capital, Malabo, were Ildefonso OBAMA, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Equatorial Guinea, and former military adviser Salvador Ela NSENG who was subsequently appointed a member of the Supreme Military Council.

- During the 11 years of President Macías Nguema's rule, thousands of prisoners died in prison from torture and starvation and thousands more were subjected to forced labour on the cocoa plantations of Fernando Po.

Shortly after his capture President Macías Nguema was tried for "crimes against the people", including murder, genocide, war crimes and treason. Eight others, who included a former Vice-President and the heads of Equatorial Guinea's two main prisons in Malabo and Bata, were charged with torture and murder of prisoners.

President Macías Nguema and six others were sentenced to death; the two remaining defendants were each sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for their part in the burning down of two villages. The death sentences, imposed under Spanish military law, were carried out almost immediately and the seven were executed by firing squad on 29 September □

Indonesia

The Indonesian government announced on 25 September the release of 4,000 political prisoners held on the island of Buru. In a cable to President SUHARTO *AI* welcomed the announcement and asked for clarification of reports that the release of the remaining 1,920 prisoners still officially detained on Buru was being postponed beyond the end of 1979.

Of the 10,500 political prisoners held on Buru at the end of 1977, the government has so far announced the release of just over 8,500. All the prisoners have been detained without charge or trial, many for as long as 14 years.

The Indonesian government has repeatedly promised that all Buru prisoners would be released by the end of 1979. However, *AI* has received reports that the government no longer intends to fulfil this commitment.

AI has expressed its concern about these reports and about the continued presence on the island of 207 prisoners, officially released in November 1978, who have not been permitted to return to their homes □

Congo

The new President of the People's Republic of the Congo, Colonel Denis SASSOU NGUESSO, announced an amnesty on 14 August to mark the anniversary of independence. The amnesty included prisoners detained in connection with the assassination in March 1977 of President Marien NGOUABI and Cardinal Emile BIAYENDA and with an alleged plot against the government in August 1978.

AI had adopted 30 prisoners who fell into these two categories. These included people accused of responsibility for the assassination of President Ngouabi and tried by military tribunal in March 1977, and others accused of complicity in the assassination who were tried by a "revolutionary court" in January 1978. *AI* believed the defendants were wrongly tried and convicted for political reasons.

AI knows of at least eight other detainees arrested between February and April 1978, who have never been brought to trial. They are thought to have been detained because of their opposition to the government of former President YHOMBY OPANGO.

In August 1978 President Yhomby Opango announced that there had been an attempted coup. *AI* knows of at least 35 people who were subsequently detained □

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.

NGUYEN Tran Huyen, *Socialist Republic of Vietnam*

A 60-year-old journalist has been detained without charge or trial in Vietnam since June 1978.

NGUYEN Tran Huyen was born into a long-established literary family in northern Vietnam. His father was a district judge in the French colonial administration. However, it is said that from an early age Nguyen Tran Huyen was brought up by a "communist patriot" held under house arrest by the French authorities in Vietnam after years in prison.

After the partition of Vietnam in 1954, Nguyen Tran Huyen was one of many Vietnamese from the north who decided to leave their homes and settle in the south. Later, writing under the pseudonym Cao Giao, he became a prominent figure among journalists and writers in South Vietnam, working as a consultant and interpreter for foreign journalists.

After the change of government in South Vietnam in April 1975 Nguyen Tran Huyen was encouraged by some former colleagues to leave the country. However, it is said he refused to do so since he wished to remain in Vietnam and continue with his writing under the new government.

No official reason has been given for his arrest, but it is believed that it is connected with his former association with writers now abroad.

Nguyen Tran Huyen was first held in Chi Hoa Prison, Ho Chi Minh City, which had been used for detaining political prisoners under the former government of South Vietnam. However, it is reported that he may have recently been transferred to a detention center in the north of the country and that his health has deteriorated during his period of imprisonment.

Please write courteously-worded letters appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of Nguyen Tran Huyen to: His Excellency Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mohamed JMOUR, *Tunisia*

A young Tunisian trade unionist is serving a 3-year sentence for publishing and distributing a clandestine newspaper.

Mohamed JMOUR, 26-year-old head of department at the Tunisian-European Insurance Company, was among 49 people arrested in Tunisia in November 1978 for issuing an "underground version" of *Ech-Chaab* (The People), the organ of the *Union Générale des Travailleurs Tunisiens* (UGTT), the General Union of Tunisian Workers.

