



One more victim of Chernobyl?

Eminent Belarusian scientist imprisoned after criticizing official investigations

On 13 July 1999 the life of the eminent Belarusian academic, Professor Yury Bandazhevsky, who has devoted much of his working life to investigating the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion, took the most sudden of turns. A detachment of police officers arrived at his family home in Gomel in the middle of the night and arrested the 43-year-old scientist under "anti-terrorism" legislation. Over the next six months he was transferred from one city prison to another, until his health gave way and he was hospitalized. In late December 1999 he was conditionally released from prison, pending trial, with charges of corruption hanging over him.

Nearly two years after his initial arrest Yury Bandazhevsky returned to prison – this time for eight years. On 18 June 2001 a court in the city of Gomel, on the Belarusian-Ukrainian border, convicted him of having accepted 35.5 million Belarusian roubles (the equivalent of US\$26,000) in bribes from students seeking admission to the Gomel Medical Institute, of which he is the former rector. Yury Bandazhevsky vociferously denied the charges against him, and expressed fear that he had been targeted by the state authorities on account of his scientific research into the Chernobyl catastrophe and his open criticism of the state authorities.

Yury Bandazhevsky's scientific work examined the effects of the radioactive fall-out of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster on people living in the region of Gomel. Prior to his arrest in July 1999, he published a report critical of the official research being conducted into the Chernobyl incident. The report stated that 17 billion Belarusian roubles had been spent on research in 1998 which he considered had not produced any important scientific findings.

The evidence supporting Yury Bandazhevsky's conviction, which was based on only one person's testimony, appeared to be extremely weak and international and domestic trial observers believe his right to a fair trial was repeatedly violated. Most notably, he was reportedly not given access to a lawyer during the six months he spent in prison, seriously compromising his right to a defence.

Over the past four years AI has adopted a number of individuals as prisoners of conscience in Belarus who, like Yury Bandazhevsky, had spoken out against the Belarusian authorities and were subsequently convicted of economic abuses and sentenced to extended periods of imprisonment.

AI considers Yury Bandazhevsky to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Please send appeals calling for his immediate and unconditional release to: President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Administratsiya Prezidenta, Karla Marksa 38, 220016 Minsk, Republic of Belarus. Fax: +375 172 26 06 10.



Professor Yury Bandazhevsky is led from Gomel court, 18 June 2001



The bones of some of the people who were killed during the rule of Hisssein Habré are exhumed in Chad, 6 February 1992

Habré evades justice

Despite calls for the trial of Chad's former president for crimes against humanity, Senegal's highest court refuses to indict him

On 4 October 2001 AI launches *Chad: The Habré Legacy* (AI Index: AFR 20/004/2001). The report summarizes the massive and systematic human rights violations which were committed in Chad during Hisssein Habré's presidency (1982-1990). The report also calls on the Senegalese authorities not to expel former president Hisssein Habré, who has been in exile in Senegal since fleeing Chad in 1990, and to take all necessary steps to prevent him leaving Senegalese territory other than under an extradition order.

During the years of Hisssein Habré's presidency, those in power in Chad applied a deliberate policy of terror to suppress opposition of any kind. Thousands of people suspected of not supporting the government were arrested and held in incommunicado detention by the Directorate for Documentation and Security (DDS), a notorious security service that was answerable directly to the president. Many of those arrested died on DDS premises – extrajudicially executed or killed by torture, by the inhumane conditions in which they were detained or by a lack of food or medical care. In retaliation for the actions of armed opposition groups, captured combatants and unarmed civilians were shot, burned alive, poisoned, tortured to death or killed by starvation, often on the basis of purely ethnic or geographical criteria.

There are several indications that, since his downfall, Hisssein Habré has had support from the Senegalese state at the highest level. In 1990, President Abdou Diouf gave him refuge in Senegal on "humanitarian grounds". In November 2000, President Abdoulaye Wade said that Hisssein Habré would never be brought to trial in Senegal, because

atrocities committed more than 4,000 km away were not his country's concern. These comments, reported by Chadian national radio, amount to political intervention in an affair on which the highest Senegalese court had yet to make its views known.

On 20 March 2001, the Senegal Court of Cassation rejected the jurisdiction of the Senegalese courts to try Hisssein Habré with complicity in acts of torture and crimes against humanity. The decision came as a crushing blow to the victims of atrocities perpetrated under Hisssein Habré's presidency and the international coalition of human rights organizations who have campaigned for Hisssein Habré to be put on trial in Senegal.

