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Uruguayan Refugees Murdered in Argentina

Four prominent Uruguayan refugees in Argentina, abducted in Buenos Aires in May, were found riddled with bullets in an abandoned car outside the capital on 22 May.

Two of the victims were well-known Uruguayan parliamentarians in exile, ZELMAR MICHELINI and HECTOR GUTIERREZ RUIZ, seized on 18 May by armed men believed to be members of the Argentinian security forces.

The other two victims were ROSARIO BARREDO and her husband WILLIAM WHITELAW BLANCO who, along with their three infant children, were dragged from their home on 13 May by men claiming to be acting for Uruguayan security forces. There is no news so far of the fate

of the children, aged two months, 1½ years and four years.

The kidnapping of the parliamentarians was believed to be connected with recent moves by civilian politicians inside Uruguay to establish links with exiled parliamentarians in Argentina, in order to formulate a plan for a return to civilian rule in Uruguay—under a military regime since 1973. There have been persistent reports for some time of cooperation between the security forces of Argentina, Uruguay and Chile in a terror campaign aimed at refugees and exiles. (See page 4).

A third Uruguayan parliamentarian, WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE, was reportedly also sought by security forces and went into hiding.

Both the dead politicians had official UN refugee status and they came from both sides of the political spectrum. Señor Gutierrez was a member of the traditional and conservative National Blanco party and president of the Uruguay Chamber of Representatives. Señor Michelini was a former senator of the *Frente Amplio*, a left-wing coalition now banned in Uruguay.

Señor Whitelaw had been imprisoned in

Uruguay for one year in 1969 for alleged political activities and had worked closely with the late President SALVADOR ALLENDE of Chile while in exile in that country. Mr Whitelaw and his family moved to Argentina after the Chile military coup in 1973.

Since the March 1976 coup in Argentina at least 20,000 people have been arrested and more than 200 political assassinations reported. Those most at risk are refugees from other military or rightwing regimes in Latin America who are subject to constant intimidation by terrorist groups and arbitrary arrest.

Immediately on hearing of the deaths, *AI* called on the Argentinian government to launch a full inquiry into the murders, to take steps to locate other missing refugees, including the three Whitelaw children, and to return the bodies of the four victims to their families.

According to some reports, officials had at first refused to turn the bodies over to relations of the dead, who had asked for them, and had allegedly warned that all who attended the funerals would be regarded as "subversives".

Taiwanese Writer Hunger Strikes 'to Death'

HSIEH TS'UNG-MIN, the well-known Taiwanese writer, imprisoned since 1971, pledged on 24 April that his third hunger strike will be "to the death" unless Taiwanese prison authorities provide proper medical care for prisoners.

He is presently imprisoned on charges connected with the Taiwanese independence movement (October 1975 *Newsletter*). He was first arrested in 1964 and served a 5 year prison term on charges of collaboration in preparing seditious literature.

Mr Hsieh suffers from an allergy, severe stomach pains, haemorrhage, piercing headaches and eye trouble. He needs diagnosis and proper treatment at a specialized hospital. He has reportedly only been to a hospital once, for a short period in April 1975. He was the subject of a previous *AI* urgent action in November 1974.

His present ill health is thought to have been caused by ill-treatment in prison. Shortly after his arrest in 1971, he smuggled a letter out of prison describing his torture during two sessions of interrogation, each lasting a week. In this letter he said that he was kept sleepless, kicked in the stomach and beaten in the ribs. He was held in solitary confinement for 4 years, and held in foot shackles in a small, damp, dimly-lit cell.

An *AI* urgent action was sent on 7 May to *AI* specialist groups. It asked them to urge medical associations or individual doctors to write to the Taiwanese authorities, stressing the need for specialized treatment. National section press officers were also asked to obtain publicity for this case.

AI Publishes Briefing on PDRY

Thousands of people suspected of opposing the government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) have been arrested, tortured, executed or have disappeared since the country gained independence in 1967.

These criticisms appear in a 12-page briefing paper published by *AI* in May 1976. The briefing paper is part of a series summarizing available information on political imprisonment and other violations of human rights in individual countries (see March, April *Newsletters*).

The briefing paper expresses concern at:

- arbitrary arrests of suspected political or criminal offenders and the widespread practice of short and long term detention without trial;
- use of torture to obtain information or confessions, in some cases resulting in death or mental and nervous disorders;
- death in custody of political prisoners and the judicial and extra-judicial use of the death penalty for political and economic offences;
- inadequacy of basic legal safeguards;
- poor conditions in many detention centers.

AI's briefing paper states that the number

of political prisoners held at any one time in the PDRY fluctuates between 2,000-10,000. The lack of a precise figure stems from uncertainty surrounding the disappearances. Arrests are seldom announced officially.

On torture, the paper says that the presence of East German and Cuban officials has been reported on occasion. Allegations state that they have introduced sophisticated torture techniques.

