



AI Publishes Briefing on Morocco

AI expressed concern on 31 October at the use of prolonged incommunicado detention, torture and unjust trial in Morocco against political opponents of the government of King HASSAN II.

In a 16-page briefing paper, *AI* criticized the Moroccan Penal Code's state security provisions which have been used to interpret non-violent political activities as offences carrying heavy prison sentences and even the death penalty. Members of marxist-leninist groups and of established political parties have been tried by courts which do not conform to internationally accepted standards of impartiality. Defence lawyers have been hindered and on occasion intimidated, and defendants have been prevented from stating their cases or reporting torture.

The briefing paper details the following human rights issues of particular concern to *AI*:

- prolonged pre-trial detention when persons arrested for their political activities are held incommunicado by police for up to two years;
- use of torture by police during detention resulting in deaths and disablement;
- poor conditions and absence of legal rights in detention centers and prisons;
- the use of the death penalty for political offences.

AI states that, in addition to approximately 200 political prisoners now serving sentences in Morocco, several hundred persons are being held secretly, either for left-wing sympathies or for ethnic links with the former Spanish Sahara territory which is now in dispute.

The briefing paper is the 13th in *AI*'s series summarizing available information on political imprisonment and other violations of human rights in individual countries.

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MORE EXECUTIONS REPORTED IN CHINA

In November, *AI* again appealed to the authorities of the People's Republic of China to commute death sentences on humanitarian grounds, following new reports of executions.

The international press reported in October that 10 people had been executed in Peking for criminal offences and that at least 23 executions were carried out in the

southern city of Kunming, Yunnan province, in September. The Kunming accounts came from travellers who reported seeing six official notices announcing sentences passed on more than 150 people in the city. They were able to read fully only one notice which included 47 names. Of these, 24 were immediately executed after sentencing in September. According to the reports, most of those executed had been charged with political offences, including "dissemination of counter-revolutionary leaflets" and forming "counter-revolutionary groups".

About 150 executions have been reported in various provincial cities since the beginning of this year as part of the nationwide "purification" campaign which followed the purge of the "gang of four"—radical leaders arrested in October 1976. The number of executions is generally believed to be higher than reported, as information is available irregularly and limited to a few cities.

AI's appeal expressed concern at the apparent large number of death sentences and at the frequency of execution immediately after sentences had been passed □

AI CONCERNED AT FATE OF KURDISH DETAINEES IN IRAQ

Concern at the fate of 389 Kurdish detainees was the subject of a letter from *AI* to President Ahmad Hassan AL BAKR of Iraq dated 31 October.

According to *AI*'s information, these persons are the families of *pesh mergas* (members of the Kurdish armed forces). It is probable that when the *pesh mergas* could not be located, their families were arrested in their place. Those detained include old people, women and, in some cases, children as young as one or two years old. The total number of reported detainees exceeds the 389 whose names have previously been obtained by *AI*.

They are reportedly held in prisons in Baghdad, Ammara, Suleimaniya, Diwaniya, Nassiria, Ranya, Mosul, Koet, Shatra, Rumetha and Samawa.

Little is known about their conditions of detention, but *AI* is concerned at the possible effects of prolonged incarceration on old and ill persons, and on pregnant women. In one case a woman reportedly gave birth without due medical attention while in prison. Some of the detainees have been held since December 1976.

In its letter *AI* pointed out that the detention appeared to be in violation of articles

22 and 23 of Iraq's interim constitution and called on the Iraqi government to take immediate steps to "ensure the early release from prison of all children and other persons who have committed no offence under the law" □

AI URGES OPEN INQUIRY INTO DEATH OF SOUTH AFRICAN DETAINEE

Photographs of the body of Dr Hoosen HAFJEJEE, who died on 3 August while detained incommunicado by the South African security police, were published by *AI* on 9 November.

The photographs showed numerous wounds on Dr Haffejee's body, particularly on his back and around his knees, elbows and ankle joints. Dr Sigurd Riber ALBRECHTSEN, a Danish forensic expert, said that some of these wounds had been inflicted a short time before Dr Haffejee's death and were probably caused by some form of blunt instrument.

Dr Haffejee's death has not yet been fully explained by the South African government although it occurred four months ago. The findings of a post-mortem on 3 August have not been released and no date had been set for an inquest. The South African authorities have said only that Dr Haffejee was found hanged in a cell at Brighton Beach police station, Durban, about four hours after he was detained by security police.

