

## INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NAMES DIRK BORNER CHAIRMAN, THOMAS HAMMARBERG VICE-CHAIRMAN IN NEW DIVISION OF ASSIGNMENTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL's International Executive Committee, meeting in London 8-10 November, named DIRK BORNER, former chairman of the German Section, as its chairman in succession to SEAN MacBRIDE. THOMAS HAMMARBERG, former chairman of the Swedish Section, was elected vice-chairman in succession to ERIC BAKER.

Mr Börner, aged 41, a Hamburg businessman, has been a member of the IEC since 1972. Mr Hammarberg, aged 32, who is foreign editor of the leading Swedish daily newspaper *Expressen*, has been a member since 1971.

Assignment of the posts was part of the IEC's distribution among its members of specific primary responsibilities for overseeing various aspects of AI's work. The major assignments in alphabetical order are:

ERIC BAKER, Britain: Campaign for the Abolition of Torture, conscientious objection.

MAGGIE BEIRNE, staff representative: techniques, relief.

ANDREW BLANE, United States: administration, external affairs (United Nations).

DIRK BORNER, Germany: chairman, administration, relations within the organization.

THOMAS HAMMARBERG, Sweden: vice-chairman, external affairs, capital punishment.

ALFRED HEIDJER, Netherlands: general research, information retrieval.

MARIE-JOSE PROTAIS, France: publications and publicity, external affairs (Paris office).

MUMTAZ SOYSAL, Turkey: development.

KEVIN WHITE, Ireland: treasurer, finance, borderline committee.

All members were also assigned secondary responsibilities in specific research areas and/or backing up those members with primary responsibilities.

Much of the three-day meeting was occupied with considering ways and means of implementing decisions taken by the International Council meeting in Denmark last September (October *Newsletter*). One problem was the council's approval of a budget for the current financial year of £272,000, of which £18,800 remains to be found.

The IEC also discussed and approved a large number of AI missions, which rely on special funding outside the approved budget, and future plans and financing for the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.

In the field of AI development, the IEC heard a first-hand report on his work from RICHARD REOCH, field secretary in Asia, who returned to London for the meeting. The IEC also discussed plans for an Asian regional conference to be held in New Delhi in March 1975 and for a pan-Pacific conference to be organized jointly with the Japanese Section later in 1975.

A further decision was taken to send a field secretary to Latin America in December. He is EDUARDO MARIÑO, a native of Colombia. A full report of the IEC meeting is being sent to all national sections.

### Uruguayan Exiles Found Dead in Argentina

AI called on 6 November for an urgent inquiry by the Argentine government into the murder of three Uruguayan exiles who were kidnapped by para-police vigilante groups and whose bodies were found hastily buried near La Plata (November *Newsletter*). AI condemned the apparent impunity with which such groups and police elements from other Latin American countries are allowed to operate against exiles in Argentina.

The AI statement expressed deep concern at the rapidly rising total of victims of both leftwing and rightwing violence in Argentina. Official figures put the number of political murders

in recent months at over 130, and many other persons are reported to have "disappeared".

The three Uruguayans who were kidnapped and murdered were LUIS LATRONICA DAMONTE, GUILLERMO JABIF and DANIEL BANFI BARANZANO. Señor Latronica, as a political refugee in transit from Chile, was nominally under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) when he, Señor Jabif and Señor Banfi were forcibly abducted in Buenos Aires by armed men claiming to be plainclothes members of the Argentine Federal Police. One of the kidnappers, however, was recognized as a militant member of an extremist rightwing organization in neighbouring Uruguay. The Argentine police themselves denied all knowledge of the incident.

The latest murders, following on earlier kidnapping incidents, added weight to existing evidence of international collaboration in Latin America in the pursuit and persecution of political exiles, AI said.

"Many political refugees and exiles in Argentina are now living in fear of their lives because of the apparent impunity with which para-police vigilante groups and foreign agents are able to operate in the country," AI said. "Even UNHCR protection in the case of Señor Latronica proved inadequate in such an atmosphere of terror and violence."

### 60 Executed in Ethiopia: AI Appeals For Diplomatic Moves to Save Other Detainees

AI has appealed to the new military rulers of Ethiopia to end the summary executions which took 60 lives, including those of two former prime ministers, on 23 November.

A shock announcement in Addis Ababa said the 60 had been executed summarily for alleged "crimes against the Ethiopian people" and for "attempts to disrupt the country's popular movement". Among those killed was General AMAN ANDOM, who was named chairman of the provisional military government after the overthrow of Emperor HAILE SELASSIE on 12 September.

