



## Chile and Soviet Union Release Prisoners of Conscience

Prisoners of conscience Luis CORVALAN and Vladimir BUKOVSKY were released from imprisonment in Chile and the Soviet Union respectively on 19 December 1976 and flown to Zurich, Switzerland. Their representatives of both governments satisfied themselves that the prisoners had been released in an "exchange".

Señor Corvalan, the 60-year-old secretary general of the Chilean Communist Party, was arrested two weeks after the September 1973 military coup which overthrew the government of President Salvador ALLENDE. Señor Corvalan had been a senator under President Allende's rule. He was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by *AI* on his arrest.

Mr Bukovsky was serving his fourth term of imprisonment in the Soviet Union at the time of his release. He had been confined to a psychiatric hospital on two separate occasions in the 1960s for his political beliefs and statements rather than for authentic medical reasons. He was imprisoned from 1967 to 1970 after taking part in a demonstration to protest against the restriction of freedom of expression in the Soviet Union. In 1972 he was again sentenced to imprisonment, this time for 7 years, and 5 years of internal exile, for compiling and distributing documents exposing political abuses of psychiatry in the Soviet Union. Mr Bukovsky was first adopted as a prisoner of conscience by *AI* in 1966.

Señor Corvalan flew directly to the Soviet Union from Zurich. Mr Bukovsky remained in Switzerland for two weeks. During this time he was able to use accommodation and medical facilities made available to both released prisoners by *AI*'s Swiss Section.

Since his release Mr Bukovsky has associated himself publicly with efforts to defend prisoners of conscience throughout the world.

• **Release not arranged by *AI*:** Unfounded reports that *AI* had arranged the "exchange" of Señor Corvalan and Mr Bukovsky prompted *AI* to issue a press statement denying the reports. *AI* said it had not initiated nor taken part in negotiations for their "exchange". The organization emphasized its continuing concern at persistent human rights violations both in Chile and the Soviet Union □

### AI CONCERNED AT EXECUTIONS IN RHODESIA AND UNITED STATES

The execution of eight prisoners in

Rhodesia and the first execution to be carried out for more than 10 years in the United States caused *AI* deep concern in January.

In cables to Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian SMITH and British Foreign Secretary Anthony CROSLAND on 21 January, *AI* described the Salisbury hangings as a "repugnant act". *AI* commented that the executions made a mockery of Mr Smith's claim to be upholding "civilized standards" and called for an immediate end to the use of the death penalty in Rhodesia.

Since April 1975, when the Smith regime announced its intention to withhold all details of future executions, more than 50 people are believed to have been hanged in Rhodesia. Relatives are not informed in advance of dates of execution.

The execution of Gary GILMORE on 17 January was the first in the United States for more than 10 years. *AI*'s concern is that it should not open the way to further deaths. On 7 January, *AI* had cabled President Gerald FORD asking him to intervene to prevent the execution.

There are eight other inmates on Death Row in Utah, where Gilmore's execution took place. Approximately 400 prisoners await execution in the United States.

*AI* considers it is extremely important that the issue of re-introducing capital punishment into the United States should not be confused by Gilmore's own insistence upon being executed □

### SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER FREED ON BAIL

Santiago CARRILLO, Secretary General of the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), was freed on 300,000 pesetas bail (US \$4,350, £2,500) on 30 December 1976, along with seven other important PCE members.

The seven PCE members had been present at the unauthorized press conference given by Señor Carrillo on 10 December, in which he explained the position of the banned PCE, in the light of the forthcoming elections and the Spanish government's continuing refusal to legalize the party.

All eight people are expected to be charged

with illicit association and will appear before a civil court of the Audiencia Provincial in Madrid. The initial accusation was handled by the Public Order Court. This body, a legacy of the late Generalissimo Franco's regime, has now been suppressed. It has been decreed that all cases of this nature should now be tried by civil courts.

On receiving news of the arrest, *AI* cabled Spanish Prime Minister Don Adolfo SUAREZ and Minister of Interior Don Rodolfo MARTIN VILLA, to express *AI*'s great concern and to appeal for Señor Carrillo's release □

### SENTENCES CHANGED AFTER APPEALS IN SOUTH KOREA MASS POLITICAL TRIAL

Heavy prison sentences imposed on 18 men and women after a mass political trial in South Korea in August 1976 (September *Newsletter*) were changed without explanation by the Seoul Appellate Court hearing the defendants' appeals.

The sentences of former President YUN Po Sun, aged 79, and opposition presidential candidate KIM Dae Jung, who is seriously ill, were changed from 8 years to 5 years' imprisonment, with suspension of civil rights to follow. The 8-year sentence of 75-year-old Quaker leader HAHM Suk Hon, who is known as "the Gandhi of South Korea", was similarly changed to one of 5 years' imprisonment. Five-year sentences passed by the lower court on former Foreign Minister CHUNG Il Hyung, aged 72, and his wife, Dr LEE Tai Young, were also reduced.