The paper includes information obtained during a high level mission to Aden in June 1975 when *AI* delegates discussed at great length with government officials the question of political imprisonment, detention without trial and non-judicial executions. They also visited Al Mansura prison and talked to some *AI*-adopted, and other prisoners.

At present *AI* is working on the cases of 29 political prisoners in the PDRY.

Amnesty International Briefing on the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen: 12 pages, published by Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. Price 40 pence (US \$1.00) plus 20 pence (50 US cents) postage and handling. Annual inclusive subscription price for 10 individual country briefing papers: £6 (US \$15) post paid.

AI CALLS FOR RELEASE OF TUNISIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

AI urged President HABIB BOURGUIBA of Tunisia on 23 May to declare a general amnesty for the estimated 120 political prisoners in his country on 1 June.

1 June—Victory Day—marks the 21st anniversary of President Bourguiba's triumphal return from exile in 1955 to take over control of the government from the French administration.

A letter from AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS noted that since 1968, leftwing activists had been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 6 months to 14 years. Charges against them included plotting against the internal security of the state, forming an illegal organization, insulting the head of state and spreading false information.

The largest trials, held in 1968, 1974 and 1975 each involved more than 100 defendants and in each case the arrests followed unofficial strikes and student demonstrations protesting against poor working conditions and lack of political freedom in Tunisia. Reports have alleged irregularities in pre-trial procedures, including the use of torture during interrogation.

DEATH SENTENCES IMPOSED IN NAMIBIA

AI cabled South African Prime Minister JOHN VORSTER on 12 May 1976 urging him to exercise clemency in the cases of two men sentenced to death in Namibia on political charges.

AI also cabled United Nations Secretary General KURT WALDHEIM and UN Commissioner for Namibia SEAN MacBRIDE asking their immediate intervention with the South African government to prevent the executions.

HENDRIK SHIKONGO and AARON MUSHIMBA, both members of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)—the liberation movement in Namibia—were sentenced to death on 12 May in Swakopmund after a three month trial. They and four other SWAPO members had been charged under the Terrorism Act in connection with the assassination last year of the Chief Minister of the Ovamboland "bantustan", Chief FILEMON ELIFAS.

None of the six was charged with direct participation in the murder, although the state alleged that Mr Shikongo and Mr Mushimba had provided the killers with transport and financial assistance. All pleaded not guilty.

During the trial several detainees called as state witnesses testified that security police had tortured them in detention.

Of the four other defendants, two were acquitted and two received prison sentences of 7 and 5 years.

AI ACTION HELPS IMPRISONED MEXICAN

A Mexican student leader, arrested and tortured in April in connection with a political demonstration, was formally presented before

a judge and his torture stopped following AI appeals to the Mexican authorities for guarantees he would not be maltreated.

On 1 May 1975, student leader SALVADOR CERVANTES organized a peaceful and legal political demonstration in Queretaro, Mexico, to mark the national holiday of Labour Day. Several other demonstration leaders were arrested but only Señor Cervantes was held, charged with illegal possession of drugs. The police claimed they had found marijuana in his car.

This accusation was repudiated by leading Mexican lawyers and by the editorial staff of *Voz Critica* (a student newspaper which Señor Cervantes edits) in October 1975.

On 27 April 1976, Señor Cervantes was again arrested by police without a warrant and taken by car to the *Procuraduria General* (public prosecutor's office) in Mexico City. Stripped, and blindfolded, with his hands tied behind his back, he was interrogated about leaflets that had been distributed publicizing a demonstration on 1 May 1976. Señor Cervantes denied any connection with the leaflets, which urged the overthrow of the Governor of Queretaro.

He protested that all he planned for 1 May this year was a press release, prepared with trade unionists and workers, about the "real meaning" of Labor Day.

Despite this, Señor Cervantes was tortured by the police. They applied electric shocks after covering him in water. He was beaten and forced to kneel with his arms outstretched for more than two hours.

The next day he was threatened with transfer to the *Campo Militar* No 1 (a military barracks where torture is allegedly practised) and told he would never return alive. On the third day, he was taken to the *Carcel General del Estado* (prison) in Queretaro. Señor Cervantes has received no medical attention for his wounds and respiratory disorders. Visits have been discouraged.

AI sent telegrams to the Mexican authorities on 29 April asking for guarantees that he would not be maltreated. This intervention apparently stopped torture and ensured that he was formally presented before a judge within the statutory 72 hours. Although it was a national holiday on 1 May 1976, when all official buildings and offices are closed, the judge made a formal order of detention.

Señor Cervantes has been adopted and work on his behalf continues.

AI MISSION VISITS PAKISTAN

Professor MUMTAZ SOYSAL, a member of AI's International Executive Committee (IEC) and YVONNE TERLINGEN of the research department, visited Pakistan from 23 April to 12 May. During their visit, the AI-delegates discussed recent developments regarding human rights in Pakistan with Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, MALIK MUHAMMED AKHTAR.