The Court of Cassation considered that the Senegalese courts had no competence to try a foreign national who had committed, or aided and abetted, crimes of torture in a foreign country, because although Senegal has ratified the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, it has not adopted the necessary implementing provisions. AI deeply regrets the decision of the Court of Cassation and considers that the Senegalese justice system has lost an historic opportunity to send a clear message to the world that the international community is determined to fight impunity for human rights violations.

In April 2001, one month after the Court of Cassation's ruling, President Wade publicly gave Hisssein Habré one month to leave Senegal. Human rights activists fear that this will allow the former president of Chad to find a safe refuge in another country in order to escape extradition.

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Systematic torture of political prisoners in Iraq



Following the killing of Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr (above) in February 1999, anti-government protests led to a wave of arrests and torture in detention

On 2 July 1999 Al-Shaikh Yahya Muhsin Ja'far al-Zeini, a 29-year-old former theology student, was arrested in his parents' house in Saddam City, Baghdad. His father and two brothers had been detained as substitute prisoners until his arrest. Security men blindfolded him and took him to the Saddam Security Directorate in Baghdad.

During the five months that Al-Shaikh Yahya was held at the Directorate he was regularly subjected to electric shocks followed by beatings on the feet. For two months he had to sleep on the floor with his hands tied behind his back and his face on the floor. On one occasion he was suspended from a window for three days. After being transferred to the Security Directorate of al-Rassafa district, also in Baghdad, he remained held without charge or trial until 14 April 2000, when he was released.

Al-Shaikh Yahya's detention was part of a wave of arrests which followed widespread anti-government protests in southern Iraq and in Saddam city, the Shi'a

dominated district of Baghdad. The protests were sparked by the killing of a well-known Shi'a Muslim cleric, Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr, in February 1999 in the southern city of al-Najaf, and resulted in the killings of dozens of protesters by the security forces and the arrest of hundreds of people. Many, like Al-Shaikh Yahya, were the victims of torture. Methods of torture used included suspension followed by repeated beatings on various parts of the body, the use of electric shocks on the genitals as well as psychological torture such as torturing detainees in front of relatives or friends, and solitary confinement.

Despite national laws prohibiting it, torture has been used systematically in Iraqi prisons and detention centres for at least the last two decades. Over the years AI has interviewed hundreds of torture victims, or their relatives, many of whom now live with permanent physical or psychological damage. Some of their stories are told in a new report, *Iraq: Systematic torture of political prisoners* (AI Index: MDE 14/008/2001) published in August. Victims include people detained on suspicion of political activities against the government, such as being accused of having links with the Iraqi opposition outside the country or plotting to overthrow the government.

Some died under torture. When their bodies were returned to their families they bore evident signs of torture, including the gouging out of the eyes, marks of severe beatings and electric shocks and finger- and toe-nails being removed.

Women have been the victims of torture such as rape and beatings on the soles of the feet, on suspicion of contacts with opposition groups or in some cases to put pressure on relatives abroad to cease their anti-government activities.

In 1994 the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest executive body, headed by President Saddam Hussain, introduced decrees prescribing judicial punishments such as amputation of hand and foot, branding of the forehead and cutting off of the ears for various criminal offences. The authorities justified the punishments as a measure to combat rising crime. Army deserters and evaders were particularly targeted and many suffered ear amputation. While the practice of amputating the ears of army deserters was officially stopped in 1996, the other judicial punishments remain in force. More worryingly, in mid-2000 amputation of the tongue was reportedly approved by the authorities as a new penalty for slander or abusive remarks about the President or his family.

AI welcomes release of Libyan political prisoners



Released political prisoner Dr 'Omran 'Omar al-Turbi

The 32nd anniversary of Colonel Gaddafi's coming to power was marked in Libya by the release of dozens of political prisoners. The releases were announced on 27 August 2001 by The Gaddafi International Foundation for Charity Association, which is headed by a son of Colonel Gaddafi. Among those released was Ahmad al-Zubayr Ahmad al-Sanussi, Libya's longest-serving political prisoner. Accused of involvement in an attempted coup in 1970, he

had been held for 31 years – many in solitary confinement.

The released political prisoners include 20 men who were detained in 1984 in a clamp-down on government opponents after an attack on the Bab al-'Aziziya Barracks in Tripoli. One was Dr 'Omran 'Omar al-Turbi, a 51-year-old dentist who was among hundreds arrested in connection with alleged membership of the opposition group the National Front for the Salvation of Libya. Since his arrest on 28 May 1984 he had been held without charge or trial. AI has campaigned on his behalf since the late 1980s.