In addition to other changes, sentences were suspended in four cases.

All 18 defendants have the right to appeal to the Supreme Court against the Appellate Court ruling. But 11 of them, including the seriously ill Kim Dae Jung, remain in prison where they have been since their arrest in March 1976.

#### • South Korean Poet Sentenced:

KIM Chi Ha, the South Korean dissident poet adopted by *AI*, was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment on 31 December 1976 by the Seoul District Criminal Court. After a trial which continued for more than 18 months, he was found guilty of alleged support for North Korean propaganda, thereby violating South Korea's Anti-Communist Law (June, July 1976 *Newsletters*).

Mr Kim was charged in connection with some newspaper articles on the torture of fellow political prisoners, which he had written after his conditional release from prison in February 1975.

Mr Kim is already serving a life sentence dating back to an earlier trial. This sentence had been conditionally suspended in February 1975, but was arbitrarily reinstated by a military court during his latest trial as a means of keeping him in prison.

Mr Kim has been in solitary confinement in Seoul's West Gate Prison since his re-arrest in March 1975. He suffers from tuberculosis □

## AI SENDS OBSERVER TO TRIAL OF 178 IN MOROCCO

Jean HOSS of AI's Luxembourg Section, has been sent to observe the trial of 178 political prisoners in Morocco which started on 3 January. Of the defendants, 139 were among the *Frontiste* prisoners in Casablanca Prison who staged a 15-day hunger strike last November (January Newsletter). The other 39 are being tried *in absentia*. The majority of those on trial have been detained since 1974. Among them is Abraham SERFATY, a veteran leader of the *Frontistes* (Morocco Marxist-Leninist movement). Many others are students, teachers or intellectuals.

Charges against the defendants are those usually made at political trials in Morocco. They include plotting against state security and membership of a banned organization.

On 31 January, AI cabled King HASSAN II of Morocco, the minister of justice and the president of the Casablanca Tribunal, requesting that the defendants be granted the right to defend themselves and that medical care be given to hunger strikers □

## FURTHER TRIAL OF YOUNG MUSICIANS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Six non-conformist musicians may be tried shortly in Czechoslovakia, according to information received by AI as this Newsletter goes to press. The accused are Josef JANICEK, Milan HLAVSA, Jiri KABES, Jaroslav VOZNIAK (all of the "Plastic People of the Universe" band), Jaroslav KUKAL (of the band "DG 307") and Karel SOUKOP (a solo singer). The specific charges against them and the exact date of the trial are not yet known.

AI intends to send an observer to their trial.

Previous trials of Czechoslovak artists connected with the same case were held on 5-6 July and 21-23 September 1976 (September, December 1976 Newsletters). A total of seven musicians were charged with disturbing public order, but in AI's view they were imprisoned for exercising their legitimate right to artistic expression. They were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 8 to 18 months.

• **New Arrests:** The arrests of four theatre directors and writers were announced by Czechoslovak authorities on 17 January. Vaclav HAVEL (a playwright), Frantisek PAVLICEK (writer and theatre director), JIRI LEDERER (journalist) and Ota ORNEST (theatre director) were charged with "serious criminal activities directed against the foundations of the Republic". All four have been adopted as prisoners of conscience by AI.

The arrests followed house searches and interrogations by the police of many of the 242 signatories of the Manifesto Charter 77, which criticized human rights violations in Czechoslovakia and announced the formation of a new unofficial movement to defend human rights □

## "DISAPPEARED" URUGUAYANS LOCATED IN URUGUAY

The Uruguay government has officially acknowledged that 14 Uruguayans abducted in Argentina during 1976 are detained in Uruguay. The announcement followed widespread international pressure by parliamentarians in at least five countries.

The cases include Margarita MICHELINI (daughter of the Uruguayan parliamentarian who was murdered in Buenos Aires, Argentina in May 1976) and her husband; Ana Ines Quadros HERERA DE STRAUCH (the daughter of a former ambassador to the United Kingdom), and Enrique RODRIGUEZ LARRETA and his wife. Señor Larreta's father, who had also been abducted in Argentina, is reported to have been released.

The 14 were among a group of approximately 70 Uruguayan refugees abducted in Buenos Aires between June and October last year (August 1976 Newsletter). There were eye-witnesses to many of the abductions and in some cases the victims had been living under the protection of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The reappearance in Uruguay of the 14 abducted refugees confirms allegations of the close collaboration that exists between Argentina and Uruguayan security forces.

