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GREECE

AI WELCOMES RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND CALLS FOR PROBE INTO TORTURE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL welcomed President GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS' announcement August 19 of an amnesty for political prisoners in Greece but expressed concern that those imprisoned before the 1967 coup had not been included.

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS called for a tribunal of enquiry into allegations that many of the released prisoners had been tortured.

The Papadopoulos announcement, made on his accession to the presidency, resulted in freedom for about 350 prisoners, including many adopted by AI groups. The president also ended martial law and pardoned his would-be assassin, ALEXANDROS PANAGOULIS, and the latter's brother, STATHIS PANAGOULIS (February *Newsletter*). Alexandros, although not adopted by AI because he attempted to use violence, was known to have suffered terrible torture in detention.

Excluded from the amnesty were about 15 pre-1967 detainees, among them ELENI VOULGARIS GOLEMAS, who was arrested in 1966 and charged with an alleged offence committed 12 years earlier: harbouring and aiding her brother-in-law. Mr Ennals said he hoped the amnesty would be extended not only to these prisoners but also to Greek exiles who have been deprived of their citizenship and right to return home.

"We further hope that all those released will be reintegrated immediately into Greek society," Mr Ennals said. "Many former prisoners, for example, have experienced great difficulty in finding jobs."

RELEASED GREEK PRISONER THANKS AI

Colonel NICHOLAS PAPANIKOLAOU, one of the political prisoners freed in the Greek amnesty, thanked the people of Europe "and especially Amnesty International for helping in obtaining the releases," according to the Athens correspondent of the British newspaper *The Guardian*.

Wing Commander ANASTASIOS MINIS, who suffered long periods of brutal torture in detention (March *Newsletter*), reportedly said on his release: "I was for freedom before arrest, but now that I have had the experience of interrogation and prison I have become a hundred times more so."

ADOPTED INCLUDED IN THOSE FREED UNDER INDIA-PAKISTAN AGREEMENT

India and Pakistan signed an agreement August 28 to release all prisoners detained since the 1971 war over Bangladesh. AI welcomed the agreement which will mean freedom for a number of adopted cases and which follows sustained AI pressure on all three governments to settle the

prisoner issue.

Under the agreement 90,000 Pakistanis, mainly military prisoners of war, were to be released from Indian camps, 160,000 Bengalis were to be allowed to leave Pakistan, and the possibility was opened for about 260,000 Biharis from Bangladesh to go to Pakistan.

Some of the Bengalis and some Pakistani civilians in India were adopted by AI groups. The International Secretariat said a further 260 people arrested in Pakistan in May were about to be adopted when the accord was announced. These cases were collected during a recent research mission to the Indian sub-continent.

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote last January to Prime Minister INDIRA GANDHI of India and President ALI ZULFIKAR BHUTTO of Pakistan urging the immediate release of all the prisoners (February *Newsletter*).

REPORT CONDEMNS BRUTAL TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SPAIN

Political Imprisonment in Spain, a 36-page AI report published August 26, condemned the brutality and discrimination suffered in Spanish prisons by opponents of the Franco government. The report was promptly attacked by a top Spanish police official who called the torture allegations "a defamation".

The report, published in English and Spanish, says the system under which political prisoners are detained violates not only the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, but in some cases laws on Spain's own statute books.

It details the machinery used by the regime to jail its opponents; the physical brutality many of them have endured, at times resulting in death; the illnesses prisoners suffer due to the cramped, unsanitary conditions in cells and lack of adequate food and medical treatment; and how political prisoners are denied the statutory concessions of conditional liberty and remission of sentences.

The report documents individual cases of brutality and includes the biographies of four longterm political prisoners who suffered severe damage to their health through lack of medical attention.

In Madrid, a high official of the General Directorate of Security, commenting on the torture charges, told newsmen: "The accusation, made many times before, is a defamation." He claimed the AI report was inspired by Spain's Communist Party "to make propaganda against the government."

AI sent the report to the Spanish government before it was published, urging it to take immediate action to improve the lot of political prisoners.

Political Imprisonment in Spain is available from Amnesty International Publications, 53

Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England, at 50 pence (\$US 1.25) per copy for illustrated English-language edition, or 30 pence (75 US cents) per copy for non-illustrated Spanish edition, plus postage.

BOLIVIA URGED TO FREE DETAINEES

AI urged President HUGO BANZER SUAREZ of Bolivia to mark his second anniversary in power August 21 by releasing or bringing to trial all political prisoners in the country and by ending the widespread use of torture.