The delegates also met the Chief Justice of Pakistan, YAKUB ALLI, and members of

the Supreme Court, as well as other members of the judiciary and the Bar. In Karachi, Professor Soysal addressed the Bar Association, and in Lahore he gave a talk on international protection of human rights before members of the Lahore High Court Bar.

The mission delegates met relatives of political prisoners and interviewed AI adopted prisoner MAIRAJ MOHAMMED KHAN in the High Court of Karachi when his *habeas corpus* petition on health grounds was to be heard by the court.

One of the mission delegates also attended the second day of the trial of WALI KHAN, the leader of the now banned National Awami Party (NAP), and 43 other members of the NAP on 14 May 1976.

A detailed report on the mission is now being prepared for the IEC.

AI APPEALS AGAINST BULGARIAN DEATH SENTENCE

AI appealed on 13 May to the Chairman of the State Council of Bulgaria, TODOR ZHIVKOV, against the death sentence passed on NICOLAS STEFANOV CHAMURLISKY in October 1975 and recently confirmed by the Supreme Council.

Mr Chamurlisky is formally charged with espionage. However, AI fears he may have been arrested and charged because of his efforts to emigrate and his open criticism of the Bulgarian government. His case is under investigation by an AI group.

AI's national sections have also sent urgent appeals to the Bulgarian government against Mr Chamurlisky's death sentence.

Prisoner Releases and Cases
The International Secretariat learned in
April of the release of 76 AI-adopted
prisoners and took up 109 new cases.

TRIAL CONTINUES OF SOUTH KOREAN POET

The trial of South Korean poet and writer KIM CHI HA (April 1976 *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*) resumed on 18 May. Mr Kim, who faces a possible death sentence for alleged violations of South Korea's Anti-Communist Law, repeatedly told the court that he is strongly opposed to communism.

The prosecution is seeking to prove that his poems and other literary works are designed to bring about a revolution. A central point of the prosecution case is that Mr Kim's "Declaration of Conscience" (April *Newsletter*), smuggled out of prison in August 1975, was subsequently reprinted by the North Korean press. The prosecution argues that through this Mr Kim has abetted North Korean attempts to undermine the security of South Korea.

During the hearing, Mr Kim complained to the judge that he had been denied all writing and reading material since the "Declaration of Conscience" was smuggled out of prison. Held in solitary confinement for 14 months, he has been denied visits from his family and lawyers. The trial was adjourned until 15 June.

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.

Christo KOLEV-Jordanov, *Bulgaria*

Since his arrest on 8 August 1971 CHRISTO KOLEV has been banished—that is, assigned indefinitely to a particular area which he cannot leave—and has never been brought to trial. He was arrested immediately after attending the funeral of a fellow member of the illegal Anarchist Communist Federation of Bulgaria (FACB), evidently on account of a speech which he had made at the funeral.

In 1974 he was transferred from the village of Pet-Mogili, in the area of Schumen, to his place of birth, Balvan in the district of Velik Trnovo. He is not able to leave the village and is not allowed to talk to the inhabitants. For two years he has been refused permission to visit his 94-year-old mother, who lives alone and in considerable financial hardship in Sofia.

Mr Kolev is a distinguished trade unionist who had an impressive record of anti-fascist activities during World War II. A member of the Anarchist Communist Federation and editor of *Rabotnicheska Missal* (Pensée Ouvrière), he was tried 14 times between 1930 and the end of the pro-fascist era in 1944. After the Communist Party came to power in 1944 he continued his anti-state opposition and spent 10 years in various labour camps where he is reported to have been tortured.

Please send courteously worded appeals for the release of Mr Christo Kolev from his indefinite term of banishment to: H E Todor Zhivkov, Chairman of the State Council, Bulgaria.

John Marie SERONEY, *Kenya*

JOHN MARIE SERONEY was deputy speaker of the Kenyan Parliament at the time of his arrest in October 1975.

The arrest took place against a background of political tension which had been increasing since March 1975 when a series of bomb explosions in Nairobi was followed by the murder of J M Kariuki, a popular member of parliament. Mr Kariuki was a prominent critic of the government, although he belonged to the ruling party of Kenya—President Jomo Kenyatta's Kenya African National Union (KANU).

Angry parliamentarians demanded an official inquiry into the murder, and Mr Seroney was one of the members appointed to take part in the inquiry. Their report, which appeared in June 1975, produced extremely damaging evidence which implicated the police General Service Unit (GSU) in the murder. President Kenyatta insisted that two names be omitted from the published version, and he also travelled round Kenya at this time, raising popular support and warning political dissidents that he meant to deal with them firmly.