In calling for a halt to the executions, AI appealed to the *Dergue* (Provisional Military Council) to grant international humanitarian agencies access to the 140 detainees still held in the Imperial Palace in Addis Ababa.

AI backed up the appeal by asking member states of the United Nations to take all possible steps to persuade the Ethiopian rulers to spare the prisoners and ensure that they receive the rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UN General Assembly passed such a call to the Ethiopian government on 27 November. Fears have been expressed for the detainees' lives since the executions. The *Dergue* has said it will bring them before a general court martial "immediately" to answer for their alleged wrongdoings.

him to ensure that the 200 persons detained since the coup in September would be given a fair trial by the special military

tribunals set up to hear their cases. It is believed that none of those executed, including General Andsom himself, were in fact tried. The death of General Andsom and the others seems to reflect a power struggle inside the ruling *Dergue*.

### AI Appeals to Iraq to Halt Executions As Year's Death Total Soars Past 100

AI appealed to Iraq in November to stop imposing death sentences, after the rate of executions in the country so far this year rose past the 100 mark—a figure higher than even that in Iran and South Africa.

The appeal came in a letter from Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS on 22 November to President HASSAN AL-BAKR expressing concern at numerous reports of widespread arrests, executions and incidents of torture which, in some cases, have resulted in death. Mr Ennals urged the Iraqi government to release all political prisoners and to review its policy on the death penalty.

"Amnesty International has the names of over 100 people who have been executed since the beginning of the year, although it is reported that more than 200 have been sentenced to death," Mr Ennals wrote. "This, we regret to say, is the highest rate of judicial executions in any one country during this year, even higher than Iran and South Africa which hitherto have had the greatest number. Furthermore, the number of offenses punishable by death in Iraq appears to be increasing."

Those executed include Kurds and communists and, most recently, five Shi'ite religious leaders who were sentenced to death for belonging to an illegal organization, "the Islamic mission". AI cabled President al-Bakr on 26 November urging him to commute these sentences.

Iraqi political prisoners include about 200 people formerly associated with Masonic lodges in the country. Freemasonry has been banned in Iraq since the 1958 revolution. Almost all the prisoners are elderly professional people, such as doctors, lawyers and senior civil servants.

They have been charged with cooperating with Zionism, imperialism and the SHAH OF IRAN's regime, and also with having a "reactionary attitude" towards the state. A new law passed at the end of October imposes the death penalty under this charge.

### Full Amnesty Sought for US War Resisters

AI appealed to President GERALD FORD of the United States to mark the country's Thanksgiving Day holiday on 28 November by declaring a general, unconditional amnesty for all American war resisters.

AI also suggested that President Ford bring the US Congress into the national healing process by inviting it "to pass legislation that would provide exoneration for all those who, on grounds of conscience, have suffered in their own way as a result of the war in Indochina".

In a letter to the President, Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS said there could be no better way of symbolizing the American traditional spirit of family unity on Thanksgiving Day than through an amnesty "for all those whose expression of their conscience has resulted in disunity in the past".

He said that while the President's proclamation of 16 September—which granted a partial, conditional amnesty—had been welcomed by AI "as a step towards binding up the nation's wounds", AI, along with those to whom the proclamation applied, had been disappointed that President Ford had not offered war resisters a general, unconditional amnesty.

Mr Ennals noted that the majority of AI's adopted prisoners in the US in the past several years have been young men convicted of refusing to serve in the armed forces on the grounds of opposition to the Indochina war. He said a general amnesty should cover all people, including deserters, civil disobedients and people receiving less-than-honourable discharges, who opposed the war on the grounds of conscience.

### AI Adoptee Dies in Soviet Labour Camp

BIDYA DANDARON, an eminent Buddhist scholar and expert on ancient Tibetan texts who had been an AI adoptee since 1972, died in a Soviet labour camp on 26 October. He was 60.

Although the official cause of death was given as pneumonia and a brain tumour, it is believed that Mr Dandaron had been subjected to particularly harsh treatment by camp authorities. Mr Dandaron's family went to the camp on hearing the news, but they were informed that he had already been buried, and they were not allowed to remove his body.

Mr Dandaron, who was born in 1914 in Buryatia, an autonomous republic in Siberia, came from a family of lamas. He was arrested in 1937, largely because of his family's traditional and respected place in the priesthood. Released after some years, he was again arrested in 1947, and it was not until 1956 that he was fully "rehabilitated".

He was re-arrested in August 1972 and accused of founding a Buddhist sect and indulging in sectarian and religious propaganda. The sect was further alleged to be anti-Soviet in tendency and linked with groups abroad, including "international Zionism". Mr Dandaron was sentenced to 5 years in a labour camp where he was forced to do heavy labour despite his age.