AI welcomes the prisoners' release but is concerned about the hundreds of remaining political prisoners in Libya, many of whom have been detained for more than a decade. Many political prisoners are being held without charge or trial, while it is feared that others face unfair trials.

In March 2001 a trial began of some 150 imprisoned professionals, including engineers, doctors and university lecturers. The majority of them were arrested in mid-1998 under suspicion of supporting or sympathizing with the Libyan Islamic Group, which is banned in Libya. The group is not known to advocate violence and these detainees may be prisoners of conscience. The authorities denied knowledge of their whereabouts for almost three years and their relatives were only recently allowed to meet them in the context of the trial hearings.

AI is concerned that international fair trial standards have been violated in these proceedings. AI calls on the Libyan authorities to ensure that in accordance with its international obligations all detainees are brought before a judge immediately after arrest, that they are humanely treated and have access to the outside world. All prisoners of conscience should be immediately and unconditionally released.

A high price for justice in Guatemala

Anti-impunity trial leads to intimidation and harassment



Banner outside the court: "Justice. A tribute to a just man... a martyr to the truth", 8 June 2001

Bishop Juan José Gerardi was battered to death in April 1998, two days after he publicly presented the Guatemalan church's in-depth study of the conflict years. The report found the army and its civilian auxiliaries, the civil patrols, responsible for the vast majority of the tens of thousands of "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions carried out, principally against members of non-combatant indigenous communities over a period of more than 30 years.

Three army officers were convicted of his murder in June 2001 and given long prison sentences, the first conviction of high level officials in Guatemala for a human rights violation. However, the cost of that one successful prosecution has been high. At least a dozen people involved in the case fled the country after receiving threats and other intimidation. They included a judge and two prosecutors, one of whom went into exile after finding army officers staking out his house. Three witnesses who stayed paid with their lives as did six people who were sleeping near Bishop Gerardi's house the night he was killed. A grenade attack was launched against the home of trial judge Yasmín Barrios the evening before proceedings reopened in March 2001.

Following the verdict, the convicted men have appealed their sentences. The case has been left open against other

senior military allegedly involved in the killing and the abuses have continued. The judge who passed sentence, the prosecution lawyers and the public prosecutor responsible for the final stages of the proceedings have all since reported death threats. The latter has now fled the country. One witness was told to withdraw his testimony or his wife would be kidnapped and murdered. Another went into hiding abroad. Judge Barrios saw a helicopter hovering over her home. In the past this type of surveillance has often been followed by fatal attacks.

The experiences of those involved in the Gerardi case are symptomatic of the risks faced by human rights activists and others fighting impunity in Guatemala. Recently, death

threats, office break-ins and attacks against them have been so intense that they are virtually under siege. As in the past, authorities blamed many of the incidents on common crime, but during several of the break-ins important data relating to efforts to bring perpetrators of past abuses to justice has been stolen. Targeted organizations and individuals have apparently been subjected to electronic surveillance and their computers hacked into and important information altered or destroyed.

Foreigners have also been subjected to abuses. A US nun, active in human rights work, may have been the victim of an extrajudicial execution in May this year, and in June an AI mission delegate was seized from outside her hotel room, bound and gagged and left in the internal fire-escape stairwell of the hotel. She was found by colleagues several hours later.

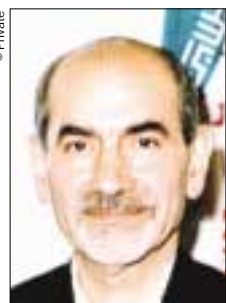
AI is concerned that these acts are intended to intimidate, undermine and ultimately silence organizations and people who are courageously trying to combat impunity and seek justice. The authorities' failure to investigate these incidents gives a clear signal that perpetrators can continue to get away with murder.

REMEMBER...AI members should not take up cases from their own countries

worldwide appeals

IRAN

Incommunicado detention of prisoners of conscience



Mohammad Tavassoli (pictured), aged 63, has been in solitary confinement since 8 April 2001. He is a Central Council member and head of the political office of the banned *Nehzat-e Azadi-ye Iran*, Iran Freedom Movement (IFM), a non-violent political group which advocates social and legal reform in Iran.