Until the general strike of 26 January 1978 *Ech-Chaab* reflected the UGTT's criticism of the Tunisian government's policies. Following the strike and the arrest of members of the UGTT's executive and administrative committees, *Ech-Chaab* was made to adopt a pro-government line. Mohamed Jmour and his fellow trade unionists therefore decided to issue an independent version of *Ech-Chaab* supporting the previous UGTT leadership of Habib Achour.

After his arrest Mohamed Jmour is reported to have undergone prolonged torture in police custody.

Mohamed Jmour and another detainee are reported to have been beaten in the cells beneath the Palais de Justice in the capital, Tunis, after the first session of their trial on 19 July. Mr Jmour is now believed to be in poor health as a result of torture, damp prison conditions and inadequate diet.

He was sentenced on 21 August to 3 years' imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of 400 Tunisian dinars (£445). Following the trial, part of which was attended by an AI observer, AI appealed to the Minister of Justice on 23 August for a thorough judicial review of the verdicts and sentences.

Please write courteously-worded letters (in French if possible) appealing for the immediate release of Mohamed Jmour to: Son Excellence Habib Bourguiba, Président de la République, Tunis, Tunisia.

German BOLAÑOS Mejia, *Colombia*

A young medical doctor who has been working among peasants in the Colombian countryside is awaiting trial before a military court on charges of "subversion".

Prior to his arrest, 30-year-old German BOLAÑOS Mejia worked as a rural doctor in the areas of Neira and Quinchia. Most of his practice was directed toward the peasantry who suffer from a severe lack of medical services.

"Since as a doctor I have been in close contact with the sufferings of the people, I sympathize with social changes directed towards general welfare, justice, freedom and peace", he once wrote in a letter. But he denies being a member of any political organization. Four years ago Dr Bolaños helped to create a medicines cooperative in the village of Quinchia, Risaralda, as an alternative to the village's only pharmacy, which sold its products at high prices. He later left the cooperative to carry on working in a "health brigade", an experimental medical service for poor peasants who, for reasons of distance and economic difficulties, could not afford to see a doctor in town.

Dr Bolaños was arrested on 5 May 1979 after his house had been searched and books and papers had been confiscated from his personal files. He is presently detained in the prison of Manizales, Caldas, accused of "having created a medicines cooperative with persons considered to be members of subversive groups, and having provided medical attention to alleged members of guerrilla movements".

He is waiting to be brought before a mass court-martial that has been postponed several times already.

Please write courteously-worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Dr German Bolaños Mejia to: Presidente Julio César Turbay Ayala, Presidencia de la República, Calle 10, Carrera 5-6, Bogotá, Colombia.

Children throughout the world have been killed, tortured, kidnapped, imprisoned, forcibly removed from their parents, turned into refugees or harassed because of their parents' or their own political ideology, race or religion. The following article, based on a new *AI* report, *Children*, details case histories published by *AI* during International Year of the Child. The cases are only a handful of those known to *AI*. Political conditions in many countries make it impossible for *AI* to collect or receive information which would enable it to assess the frequency with which children, or adults, have become victims of similar human rights violations. Each of the cases cited below must therefore stand symbolically for children around the world whose early life is scarred by such acts of intolerance and cruelty.

Where are our children?

Thousands of parents in countries throughout the world have lost their children as a result of political persecution and racial or religious hatred. Some children have disappeared after arrest. Many have been held for years without charge or trial. Some have been subjected to torture while in detention. Others have been killed at the hands of the armed forces and police. Children have been separated from their parents who have been imprisoned or forced into exile. Some governments have registered these orphans under false names and birth dates to prevent their being traced by next-of-kin.

In a new report, *Children*, issued to coincide with this year's observance of "Prisoners of Conscience Week", *AI* has condemned these acts of cruelty and has drawn attention to instances in which large numbers of young people have been held as prisoners or massacred during the past three years.

The report also publishes details of 35 individual cases of children from 21 countries who have become victims of human rights abuses.

The report cites the killing of between 50 and 100 children in the Central African Empire earlier this year—most were whipped, beaten, bayoneted or suffocated to death—and the slaughter of an estimated 5,000 young people in Ethiopia during the "Red Terror" between December 1977 and February 1978.

In a number of cases described in the report, children have been subjected to torture. In one instance a refugee mother alleged in 1975 that her three-year-old daughter had been tortured before her eyes for four days in a Chilean detention center.

"They undressed my little daughter and whipped her with a leather whip. They put her in a barrel with ice water until she almost drowned. They threatened to rape her and whipped her again. This was repeated four times a day for four days," she said.