A letter from Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS also asked for an immediate enquiry into the cases of 21 Bolivians who have disappeared without trace in the past two years and who are alleged to have either been killed in custody or to have died as a result of ill-treatment by authorities.

"In January of this year," Mr Ennals wrote, "99 members of the church signed a document denouncing the killings and shootings carried out by the authorities; the physically and morally degrading tortures, including the rape of some women prisoners; the arbitrary detentions; the systematic intimidation of and threats to families of the persecuted; the confinement of minors in internment camps; the systematic rejection by the Ministry of the Interior of the right of *habeas corpus*; and many other violations of human rights."

Mr Ennals pointed out that while 2,000 Bolivians have been detained at one time or another since the military coup which brought General Banzer to power in 1971, not one had ever been brought to trial. In spite of frequent announcements of prisoner releases in the Bolivian press, over 200 political prisoners are still detained without formal charge.

LENIENCY SOUGHT IN MOROCCO TRIAL

AI called on the Moroccan Permanent Military Tribunal August 22 to show leniency toward the 157 persons on trial in Kenitra for alleged political offences. The statement said serious breaches of human rights, including torture, have occurred before and during the trial (August Newsletter). It cited the report of an AI observer, West German Federal Court judge Dr HORST WOESNER, who said that almost all the accused had been tortured by the police.

STUDENTS CHARGED IN SOUTH KOREA

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to President PARK CHUNG-HEE of South Korea in August expressing AI's concern at the trial of 14 students accused of being members of a "campus espionage ring". Mr Ennals said information received by AI indicated that the students were in fact being tried because they had been organizing mine workers into trade unions.

The SG asked National Sections to act on two other political trials in South Korea. One is the trial of an AI Korean Section member, the Reverend UN MYUNG-KI, which finally resumed in July after a long delay (May Newsletter). The Reverend UN was arrested last December on charges of "spreading a groundless rumour". The other trial involves four churchmen charged with plotting to overthrow the government. Reliable sources told AI that the four were actually de-

tained for organizing local community work in Seoul, some of it opposing government-approved programmes.

In an interview with the leading Japanese newspaper *Asahi Shimbun*, Mr Ennals urged the Park regime to accede to the Japanese government's request to allow South Korean opposition leader KIM DAE-JUNG to return, if he wished, to Tokyo where he lived in exile until kidnapped in August and returned forcibly to Seoul.

AI ASKS NORTH KOREA FOR DETAILS OF 'ESPIONAGE' TRIALS

MARTIN ENNALS wrote to President KIM IL-SUNG of North Korea in August asking for details of the precise charges against, and trials of, three alleged South Korean agents who were said to have been captured in North Korea while working with "unsound elements" for "subversive" ends. The SG reminded President Kim and other North Korean authorities to whom he wrote of articles in the country's new constitution upholding the principle of fair and open trials.

MORE ASSASSINATIONS IN GUATEMALA

An upsurge in disappearances and assassinations has taken place in Guatemala recently in the wake of labour unrest and trouble in rural areas, according to reports reaching AI in August. The reports said at least three clandestine cemeteries have been found so far this year containing the bodies of many who disappeared. This is in addition to individual bodies discovered in isolated areas. Many bodies showed evidence of mutilation and torture.

AI cabled President ARANA OSORIO August 15 to express concern for the safety of a number of teachers who were detained after a recent strike and asking him to guarantee full protection to all prisoners.

NEW DEATH PENALTY CALL TO YEMEN

AI cabled President SALEM RUBIA ALI of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on August 15 urging him to exercise clemency in the cases of seven people sentenced to death for taking part in an alleged plot to overthrow the government. AI made a similar plea to the president in July over six others sentenced to death (August Newsletter).

AI also cabled the Secretary General of the Arab League, MAHMUD RIAD, asking him to intervene to prevent further executions in Yemen.

AI WANTS URGENT RHODESIA ACTION

AI asked leaders of the Commonwealth nations who met in Ottawa early in August to take urgent action to secure the release of all untried political prisoners in Rhodesia. In a cable to the conference, International Executive Committee Chairman SEAN MacBRIDE also voiced concern at the arrest of six top African National Council officials and at the reported deterioration in detention conditions in Rhodesia.

17 NUNS 'ABDUCTED' IN VIETNAM

AI wrote to Republic of Vietnam authorities and to the Archbishop of Saigon in August seeking further information about 17 nuns and a priest alleged by Saigon to have been abducted

and held by the National Liberation Front. The International Secretariat is also seeking further details about 50 other civilians whom Saigon says are NLF prisoners. This is with a view to the cases being taken up by AI groups.