Mohammad Tavassoli was one of around 60 people who were arrested, many at their homes, in March and April 2001. They are accused of espionage and seeking to overthrow the government. Many are not aware of the charges against them and have been denied access to family or legal representation. While 15 of the group were released on bail on 6 September, and smaller numbers both before and after that, over 30 remain in detention.

Many of the remaining detainees are being held in unspecified prisons said to be run by the Revolutionary Guards without supervision by relevant authorities. Many suffer from ill health. Dr Reza Reiss-Toosi, aged 65, reportedly suffers from arthritis and a slipped disc. His family fear that he may not be able to tolerate the physical

pressures of being kept in solitary confinement. Other families have faced a lack of cooperation from the judiciary: according to reports received by AI, in March 2001 the judge handling the case of detainee Dr Habibollah Peyman reportedly told his wife, "You do not need to know where he is".

The families of the detainees have sent a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, protesting against the continued incommunicado detention of their relatives in unknown locations; the denial of their right to legal counsel; the use of psychological pressure to extract "confessions"; and threats and pressure brought on political prisoners' families to remain silent and not publicly protest against the unlawful acts of state security agents.

➔ Please write calling for the immediate and unconditional release of these prisoners of conscience. Send appeals to: Leader of the Islamic Republic, His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei, The Presidency, Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Telegrams: Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran, Iran.

If you have access to e-mail, we urge you to copy your appeal to the families of the detainees as an act of solidarity:
families-of-iranian-prisoners-of-conscience@justice.com

ANGOLA

Prisoner of conscience detained for publishing on the Internet

João Zaba, a former employee of the World Bank in Cabinda, was arrested in May 2001 after publishing an opinion piece on the Internet expressing his support for the independence of Cabinda.

Cabinda is an Angolan enclave separated by a strip of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Factions of the *Frente para a Libertação do Enclave de Cabinda*, Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave, are fighting for independence from Angola.

João Zaba was convicted on 12 July of undermining the security of the state and incitement to violence and sentenced to nine months imprisonment. AI considers

him a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression, which is guaranteed by the Angolan Constitution as well as the international human rights treaties Angola has agreed to abide by.

At the trial by the Cabinda Regional Court his defence lawyer called for his acquittal on the basis that the charges against him were not criminal but political and that other people from Cabinda often expressed similar views in national newspapers without being arrested or charged. He is currently being held at Yabi prison, about 14 km from Cabinda city.

➔ Please write calling for João Zaba's immediate and unconditional release, saying that AI considers him a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for peacefully expressing his political opinions.

Send appeals to: His Excellency President José Eduardo dos Santos, Presidente da República, Gabinete do Presidente da República, Palácio do Povo, Luanda, República de Angola; and to: His Excellency José Amaro Tati, Governador Provincial, Palácio do Governo Provincial, Cabinda, República de Angola.

NEW TORTURE INVESTIGATION MANUAL PUBLISHED

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has published, in its Professional Training series, the *Istanbul Protocol on the investigation and documentation of torture*. The Protocol sets out detailed medical and procedural approaches to investigation and was developed over three years by doctors, lawyers and others working against torture. The Protocol is available online at: www.unhcr.ch/pdf/8istprot.pdf

TORTURE TRADE REPORT PROGRESS

After the publication of the AI report, *Stopping the torture trade*, in February 2001, the UN Commission on Human Rights decided to launch an official study of the trade and production in torture equipment (Resolution 2001/62). The European Commission (EU) is expected to present a draft regulation introducing a ban on the trade of torture equipment for discussion and voting by the EU Council of Ministers later this year. In response to AI criticism, the US Congress is preparing a ban on the export of crime control equipment if the foreign government has repeatedly engaged in acts of torture, and placed a total export ban on torture equipment including saps (truncheons), thumb cuffs, leg irons, and electro-shock stun belts.

AI LOBBIES COMMONWEALTH MEETING

The heads of government of the Commonwealth nations will be meeting in Brisbane, Australia, on 6 to 9 October 2001. AI is lobbying the meeting for human rights concerns in the Commonwealth to be on the agenda. More information on how you can take part in this action is available at: www.amnesty.org.nz/chogm

JAMAICA

Beaten in his mother's arms



Richard Williams (pictured) was fatally shot by police on 8 June 2001 in Spanish Town, Jamaica, after being beaten for over an hour in front of colleagues at the boatyard where he worked. His mother arrived after hearing his screams and tried to intervene. She says that the beating continued as she held her son in her arms and she too was beaten and stamped on. Police then shot her son dead. Witnesses allege that after he was shot a gun was planted on him.