But there is still grave concern about a further 46 Uruguayans, including eight children, whose whereabouts is unknown. Recently, many refugees abducted in Argentina have been found dead or have simply "disappeared" □

## AI SUBMITS HUMAN RIGHTS EVIDENCE TO UNITED NATIONS' COMMISSION

AI has submitted to the secretariat and to all members of the United Nations' Human Rights Commission a document detailing human rights violations in Uganda.

AI asked member states of the commission to take up the situation in Uganda at the commission's meeting in Geneva during February and March. The report strongly endorsed the recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, made in August 1976, that the Commission on Human Rights undertake a thorough study of the human rights situation in Uganda, based on objective and reliably attested information.

AI has also circulated its *Briefing on Malawi* to the commission members and, at the request of the UN secretariat, supplied the commission's working group on Chile with further information on AI's work on that country.

In a separate initiative and on behalf of 21 non-governmental organizations, AI has sent to the commission a statement asking it to recognize conscientious objection to military service as a human right □

## "BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS" LEADERS JAILED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Nine leading members of the South African "black consciousness" movement were found guilty of charges under the Terrorism Act in the Pretoria Supreme Court on 15 December 1976.

On 21 December 1976 six of the accused received 6-year sentences, while 5-year sentences were handed down to the other three defendants. All nine were convicted of conspiring to bring about social, political and economic change in South Africa by the total involvement of the black community. They were found not guilty of advocating revolutionary change by violent means.

All had been detained since their arrest in September 1974 and are adopted by AI.

The defendants are members of the South African Students' Organization (SASO) and the Black Peoples' Convention (BPC). They were arrested following a pro-FRELIMO (Mozambique liberation movement) rally held in September 1974 (November 1974 CAT Bulletin). More than 40 members of the "black consciousness" movement were arrested after the rally, and detained under the Terrorism Act.

Most of the 13 detainees who appeared in court in February 1975 had been held for four months without charge. During that period, relatives of the accused applied unsuccessfully to Pretoria Supreme Court for an order restraining security police from assaulting and further molesting the detainees (December 1974 CAT Bulletin).

Charges against two of the 13 defendants were withdrawn in June 1975 and the state prosecutor ordered that the trials of a further two detainees be held separately.

The nine defendants have applied to appeal against conviction and sentence. If their appeals are denied, they will serve the full sentences imposed—political prisoners in South Africa do not benefit from the one-third remission of sentence given to convicted criminal offenders.

Recent reports indicate that the nine have already been moved to South Africa's main political prison on Robben Island.

• **Detainees Released:** More than 100 detainees held under South Africa's Internal Security Act were reportedly released uncharged during December 1976. Some were immediately placed under banning orders.

Sources inside South Africa estimate that more than 300 detainees are still held without trial under the Terrorism Act and other security laws.

• **More Deaths in Detention:** Reports of two more deaths bring to 15 the total number of confirmed deaths in detention in South Africa since March 1976. Dr N. NTSHUNGA allegedly hanged himself on 8 January and Lawrence NDZANGA is said by police to have collapsed and died in his cell on 9 January. Both men had been detained under the Terrorism Act □

# 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.

## BUSONO Wiwoho Sumartirto, Indonesia

Professor BUSONO Wiwoho Sumartirto, one of Indonesia's leading psychologists and educational planners, was arrested following an attempted coup against the army leadership in October 1965, along with more than 500,000 people. He is now one of at least 55,000 prisoners still imprisoned without trial after 11 years of detention.

Professor Busono was actively involved in the nationalist movement during the Indonesian Revolution against the Dutch in the late 1940s. As a student he became secretary general of *Ikatan Pemuda Peladjar Indonesia* (IPPI—Indonesian Secondary School Pupils' Union) and was later a prominent member of leftwing teachers' and academic trade unions.

Professor Busono studied psychology in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from 1951 to 1954. On his return to Indonesia, he was appointed lecturer in educational psychology at the Gadjah Mada State University in Jogjakarta and later became professor of psychology and head of the psychology department.

A founder and vice chairman of the radical *Himpunan Sardjana Indonesia* (HSI—the Indonesian Association of University Graduates) in the early 1960s, Professor Busono was also at that time a member of the Indonesian State Planning Council and of the State Education Council.

After Professor Busono's arrest in October 1965 it was widely believed that he was among the several hundreds of thousands of people killed in the purge of the leftwing after the Indonesian Communist Party and its associated organizations were proscribed following the attempted coup. However, in the late 1960s it was discovered that Professor Busono was detained in a prison in Jogjakarta and that he had been suffering from tuberculosis.