While it is impossible to determine the causes of death on the basis of photographic evidence alone, it is clear that Dr Haffejee was subjected to violence shortly before his death. No official explanation for Dr Haffejee's death is satisfactory without a thorough and open inquiry into all the circumstances surrounding his arrest and detention, including the infliction of wounds on his body as well as the specific causes of death.

AI is seeking an urgent inquiry not only into the death of Dr Haffejee, but also into the death of Bayempin MZIZI, who allegedly hanged himself in the same Durban police station only one week after Dr Haffejee. Like Steve BIKO and most of the 20 political detainees who are known to have died in custody in South Africa in the last 20 months, he was detained incommunicado and without trial under section 6 of the Terrorism Act until his death (November *CAT Bulletin*) □

- The inquest is scheduled to commence on 6 December.

MOSCOW GROUP CHAIRMAN LEAVES SOVIET UNION

Valentin TURCHIN, chairman of the Moscow *AI* group since its inception in 1974, emigrated from the Soviet Union with his family on 14 October.

Dr Turchin, a cyberneticist, arrived in Vienna that day and subsequently travelled to London. There he met members of *AI*'s International Executive Committee and the International Secretariat and informed them that the Moscow group is continuing with its work. Recent actions by the group include work for their adopted prisoners and collection of 54 signatures to *AI*'s Prisoner of Conscience Year petition.

Kronid LYUBARSKY, a former prisoner of conscience and a member of the Moscow *AI* group, arrived in Vienna on the same plane with Dr Turchin, as did another former prisoner of conscience, Boris VAIL.

Shortly before Dr Turchin's departure, the group elected writer Georgy VLADIMOV as its chairman.

Dr Turchin will live in New York, where a research post in his specialist field awaits him □

SRI LANKA AMNESTY WELCOMED

AI has warmly welcomed press reports of an amnesty for those serving prison sentences in Sri Lanka for their alleged part in the 1971 insurrection. Some 130 prisoners have reportedly already been released under the amnesty, including Rohana WIJEWEERA, leader of the *Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna* (People's Liberation Front).

In a cable to Prime Minister Junius JAYAWARDENE on 4 November, *AI* asked for full details of all those released and urged the government to reconsider all cases of political prisoners sentenced for acts committed during the insurgency. Official figures say that 374 people had received prison sentences ranging from 2 years to life (a sentence imposed in five cases). A number of these had already been released after serving their prison terms.

All the alleged insurgents had been tried and convicted by the Criminal Justice Commission, a special tribunal established under the 1972 Criminal Justice Commission Act to try those alleged to have been involved in the insurgency. The Criminal Justice Commission was criticized by *AI* in its *Report on a Mission to Sri Lanka* published in May 1976. The report said that the commission compromised Sri Lanka's previous high standards of criminal justice, and it recommended that the Act should be repealed.

On 21 October 1977, the Criminal Justice Commission (Repeal) Act was passed in the National State Assembly, and *AI* wrote to the Prime Minister on 8 November congratulating the government on its effective steps for the early repeal of the Act □

CHILE GOVERNMENT 'NOT HOLDING' DISAPPEARED PRISONERS

AI has expressed deep concern at a Chilean government statement issued on 23 September

in response to demands made by the relatives of disappeared prisoners.

The Chilean note, addressed to United Nations Secretary General Kurt WALDHEIM, stated that the disappeared prisoners involved were not held by any security organizations in the country and that it had no further information about their fate.

AI is increasingly alarmed at the Chilean government's lack of response to the wealth of evidence indicating that its security forces had arrested people whose detention they have consistently denied. *AI* received news of more than 60 arrests during August and September, and has reliable information that torture is continuing.

Among those arrested were three people from Valparaiso whose arrests remained unacknowledged by the authorities one month later, and there are fears that they may also have "disappeared". Since the coup d'état in September 1973, when the government of President Salvador ALLENDE was overthrown, 1,500 people have disappeared in Chile.

AI considers that the families of the disappeared prisoners have the right to know what has become of their relatives. In a statement issued on 5 October, the relatives "categorically rejected" the Chilean government statement.

On 25 October *AI* reiterated its demand for an adequate explanation of the fate of disappeared prisoners in Chile and welcomed Mr Waldheim's statement of 30 September that the United Nations would continue its investigation of the problem □

BANGLADESH EXECUTIONS AFTER ATTEMPTED COUPS

Disturbed by large-scale executions of military men carried out in Bangladesh following recent attempted coups, *AI* urged President Ziaur RAHMAN of Bangladesh, in a cable of 28 October, to order an immediate end to the executions and to consider urgently commuting 55 death sentences.