These events in the summer of 1975 coincided with a series of revelations in the British press concerning financial abuses by President Kenyatta and members of his family.

In the face of mounting criticism, in which

Mr Seroney took a leading part, President Kenyatta and KANU launched a counter-attack, and threatened to expel from parliament any KANU member who deviated from party policy.

During a parliamentary debate on 9 October 1975, Mr Shikuku, a member of parliament and member of KANU referred to "some people trying to kill parliamentary democracy in the manner the KANU party has been killed". Mr Seroney, who as deputy speaker was acting as chairman for the debate, was asked to rule that Mr Shikuku's remarks were "out of order". He refused to do this, saying that Mr Shikuku was only stating the obvious.

A week later, on 15 October, policemen entered the parliament building in Nairobi and arrested Mr Seroney and Mr Shikuku at gunpoint. The next day an official announcement said that they had both been detained under the Preservation of Public Security Regulations. Their detention was clearly meant as a warning to other critics of the government.

The conditions in which Mr Seroney is detained are reported to be satisfactory. Mr Seroney has appealed to a judicial tribunal to review his detention order. But the government is not obliged to act on the recommendations of the appeal tribunal. Under Kenyan law he may be held indefinitely without trial.

Please send courteously worded letters, appealing for Mr Seroney's release, to: His Excellency The Hon. Jomo Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, PO Box 30510, Nairobi, Kenya; and to: Rt Hon Daniel Arap Moi, Minister of Home Affairs and Vice President, PO Box 30510, Nairobi, Kenya.

Axel JOHANNES, *Namibia*

AXEL JOHANNES, aged 30, is general secretary of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO). He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment on 2 March 1976 after refusing to testify as a state witness at the trial of six Namibians charged under the Terrorism Act, whose trial was held at Swakopmund, Namibia, from February to May 1976 (see page 2).

According to South African law, Mr Johannes could be brought back to the court at the end of his one-year sentence and asked to testify once again, and then be imprisoned for a further period if he continued to refuse.

Mr Johannes has been detained without charge for more than 6 months before his appearance in court. He was arrested in August 1975, together with many other SWAPO supporters. According to his statement in court, he had been tortured by the South African security police while in detention.

Before the detention which resulted in his present sentence, Mr Johannes had been detained for almost 8 months in 1974 before being tried on a minor charge. During the trial, which ended in his acquittal, Mr Johannes alleged that he had been both

physically and psychologically ill-treated in detention.

The United Nations has claimed authority over Namibia since 1966 when it revoked the mandate given to South Africa by the League of Nations in 1920, but South Africa has never accepted the UN's authority over the territory formerly known as South West Africa.

Please send courteously worded appeals for the release of Axel Johannes to: Hon James T Kruger, Minister of Justice, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.

News of Past Campaigns

ASOKA MEHTA, an AI-adopted prisoner of conscience in India (September 1975 *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*), was released from Rohtak jail near New Delhi on 15 May, 11 months after his arrest. Detained without trial, he was for some time held in solitary confinement. For the first 4 months of his imprisonment, Mr Mehta was allowed no visitors.

President of the opposition Congress (O) Party, Mr Mehta was one of the first opposition leaders to be arrested without charge or trial under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) on 26 June 1975, when the Indian government declared a state of emergency.

His release may have been due to his ill health, although no reason has been given by the Indian authorities.

PERU FREES POLITICAL PRISONERS

President FRANCISCO MORALES BERMUDEZ of Peru declared an amnesty for "all political prisoners" in his country on 30 April. In the same speech, the president also announced that all political exiles would be permitted to return to Peru.

Nine of AI's adopted prisoners were released, among whom were labour lawyers Dr ARTURO SALAS RODRIGUEZ, Dr RICARDO DIAZ CHAVEZ, Dr GENARO LEDESMA IZQUIETA and Dr ONO MEONO, and trade unionists HERNAN CUENTAS and VICTOR CUADROS. Their release has been requested by AI on 25 March in a letter to President Morales (April 1976 *Newsletter*). Of the others released, PERICO COLCHADO CHINCHAY and ALFANSO PUN LAY are also trade unionists and SANTOS SILVA SERNAQUE is a labour lawyer.

Thirteen other political prisoners for whom AI is working were not released in the amnesty.

JAMAICA PREVENTS EXECUTIONS

Following an AI appeal on 1 April 1976 on behalf of LLOYD CORDWELL, a young Jamaican under sentence of death, the Governor of Jamaica has replied that new legislation now prevents the death sentence being carried out in all cases where the offender was under 18 years old when the offence was committed.

AI has appealed to the Jamaican authorities several times during the last two years to prevent executions of such youths (June 1975 *Newsletter*).

SOUTH AFRICAN IMMEDIATELY RE-DETAINED AFTER ACQUITAL

PUMZA DYANTYI, one of seven South Africans acquitted on 4 May 1976 on charges under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts, was immediately re-detained by security police on leaving the court.