Family members have since been intimidated and on 6 August 2001, two members of his family were arrested and detained at a Kingston lock-up. One of them, Levan Linton, remains in custody. AI is deeply concerned that the investigation into the incident is being undermined by attempts by police officers to intimidate and harass his family members.

➔ Please write, expressing concern at the killing of Richard Williams by police officers, in circumstances suggesting that he had been extrajudicially executed. Call for the killing to be fully investigated, those responsible be brought to justice and the family and witnesses to be protected from further intimidation.

Send appeals to: The Hon. KD Knight, Minister for National Security and Justice, Mutual Life Building, North Tower, 2 Oxford Road, PO Box 472, Kingston 5, Jamaica; and to: Kent Pantry Q.C., Director of Public Prosecutions, Public Building West, King Street, Kingston, Jamaica.

updates

COLOMBIA



On 6 October 2000 human rights activists Angel Quintero (pictured) and Claudia Patricia Monsalve "disappeared" in Medellín, Colombia. One year on their whereabouts have still not been established.

The on-going investigation into their "disappearance" has revealed that thousands of telephone lines, including

those of the organization that they worked for, the *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos* (ASFADDES), Association of Relatives of the Detained Disappeared, and other non-governmental organizations have been illegally tapped by security forces. The security forces continue to be actively implicated in the persecution and harassment of human rights defenders. It is essential for the protection of all human rights defenders that any security force agent implicated in these "disappearances" is brought to justice.

Please write, calling for all those involved in the ordering, planning and carrying out of the "disappearance" of Angel Quintero and Claudia Patricia Monsalve to be brought to justice and for the urgent revision of intelligence files holding information which could be used to persecute human rights defenders. Send appeals to: Presidente Andrés Pastrana Arango, Presidente de la República, Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 no. 7/26, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia. Fax: +57 1 286 7434/287 7939/284 2186; and to your own government, asking that they mention the case of Angel Quintero and Claudia Patricia Monsalve and express their concern for the work of human rights defenders in Colombia.

LAOS



This month, 60-year-old Feng Sakchittaphong (pictured left) and Latsami Khamphoui (pictured right) will have spent the last 11 years in extremely harsh conditions of imprisonment. They were arrested in October 1990 with their friend Thongsouk Saysangkhi after writing letters advocating peaceful political and economic change. Thongsouk died in February 1998, having been consistently denied medical treatment he urgently needed.

Sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment in November 1992 on national security charges, both prisoners of conscience have at least another three years to serve before they will be released. Both are held in darkness for most of the time and are in poor health. It is feared they will not survive. AI continues to campaign for their release and has featured them in its campaign against torture.

Please write, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Latsami Khamphoui and Feng Sakchittaphong, expressing grave concern at their poor health and calling for all appropriate medical treatment to be made available to them. Send appeals to: His Excellency Khamtay Siphandone, President, Office of the President, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.



Outgoing Secretary General Pierre Sané officially hands over to his recently appointed successor, Irene Khan

Change in the air for AI

The 2001 International Council meeting sets a new course for the future of AI

On 17 to 25 August the International Council meeting (ICM), the highest policy-making body of AI, met in Dakar, Senegal. Among the 400 delegates were representatives from all sections, guests representing some national structures that are on the way to becoming sections, members of the International Executive Committee (IEC), other members of AI's volunteer leadership, and selected staff from the International Secretariat. A series of far-reaching decisions were made that will decisively strengthen the work of AI in the coming years.

After much debate it was agreed that the statute which defines AI's mandate should be changed to say that AI's work is focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of promoting all human rights. This unanimous decision clearly lays the basis for AI responding to a much broader range of human rights concerns than it has in the past. It enables us to tackle some abuses of economic, social and cultural rights, and to focus more effectively on the main human rights concerns in different countries, unconstrained by the limits of the previous mandate.

The ICM unanimously endorsed a new campaigning strategy for AI. In the future, AI will run long-term or permanent campaigns on key themes like the death penalty, children's rights and prison conditions, in parallel with other work. This will overcome the problem of AI building up expertise and enthusiasm on an area of work, only to see it halted at the end of a fixed-term campaign. It should also help to give us a clearer

public identity and enable us to cooperate more effectively with other non-governmental organizations. These campaigns will be complemented by a new media strategy, with a big push on electronic media, and by improved country action programs. The scope of our campaigning will also be broadened so that we put more pressure on international financial institutions to consider, for example, the human rights impact of their economic reform programs.