According to official reports, by 28 October 37 persons had already been executed following trial by specially constituted military tribunals for their alleged involvement in an attempted military coup in Dacca on 2 October in which unofficial reports stated that at least 230 people died. The 55 awaiting execution were sentenced by similar tribunals for involvement in a 30 September coup attempt in Bogra.

At least 400 persons have so far been tried and up to 600 reportedly still await trial by military tribunals. Those tried have no right of appeal to any court of law and the trials take place in secret. The government has so far not published the names of those executed.

AI's experience of Bangladeshi trial procedure, by which military tribunals try civilians and military men without legal safeguards *in camera*, leaves cause for deep concern that the trial of the 92 so far sentenced to death has fallen far short of internationally accepted standards □

SUDAN AMNESTY FREES 100 MORE

One hundred political prisoners from Southern Sudan were freed by the Sudan government in a special amnesty in mid-October. They had been tried by the State Security Court on charges connected with an army mutiny in Juba in February and most had been arrested shortly before or after this incident. Those freed included veteran politicians and parliamentarians Benjamin BOL, Joseph ODUHO, and Joseph MALATH.

The amnesty was granted under a national reconciliation proclaimed by President Jaafar NIMEIRI in July and was announced before the trial verdict was given. More than 2,000 people, detained for political reasons or convicted of involvement in the July 1976 coup attempt, have also been released since the introduction of this policy (September *Newsletter*).

AI cabled President Nimeiri on 18 October welcoming these new releases and requesting the release of all other political detainees.

One detainee, however, Abdulmageed El-Nur SHAKKAK, a leader of the banned communist party, died in Shalla prison on 8 September. He had been detained almost continuously since 1971, and suffered from a kidney complaint which appears to have been exacerbated by harsh prison conditions and inadequate medical treatment.

AI wrote to President Nimeiri urging an independent commission of inquiry to examine the circumstances of Mr Shakkak's death, to investigate the conditions of other detainees reportedly seriously ill and to consider their early release.

Mr Shakkak was among about 130 left-wing political detainees who did not benefit from the amnesty, despite *AI*'s repeated appeals for their release.

AI has adopted as prisoners of conscience known political detainees in Sudan □

IRISH GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO AI CONCERNS

AI has welcomed the Irish government's appointment of a committee of investigation regarding allegations of police brutality. At the same time *AI* has expressed regret at the restrictions on the committee's mandate.

In a statement on 19 October, *AI* regretted that the committee—set up after an *AI* submission regarding the allegations had been sent to Irish Prime Minister Jack LYNCH in August—was only mandated to investigate the need for additional safeguards for persons in police custody. The committee was not authorized to investigate specific cases of maltreatment.

AI's submission, incorporating the findings of a research mission to the Republic of Ireland last June, had included allegations that a number of persons arrested between October 1975 and May 1977 on suspicion of involvement in terrorist or other politically motivated offences had been beaten and

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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.

Miss SUGIJAH—Indonesia

SUGIJAH (also known as SUKIJAH) was only 13 years old at the time of her arrest in October 1965 and she has been detained without trial ever since. The Indonesian authorities allege that Sugijah was involved in the abortive coup in October 1965 which was planned by several middle-ranking army officers and aimed against the army leadership.

These officers had as their headquarters a paramilitary training ground at Lubang Buaya, in an air force complex on the outskirts of Jakarta. The camp was being used at the time by a number of leftwing and nationalist organizations to train women and girls attending courses there as part of President Sukarno's confrontation policy against Malaysia.

During the coup, six leading army generals were killed and their bodies found at Lubang Buaya. The army alleged that the women in the camp had mutilated the bodies. However, all available evidence suggests that the women at Lubang Buaya had not taken part in atrocities.

The surviving army leadership, under General Suharto, crushed the coup and more than 500,000 people were killed and more than 700,000 people arrested in the ensuing months.

Those at Lubang Buaya on the night of the coup were considered to be implicated yet the Indonesian authorities have never put such allegations to the test of public trial.

Sugijah herself comes from a poor family and she completed only her primary education. She was not in any way connected with any political organization, but had been present at Lubang Buaya on the night of 30 September 1965. In mid-1965, when other youngsters were recruited from her *kampong* (village) to train at Lubang Buaya, Sugijah was considered too young. She apparently protested and demanded to be taken with her friends and thereby managed to accompany a group attached to the *Pemuda Rakyat*, the Communist Party youth organization.