Two other defendants were allowed to leave but the remaining four defendants continue to stand trial on other charges under the Suppression of Communism Act.

All the defendants had been taken up by *AI*. They are members of the National Youth Organization (NAYO) and were detained during the latter half of 1975. They were held in detention for several months before being charged.

The trial opened in Johannesburg on 16 March but was transferred to the Pretoria Supreme Court on 23 March following disturbances outside the Rand Supreme Court. On two consecutive days a crowd demonstrated outside the court in support of the defendants. Their dispersal by police resulted in several arrests.

During the trial, JAIRUS KGOKONG, appearing as a state witness, testified that statements he made to the police while in detention were made under duress. Immediately after giving evidence on 24 March Mr Kgokong was re-arrested by security police and charged with perjury.

AI LISTS IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS

Sixty-seven journalists detained for political reasons or who had "disappeared" in 17 countries throughout the world were included in a list published by *AI* on 9 May.

Some of the journalists mentioned have been tortured and most are detained in violation of article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This asserts the right of everyone to "receive and impart information through any media" as an integral part of the right to freedom of expression.

Many of the journalists on the list are held without charge or trial.

The list was published to coincide with the opening on 10 May in Philadelphia, USA, of the 25th General Assembly of the International Press Institute.

The introduction to the list emphasized that it was far from comprehensive, either in the number of imprisoned journalists or in the number of countries in which journalists are detained. There are almost certainly more journalists detained in the world and equally certainly more countries that are holding journalists in custody. The fact that a country is not included only means that any such cases have not yet been taken up by or come to the attention of *AI*.

Countries named are Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

This list is correct as of 23 April 1976. Some journalists on it may have been released since then and others detained either in the same countries or elsewhere.

AI AWARDED £20,000 ERASMUS PRIZE

AI has been awarded the Erasmus Prize—a major Dutch award—for its work on human rights.

The prize is awarded annually on a different theme. This year the Erasmus Prize Foundation has chosen jurisprudence and the protection of human rights as joint themes. *AI* shares the award with RENE DAVID, a French international law professor.

AI receives 100,000 guilders (£20,000; US \$40,000) to finance a project of European significance in the cultural or social sphere.

The Erasmus Prize 1976 will be presented by Prince BERNHARD of the Netherlands, who was responsible for establishing the foundation in 1958, on 17 September 1976. DIRK BORNER, chairman of *AI*'s International Executive Committee, will receive the award on behalf of the organization.

ARGENTINA 'HANDS REFUGEE OVER TO CHILE TORTURE AGENCY'

Argentine security forces abducted a Chilean citizen in Buenos Aires in April and handed him over to Chilean security forces two weeks later, despite the new Argentinian government's assertion that refugees would not be repatriated.

EDGARDO ENRIQUEZ ESPINOZA was abducted on 10 April 1976, along with Brazilian, REGINA MACONDES. Despite many representations on their behalf, the Argentinian authorities did not acknowledge their detention and it was later reported that Mr Enríquez may have been turned over to the Chilean security forces on 27 April (see page 1).

The Chilean authorities have also failed to acknowledge Mr Enríquez' detention and it is feared that if he is in Chile he may be ill-treated by the Chilean *Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional* (DINA—National Directorate of Intelligence). He is reportedly held in *Monte Maravilla*, alleged to be a torture center on the outskirts of Santiago.

Mr Enriquez is the brother of MIGUEL ENRIQUEZ, a leader of the Chilean *Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria* (MIR—Movement of the Revolutionary Left) who was killed in a gun battle with the Chilean security police in October 1975.

AI cabled President JORGE VIDELA of Argentina on 13 May requesting immediate measures to protect refugees and asking for information about Miss Macondes' whereabouts.

Pressure on Chile: On the heels of a visit to Chile by USA Secretary of the Treasury WILLIAM SIMON, the Chilean junta has agreed to negotiate with the ad hoc investigative committee of the Commission on United Nations Human Rights denied access to Chile last July. The UN committee published a report based on exhaustive

interviews with Chilean exiles which damaged Chile's image abroad. The report catalogued a variety of human rights violations including massive and systematic torture (November 1975 *Newsletter*).

GUATEMALAN FAMILIES IN FEAR

Three hundred families in the department of *El Quiché* in Guatemala have abandoned their homes since February 1976, when troops occupied the area, while others have stopped working the land and are reported to be living in continuous fear that their homes will be raided and their families subjected to violence.

Reports reaching *AI* allege that plainclothes armed men raided homes at night, taking away members of families who are often never heard of again or who reappear dead. At least one person, ANTONIO MEDINA, is reported to have been tortured by the military police.