His wife, Apu Busono, was arrested at the same time as Professor Busono and detained at Plantungan Women's Detention Camp until November 1976, when she was transferred to Bulu Prison in Semarang.

Neither Professor Busono nor his wife took part in the 1965 events and *AI* believes that their arrest and detention stems from their association with leftwing groups and not because there was any evidence to connect them with anti-government activities.

*AI* received reliable information in December 1976 that Professor Busono was likely to be deported to Buru Island penal colony in the near future. Prisoners on Buru face the possibility of detention for life without trial.

*Please send courteously worded letters appealing against the proposed transfer of Professor Busono to Buru Island, and urging that he be released unconditionally, on humanitarian grounds, to: President Suharto, Istana Negara, Jakarta, Indonesia; and to: Admiral Sudomo, Kepala Staf KOPKAMTIB, KOPKAMTIB, Jalan Merdeka Barat, Jakarta, Indonesia.*

## Hector RODRIGUEZ, Uruguay

Hector RODRIGUEZ, a prominent Uruguayan politician, journalist and trade unionist, has been detained in Uruguay since March 1974 on a charge of "subversive association", which carries a possible sentence of 6-18 years.

Señor Rodriguez and 23 other leading members of *Grupos de Acción Unificadora* (GAU—Groups for Unifying Action)—a political group which Señor Rodriguez helped to organize—have been on trial since April 1974 in connection with a bomb explosion at the University of Montevideo in October 1973. The explosion killed one student who was alleged to belong to a group affiliated to GAU and to be responsible for the bomb.

No evidence has been established to link the student with the bomb, nor has the prosecution been able to advance proof of the GAU leaders' responsibility for the explosion. Some of the defendants were arrested before the explosion, which makes the charges against them even more dubious.

Señor Rodriguez was a deputy of the Uruguayan Congress from 1947 to 1952.

As a trade unionist he played a major role from 1940 to 1970 in the creation of the national trade union movement, *Convencion Nacional de Trabajadores* (CNT—National Workers' Convention), as well as creating the *Congreso Obrero Textil* (Textile Workers' Congress) which united all the Uruguayan textile unions into one organization in 1955.

Señor Rodriguez attended many international conferences as a union representative and, in 1963, was appointed labour delegate to the International Labour Organization by the Uruguayan government.

After 1970 Señor Rodriguez left trade union activity for political involvement when he helped to found the GAU. He also played an important part in forming the *Frente Amplio* (Broad Front), a grouping of leftwing parties—from the Christian Democrat Party to the Communist Party—which won 20 per cent of the votes in the 1971 elections.

Señor Rodriguez is now 58 years old, and married with two children.

*Please send courteously worded letters in your personal capacity appealing for the release of Hector Rodriguez and the other 23 defendants in the GAU trial to: Señor Presidente de la República del Uruguay, Dr Aparicio Mendez, Casa de Gobierno, Pza Independencia, Montevideo, Uruguay.*

## News of Past Campaigns

Andreas DEDOTSIS, a Greek Jehovah's Witness, has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for his refusal to perform military service (January 1977 *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*).

## Prisoner Releases and Cases During 1976

The International Secretariat learned of the release of 1,274 *AI*-adopted prisoners during the calendar year 1976.

Some 1,948 new cases were taken up during 1976. This figure includes the 124 releases *AI* learned of in December 1976 and the 428 new cases taken up in that month.

## AI ASKS HAITI TO VERIFY CHRISTMAS AMNESTY

*AI* asked President Jean Claude DUVALIER of Haiti on 9 January to prove that all the 90 political prisoners allegedly released in a Christmas amnesty had been freed by producing them at a public press conference.

*AI* estimates that only about 30 of the 90 people on the amnesty list were political prisoners. Of these, eight have been flown to Paris but only a few of the others had been seen free in Port au Prince, Haiti's capital.

In previous amnesties, many names listed as released have proved to be fictitious.

*AI* is seriously concerned at reports that at least 100 more people were arrested in the Port au Prince area towards the end of 1976. Such arrests, which are rarely followed by legal proceedings or information about the prisoners' circumstances, are virtually kidnappings.

In its letter to President Duvalier, *AI* asked for information about a number of prisoners. They included elderly lawyer Hubert LEGROS who was released in December 1972, re-arrested two weeks later and never heard of again; Veneque DUCLAIRON, arrested in 1969 when he was 11 years old; air force pilot Robert ANTHONY, arrested in February 1975; the BAPTISTE brothers, one of whom reportedly went mad in prison; and Jean Claude EXULLIEN, a teacher and actor, who was arrested last year after writing an article on educational reform.