She was held in Bukit Duri prison in Jakarta where she was kept in isolation from other women prisoners.

In 1971, Sugijah was transferred to Plantungan Women's Detention Camp in Central Java and she remains there today. On 28 October this year the *Far Eastern Economic Review* printed the account of a visit of their Jakarta correspondent, David Jenkins, to Plantungan. Of Sugijah he wrote: "politically illiterate and utterly ingenuous, Sugijah has spent almost half her life in

prison because no one, it seems, has ever bothered to review her case".

In 1976, 55 women were released from Plantungan, but there are still some 300 or more in the camp. *AI* estimates that there are about 2,000 women detainees in Indonesia out of a total of more than 55,000—possibly as many as 100,000—untried political prisoners in Indonesia.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for Sugijah's immediate release from detention in Plantungan, to: President Suharto, Istana Negara, Jalan Veteran, Jakarta, Indonesia; and to: Admiral Sudomo, Kepala Staf KOPKAMTIB, KOPKAMTIB, Jalan Merdeka Barat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Alfredo BRAVO, Argentina

Alfredo BRAVO, Joint-President of the Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights and an active member of the Teachers' Union (CTERA), was taken away from the school where he worked on 8 September by two men who identified themselves as police officers. At first, the authorities denied that he was being held. Only on 20 September did the Argentine Minister of the Interior, General Albano Harguindeguy, admit that Señor Bravo was detained by the executive power in the city of La Plata, some 60 kilometers from the capital. Official acknowledgement of Señor Bravo's detention was undoubtedly due to the international campaign mounted on his behalf.

The Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights was formed just over a year ago and has amongst its members many leading churchmen and members of the legal profession. Several of the organization's leading members have been detained or have disappeared. Mauricio Lopez, a university professor at the Faculty of Theology in Buenos Aires and a former employee of the World Council of Churches, disappeared in December 1976. Adolfo Perez Esquivel, coordinator for the Service for Justice and Peace in Latin America, was arrested on 4 April. He was only acknowledged to be in official custody after friends and relatives had made persistent inquiries and after a writ of *habeas corpus* had been filed.

It is not clear whether the motive for Alfredo Bravo's arrest was his work for human rights or his trade union activities. Since the military coup in Argentina, trade unionists have been a frequent target for repression by the security forces.

AI took immediate action on hearing of Señor Bravo's arrest and he was adopted as a prisoner of conscience in November. It is

believed that he is now being held in La Plata prison.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Señor Alfredo Bravo to: Señor Presidente de la República Argentina, General Jorge Rafael Videla, Casa Rosada, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Sergei Adamovich KOVALYOV—Soviet Union

Sergei Adamovich KOVALYOV was born in 1932. He studied biology at Moscow State University and attained the degree of *Kandidat Nauk*—roughly equivalent to Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the United Kingdom. His speciality is the study of mathematical biology, with particular reference to electrical currents in the body, and more than 60 of his scientific articles have been published. He was a senior researcher at Moscow State University until 1969. He then held a lower-ranking position at the University of Hydrobiology, also in Moscow.

Dr Kovalyov's involvement in human rights activity began around 1969. He was a founding member of the Initiative group for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR (created in 1969). He signed a number of appeals on behalf of Soviet prisoners of conscience and distributed information about violations of Soviet laws relating to trial procedure and prison conditions. In May 1974 Dr Kovalyov and two other Muscovites announced that they were helping to circulate *A Chronicle of Current Events*, an unofficially published register of human rights abuses in the USSR, which had been suppressed for the preceding 18 months.

Dr Kovalyov was a founding member of *AI*'s Moscow adoption group, recognized by *AI* in September 1974.

On 27 December 1974 he joined Academician Andrei Sakharov in signing an appeal for the release of prisoners of conscience throughout the world. On the same day, Dr Kovalyov was arrested and taken to Lithuania for investigation.

He was tried in Vilnius, Lithuania, in December 1975—the charges specified involvement with an unofficially-published Lithuanian human rights journal called *A Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*, as well as the *Moscow Chronicle of Current Events*.

Numerous human rights activists unsuccessfully attempted to attend his trial. Some who intended to travel from Moscow to Lithuania for the trial were detained before their departure, while others were detained on arrival in Lithuania.