JUAN BRITO and his two grandchildren aged 11 and 13 were held hostage for Señor Brito's son, NICOLAS BRITO, for several days in March and returned to their village "terrified and refusing to talk". Shortly afterwards, others were taken and have since disappeared, including DOMINGO CABINAL, FRANCISCO CORDOBA, GASPAR CHAVEZ, and Señora CARLOTA TELLO and her children.

Since then relatives of the disappeared have appealed to the local authorities in *El Quiché* but they have denied knowledge of the peasants' whereabouts. The governor of *El Quiché*, MANUEL DE JESUS ARANA, said in an interview on 26 April that there were "only three policemen" in the region, "not enough to make 300 families flee". He also said that the Ministry of the Interior had instructed him to investigate the situation of peasants in the area.

ICJ PUBLISH RHODESIA REPORT

The detention, torture and killing of black civilians in Rhodesia is documented in a major report published in May by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). Entitled *Racial Discrimination and Repression in Southern Rhodesia*, the 118-page report documents a pattern of discrimination and repression and the wholesale denial of civil liberties to the majority African population in Rhodesia.

The study describes the restrictions imposed on the basic freedoms of expression and assembly, and outlines laws relating to detention and restriction, deprivation of citizenship and deportation. The report also documents cases of torture and ill-treatment, and condemns the creation of "protected villages".

Copies are available from the International Commission of Jurists, 109 route de Chene, 1224 Geneva (6 Swiss francs, surface mail postage included).

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MONTHLY BULLETIN

Three Libyans Die 'Under Torture'

AI asked the Libyan government in May to investigate allegations that three army officers died as a result of torture in Libya earlier this year.

MUHAMMAD FARAG AL TOUMI, an army officer arrested after a coup attempt in November 1969, is reported to have died on 28 March 1976, allegedly following severe beatings by prison officers.

Major AHMAD BOULIFFA, arrested in August 1975 for leading an alleged attempted coup, was, according to the government, shot while trying to escape during transfer from an interrogation center to the prison after killing one of the guards. However, a report reaching *AI* raises suspicion that torture may have been the real cause of his death.

Lieutenant FARAJ MUFTAH BEN ALI, also arrested in August 1975, was reportedly buried on 6 March in the town of Beida. His body had been returned to his family bearing signs of ill-treatment.

Writing to the Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, Colonel MU'AMMAR AL GADDAFI, on 19 May 1976, *AI* expressed concern over the recent allegations and asked to be informed about steps taken by the Libyan government to ensure full observance of the 1975 United Nations declaration on torture. *AI* urged that the allegations be fully investigated and the results of this investigation made public.

Further allegations received by *AI* claim that other detainees have been subjected to ill-treatment and torture over recent years in Libya. *AI* has the names of a number of such detainees, who include persons arrested in connection with the popular revolution in April 1973.

Of the 300-400 persons arrested at the time, 40 are still in detention and have been adopted as prisoners of conscience by *AI*. More than half of these have allegedly been subjected to torture and *AI* believes that ill-treatment may have been used as a punitive measure. The allegations are being further investigated by *AI*.

Such allegations of ill-treatment and torture come at a time when the human rights situation has apparently worsened in Libya. Increasing dissatisfaction with the government's economic and foreign policies has led to an alleged coup attempt, university and student demonstrations, and the emergence of opposition forces outside Libya.

One government counter-measure was the passing in October 1975 of a law giving the police greater powers in their handling of security cases, including detention of political suspects for investigation up to 45 days—extendible to 60 days—before allowing access to a judicial authority •

Eire Police Beat 12 Detainees

Allegations that 12 people associated with the Irish Republic Socialist Party (IRSP) were detained and beaten by the Irish *Gardai* (police) have been made in the Dublin High Court. One victim is alleged to have sustained a bone fracture in one ear.

The most badly treated detainee, OSGUR BREATHNACH, editor of the IRSP newspaper, allegedly suffered a concussion and, testifying before the High Court, Dr NOEL SMITH said that Mr Breathnach had received blows and possibly kicks. The court ordered Mr Breathnach's transfer to hospital for observation and treatment.

A total of 23 people were detained by the *Gardai* early in April. Seventeen were members of the IRSP and six were relatives and friends. Mr Breathnach was detained twice (on 31 March and 5 April) for 48-hour periods under the Offences Against the State Act. He alleges that during his interrogations he was told that he would have to implicate himself and others in the armed robbery of an Irish mail train.

Released by court order on 7 April, Mr Breathnach was re-arrested immediately on charges related to the train robbery.

Further allegations claim that prospective witnesses, who were prepared to testify to the whereabouts of Mr Breathnach and others at the time of the robbery, were detained and questioned by the *Gardai*. In one case, a defence witness, MICK BARRETT, has reportedly been arrested, beaten and charged with the same offence.