The purpose of the torture, according to the mother, was to obtain information about the whereabouts of her husband, a 33-year-old trade unionist who opposed the Chilean junta.



This is Cecilia Carrere García from Uruguay. When she was three months old her father and mother were arrested and detained as political prisoners. A short while later Cecilia herself was taken into prison and kept with her mother. Subsequently she was separated from both parents for a year and a half until her mother was released from detention and sent, together with Cecilia, into exile. Cecilia, now five years old, has not seen her father since he was arrested—he is still being held as one of Uruguay's more than 2,500 political prisoners.

Parents and children belonging to religious communities in the Soviet Union face official repression through the deprivation of parental rights.

Religious activities are permitted only by congregations that have been officially registered. Many congregations, however, refuse to register under the conditions imposed by law or have had their application for registration rejected.

Numerous cases have been reported to *AI* over the years of Baptists, Pentecostals and Adventists having had some or all of their children taken into state care. In some cases children are reported to have gone into hiding to avoid being taken away.

In another case, a released prisoner from Argentina has described to *AI* the torture to which she was subjected prior to childbirth while in detention. She said she was tortured with electric shocks, beaten on her abdomen with an iron bar, kicked, sexually humiliated and threatened with death. The electrical torture was supervised by a doctor.

The prisoner—who is not named to protect her identity—gave birth to a son. During labour, which lasted for about five hours, she was tied to a bed by her hands and feet and was completely unattended until the last few minutes. The newborn baby was forced to sleep on the floor of the cell.



These children were born in prison but have now been released with their mother. Their father has disappeared and the government says he is dead. Both parents were detained in 1976. *AI* is not publishing their names or identifying the country for fear of reprisals.



In the USSR in 1974 Olga Kheifet's father was imprisoned for writing and distributing private essays. He is now in exile in Siberia. When his daughters visited him he had difficulty recognizing them. Olga's sister hid her face, mumbling, "It is not my Daddy".

The impact of political imprisonment leaves its mark on children both physically and psychologically. Children who have been victims of incarceration or brutal treatment develop long-term symptoms caused by the inexplicable terror. Of 58 refugee children studied by *AI* doctors, at least one in three has difficulty falling asleep or has his or her sleep interrupted by nightmares about police, soldiers, murder and death. Many of the children walk in their sleep. Others have developed personality disorders. These initial findings suggest that these children may have serious—perhaps life-long—social, mental and physical problems.

Four hundred young people were arrested in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1976 after demonstrating for the release of their school friends held after the Soweto disturbances. One student, imprisoned in a cellar with 150 other children, reported: "We squatted on the ground in front of a concrete wall with hands at the back of our neck, while 12 policemen guarded us with automatic pistols. . . Interrogations lasted from nine to 24 hours without pause while the prisoners, who had to kneel, were punched with clenched fists in the face and were also kicked."



Carla Rutilo Artes and her Argentinian mother are missing after being arrested in Bolivia in 1976. Carla was sent to an orphanage under a false name and later handed over illegally to Argentinian authorities.



Linda Zahari's father was detained in Singapore for 15 years without trial. "When I visit my father in prison," she said in 1976, "I can only speak to him through a telephone. We are not allowed to be close."



Joel Filártiga Speratti, 17-year-old son of a Paraguayan doctor, was abducted from his home on 30 March 1976 and tortured to death in police custody. His father is well-known for his assistance to the rural poor and for his opposition to the political repression in Paraguay.

HELP

Every day *AI* and other humanitarian organizations are at work—trying to prevent violations of human rights and doing whatever is possible to help the victims. The outrage that people everywhere feel at the cruelty and injustice suffered by political prisoners can then be channelled into constructive action. You can contribute to the international struggle for human rights by contacting the national sections of *AI* or writing to the International Secretariat. Copies of *Children in Exile* can be ordered from **Amnesty International, Blijde Inkomststraat 98, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.**



Sophie's father is being held illegally in a military prison in Syria. Her family lives in exile in Lebanon where her sick mother is struggling to support seven children including two adopted children orphaned during the civil war in Lebanon.

Poland Human rights activist held

A lawyer and founding member of the Movement for the Defence of Human and Civil Rights (ROPCO) in Poland was arrested on 15 September during a police search on his father's flat. Adam WOJCIECHOWSKI was among a number of ROPCO members who are reported to have been arrested between 14 and 18 September but who have since been released. Mr Wojciechowski was sentenced on 17 September to 2 months' imprisonment on charges of "disturbing public order". He was not allowed the right to a defence at his trial. Mr Wojciechowski is an *AI* member.