Dr Kovalyov was found guilty of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". (To *AI*'s knowledge, no Soviet citizen tried on this charge has ever been acquitted.) His sentence was unexpectedly severe: 7 years' imprisonment in a strict regime labour colony to be followed by 3 years in exile.

Dr Kovalyov was sent to serve his sentence in a colony in Perm region, near the Ural

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Prisoners of the Month Campaign
Sergei Adamovich Kovalyov—Soviet Union
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mountains. In the first year his family and friends expressed growing concern about his state of health. Before his arrest Dr Kovalyov had been scheduled for major surgery for a haemorrhoid condition. This surgery did not take place after his arrest, and his symptoms were aggravated by the conditions in the Perm colony.

(In its 1975 report *Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR: Their Treatment and Conditions*, AI summarized conditions of prisoners in similar colonies: "Medical neglect dovetails with chronic hunger and with overwork to give to Soviet penal institutions a more punitive character than is justified by any standards. . .")

Despite his chronic haemorrhoid condition, Dr Kovalyov was not exempted from heavy work in the colony. On a number of occasions he was placed in a punishment cell after protesting against refusal to grant him the necessary surgery under appropriate medical conditions. Colony doctors had discovered a polyp associated with Dr Kovalyov's haemorrhoids. He refused to undergo surgery in his colony's inadequate medical facilities, but the authorities refused, during the last months of 1976, to send him to the prison hospital in Leningrad, which is reputed to have the best medical facilities in the Soviet penal system. However, perhaps as a consequence of extensive international concern about Dr Kovalyov's health, he was sent in March 1977 to the Leningrad prison hospital for the necessary surgery.

Several weeks later Dr Kovalyov was returned to Perm. He is not due for release from imprisonment until December 1981, from which time he must spend 3 years in internal exile. Under Soviet law he has no possibility of release on parole.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Sergei Kovalyov to: SSSR, Moskva, Kreml, Predsedatelyu Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR i Generalnomu Sekretaryu TsK KPSS L. I. Brezhnev.

**AI NOT PRESENT AT
 RAF AUTOPSIES**

Contrary to any other statements, no AI observers were present at the autopsies of the bodies of Andreas BAADER, Gudrun ENSSLIN and Jan-Carl RASPE, the three Red Army Fraction prisoners who reportedly committed suicide on 18 October in Stammheim prison, Stuttgart, Federal Republic of Germany.

AI was invited by the FRG authorities to observe the autopsies, and was ready to nominate two forensic specialists while it sought clarification of the precise terms of reference of the invitation.

However the autopsies started in the evening of 18 October, which made it impossible for AI to attend.

In telexed letters of 20 October to Federal Chancellor Helmut SCHMIDT and to the

Minister of Justice of the State of Baden-Württemberg, AI called for an independent and public international inquiry into the reported suicides. The letters said that the events in Stammheim prison were clearly a matter of international interest and concern, and that the conflicting interpretation of the circumstances of the deaths of the three prisoners necessitated such a course of action.

The reply received from the Baden-Württemberg Minister of Justice, the competent authority, stated there was no need for such an inquiry in addition to the investigation already underway by a special commission set up by the parliament of Baden-Württemberg □

**AI LISTS 92 MEDICAL PERSONNEL
 IMPRISONED IN 25 COUNTRIES**

AI on 28 November published a list of 92 members of the medical profession who, for political reasons, are imprisoned in 25 countries throughout the world. Some of the prisoners have been tortured and many held for long periods of time, sometimes without trial.

The introduction to the list states that "the majority of the prisoners on the list were arrested because of their political work or membership in political organizations. However, as persons who are involved daily with acute individual suffering, they may be led to challenge either the availability of health facilities or the abuses of their profession for political purposes".

The 25 countries named are: Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroun, Chile, Egypt, German Democratic Republic (GDR), Indonesia, Israel, Mali, Morocco, Paraguay, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Romania, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

The list is confined only to those cases known to AI's research department on 31 September, and is in no way complete as to numbers and countries.

Indonesia ranks highest in its number of medical prisoners with 13 persons known to have been held without trial since at least 1966.

From the inception of its Campaign for the Abolition of Torture in 1973, AI has sought the cooperation of members of the medical profession in its work against torture. As 1977—Prisoners of Conscience Year—draws to its close AI appealed to all members of the medical profession to work for the release of their imprisoned colleagues and for all prisoners of conscience □

**Irish Government Inquiry into AI
 Concerns**

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otherwise maltreated while in police custody. AI had urged the Irish government to instigate a full, independent and public inquiry into the allegations.