### 15 Sentenced to Death in Sierra Leone

Fifteen persons accused of conspiring to overthrow the government of President SIAKA STEVENS of Sierra Leone were sentenced to death for treason by the High Court in Freetown on 17 November (October Newsletter). They include three former AI adoptees who were on the *Prisoners of the Month Campaign* when they were detained without trial between 1970 and 1973: Dr MOHAMED FORNA, Councillor ABU KANU and IBRAHIM TAQUI.

All 15, who pleaded not guilty to the charges, were arrested after an explosion at the home of Finance Minister C.A. KAMARA-TAYLOR at the end of July. AI had written to President Stevens on 2 October stressing its opposition to capital punishment. On learning of the death sentences, AI immediately cabled a plea to President Stevens that the sentences be commuted.

### North Koreans Release Venezuelan Poet

The Venezuelan communist poet ALI LAMEDA has been released from prison in North Korea, according to reports reaching AI's International Secretariat in London in November.

Señor Lameda, an AI investigation case who is well-known as a translator into Spanish of the French poets Rimbaud and Valery, went to North Korea in 1962 to translate the official biography of the country's leader KIM IL SUNG. But he was imprisoned summarily without trial five years later.

Virtually nothing has been heard of him until now, despite numerous inquiries by friends, relatives and international organizations.

### South Korean President Asked to Free 203

AI cabled President PARK CHUNG-HEE of South Korea on 22 November—on the occasion of US President GERALD FORD's visit to Seoul—to express concern at the continue imprisonment under the recently repealed emergency regulations of 203 persons, including eight under sentence of death.

The cable urged President Park to declare a general amnesty for all civilians sentenced by court martial. One of the civilians is Monsignor TJI HAK-SUN, Roman Catholic Bishop of Wonjū and Honorary President of AI's South Korean Section, who was sentenced in August to 15 years' imprisonment under the regulations (September Newsletter).

In a letter to POPE PAUL VI, Bishop Tji has denied the charges used to convict him. Said Bishop Tji:

"I did no more than help my neighbours who are oppressed and abused, believing that in a democratic country,

human rights must be guaranteed. These emergency measures, which forbid the free expression of conscience, do not have the quality of laws. By prohibiting freedom of conscience, they contravene the natural law and clearly suppress fundamental human rights."

### AI Calls for Release of all Mali Prisoners

AI called on President MOUSSA TRAORE of the West African state of Mali to mark the sixth anniversary in November of the coup which brought him to power by releasing all political prisoners in the country.

The public appeal followed a letter to President Traore from Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS urging him to declare a general amnesty on 19 November. It was on 19 November 1968 that the military overthrew Mali's last civilian government headed by President MODIBO KEITA.

In his letter, Mr Ennals noted that more than 30 persons have been detained without charge or trial since the coup, many of them at Kidal in the Sahara Desert region of northern Mali where temperatures vary enormously between day and night. They are held six to a poorly ventilated cell measuring 2 by 3 meters and have only straw mats on which to sleep.

Medical attention is reported minimal and several prisoners have died in detention since 1968.

Mr Ennals also cited other groups of prisoners, including military personnel arrested since the 1968 coup, and a group of intellectuals who have been detained since June this year following their circulation of a pamphlet hostile to the ruling *Comité Militaire de Libération Nationale* (CMLN).

Mr Ennals reminded President Traore that, according to official figures, more than 99% of the population voted in June 1974 in favour of a new constitution whose preamble reaffirms Mali's dedication to the civil liberties enshrined in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He called on President Traore to act in the spirit of the document and declare a general amnesty.

To reinforce the call, more than 10,000 Amnesty International members and supporters throughout the world will be sending individual appeals to the Mali government for the release of all political prisoners. This campaign, which is being conducted throughout November, is the first step in a five-month Amnesty International drive to encourage general amnesties in a number of countries in West Africa (October *Newsletter*).

### PRISONERS OF THE MONTH

#### Mikhail Dmitrievich BARTOSHCHUK, USSR

Mikhail Dmitrievich BARTOSHCHUK, aged 59, is a "reform Baptist"—a member of that part of the Baptist Church in the Soviet Union which refuses to accept the restrictions on religious activity imposed by the government since 1959. Because of their persistence in teaching their religious principles to their children, holding prayer meetings etc, hundreds of reform Baptists have been sentenced to prison terms. In late 1970 Mr Bartoshchuk was sentenced to 5 years in a strict regime labour camp for such religious activity.