Writing to Prime Minister LIAM COSGRAVE, *AI* has called for a full and independent investigation of the allegations against the *Gardai* and pointed out the relevance of article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which forbids torture. The Irish government itself has utilized the convention in the past to draw attention to abuses of detainees' rights by British security forces in Northern Ireland. •

EEC Condemns Uruguay Police Methods

Uruguay's violations of human rights were attacked in a debate of the European Economic Community (EEC) parliament in May.

Answering a question from the socialist group on whether the EEC Commission (the community's executive body) would reject Uruguay's request for preferential trade terms, EEC Commissioner GEORGE THOMSON said the community had no intention of offering better terms for Uruguayan trade and he deplored "the indefensible methods of the Uruguayan police against political prisoners in that country".

The question had referred to *AI*'s recent reports of torture and other gross violations of human rights in Uruguay in the context of the visit to Brussels in June of the Uruguayan Minister of Economy ALEJANDRO VEGH VILLEGAS to negotiate better trade terms.

Mr Thomson also declared the Commission's support for a resolution condemning persistent violations of human rights in Chile. •

Soviet Dissidents Sign Petition

Former *AI*-adopted prisoners of conscience were among 40 Soviet signatories to *AI*'s international Uruguay petition sent to Uruguay's President JUAN MARIA BORDABERRY on 5 May 1976.

The list of signatures sent to *AI* by VALENTIN TURCHIN, chairman of *AI*'s Moscow group, included leading Soviet defenders of human rights, such as Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr ANDREI SAKHAROV, his wife, YELENA BONNER, former *AI*-adopted prisoners of conscience ANDREI AMALRIK, PYOTR GRIGORENKO and ALEXANDER GINZBURG, as well as leaders of the Jewish emigration movement in Moscow, such as ALEXANDER LUNTS and VITALY RUBIN.

A letter dated 23 March 1976 from Mr Turchin regretted that the petition did not contain the signatures of ANDREI TVERDOKHLEBOV, secretary of *AI*'s Moscow group, or that of another member, SERGEI KOVALYOV, "since they are both under arrest for their activity in defence of victims of political repression".

The documents reached *AI*'s International Secretariat after considerable delay, as they could not be sent through the normal postal channels: for the past 18 months Soviet postal authorities have been confiscating correspondence. •

appeals

South Africa

The wife of South African black trade unionist HAROLD NXASANA asked the Durban Supreme Court in April 1976 to order a doctor and the chief magistrate in Durban to visit her husband to allay her fears that he had been severely beaten and was partially paralyzed.

Mr Nxasana was detained by the security police in December 1975 and is being held under section 6 of the Terrorism Act, which enables the security police to hold a detainee incommunicado for an indefinite period.

The authorities deny that Mr Nxasana has been maltreated or that he is paralyzed. They claim that he was visited by a police warrant officer on 4 April and by a magistrate on 7 April and was in good health. On 23 April Durban's chief district surgeon, Dr B M A BUCHAN, testified that he had seen Mr Nxasana seven times in December for symptoms of fibrositis (pains in the chest, shoulder and neck), that he was not paralyzed and that he had not been beaten.

Despite the authorities' claims, Mr Nxasana has not been brought into court to dispel speculation about his alleged beatings. Furthermore, Dr Buchan's testimony refers to a period at least three months before Mrs Nxasana's appeal for medical attention. The Durban Supreme Court judge hearing her appeal has reserved judgement in the case.

Fears for Mr Nxasana's health are increased by the fact that JOSEPH MDLULI, a former member of the banned African National Congress (ANC), died within 24 hours of his arrest by the Durban security police on 18 March (May 1976 Newsletter). According to his widow, Mr Mdluli's body showed severe bruises, swelling and criss-cross cuts at the base of the skull. She claims that he had none of these injuries when he was taken into custody.

On 14 May, two months after his death, he was named in an indictment of 10 alleged ANC members who were charged with "terrorist activities".

Please send courteously worded letters, requesting a full investigation into the death of Mr Mdluli and full medical attention for Mr Nxasana by a physician of his own choice, to: Hon. J T Kruger, Minister of Justice, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.

Iran

AI has received allegations that two women died under torture in Iran last month. SADIGHEH REZAI, whose three brothers were killed several years ago, and FATEMEH AMINI, whose husband died last year in a clash with Iranian security forces, are alleged to have died around 10 May. Both women had been in detention for more than a year.

In a letter of 14 May to the SHAH of Iran, AI requested an impartial investigation of the allegations in accord with article 9 of the 1975 United Nations declaration on torture.

In addition to these two deaths, AI has learned of the previous torture and continuing ill health of FATEMEH SAIDI (known as Mother Shayegan), who was arrested in 1973 following the death of her son in a shooting incident in Tehran. Mrs Saidi is serving a 12-year sentence in the women's prison in Ghassr. It is alleged that she has suffered such severe torture from the SAVAK (security police) that both her arms are paralyzed.