*AI* also called on the Haitian government to publish a list of its political prisoners, including recent arrests, as well as those arrested in the 1960s and early 1970s and still imprisoned □

## FORMER AI EMPLOYEE FLEES SOUTH AFRICA

Eric ABRAHAM, a former staff member at *AI's* International Secretariat, fled from South Africa on 5 January after he was banned under the Internal Security Act on 30 November 1976.

Mr Abraham was a Cape Town journalist and part-time correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and for several European newspapers.

After he was banned for five years in November, he applied unsuccessfully for an exit permit enabling him to leave South Africa.

The banning order subjected Mr Abraham to house arrest and prevented him from being publicly quoted. As he was a journalist, this effectively deprived him of his living □

## SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

Yury ORLOV, chairman of an unofficial Soviet Union group of human rights activists, was told by officials on 5 January that a criminal case was being prepared in connection with the group's activities. The group of Soviet citizens was set up to "monitor" Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Dr Orlov was reportedly taken by force on 5 January to the offices of the Moscow City Procurator, where officials told him that a case was underway under article 190-1 of the RSFSR Criminal Code. This specifies "dissemination of fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system". Dr Orlov was not told which persons were likely to be charged.

*AI* has expressed its concern to the Soviet authorities that members of the group may be arrested merely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression.

• Alexander GINZBURG, a member of the group and a former prisoner of conscience, was arrested on 3 February, allegedly on suspicion of violating currency regulations while managing a relief fund for prisoners of conscience and their families.

Mykola RUDENKO and Olexy TIKHY were arrested on 5 February. They are members of a Ukrainian group monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Final Act.

Yury Orlov himself was arrested on 10 February. Both he and Mr Rudenko are members of *AI's* Moscow group.

The last three are still detained as this *Newsletter* goes to press, but *AI* does not yet know what charges have been brought against them □

## FORMER GOVERNMENT MINISTERS ARRESTED IN NEPAL

Former Nepalese Prime Minister B. P. KOIRALA and former minister Ganesh Man SINGH were among four people arrested in Nepal on 31 December 1976.

The arrests took place shortly after Mr Koirala, a former leader of the banned

Nepali Congress Party, had returned to Nepal after eight years of self-imposed exile in India. Mr Koirala and Mr Singh are reportedly held in Sundarijal Jail, where they had been detained from 1960 to 1968.

Mr Koirala became prime minister of the country's first democratically elected government in 1959, when the Nepali Congress Party won a large majority in Nepal's first general election. In December 1960, the late King MAHENDRA staged a coup in which the constitutionally elected National Congress government was removed, and Mr Koirala and other government ministers were arrested and imprisoned. He was then adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience.

The country's 1962 constitution withdrew the right to form political parties.

*AI* cabled King BIRENDRA on 6 January urging the early trial of the four detainees with full legal safeguards, or their release □

## GENERAL PARDON FOR US VIETNAM WAR OPPONENTS

Americans who evaded conscription, without using force or violence, during the Vietnam war, were pardoned on 21 January as one of President Jimmy Carter's first acts on taking office as President of the United States. Mr Carter also announced that he had asked the Defence Department to set up an urgent study of the cases of deserters and those people who received less than honourable discharges, who were excluded from the pardon.

The pardon followed a cable from *AI*, on 18 January, wishing Mr Carter success during his term of office and appealing to him to declare an immediate general amnesty for all those who had been penalized for their opposition to the Vietnam war.

The cable, which was signed by Thomas Hammarberg, chairman of *AI's* International Executive Committee (IEC), urged Mr Carter to commence his administration "with an act of reconciliation which would unite thousands of American families condemned to permanent separation" □

## SEVEN DEATH SENTENCES CONFIRMED IN ZANZIBAR

Seven death sentences were confirmed by the Supreme Council of the Afro-Shirazi Party of Zanzibar when treason trial appeal hearings reconvened on 9 February (December 1976 *CAT Bulletin*). Four of the sentences were given to defendants imprisoned in mainland Tanzania and convicted *in absentia*.

Seventeen death sentences were commuted to prison terms, mostly of 30 to 35 years, 13 prison sentences were reduced and six were confirmed. One defendant was acquitted and another five released.

*AI* immediately appealed to President Aboud JUMBE of Zanzibar and President Julius NYERERE to commute the death sentences on humanitarian grounds.

Of the 37 Zanzibar defendants who appealed against their convictions, 24 had been sentenced to death. Zanzibar Attorney-

General Wolfgang DOURADO asked in his final submission in December that all the death sentences be commuted and that seven other prisoners be acquitted because their previous convictions had been based on hearsay evidence. He asked that long prison sentences be reduced for other defendants

Nine defendants had withdrawn their original guilty pleas on the grounds that their confessions were extracted under torture. Mr Dourado urged the Supreme Council to ensure that their convictions did not rest solely on retracted statements obtained "through means that were heinous and self-defeating".