AI has learned that because of the work conditions to which he is subject and because of inadequate medical treatment, Mr Bartoshchuk has almost completely lost his sight.

*Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to:* SSSR, Moskva, ul Pushkinskaya 15a, Prokuratura SSSR, Generalnomu Prokuroru R.A. Rudenko (Procurator General of the USSR); *and to:* SSSR, Belorusskaya SSR, Brestskaya oblast, g. Ivatsevich, uzh 15/5, Nachal'niku Lagerya (director of the camp in which Mr Bartoshchuk is held).

#### Simon SANCHEZ Montero, Spain

Simon SANCHEZ Montero was an officer on the republican side during the Spanish civil war, for which he was imprisoned after the nationalist victory in 1939. Released in 1944, he was arrested a year later on charges of illicit association in connection with the Communist Party of Spain. He spent the next

seven years in prison.

He was arrested for a third time in 1959 and sentenced to 20 years and one day's imprisonment, of which he was made to serve eight—again for illicit association.

In December 1973 Señor Sanchez was arrested once more and indicted on the same charges for which he had already spent 15 years in prison. He was fined 350,000 pesetas by the police under the Public Order Law. He was unable to pay the fine and was imprisoned immediately. He has now served the 2-month sentence imposed for non-payment of the fine but is still in Carabanchel Prison, Madrid, awaiting a further trial for the same offense. The prosecution is demanding a long prison sentence.

Both Señor Sanchez and his family insist that, despite his ideological beliefs, he had taken no part in illegal communist activities prior to his last arrest, and it is possible that when the case is finally brought to court the charges will be dropped. However, despite repeated requests for his release into provisional liberty pending trial, Señor Sanchez remains in prison and it could be a long time before his case is heard.

Simon Sanchez has a wife and two children. His daughter was arrested last year for distributing leaflets calling for an amnesty for political prisoners in Spain. She herself is now awaiting trial and has had to discontinue her university studies. Although Señor Sanchez's wife lives in Madrid, she cannot afford to take the time off from work to pay the twice-weekly visits allowed to her husband.

*Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to:* Don Carlos Arias Navarro, Presidente del Gobierno, Presidencia del Gobierno, Castellana 3, Madrid; *and to:* Don Francisco Ruiz-Jarabo Baquero, Ministro de Justicia, Ministerio de Justicia, San Bernado 47, Madrid.

#### Raouf AYADI, Tunisia

Raouf AYADI was first arrested in February 1972 and released on provisional liberty in September the same year. Strong allegations of torture of Mr Ayadi, a student before his detention, have been made since his re-arrest in the 1973-1974 new year period.

His political opinions differ from the policy of the present government, whose leader, President HABIB BOURGUIBA, was re-elected to his fourth consecutive five-year term of office by a 99.98 per cent majority of a 96.75 per cent electoral turnout. Mr Ayadi was one of 35 people detained during a wave of arrests in townships throughout Tunisia when the special police searched houses for anti-government material, leaflets and newspapers.

In the August 1974 trial of 202 similarly-charged Tunisians, many of whom were students like Mr Ayadi, torture was denounced by the accused in the presence of foreign observers. Mr Ayadi was sentenced to 6 years and 4 months' imprisonment on charges of plotting against the internal security of the state, forming an illegal organization, helping arrange its meeting places, insulting the head of state and government and spreading false information.

*Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to:* His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, President of the Republic, Tunis, Tunisia.

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#### Prisoner Releases And Cases

The International Secretariat learned in October of the release of 181 AI-adopted prisoners and took up 361 new cases.

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#### Malaysia Asked about 10 Held in Sarawak

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to Minister of Home Affairs TAN SRI HAJI GAZALI BIN SHAFIE of Malaysia on 21 November asking why a leading politician and nine other persons have been detained in Sarawak, the former British territory in northern Borneo which is now part of the

Federation of Malaysia.

All 10, whose cases are being taken up by *AI*, were arrested in October. They include DATUK JAMES WONG, deputy president of the opposition Sarawak National Party (SNAP), five other SNAP members and four Malaysians who allegedly had "revealed their complicity with foreign powers against the country's interest". The latter is probably an allusion to the long-standing dispute with neighbouring Brunei, a small British-protected sultanate, over claims to a narrow strip of Sarawak that divides Brunei.

The arrests, following those in August of members of the opposition Social Justice Party in the state of Sabah which is also in northern Borneo, have heightened fears that the governing National Front coalition led by Prime Minister TUN ABDUL RAZAK is moving towards rule by decree, despite having won an overwhelming victory in Malaysia's general elections in August. Four Social Justice Party candidates in the elections are still detained without trial in Sabah's Kepyuan Detention Camp.