Please send courteously worded letters, requesting an international, independent investigation and adequate medical treatment for Mrs Saidi, to: His Imperial Majesty Shahanshah of Iran, Niavaran Palace, Tehran, Iran.

Brazil

Four political prisoners serving long sentences in the Professor Barreto Campelo prison, Recife, in Brazil's northeastern state of Pernambuco, were reportedly taken to the local air force barracks on 1 April 1976 and severely tortured. They were subjected to beatings with clubs all over the body, electric shocks, burning with cigarettes and the notorious *pau de arara* (parrot's perch), before they were returned to prison the next day, hooded and with their bodies covered with bruises and injuries.

CLAUDIO DE SOUSA RIBEIRO, JOSE CALISTRATO CARDOSO, JOSE EMILSON RIBEIRO DA SILVA and JOSE ADEILDO RAMOS have been imprisoned since 1971-72. Together with some 20 fellow prisoners, they sent a dossier about their cases to the minister of justice in April 1975, listing some of the many anomalies in their trials and appealing for a full review of their cases and for improvement in their treatment and conditions of detention.

Some were singled out for punishment in response, and later in the year they staged three hunger strikes, the longest lasting 25 days (January 1976 Newsletter). The recent torture of the four should presumably also be seen in this light, but they have shown no signs of giving in to intimidation. They supported a subsequent appeal by their fellow prisoners, requesting the Supreme Military Tribunal to guarantee their safety.

While the situation of political prisoners in the São Paulo area seems to have improved over recent months, especially since the uproar over the death under torture of VLADIMIR HERZOG (December 1975 CAT Bulletin) and the subsequent removal of the 2nd Army commander, strong measures are still needed in other areas of the country to curb the practices of the security agencies.

Please send courteously worded letters, appealing for an investigation of the 1 April incident and for full observance of the rights of all prisoners in Brazil, to: General Ernesto Geisel, Presidente da Republica, Palacio Presidencial, Brasilia (DF), Brazil; and to: Ilmo. Sr Governador do Estado de Pernambuco, Eraldo Gueiros Leite, Palacio dos Despachos, av. Cruz Cabuga, Recife (Pb), Brazil.

PARAGUAY STEPS UP REPRESSION

At least 350 arrests in Paraguay have followed the government's claim in April that it had uncovered a new guerrilla group, the *Organización Político-Militar* (OPM). Many alleged members of the OPM have been arrested in urban areas, while extensive raids are reported to have been carried out in rural villages.

In the past, peasants and members of the indigenous population have often been terrorized and sometimes disappeared during military operations, mostly in communities organized by the Roman Catholic Church.

Allegations of torture and bad prison conditions have accompanied the raids, shootings and disappearances. Methods of torture allegedly include severe beatings (often resulting in fractures), electric shocks to the most sensitive parts of the body, the *pileta* (basin) or near drowning, burning with a red-hot iron bar and peeling of layers of the skin. Some prisoners have allegedly been given so-called "truth serums", including pentathol, under the supervision of foreign advisers.

MIGUEL ANGEL PERITO, JUAN BALBUENA and IGNACIO BAEZ are among prisoners reported to be in delicate health after interrogation under torture.

Previous large-scale arrests (mainly of alleged Communist Party members in December 1975), stretched Paraguayan prison facilities even before the most recent arrests of villagers and alleged OPM members. It is reported that many detainees, including women and children, are held in corridors and sleep on staircases at the *Departamento de Investigaciones*.

Refuse rooms and toilets have been used as cells and, except for attention from fellow prisoners, medical care for the sick and tortured is absent.

In an attempt to link the church with an alleged guerrilla network, the government has accused a wanted Jesuit priest of Spanish nationality, MIGUEL SANMARTI GARCIA, of leading the OPM. The Jesuits have denied the charges, pointing out that Father Sanmarti now works in Spain.

The government's charge appears to be a new attack on the church's rural program in its continuing campaign against progressive sectors of the church involved in educating and organizing the rural population and in denouncing human rights violations.

USSR PRISON OFFICIALS ON TRIAL

Unofficial Soviet sources have reported that the Procuracy of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic has opened a criminal case against two staff members of the Tbilisi Investigation Prison Number 1, presumably for their part in torture believed to have been practised there for a number of years.

The prison staff allegedly instructed certain prisoners to help prison and local authorities to obtain "confessions" from criminal suspects (January CAT Bulletin).

In November 1975 AI urged Soviet Judicial authorities to make a thorough investigation of the well-documented allegations of torture in Tbilisi prison.

PRISONERS OF THE MONTH CAMPAIGN

C O R R E C T I O N

Since this Newsletter went to press, Amnesty International has received information that Ernst WILHELM of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) has been released. We therefore ask participants in the PRISONERS OF THE MONTH CAMPAIGN to delete his name and not write cards or letters to the GDR authorities about his case.