Writing to the Irish Minister of Justice

on 17 October regarding the establishment of the committee, AI pointed out that the possibility of ill-treatment of suspects is increased greatly by detention in the company only of officers of the detaining authority. If detainees are isolated from their lawyers and families, courts find it difficult to judge fairly the detained persons' allegations of maltreatment and police denials of the allegations.

AI suggested that detained persons should have access to solicitors of their choice before interrogation and should have medical examinations at regular intervals while in police custody.

In its submission AI had expressed concern over apparently systematic maltreatment by police detectives to extract statements or confessions. Those allegedly maltreated had been arrested under the Offences Against the State Act (1939 and 1972) which permits the police to detain suspects for 48 hours without charge, or under the Emergency Powers Act of September 1976, which empowers the police to detain suspects for up to seven days without charge. While there were a number of apparently well-founded allegations of maltreatment of persons arrested under the Offences Against the State Act, introduction of seven-day detention without charge had particularly aggravated the risk of maltreatment of suspects.

On 4 October the Irish Government announced that it would not renew this year the section of the Emergency Powers Act providing for seven-day police detention of suspects.

Ten days later the Irish Government itself published the bulk of the text of AI's submission, omitting those parts which referred to the Special Criminal Court (SCC)—a non-jury court set up in 1972 to try persons charged with politically motivated offences. The submission had described in some detail a case before the SCC in which the court rejected apparently corroborated defence evidence that incriminating statements had been extracted from the defendants by use of maltreatment. This, together with information related to other cases, led AI's delegates to conclude that the SCC had "seemingly failed or refused to scrutinize allegations of maltreatment according to the principles of law. . . with regard to the admissibility of statements".

The partial text of AI's submission was published in a number of Irish newspapers on 15 October following the government's publication of part of the submission. On the same date, the *Irish Times* published the full text of AI's submission, including the references to the SCC □

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AI Launches Paraguay Campaign

A campaign against torture and secret detention in Paraguay was launched throughout the world by AI members in October. AI published a 15-page booklet with photographs and descriptions of 10 cases of death and 20 cases of "missing" prisoners about which it has detailed and reliable information.

Despite a long record of human rights violations, Paraguay, the poorest country in South America, is relatively unknown internationally. Unlike its neighbours—Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina—Paraguay has a formal parliamentary framework and a system of civilian justice. However, the rule of law has been subjugated by the autocratic rule of General Alfredo STROESSNER who, for more than 20 years, has declared a "state of emergency" every three months as a matter of routine.

Imprisonment and torture are systematically used to discourage dissent. Real or alleged opponents of the regime are denied all constitutional safeguards. As a result, unacknowledged detentions and long-term imprisonment without trial are routine, and deaths under torture occur. The fact that Paraguay held the longest-serving political prisoners in Latin America—with cases of up to 19 years of detention with trial—fuelled widespread international criticism in recent years. Three such prisoners, Antonio MAIDANA, Alfredo ALCORTA and Julio ROJAS, were released earlier this year. However, the alarming incidence of deaths under torture and disappearance of political prisoners has not received such international attention.

Deaths

An unknown number of victims of political repression have died under torture or by extrajudicial execution in Paraguay. Arrest is normally followed by a period of detention incommunicado in a place unknown to the prisoner's family or lawyer. The constitutional limit of 48 hours' detention without charge is not applied nor is the legal provision of *habeas corpus* followed. Political prisoners deprived of legal protection are often subjected to severe torture which sometimes leads to death.

- Peasant farmer Arturo BERNAL was arrested on 12 May 1976 and reportedly killed under torture 25 days later. The Bishop of Caacupé, who had previously appealed to the national authorities on behalf of Bernal and other arrested peasants, wrote in an open letter to the Minister of Interior:

"... Is this your reply? The dead body of Arturo, the mourning of a peasant family,



CARLOS MARCELO MANCUELLO RIOS, nació en prisiones el 18 de agosto de 1975. Hasta hoy sigue como preso político con su madre Gladys Esther Rios de Mancuello, detenida el 28 de noviembre de 1974 y recluida actualmente en Emboscada. El padre de Carlos Marcelo, CARLOS JOSE MANCUELLO, detenido el 25 de noviembre de 1974 y mantenido desde entonces incommunicado en investigaciones, desde el pasado 22 de setiembre se desconoce su paradero.