## OPPOSITION CANDIDATES ARRESTED IN SINGAPORE

Shamsuddin TUNG, an opposition candidate in Singapore's general election last December, was arrested on 24 December 1976, the day after the election, according to a government announcement. Mr Tung stood as a United Opposition Front candidate, but was not elected.

The government statement said that Mr Tung had been arrested for "playing up" the issue of the Chinese language and Chinese education during the election campaign with the aim of arousing racial tension in Singapore. He has been detained under the Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial.

Two other opposition candidates have also been arrested in connection with the election campaign. They have been charged in court with criminally defaming Prime Minister LEE Kuan Yew.

The ruling People's Action Party, led by Prime Minister Lee, won all 69 seats in the Singapore parliament with 72 per cent of the votes □

## IEC ROTATES CHAIRMANSHIP

*AI's* International Executive Committee (IEC) has decided to rotate the positions of chairman and vice-chairman of the committee among its members. Following the IEC's adoption of this principle, Thomas HAMMARBERG has been elected chairman, and Mumtaz SOYSAI vice-chairman.

• **Appointments at IS:** Maria-Antonia MANCHEGO-PELLANNE has joined the International Secretariat as head of the information department. She joins *AI* from the United Nations.

Delayne LOPPERT, a London newspaper and magazine journalist, has become head of the publications department at the IS.

Brian WROBEL, a lawyer who has been on mission for *AI* to South Korea, joins the IS to assist in the organization of *AI's* international death penalty campaign and conference □

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER** is published monthly by: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. Printed in Great Britain by Hill and Garwood Ltd, Fourth Way, Wembley, Middlesex. Available on subscription at £6 (US \$15) per calendar year.

amnesty international

## campaign for the abolition of torture

February 1977 Volume III Number 2

MONTHLY BULLETIN

# Former Secret Police Agents Released in Portugal

Portuguese courts-martial released 29 former agents of the PIDE/DGS (secret police) between October 1976 and the first week of January 1977. They had been convicted of assassinations and, in some cases, of committing acts amounting to torture while serving as secret police officers, and were tried under special legislation. They were released automatically because the period they had already spent in detention since the April 1974 revolution was longer than the sentences they had received.

The courts ruled that the offences committed by the 29 were to be considered as minor. It is thought that the low sentences may result from the lower courts' belief that the legislation was retroactive and therefore unconstitutional (although the Supreme Military Tribunal overturned this ruling), and that the defendants should not be tried under it.

The only exception so far to the light sentences given to police officials of the previous regime is the 7 year 8 month term

given to Henrique SEIXAS. This sentence followed a public outcry against the earlier releases. Senhor Seixas, aged 71, is a former chief of guards at Tarrafal concentration camp in the Cape Verde Islands. Tarrafal camp was built on an archipelago near the equator in the 1930s and was a notorious prison for political opponents of the previous regime.

Prosecution witnesses at Senhor Seixas' Lisbon trial in January accused him of inflicting various tortures at Tarrafal camp. They included severe beatings, pointless rock breaking in the sun, partial submersion of the body in water for several days, and confinement in the "oven", a small concrete shell exposed to the extremes of heat during the day and cold at night.

Senhor Seixas' conviction, however, was on the single charge of beating a prisoner in January 1974. The court-martial dismissed five charges related to torture at Tarrafal.

Public denunciations of the trial procedures, verdicts and sentences of the PIDE

agents included a 40-minute television appearance by four victims of PIDE. One of these, Edmundo PEDRO, spent 10 years as a prisoner at Tarrafal. Senhor Pedro, who is now a parliamentary deputy of the governing Socialist Party, told television viewers:

We are not pleading for vengeance, but for trials now of PIDE agents to uphold the rule of law as the basis for a democratic state and with punishments commensurate with the crimes for which they were responsible.

It has been estimated that 30,000 adults and adolescents were detained by the PIDE/DGS from its foundation, with Gestapo help in 1935, until 1974 when upwards of 1,300 agents were arrested.

It is likely that only a few PIDE personnel will be tried on torture or related charges. Almost all have already been released on conditional liberty. However, the Portuguese parliament passed a new law in January, making it more difficult for courts to give light sentences to convicted former PIDE agents□

## Exiled Kidnap Victim Alleges Torture

A Mexican journalist has alleged that he and a number of other Mexicans and Guatemalans were kidnapped and forcibly exiled from Mexico in October 1976.

Ysias Rojas DELGADO said in a press conference in Guatemala on 18 November 1976 that Mexican police arrested him on 23 September and took him to Colonia Roma, a detention and torture center in Mexico City.