### Appeal Campaign for Two Black Americans

*AI* has launched an appeal campaign to obtain a new trial for two black Americans sentenced to death in 1963 for the alleged kidnapping, murder and robbery of two white petrol station attendants in Florida, but whose convictions are believed to have been based on racial prejudice. A white man later confessed to the murders.

*AI* believes that the conduct of the trial of the two, FRED—DIE LEE PITTS and WILBERT LEE, is open to criticism: the jury was all-white and the state prosecutor suppressed a number of facts that would have helped them. But lending even greater weight to beliefs in their innocence is the fact that in 1966 a white man confessed to the killings—a confession corroborated by his mistress.

In 1972 Mr Pitts and Mr Lee were tried again as a result of the confession. But the man retracted it and the judge did not allow the jury, which was again all-white, to hear the confession.

Appeals against the convictions are now pending before the First District Court of Appeals in Tallahassee, Florida. *AI* sections, groups and members are asked to support the appeals by writing courteously-worded letters requesting a new trial for the two men in a neutral place to: Attorney General Robert Shevin, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32303, USA.

### Health of Taiwanese Prisoners Deteriorating

*AI* launched an urgent action campaign in November on behalf of two *AI* cases, HSIEH TS'UNG-MIN and the well-known writer and satirist LEE AO, whose health has reportedly deteriorated seriously in a Taiwan prison. Both have been detained since early 1971 on charges connected with the Taiwanese independence movement.

Along with others, the two are held in dark, damp, ill-ventilated cells measuring 2 by 2 meters. Hsieh Ts'ung-min, former editor of a literary journal, is reportedly suffering from palpitations, fever and swollen limbs, in addition to stomach haemorrhages resulting from torture. He is said to be "worsening daily". He has been refusing all food and medicines since 31 October in protest against his continued detention.

Lee Ao, who was on the *Prisoners of the Month Campaign* in June 1971, is reportedly in serious condition with infected lungs.

*AI* cabled Prime Minister CHIANG CHING-KUO of Taiwan on 14 November urging immediate medical attention for the two men and asking him to secure their freedom. Cables also were sent to United States President GERALD FORD and Secretary of State HENRY KISSINGER asking them to intervene on behalf of Hsieh Ts'ung-min during their Far Eastern tour in November. Hsieh Ts'ung-min studied under Dr Kissinger at Harvard University.

## Amnesty International News in Brief

Some of the 41 Rhodesian Africans recently released from Zambia (November *Newsletter*) visited the International Secretariat in November to relate the conditions under which they had been detained. They were accompanied by JACOB MOYO, Director of the Campaign for the Relief of Rhodesian Political Prisoners, who was largely instrumental in arranging scholarships for them in Britain and obtaining their release.

### Dominican Republic Asked to Probe Disappearances

Martin Ennals wrote to President JOAQUIN BALAGUER of the Dominican Republic on 27 November urgently requesting information concerning the whereabouts of GUILLERMO GONZALEZ, aged 22, and PABLO LIBERATO RODRIGUEZ, aged 24. Both have disappeared since being arrested in August in San Francisco de Macoris.

### AI Officials Participate in Moscow Talks

THOMAS HAMMARBERG, newly-elected Vice-Chairman of *AI*'s International Executive Committee (see page 1), and *AI* Legal Officer NIGEL S. RODLEY visited Moscow 25-27 October to attend a meeting of the steering committee of the Continuing Liaison Council of the World Congress of Peace Forces (December 1973 *Newsletter*). They participated in the working group on social progress and human rights, of which Mr Rodley was elected a joint rapporteur and which produced a number of important recommendations for action against torture, capital punishment and other violations of human rights, and for ensuring application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners to all detainees, including political prisoners.

While in Moscow, Mr Hammarberg and Mr Rodley also continued *AI*'s talks with the Association of Soviet Lawyers and visited the chairman and secretary of the newly-formed *AI* adoption group there.

### Appeal to American ILO States on Uruguay Trade Unionists

*AI* cabled the International Labour Organization's (ILO) 10th Convention of American Member States on 28 November asking it to intervene on behalf of 106 Uruguayan trade unionists on hunger strike in protest against their imprisonment. The cable asked the convention to act to end the continuing harassment of trade unionists in the country through arbitrary arrest and, in some cases, torture.

### Concern over Three Prisoners in Bulgaria

*AI* wrote to the Bulgarian government via its embassy in London on 14 November expressing concern about the fate of three persons, including a West German citizen, who were sentenced in August to strict terms of imprisonment for alleged economic espionage.