- On 1 July Edmund ZADROZYNSKI, a Polish worker from Grudziadz, was arrested on burglary charges. Mr Zadrozynski was one of the editors of the unofficial newsletter *Robotnik* (The Worker). According to reports received by *AI* the charges against him are unfounded.

Over 870 citizens from Grudziadz

signed a letter to the Polish authorities in July protesting at Mr Zadrozynski's arrest and claiming that it was an act of reprisal by the authorities for Mr Zadrozynski's activities in defence of workers rights. *AI* has sought assurances from the Polish authorities that the case will be reviewed and that the charges will be dropped and Mr Zadrozynski released immediately if doubts about the validity of the legal proceedings prove to be justified.

During the past year several Polish dissenters have been arrested and charged with crimes such as "disturbing public order", "forgery" or "theft". Dissenters are also reported to have been arrested and detained for up to 48 hours or subjected to house searches. In some cases the searches have been authorized by the Public Prosecutor as searches for stolen goods, although in the cases known to *AI* they have resulted only in the confiscation of unofficial publications and personal property, such as typewriters □

Sudan Hundreds of political arrests

Several hundred suspected political opponents of the government of President NUMEIRI have been detained in Sudan in the last few months under the National Security Law. This law permits detention without charge or trial for six months. The detention orders may be renewed by the President at his discretion.

The majority of those detained are alleged to be communists. Among them are several prominent trade unionists as well as a number of lawyers for whose release the Sudan Bar Association has petitioned. The government has publicly blamed the banned

Sudan Communist Party for a series of official trade union strikes and other demonstrations since August against government policies and a rapid rise in the cost of living.

Many of those detained have previously been adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience.

- The prominent trade unionist Gasim AMIN, 56, who was detained in August, was released on medical grounds in September. *AI* had appealed for his release on learning he had been almost totally paralysed after suffering a stroke in prison □

Malaysia Gov't bans report

The *AI* report on Malaysia, published on 29 August, has been banned by the Malaysian government. The ban was promulgated in the fortnightly government gazette on 30 August. People found in possession of or publishing the report face the threat of a fine or imprisonment. The leader of the opposition Democratic Action Party, LIM Kit Siang, called the report

"devastating" and said he would be seeking a debate on the report when parliament reconvenes in October.

Ironically, the government invoked the Internal Security Act to ban the *AI* report. The report called on the government to repeal the act.

The government also prevented distribution in Malaysia of the 12 October edition of the weekly news magazine *Asiaweek* that carried a summary of the *AI* report. This is the first time that *Asiaweek*, which began publication in December 1975, has not been allowed into Malaysia □

Czechoslovakia Catholics detained

At least 11 Roman Catholics, including two priests, are reported to have been arrested in September in connection with the clandestine printing and dissemination of theological literature. Six of them were subsequently released.

Those still in detention include Frantisek LIZNA, a Jesuit priest who was a nurse, and Jan KROMPHOLC, both from Olomouc; Josef ADAMEK, a former printer from Brno and Rudolf SMAHEL, a Jesuit priest from Uhersky Brod. A fifth person, Josef VLCEK, is reported to be held in Olomouc prison but *AI* has no further information about him. All five have been charged under Article 118 of the Czechoslovak Penal Code for "engaging in unauthorized enterprises" and face sentences of up to 3 years' imprisonment. It is expected that criminal charges will be brought against all 11 including those who have been released □

Uruguay Gov't replies

Readers have received replies to inquiries about Señor Fernández CABRELLI (February 1979, *Prisoner of the Month*). The Uruguayan Central Office of Information on Persons has defended his imprisonment on the grounds that there was "zealous observance" of legal procedures and that Sr. Cabrelli, a "delinquent publisher", used "terminology common in terrorist publications".

Although Sr. Cabrelli should have been held without charge no more than 48 hours under Uruguayan law, he was not charged until six days after his arrest—on the basis of a book he wrote five years before the government introduced the national security legislation under which he was eventually convicted.

AI believes his freedom of expression has been violated and rejects the idea that his book in any way incited violence. His conviction violates the universal prohibition against the use of retroactive legislation.

Please renew your appeals to: Sres. Commandantes en Jefe de las Fuerzas Armadas, Avenida 8 de Octubre y Garibaldi, Montevideo, Uruguay □

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in September of the release of 72 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 26 new cases.



amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

appeal

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.