There he found at least seven other people, both Mexican and Guatemalan citizens. They included a priest, several women and students.

Señor Delgado claimed that he and the other prisoners were tortured to extract false confessions to support government claims that subversive groups in Mexico were aiding Guatemalan opposition movements.

Torture methods included electric shocks to sexual organs and severe beatings. Aura ARRIOLA, a Guatemalan woman working with a United Nations body in Mexico, reportedly suffered two heart attacks during her detention. A Mexican woman was beaten despite her advanced state of pregnancy.

In June 1976, *AI* made a number of

recommendations to the Mexican government, based on the report of an *AI* mission which had visited the country in 1975. The mission had found strong indications that police personnel often acted without check by the authorities. This frequently resulted in arbitrary arrests and treatment, sometimes resulting in severe torture or disappearance□

### TORTURE REPORTED IN FACTIONAL VIOLENCE IN CHINA

Factory workers in the People's Republic of China have alleged that they were ill-treated and tortured during political unrest in 1975 in Hangchow, a provincial capital near Shanghai, according to a report by *Reuter* on 18 January.

The incidents reportedly occurred in an outbreak of factional violence, which provincial officials claimed was instigated by the "gang of four" radicals led by CHIANG Ching, the widow of MAO Tse Tung.

A provincial administrator described the disturbances as "all-round civil war" in the province. Troops were reportedly sent in to occupy rebellious factories, and two vice-premiers were sent from Peking in April and June 1975 to help quell the unrest and conduct a thorough investigation. Large

numbers of people were said to have been killed or injured, and factory staff opposing the radical officials claimed they had their hair pulled out by the roots and that they were beaten with iron bars.

One worker, LIAO Sha, reportedly said he was badly injured and locked up for five days in a freezing cell, clad only in underwear. He states that "sometimes when I slept, I was woken by the screams of other comrades being tortured".

A former senior factory and provincial cadre member, alleged to be one of the radical instigators of the disturbances in Hangchow, has been detained since July 1975. He was reportedly paraded and denounced before 100,000 people in the center of Hangchow last December. Mass meetings, where individuals are denounced, appear to be used in certain cases in the People's Republic□

### 15,000 WATCH PUBLIC FLOGGINGS IN LIBERIA

More than 15,000 people filled the Monrovia sports stadium in Liberia early in January to watch the public flogging of 15 men. Thousands more who were unable to get in the stadium stalled traffic outside for hours.

The 15 men, described by the authorities as "hardened criminals" each received 25 lashes, according to press reports.

President William TOLBERT of Liberia had ordered the public floggings by presidential decree, after a sudden increase in robberies and other criminal activities throughout the country.

*AI* wrote to President Tolbert on 20 January, strongly urging him to abolish this form of punishment□

# appeals

## DETAINEES TORTURED IN BAHRAIN

About 50 people detained in Bahrain following the murder of journalist and publisher Abdulla al-Madani have allegedly been tortured. They were among approximately 200-300 people originally detained after the murder. The 50 remain in detention without charge even though five men have already been tried for the crime.

Two young men have allegedly died under torture at the Manama Police Fort. Mohammed BUCHERY reportedly died within one week of his arrest around 18 November 1976, and *AI*'s information is that his body was not returned to his family. Said ALAW'IANATI reportedly died on 12 December, the day after his arrest.

An unconfirmed report alleges that a third detainee has died under torture, while several detainees are reported to be in hospital as a result of torture. They include Fuad SEYADI and Abbas ABDUL A'AL.

The five men accused of the murder of Abdulla al-Madani have also allegedly been tortured. Their trial ended with the conviction of three accused. Mohammed Taher Mohammed Ali Al-Mahari and Ibrahim Abdulla Abdel-Hussein Marhoun were sentenced to death, and Ali Ahmed Hussein Falah to life imprisonment. The other two defendants were acquitted.

*AI* is concerned about allegations that the convictions were based on evidence extracted under torture.

*Please send courteously worded letters, asking for the immediate release of those detainees not charged, and for an investigation into allegations of torture against prisoners at Manama Police Fort, to:* His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman al-Khalifa, The Prime Minister, Manama, Bahrain, The Arabian Gulf.

### *Vladimir Borisov, Soviet Union.*

On 25 December 1976, Vladimir BORISOV was arrested and confined to a psychiatric hospital in Leningrad in the Soviet Union.

His arrest was preceded by official searches and warnings for almost a year, presumably in connection with his suspected involvement with *samizdat* writings.

Immediately after Mr Borisov's arrest, *AI* launched an international appeal campaign on his behalf aimed particularly at Dr M.P. Isakov, the chief doctor at the Skvortsov-Stepanov Psychiatric Hospital, where Mr Borisov is held.