The three, whose sentences ranged from to 15 years, are SOLOMON BEN-JOSEPH, aged 54, a senior official at the Ministry of Chemical Industry, HERMANN JACOBY, a West German citizen, and a Mr HADZHIPETROV, aged 71.

### Six Prisoners Go on Hunger Strike in Ecuador

*AI* urged Ecuador on 19 November to free six political prisoners on hunger strike in Garcia Moreno Prison in Quito in support of their demands for immediate release. *AI* said there was evidence that all six were innocent of the charges levelled against them and that confessions used to convict them had been extracted under torture.

The six are JAIME GALARZA, one of the country's best known writers, FERNANDO MALDONADO, a leader of the Ecuadorian Socialist Party, SANTIAGO BOURNE, SILVA MILA, IVAN MOSQUERA and GERMAN CAROL. They declared an indefinite hunger strike on 7 November to coincide with the meeting in Quito of the foreign ministers of the Organization of American States.

All six were sentenced by a special military tribunal in May 1973 to terms of imprisonment ranging from 3 to 16 years after being found guilty on charges of violent crimes, including a number of assaults on banks and commercial institutions.

But a Colombian lawyer, LISANDRO MARTINEZ, who visited Quito in September on behalf of *AI* and the International Commission of Jurists to investigate the legal basis of their detention, concluded that the men had been tortured into making confessions (November *CAT Bulletin*). Señor Martinez said he himself had seen marks of torture on the body of Jaime Galarza.

### Fundraising: US Section Sells AI Shirts

The United States Section, as a contribution to the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture, has produced long-sleeve cotton shirts for sale with the words "Amnesty International" written on front. They are available in black, bright blue and yellow and are in three sizes: small, medium and large. They cost \$4.50 each, plus 35 US cents postage. They may be obtained by writing to the US Section, 200 West 72nd Street, New York, New York 10023.

### Telex Installed in International Secretariat in London

The International Secretariat in London may now be contacted directly by telex. The number is 28502.

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**'WE WILL BREAK YOUR SPINE!'**

**SPANISH WOMAN DESCRIBES HER TORTURE ORDEAL UNDER INTERROGATION**

Nine people, among whom are several prominent Spanish intellectuals, were arrested and tortured following a bomb explosion on 13 September that killed 11 people at a Madrid cafe frequented by the Spanish security police. Some of the accused were held incommunicado for almost four weeks during which several were severely tortured, according to a letter from prison by GENOVEVA FOREST, who was herself beaten and threatened ruthlessly during her 17 sessions of interrogation.

"I was immediately made to stand facing the wall. I was forced to stay in that position..... I tumbled down, they beat me in the back and pushed me violently against the wall. 'If you make any other movements we'll break your spine'; 'If you vomit, you'll clean it up with your tongue'.

"I fell several times on my knees, but they twisted my arms and made me stand again. I remember feeling a strange agony and that somebody gave me a terrible blow on the spine. I passed out.....I was on the floor and a woman 'doctor' felt my pulse and shouted scornfully, 'It's nothing, it's nothing. Normal pulse. You can keep on, it's nothing. There's no reason to stop the interrogation.'

*"The worst of this torture was, as I realized only in that moment, that nobody, during all the time it lasted, asked me anything. It was a sort of warming up."*

The Swedish and French *AI* national sections sent Parisian lawyer MARIO STASI to Madrid to meet with government officials, but he was denied access to the officials and to the accused. After speaking with the defence lawyers, however, he confirmed many of *AI*'s fears about the detainees' ill-treatment.

This treatment was so severe that Genoveva Forest, a psychiatrist, experienced what she diagnoses as severe depression, in which she felt suicidal. "Of all the tortures", her letter continues, "the worst came the last days (of incommunicado), when they told me that my husband was there, injured, that in arresting him they had had to shoot at him and that if he did not speak up, they would have to bring my 12-year-old daughter there".

Although two of the nine have been charged with marginal involvement in the assassination a year ago of Prime Minister LUIS CARRERO BLANCO, no formal charges related to the cafe bombing have yet been brought against any of the nine people, who also include the well-known playwright ALFONSO SASTRE (Genoveva Forest's husband), the lawyer and feminist writer LYDIA FALCON and her husband, ELISEO BAYO POBLADOR, a writer and journalist. The only indication of charges against them comes from a news conference held by Security Police Chief JOSE SAINZ, who claimed that they are members of the Communist Party, that they collaborated with the militant Basque Liberation Movement ETA V, and that they harboured the as yet unapprehended bombers, said by the police to be members of ETA V.