On 10 December 1976, "Human Rights Day", the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference publicized the plight of families of disappeared prisoners in its publication *Sendero*. The caption reads: "Carlos Jose MANCUELLO RIOS, born in prison on 10 August 1975. Until today he continues as a political prisoner with his mother Gladys Esther Rios de Mancuello. . . The whereabouts of his father are unknown since 22 September".

a widow left without protection and five young children left without a father! And there can be no doubt about it—the dreadful responsibility which you bear for the cruel death of one more citizen in the custody of the Ministry under your control!"

The Paraguayan authorities seem disinterested in investigating such abuses or in bringing the offenders to trial.

- The family of Joel FILARTIGA SPERATTI, the 17-year-old son of a doctor who runs a free medical service, has been trying to discover how Joel died since he was kidnapped and killed on 30 March 1976. The police allege he was the victim of a crime of passion, but there is substantial evidence that he was tortured to death by policemen. A court case brought by the Filartiga family to establish the circumstances of Joel's death has not been completed because of attempts by some officials to block the investigation.

- Peasant farmer Juan de Dios SALINAS was one of the victims of the violent repression in the rural area of Quiindy in the spring of 1976. He died in custody. His wife, Rosa Joaquina, who had given birth 40 days earlier, was also arrested and reportedly subjected to torture.

HOW DID THEY DIE?

Mario ARZAMENDIA FLORES, Evasio BENITEZ ARMOA, Arturo BERNAL, Juan Manuel CABRAL, Juan Carlos Da COSTA, Juan José FARIAS, Joel FILARTIGA SPERATTI, Silvano FLORES, Sixto MELGAREJO, Cándido OVIEDO, Juan de Dios SALINAS, Mario Raúl SCHAEERER PRONO and Albino VERA? WHY HAVE THERE BEEN NO OFFICIAL INQUIRIES INTO THESE DEATHS?

Disappearances

Relatives of political prisoners and their lawyers have little help from the law in getting information on those prisoners classified as "missing". Failure by the authorities to recognize the arrests or provide information sometimes means prisoners are presumed dead, although some are believed to be held secretly in police stations and military detention centers.

- Carlos José MANCUELLO, a student arrested with his pregnant wife in November 1974, disappeared in September 1976. Since then the authorities have refused to say where he is. His wife was transferred to Emboscada prison after giving birth to their second child.

Families often search for years:

- The father of Lorenzo LOPEZ, who disappeared after arrest in 1970, wrote in an open letter to the Minister of Interior dated 19 May 1977: "I am a humble 84-year-old peasant. . . Before I die I should like the consolation of knowing whether my son is

appeals

YANG Chin-hai—Taiwan

YANG Chin-hai, a 44-year-old businessman from Taiwan (Republic of China), was sentenced to life imprisonment in July 1976 on charges of "sedition". He is now held on Green Island—an isolated prison-camp off the south-east coast of Taiwan—and is said to suffer from chest and abdomen pains due to ill-treatment during pre-trial detention. According to reports, the medicine Mr Yang is taking to lessen the pain upsets his stomach and he can hardly eat.

Yang Chin-hai was the election campaign manager of Yen Ming-sheng, an unsuccessful independent candidate in the December 1975 elections to the Legislative Yuan. Both men were arrested in Taiwan at the end of May 1976 and tried by a military court on 27 July 1976. Mr Yang was sentenced to life imprisonment, and Mr Yen to a 12-year prison term, under article 2 of the Statute for the Punishment of Sedition for alleged conspiracy to carry out sabotage and subversion against the government.

Mr Yang claimed during the trial that he had been forced to sign a confession after being tortured by Investigation Bureau agents. The torture reportedly included round-the-clock interrogation without sleep; repeated beatings and kickings after being stripped naked and chained, which caused haemorrhage in several parts of the body; punching in the stomach; insertion of needles in the fingernails; forced swallowing of salt, chillis and other materials while being deprived of water, as well as other abuses aimed at humiliating him.

Please write courteously worded letters, requesting that Yang Chin-hai receives proper medical treatment by a doctor of his own choice and that he be retried in an open court with full rights of defence, to: Premier Chiang Ching-kuo, Chung Hsiao E. Rd. Sec 1, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.