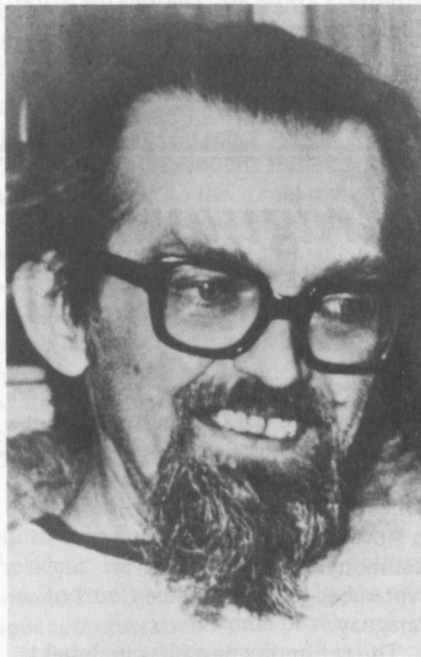
Czechoslovakia Writer seriously ill in detention

A 46-year-old writer adopted by AI as a prisoner of conscience is believed to be seriously ill in detention in Czechoslovakia. Dr Jaromir SAVRDA is reported to be suffering from tuberculosis, heart and kidney complaints and has resorted to hunger-strikes several times to draw attention to his condition and need of medical treatment. AI learned in June that Dr Savrda had lost 15 kilograms while in detention and weighed only 57 kilograms. At one time he was hospitalized in Brno.

Dr Savrda was arrested in Ostrava on 26 September 1978 and charged with "incitement" under Article 100 of the Czechoslovak Penal Code. He was tried in early August 1979 and sentenced to 2½ years' imprisonment and fined 5,000 Kcs. (approximately £250). The indictment accused him of copying and disseminating copies of the *samizdat* literary edition *Petlice* (Padlock).

The day before his arrest police had searched Dr Savrda's flat and confiscated three typewriters and manuscripts and typewritten copies of literary works, including excerpts from Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago* and from the memoirs of Dr Prokop Drtina, dealing with the Munich agreement of September 1938 which led to the dismemberment of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Dr Savrda was expelled from the Czechoslovak Communist Party in 1969. Following the occupation of the CSSR by forces of the five Warsaw Pact states in August 1968, a large number of party members were expelled and many were subjected to judicial or extrajudicial persecution.



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Dr Jaromir Savrda: a prisoner of conscience held in prison under conditions that amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by Czechoslovakia.

He was also expelled from the Union of Czech Writers and his last published work was withdrawn from sale in 1971. Since then he has had a variety of jobs and, at the time of his arrest, was receiving a disability pension.

Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the release of Dr Jaromir Savrda. Write to: JUDr Jan Nemeč, Minister of Justice of CSSR, Praha 2 – Nové Město, Vysehradská 16, CSSR.

Israel Attorney General investigates torture charges

Israeli Attorney General Yitzhak ZAMIR has completed an investigation into allegations of ill-treatment brought by a former prisoner of conscience adopted by AI, Isma'il AJWEH. Ajweh, an East Jerusalem journalist, was arrested in December 1978 and held under administrative detention until April 1979.

After his release Ajweh alleged that he had been severely ill-treated. On 3 May 1979 the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, reported a statement by Ajweh: "During the first 18 days in prison one officer hit me very hard. He handcuffed me to a water pipe outside the investigation offices and left me standing there for 72 hours. . . He beat me many times with his fist on my head and chest and he put his hand on my throat and began to press till my tongue came out of my mouth."

The Guardian also reported that Ajweh had volunteered to take a lie-detector test and that the former head of the police polygraph laboratory stated: "On the basis of the findings of the polygraph examination, it seems to us that Mr Ajweh told the truth, and in fact was tortured during the investigation."

The Attorney General's investigation into these allegations, as paraphrased by the *Jerusalem Post* of 25 September 1979, found that there was "no basis for Ajweh's claim that he was tortured and severely and systematically beaten." The investigation did admit, however, that Ajweh "has his face slapped at least once by an interrogator at the General Security Services and a number of times his hands were bound to a pipe, at hip level, and his head was masked." Also "on the occasions when he was chained to a pipe or had his head covered, it was never for more than an hour."

The Jerusalem Post continued: "The interrogator was tried by a disciplinary court. He was given a reprimand and it was decided to transfer him to another job".