This alleged cooperation between the Communist Party and ETA V is an unlikely alliance in that the CP in Spain has consistently maintained a policy of non-violence since 1948. Also, the ETA V claims credit whenever it performs a successful act of violence (as with the assassination of Admiral Carrero Blanco), and it has not done so in the case of this bombing.

Before the authorities cracked down on the press, several Spanish journals suggested that a right wing commando group, active recently against progressive bookshops and acting with the apparent blessing of the Falangist old guard of the security

**BRAZIL POLICEMAN TORTURED BY COLLEAGUES**

According to a 21 November report, a Brazilian policeman, ROBERTO CONCEICAO SALES, was tortured for several days by four colleagues who suspected him of taking part in a kidnapping. In order to extract a confession he was subjected to electric shocks to his genitals and other parts of his body, to beating and to burning with cigarettes. Having failed to obtain the desired result his torturers released him. He subsequently lodged a complaint which is being forwarded to the State Secretary for Security.

police, could have perpetrated the bombing in an effort to discredit the left and to counter further liberalization in Spain. This speculation cannot be overlooked when assessing the accusations against the nine. The trial will take place under military jurisdiction, at an as yet unknown date.

**UN Assembly Adopts Torture Resolution**

On 6 November 1974 the United Nations General Assembly, following expectations, adopted by 125-0 votes Resolution 3218 (XXIX) on *torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in relation to detention and imprisonment*. Zaire abstained.

This new resolution, the substance of which has been summarized in the November *CAT Bulletin*, constitutes a significant step forward in moving the question of torture from the realm of non-committal denunciation --as in the previous General Assembly Resolution 3059 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973-- into the stage of concrete action. However it is generally recognized, torture being widely regarded as a controversial political issue, that we are only witnessing the beginning of a development aimed at establishing and strengthening adequate international safeguards and machinery for the protection of fundamental human rights.

While the resolution places the question of torture as a separate item on the agenda of the next (30th) session of the General Assembly, major issues have been referred to the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which will be held in September 1975 in Toronto, Canada. This Congress meets once every five years, and includes individual experts as well as representatives from governments, the UN Secretariat and specialized agencies, and interested non-governmental organizations such as *AI*.

*AI* is preparing its own proposals for submission to the congress. In direct connection with this, close attention will be given to the next session of the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that the present high level of international awareness of the problem of torture will persist and will be reflected in yet further steps to combat it.

**Torture used in Argentine Wave of Violence**

A non-stop wave of violence and counter-violence has swept Argentina since the death of President JUAN DOMINGO PERON last July. Assassinations of prominent politicians and military and police officials by leftwing extremists have been answered in particular by the notorious para-police group which calls itself the Anti-Communist Alliance (AAA), and which is believed

to be responsible for most of the 160 deaths since July.

The AAA is reportedly accountable for the kidnapping of six Uruguayans who disappeared in early September. The bodies of three of them who were *de facto* refugees in Argentina, were found recently hastily buried in the outskirts of La Plata, showing signs of torture (see *AI December Newsletter*).

Two other kidnap victims were released and granted asylum in Sweden, where one of them stated in an interview: "I think that the experiences my friend and I suffered while held kidnapped were mild in comparison with those endured by our dead companions. During the 33 days we were kept together, we were tortured with electric shocks, submarine (near drowning), dry submarine (suffocating by plastic bag), prolonged forced standing, burning with cigarettes, beatings, and so on. However, I repeat, this is little compared to the state in which the bodies of our companions were found."

The Argentina government is also apparently involved in the escalation of violence. On 9 October the offices of the Communist Party in Cordoba were searched by the police, and many of its members are reported to have been subjected to various forms of brutality, as a result of which a young woman, Miss TITA C. HIDALGO, died later in hospital. Opposition members of parliament and other groups have asked for an official inquiry, while the Communist Party has demanded the dismissal of the provisional governor of Cordoba and the provincial chief of police. *AI* has written to these and other authorities calling for the punishment of those responsible for the assault and for equal justice for all parties involved, left and right.

## APPEALS

### Jorge MONTES, Chile

A Chilean family of four, former senator JORGE MONTES, his wife JOSEFINA MIRANDA and their two daughters DIANA aged 24, and ROSA MARIA aged 23 have allegedly been subjected to severe torture since their arrest on 8 July 1974.