TORTURE CHARGES IN TANZANIA

Four railway police detectives were brought to trial on torture charges in Tanzania on 18 October. The state prosecution alleged that the four assaulted James MAGOTI on 19 November 1976 during interrogation at the railway police station, in connection with the theft of cash from the Bank of Tanzania, where Mr Magoti was a manager.

A police officer testified that Mr Magoti had been taken from Ilala police station, handcuffed and blindfolded, and returned later "in a bad shape. His body was swollen up and he had bruises on his legs which made it difficult for him to walk" (*Tanzania Daily News*). The case continues.

Mr Magoti, who is an AI investigation case, is held at Ukonga prison in Dar es Salaam. He has been detained without charge or trial since November 1976, despite

his protestations of innocence and the arrest of a number of soldiers in connection with the theft. His brother Adam MAGOTI is also held there, and was also reportedly tortured.

AI has repeatedly urged the Tanzanian government to investigate allegations of torture, but this is the first trial of alleged torturers. In January two cabinet ministers and two senior regional administrators resigned following a special presidential inquiry into torture and killings committed by security officers over whom they held responsibility. (March *CAT Bulletin*).

GREEK DOCTORS TO WORK AGAINST TORTURE

Doctors in Greece are the latest to express interest in working with AI's Medical Advisory Board, specifically to develop research projects and possibly to offer treatment for torture victims from the days of the junta regime in Greece.

They will join older medical groups in Denmark, Holland and the United States, and recent additions in Sweden and France. AI national groups as well, from Switzerland to Sri Lanka, have gained significant support from medical contacts in their countries.

In November AI published a list of medical personnel in prison (see page 4), but working for imprisoned colleagues is only a small part of AI's medical program.

Since the 1973 Paris Conference for the Abolition of Torture, where medical professionals convened a special meeting to discuss medical aspects of torture, AI has initiated activities of special interest to the medical community: strengthening codes of medical ethics against torture, repudiating colleagues who collaborated in torture, supporting those who resist collaboration, and researching the specific effects of torture.

The AI Medical Advisory Board, appointed by the International Executive Committee early this year, has been given the initial responsibility of coordinating AI's growing medical program. Most (but not all) of their work to date has been with the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture (CAT).

AI has published research articles by members of the Danish Medical Group about the effects of torture (June *CAT Bulletin*). Other Danish research includes work on the effects of *falanga*, electric shock, and other severe forms of torture.

The United States group has taken a particular interest in medical ethics. It has produced a teaching kit to be offered to medical schools as an aid in teaching medical ethics, and is investigating medical standards for the care of prisoners in an effort to create conditions which reduce opportunities for abusing prisoners. Related to this is work by a Danish group of forensic pathologists who are examining national requirements for death certificates and autopsies for persons who die in custody.

The Medical Advisory Board also recently considered physicians resident in a number of countries against whom allegations of collaborating in torture have been received. It intends to investigate these charges and to seek sanctions by the international medical community against those shown to be guilty.

Because concern about medical involvement in torture is in such an early stage, education of the medical community about these issues is of paramount importance. Papers have been published in scholarly journals and results reported at professional meetings; medical press conferences have also been held, first in Europe and soon in North America. It is also planned to hold an international medical seminar early next year to survey progress to date and to set new goals for AI's program.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in October of the release of 121 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 118 new cases.

AI Launches Paraguay Campaign

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alive or whether he was killed so that I can at least say a prayer for him."

The AI booklet describes 20 other cases of "missing" prisoners and asks:

WHERE ARE:

Bienvenido ARGUELLO, Nilo BENITEZ, Aurelio GAONA, Agustín GOIBURU, Darío GOÑI MARTINEZ, Lorenzo GONZALEZ, Octavio R. GONZALEZ ACOSTA, Doroteo GRANDEL, Elixto, Policarpo, Francisco and Adolfo LOPEZ, Carlos José MANCUELLO, . . . and Derlis VILLAGRA?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM AFTER THEIR ARRESTS?

- Support your national AI section's campaign, or
 - Send courteously worded letters to the President of Paraguay expressing concern at the disappearances and deaths under torture of political prisoners, and requesting that a full public inquiry into these cases be carried out.
 - Appeal to the Paraguayan government to apply to political prisoners the basic human rights and legal safeguards provided in the 1967 Paraguayan constitution:
- Write to:
Exmo Sr Presidente de la Republica del Paraguay, General Alfredo Stroessner, Palacio de Gobierno, Asunción, Paraguay.
Please send copies of your letters to the Paraguayan Ambassador in your country.