AI's policy on members working on human rights issues in their own country was also changed. With the approval of the IEC, sections may now oppose specific human rights abuses in their own country, and there will be pilot projects to assess the merits of sections undertaking their own research.

Resolutions on AI's decision-making procedures and development program will help to promote new flexibility, dynamism and growth in the organization.

In this atmosphere of change, Pierre Sané, the outgoing Secretary General, officially handed over to his recently appointed successor, Irene Khan, symbolizing the start of a new period in the life of AI. While looking to the future, the ICM also gave delegates the opportunity to reflect on past achievements and the importance of AI's mission. The President of Senegal, himself a former prisoner of conscience, spoke to the meeting about how much he appreciated the ICM coming to Dakar and AI members from Togo and Senegal talked about how AI had helped them and their fellow citizens over the last two years. Their moving testimony, and the sense of all that had been achieved at the ICM, left delegates with a renewed sense of commitment to AI's work for human rights.

UN conference fails

The UN Conference on Small Arms broke up without agreement on 20 July. At the conference, Canada, Norway and the countries of the European Union pressed for clear agreement that small arms should not be exported where there is a real risk that they will be used to violate human rights, fuel foreign aggression, or where excessive arms purchases divert resources needed to combat poverty. However, moves to secure such commitments were blocked by a large number of governments, including those of the USA, China, many ASEAN countries, the Arab Group and South Africa.

Hundreds of non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives from around the world attended the conference. AI and Oxfam International proposed a plan of action that would bring about real improvements in war-torn countries and those suffering repression. Their plan included legally binding international conventions to control arms exports and regulate the shady world of arms brokers and traffickers. However, UN delegates could not even reach agreement on the whole of the weaker draft program of action proposed by the chair of the conference.

"We are all very angry at the conference's failure, but are determined to step up our campaigning to control small arms and cut the killing," said Brian Wood of the International Secretariat, who was among the AI delegates who attended the conference.

AI is working with many other NGOs, including Oxfam International, Human Rights Watch, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Arias Foundation, to achieve real controls on small arms.



Sculpture of small arms displayed at the UN conference in July 2001

AI appalled at devastating attacks on civilians in USA

On 11 September, as this issue of *the Wire* was going to press, attacks in the USA involving the hijacking of civilian aircraft resulted in thousands of men, women and children being killed, maimed or injured.

AI expressed outrage at the attacks and condemned them in the strongest terms. Whether they were carried out by a state or an armed political group, the attacks amount to the gravest abuses of fundamental human rights and basic principles of humanity.

AI calls for those responsible for these attacks to be brought to justice, in full accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law. But in seeking justice for the victims of this terrible crime, the world must exercise the highest respect for the rights of all individuals. International solidarity with the victims is not about seeking revenge but about cooperating within the rule of law in bringing those responsible to justice. Scapegoating individuals or communities will achieve nothing.

It is important for us all to see that hatred does not become the order of the day; that fear does not become an excuse for the violation of rights and that we all remember our common humanity. We must be compassionate in our support for the victims, determined in our search for justice and vigilant about the rights of all people.

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On 20 April 2001, the UN Committee against Torture called on the Senegalese authorities "not to expel Hisssein Habré and to take all necessary measures to prevent him leaving the country except in accordance with an extradition request".

The campaign against the impunity of those responsible for mass violations of human rights committed during the government of Hisssein Habré continues. As well as legal action in Senegal, complaints have been made in Belgium against the former president of Chad, accusing him of acts of torture and other crimes against

humanity. Other complaints have been made in Chad against members of the DDS for acts of torture. AI welcomes any initiative that would lead to the perpetrators of human rights abuses being brought to justice, provided that they are given a fair trial and are not subjected to ill-treatment or the death penalty. AI is also campaigning for those responsible for human rights abuses under the government of Idriss Déby, Hisssein Habré's successor, to be brought to justice. Many of Hisssein Habré's collaborators continue to occupy positions of authority within the government or security forces of Chad.

REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS

Chad: The Habré Legacy
(AI Index: AFR 20/004/2001)

Iraq: Systematic torture of political prisoners
(AI Index: MDE 14/008/2001)

Brazil: 'They treat us like animals' Torture and ill-treatment in Brazil
(AI Index: AMR 19/022/2001)

Haiti: Steps forward, steps back: human rights 10 years after the coup
(AI Index: AMR 36/010/2001)



Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom
www.amnesty.org
email: newsletter@amnesty.org
subscriptions:
ppmsteam@amnesty.org