According to reports Mr Montes, formerly a member of the Senate Defence Commission and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile, had his teeth removed, his eardrums ruptured and one leg paralyzed and suffered internal bleeding. His wife and daughters have allegedly been tortured and raped and fears have been expressed for their physical and mental sanity. After arrest they were detained in the Air Force Academy of War in Santiago, which is one of the better known torture centers. So far as known, they have been held incommunicado.

The CAT Department was informed of the recent release, thanks to international pressure, including from Amnesty International, of Mrs Josefina Montes and her daughters. Mr Montes is now reportedly held in the concentration camp of Ritoque, and efforts on his behalf should continue.

*You can support these efforts by writing courteously worded letters, urging adequate health treatment and for his release to:* General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Jefe Supremo del Estado, Edificio Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile; *to:* General Oscar Bonilla, Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, Plaza Bulnes, Santiago, Chile; *to:* General Sergio Arellano Stark, Jefe de la Zona de Santiago en Estado de Sitio, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, Plaza Bulnes, Santiago, Chile.

### South Africans 'Assaulted by Security Police'

South African police have been accused of brutally assaulting 37 black militants detained under the Terrorism Act following a series of security police raids since 25 September, when forbidden pro-Frelimo (the Mozambique liberation movement) rallies were held in Durban and at the African University in Turfloop in the Transvaal (November *CAT Bulletin*).

The majority of these detainees are members or supporters of the South African Students Organization and the Black People's Convention and are apparently being held incommunicado. The

allegation of police brutality was made by a lawyer Mr S.M. CHETTY, who had been able to visit one of the detainees, SATHASIVAN COOPER.

During periods that the attending police officer briefly left them alone in the room, Mr Cooper told the lawyer that "there are many detainees who are being brutally assaulted by members of the Special Branch". He said the ones that were most severely assaulted were his brother, REVABALAN COOPER, and LINDA MABANDLA, who according to him were unable to walk as a result of the ill-treatment. Another detainee whom Mr Chetty was allowed to visit told him, in the presence of a number of policemen, that he was not being ill-treated and that the conditions of his detention were reasonable.

An application before the Pretoria Supreme Court for an order restraining the security police from assaulting and unlawfully interrogating the detainees was refused on 11 November, after the police had strongly denied the allegations.

The notorious Terrorism Act of 1967 allows for detention in solitary confinement without access to a lawyer or relatives for an indefinite period, until the security police are satisfied that the detainee has answered all their questions adequately. Since 1967 allegations of torture in South Africa have increased and other recent examples are to be found in a number of sworn affidavits from Namibian detainees, in which brutal assault by the security police, including electric shock torture, and the ill-effects of prolonged periods of solitary confinement feature prominently.

*Please write politely worded letters, requesting that all those detained under the Terrorism Act be either charged or released, and urging that their treatment be in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, to:* The Hon. B.J. Vorster, Prime Minister, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa, *and to:* The Hon. J.T. Kruger, Minister of Justice, at the same address. Send copies of your letters to the South African embassy in your country.

## Torture Investigations in Egypt

The trial of 92 men charged with attempting to overthrow the government of President ANWAR SADAT has been adjourned until 14 December in order to allow some of the accused to be examined medically. Defence lawyers in the case petitioned the court to investigate five allegations of torture and to allow private meetings between lawyers and clients without the presence of security guards. The court granted both petitions.

The group is comprised of young militant Moslems, led by 37-year-old SALEH SAREYA, who are accused of attempting to seize the Technical Military Academy outside Cairo last April and of stabbing seven guards in the process. *AI* has written to President Sadat and other Egyptian officials asking that the detainees be given adequate protection from ill-treatment during their detention.

In another development, the Egyptian newspaper *Al Akhbar* reports that an investigation has been initiated by the office of the Egyptian Prosecutor-General into allegations of torture under the rule of the late President GAMAL ABDEL NASSER, 1954-1970. The allegations are made by former prisoners and detainees.

## World Legislators Move against Torture

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), at its 61st Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Tokyo 2-11 October, adopted a resolution calling upon governments and parliamentarians all over the world to act against torture.

The CAT Department has issued guidelines to *AI* national sections campaign coordinators to consult and cooperate with parliamentarians in their countries towards effective implementation of the resolution.

### AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

The *Amnesty International Campaign for the Abolition of Torture* needs considerable resources in order to carry on its program and expand the scope of its activities. If you want to support the campaign financially please send your donation to the *AI* national section in your country or by bank transfer to account number 21016768 of Amnesty International, Midland Bank, 25 Bedford Row, London WC1R 68G, England, with the specification CAT. You can also send your international postal money order with the same specification direct to: Amnesty International 53 Theobald's Road London WC1X 8SP, England.