Meanwhile the civilian exchange programme which resumed at the end of July (August *Newsletter*) has ground to a halt again with less than 1,000 exchanges carried out. Among those released by Saigon to the NLF were 20 self-professed members of the "third force" who resisted the transfer and who are apparently trying to return to their families on the Saigon side. AI is investigating their cases.

AI CHALLENGES PARAGUAYAN CLAIM

AI has challenged Paraguayan President ALFREDO STROESSNER's claim, made during a visit to Germany in July, that Paraguay has no political prisoners (August *Newsletter*). AI said in a press statement in August that it had ample documentation of individual as well as general cases of people who have been detained for long periods for no more than verbal opposition to the regime.

"In the *comisarias* (police stations) of Asuncion and in different places of detention in the interior of the country, one finds persons detained who have not been formally charged with a crime, nor have had access to appropriate legal counsel, nor have been heard by a tribunal," Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS said in a letter to President Stroessner quoted in the statement. "Many of them have been detained for long years, some as much as fifteen. The fact that in all this time Paraguayan justice has not been able to present proof of the alleged crimes committed by these persons can only lead any observer to the conclusion that they are innocent."

AI said it has also received recent reports that the practice of torturing prisoners is increasing in Paraguay. It called on President Stroessner to mark his re-inauguration in August by releasing all political prisoners.

DEATHS WITHOUT TRIAL IN LAOS

An AI cable to Prime Minister SOUVANNA PHOUMA of Laos on August 22 expressed grave concern at the announcement that rebels captured after the attempted coup had already been executed or were shortly to suffer the death penalty without trial. The cable urged the prime minister to institute trial proceedings quickly.

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

The International Secretariat learned in July of the release of 87 AI-adopted prisoners and took up 133 new cases.

URUGUAY CRACKS DOWN ON DISSENT

SEAN MacBRIDE, chairman of AI's International Executive Committee, cabled President JUAN MARIA BORDABERRY of Uruguay in August urging him to restore the country's constitutional system and its legal guarantees. The call came as widespread arrests continued of opposition party members, doctors and trade unionists, as part of the crackdown that has taken place since the military coup in June.

ORGANIZATION

RELIGIOUS BODIES BACK ANTI-TORTURE CAMPAIGN; APPEAL DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Anglican Church's Consultative Council meeting in Dublin has passed a motion of support for AI's Campaign for the Abolition of Torture. Bishop JOHN HOWE, Secretary General of the Council, will represent the Anglican Communion at December's Paris conference on torture. Other world confessional bodies which will be represented in Paris are the World Muslim Congress, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Jewish Congress, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the World Council of Churches' Commission on International Affairs and the Friends' World Committee for Consultation.

The final deadline for signatures on the International Appeal to Outlaw Torture has been extended to December 11. Collection of signatures therefore will continue after October 24, the date indicated on International Secretariat appeal forms.

Among the many signatures received in August was that of the former Tunisian government minister AHMED BEN SALAH, an AI-adoptee who escaped from prison in February and fled to Europe (March *Newsletter*). The appeal has also been signed by members of political parties and go-

TORTURE REPORT DATE SET

The *Amnesty International Report on Torture*, which surveys the systematic practice of brutality towards prisoners by governments throughout the world, will be published October 15. The book will be launched in London on the same day with a news conference for the world press.

The price per copy will be £1.50 (paperback) and £3.95 (hardback). AI Sections and members wishing to order copies should write directly to the publisher: Duckworth and Company, Old Piano Factory, Gloucester Crescent, London NW1, England.

vernment representatives in a number of countries, including Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, Luxembourg and Australia.

Letters are being drafted to all member states of the United Nations seeking their support for AI's Draft for a UN Resolution on a Convention on Torture and Treatment of Prisoners.

Special discussions with UN delegations regarding the tabling of the Draft at the forthcoming meeting of the General Assembly will take place in New York when Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS visits there from September 29 to October 10. All National Sections and AI members are urged to seek support from their own governments for the Draft and for UN conventions relating to human rights. Sections which have already approached their governments are urgently requested to communicate the outcome to Martin Ennals as soon as possible.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WEEK PLAN

Prisoner of Conscience Week, which this year will be held the third week in October in conjunction with the Campaign for the Abolition of

Torture, will have as its theme Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Selected cases of prisoners who have been subjected to such treatment or punishment will be sent shortly to National Sections for use in their PoC Week programmes.

IEC MEETS IN LONDON

The International Executive Committee met in London August 11-12 to consider administrative questions and to prepare for the International Council Meeting in Vienna September 14-16. A full report is being sent to all National Sections.