Mr Borisov's wife reported early in January that officials had told her husband he might be allowed to emigrate. Mr Borisov had told them he would not emigrate unless the authorities would officially recognize his sanity.

Later in January, unofficial sources in

Moscow reported that an official medical commission had recommended Mr Borisov's release from the hospital but the leading medical staff of the hospital had overridden the commission's recommendation.

Mr Borisov was previously confined to psychiatric hospitals in Leningrad from 1964 to 1968 and from 1969 to 1974.

On both occasions *AI* adopted him as a prisoner of conscience because it viewed his detention as the result of his political activity and statements rather than for authentic medical reasons. When he was released in 1974 from Leningrad Special Psychiatric Hospital, his family and friends reported that he had suffered considerably from medically unjustified treatment with drugs.

*AI* has again adopted Mr Borisov as a prisoner of conscience.

*Please send courteously worded letters, asking for Vladimir Borisov's release, to:* USSR, Leningrad, Fermisky Road 36, The Skvortsov-Stepanov Psychiatric Hospital Number 3, Chief Doctor M.P. Isakov.

### *Jaime PEREZ, Uruguay*

Jaime PEREZ, a trade unionist and former national deputy for the Communist Party in Uruguay, has disappeared from prison after more than 2 years in detention and almost a year after conviction by a military court on charges of "undermining the morale of the armed forces". He had been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment even though no concrete accusations were made against him. The charge appeared to relate solely to his political views and leadership.

Señor Perez was removed from prison early in 1976 and again later that year. He was last seen by a relative in September, and there are grave fears for his physical safety. The authorities have refused to give any information about him since his disappearance.

In Uruguay, interrogation of political prisoners under torture is routine during the initial period of arrest. But on several occasions prisoners have been interrogated under torture throughout their detention, and even after conviction.

Señor Perez was a leader of a fur industry trade union in his youth. He joined the Communist Party and became an official of the Montevideo local government. In 1971 he was elected national deputy for *Frente Amplio* (Broad Front, the coalition of leftwing parties) remaining a deputy until congress was suspended in June 1973. In December that year, the military-backed government banned the Communist Party and other leftwing political groups.

Señor Perez was arrested on 24 October 1974 after his appointment as secretary general of the Communist Party. Consistent evidence suggests that he was severely tortured during the following eight months with electric shocks, the "submarine" (near-drowning) and by having his toenails torn out.

*Please write courteously worded appeals to the Uruguayan authorities, requesting information about the whereabouts of Jaime Perez and asking for his release, to:* Señor Presidente de la República, Dr Aparicio Méndez, Casa de Gobierno, Plaza Independencia, Montevideo, Uruguay; *and to:* Dr Julio Espínola, Presidente de la Comisión de Respeto de los Derechos Humanos, Consejo de Estado, Palacio Legislativo, Montevideo, Uruguay.

### *Pasa GUVEN, Turkey*

Turkish student leader Pasa GUVEN was arrested in Istanbul on 6 January. Two days later, according to reports in the Turkish press, he was taken to Beyoglu First Aid Hospital suffering from trauma caused by beatings at a police station. The Istanbul public prosecutor initiated an inquiry into the case, and *AI* has written asking that the results of his inquiry be made public.

Mr Güven's case follows the pattern of torture allegations in Turkey, particularly those of workers' and students' leaders, since the end of 1975. *AI* has written to government officials about several of these cases and about the allegedly frequent use of torture at certain police stations in Ankara and Istanbul. To date, the government has not replied.

*Please send courteously worded letters, asking that the results of the inquiry into Pasa Güven's case be made public, to:* The Chief Prosecutor, Office of the Prosecutor of the Republic, Palace of Justice, Istanbul, Turkey.

*Please send a copy of this letter, and point out that torture is in violation of article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to the Turkish representative at the Council of Europe:* Son Excellence M. Semih Günver, Représentant Permanent de la Turquie, près le Conseil de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France.

## COMMISSION CONDEMNS TURKISH ATROCITIES IN CYPRUS

The European Commission on Human Rights has apparently found Turkey guilty of a series of human rights violations in Cyprus, following its military intervention on the island in 1974.

Information was disclosed in January in Strasbourg, France, that the findings were contained in a confidential 300-page report submitted to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers in August 1976. The report was based on a five-nation team of inquiry which conducted investigations in Cyprus. It reportedly upholds complaints under six articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, including article 3 which prohibits torture.

Other allegations of ill-treatment against Greek Cypriots, made by the Cyprus government, and which were said to be accepted by the commission, include indiscriminate killings of civilians, rape, detention under inhuman conditions, forced prostitution and large-scale displacement of people.

The Committee of Ministers is expected to decide this month on its course of action □