Open letter to President Brezhnev calls for release of all prisoners of conscience

In an appeal to coincide with the forthcoming 62nd anniversary of the Soviet Revolution in November and preparations for the holding of the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980, *AI* issued the text of an open letter to President Leonid BREZHNEV on 10 October appealing for the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union and for an end to the abuse of psychiatry for political purposes.

In its letter *AI* condemned the harassment, imprisonment and ill-treatment of those Soviet citizens who have monitored violations of the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act of August 1975. Nineteen Helsinki monitors have been sentenced to terms of up to 15 years' imprisonment. Their trials have been characterized by systematic violation of fair trial norms through denial of public access, refusal of free choice of defence counsel and refusal of permission to call defence witnesses.

AI does not know of a single case in which a Soviet court has acquitted a political or religious defendant.

At present 11 Helsinki monitors are serving sentences in various camps and prisons. Another is serving a sentence of exile. Those in camps and prisons are subjected, like other prisoners of conscience, to chronic hunger, compulsory labour in severe conditions, inadequate medical attention and arbitrary deprivation of the very limited rights to correspondence and family visits.

Since March 1979 five other Helsinki monitors have been arrested. All were in prison as of October 1979 and are presumed to be awaiting trial: Oles BERDNIK, Petro SICHKO, Vasyi SICHKO, Yury LITVIN and Eduard ARUTYUNIAN.

Besides the Helsinki monitors and other human rights activists, prisoners of conscience in the USSR whose cases are known to *AI* include religious believers, advocates of enhancement of the position of minority nationalities, people imprisoned for their writings, would-be emigrants, conscientious objectors to military service and workers' rights activists.

Conditions of imprisonment for prisoners of conscience in Soviet penal institutions remain severe. The political prisoners in the special regime corrective labour colony in Mordovia are forced to work at polishing glass for chandeliers. They must work without the equipment necessary to protect their lungs from glass dust and

the industrial abrasives that endanger their health. Prisoners there and in other places of imprisonment are known to have died in recent years from health hazards, including tuberculosis. *AI* has received reports of beatings of prisoners of conscience there. Cells are moist with dampness and infested with mice. Prisoners are meted out a mere 2,000 calories a day in rotten cabbage soup, watery gruel and salty herring, yet their work requires 3,100-3,900 calories by World Health Organization standards. They are on a diet of measured starvation.

In the open letter *AI* appealed for an end to the confinement and torture

of prisoners of conscience in psychiatric hospitals and said it knew of more than 100 people who had been forcibly confined to psychiatric hospitals since 1975 because of the non-violent exercise of their rights as well as others whose confinement began earlier. after the Olympic Games. Dr Mykola PLAKHOTNYUK, for example, a 42-year-old Ukrainian doctor now held in a psychiatric hospital in Smela, central Ukraine, was due to have his case reviewed in February 1979. The attending psychiatrist is reported to have told him that "until the Olympic Games have taken place, there can be no rush in your case" □

Paraguay

Missing communist leaders 'died under torture'

Three members of the central committee of the Paraguayan Communist Party (PCP) died under torture in police custody following their arrest in November 1975, according to a testimony submitted by *AI* in September to the Supreme Court of Paraguay.

The testimony describes in detail the death under torture of Miguel Angel SOLER, Secretary General of the PCP, Derliz VILLAGRA, 30, and Ruben Octavio GONZALES ACOSTA, 25, also members of the central committee of the PCP. The three had previously been listed as "disappeared" and the Paraguayan authorities have persistently denied their arrest.

According to the testimony, which has been painstakingly compiled from guards and other prisoners held at the time, Señor Soler was first beaten for several hours with whips and iron bars and then his hands and arms were chopped off bit by bit. By the time he died he had lost an estimated four to five litres of blood.

Señor Villagra, gagged and bound, was clubbed to death with rubber

truncheons and iron bars.

Señor Gonzales Acosta was beaten with rubber truncheons until his entire body was covered with bruises. He was then immersed in a tub filled with filthy water and excrement, and was suspended by his feet from the ceiling and beaten until he died.

The information is consistent with previous reports of torture *AI* has received from Paraguay.

The testimony names several police agents, including the Director of Investigations, Pastor CORONEL, who are already known to *AI* as allegedly responsible for torture taking place at the *Departamento de Investigaciones* (police headquarters) in the Paraguayan capital Asunción.

The bodies of the three as well as of other disappeared individuals are now believed to be buried in the basement of the *Batallón de Seguridad* in Asunción □

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