SECRETARIAT SEEKS JOB APPLICANTS

The International Secretariat is seeking applicants for the following posts in London:

RESEARCHER FOR EAST ASIA (knowledge essential of Chinese, Vietnamese or Japanese, starting salary £1,722 per annum).

PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY (£1,395).

SECRETARIES in Latin-America Department (Spanish mother tongue), Eastern Europe (German mother tongue), Africa (French mother tongue), all starting at £1,395. Good typing needed.

All posts also require fluency in English. Write for full job description and application form to the Administrative Manager, Amnesty International, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X8SP.

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS

FROM PAST CAMPAIGNS

Rizal YUYITUNG of Taiwan, who was on the *Postcards for Prisoners Campaign* in June 1970, was released in August at the end of his three-year sentence.

Tran Huu KHUE, South Vietnam (February 1973), was scheduled for release to the National Liberation Front under the civilian exchange programme, but since the exchanges have been called off he remains in prison (see page 3).

THIS MONTH'S CAMPAIGN

Dr Helga PETSCHIK, GDR

Helga Petschik, a 37-year-old doctor, tried to leave the German Democratic Republic (GDR) illegally via Czechoslovakia in August 1972 together with her husband, a research chemist, and their three children. They were arrested on the border and handed over to GDR authorities two months later.

Dr Petschik and her husband were brought to trial in March 1973, charged with trying to leave the GDR illegally. They were sentenced to 3 years 5 months' and 3 years 9 months' imprisonment respectively. The recent GDR amnesty declared on the 23rd anniversary of the founding of the state did not affect this case since investigations had not been concluded in time.

The three children are to be allocated to different homes, although Dr Petschik's sister-in-law, who lives in West Germany, has offered to care for them during their parents' imprisonment.

Please send courteously-worded cards appeal-

ing for her release to: Erich Honecker, Erster Sekretär des Zentralkomitees der SED, DDR-102 Berlin C2, Marx-Engels-Platz, German Democratic Republic; and to: Justiz minister der DDR, Hans-Joachim Heusinger, DDR-108 Berlin W8, Clara-Zetkin-Strasse 93, German Democratic Republic.

Teresio ASILVERA, Paraguay

Teresio Asilvera was arrested nine years ago, accused with others of having plotted to kill President Stroessner during an annual religious ceremony in a little town near the capital Asunción. He was arrested six months after the event and the charges have never been substantiated, nor has he been brought to trial.

Teresio Asilvera is now nearly 60 years old. He was a carpenter, an ex-combatant in the Chaco war and a member of the Febrerista Party. Of his 12 children, three are still minors.

As is the case with other political prisoners in Paraguay he is detained in a small cell, linked to a police station. The cells are extremely small, yet they hold up to 12 prisoners.

Like many other prisoners he has lost almost all his teeth because of scarce and poor food and lack of sunshine. In particular he is suffering from a lung complaint for which he has asked to be examined and treated but in vain. Medicines that have been sent from outside the prison have not always been delivered to him.

Appeals for his release should be made on grounds of his detention for many years without trial, his ill health and old age.

Please send courteously-worded cards to: Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la República del Paraguay, Gral. de Ejercito Alfredo Stroessner, Palacio de Gobierno, Asunción, Paraguay; and to: Exmo. Sr. Ministro del Interior, Dr Sabino Montanaro, Ministerio del Interior, Estrella y Montevideo, Asunción, Paraguay.

Sitor SITUMORANG, Indonesia

Sitor Situmorang was born in 1923 in Tapanuli, North Sumatra. After extensive journalistic experience during the late 1940s, he spent some time at the Indonesian Embassy in Paris as cultural attache, where he developed his creative talents as a writer and poet.

He published many collections of verse and won high respect among Indonesian and foreign critics. In 1959 he helped found LKN, the National Cultural Institute of the Indonesian Nationalist Party (PNI) and became its first chairman. In the early 1960s he developed a strong socialist-realist approach to literature and verse, stressing the need for clear commitment to the people's interests and the cause of the Indonesian revolution. He was a member of parliament in the early 1960s and also attended a number of Afro-Asian meetings of writers.

After the coup attempt in 1965, LKN continued in existence. But he was arrested early in 1967 when Army intelligence found him in possession of material sharply critical of the regime. He has been held in detention since then in Jakarta, most of the time in Salemba Prison. He has never been tried.

Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to: The Attorney General, General Ali Said, S.H., Kedjaksaan, Jalan Hassanuddin, Kebajoran Baru, Jakarta, Indonesia.