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AI Prisoners Released in Spanish Amnesty

A number of AI-adopted prisoners were released in the amnesty decree which became law in Spain on 4 August.

They include Simon SANCHEZ MONTERO, an executive member of the Communist Party of Spain who had been released under the pardon in November 1975 and was re-arrested in February 1976; José UNANUE, a leading member of the Basque Communist Party; Captains Luís OTERO and Fermin IBARRA, army officers accused of membership of the clandestine officers' association—the *Unión Militar Democrática*—and convicted in March 1976 of sedition; and seven conscientious objectors arrested in February this year.

Several prisoners charged in connection with the Basque separatist movement ETA and the Marxist splinter group FRAP have also been released.

The amnesty decree covers all those convicted or awaiting trial for politically motivated offences, provided that they have not caused or risked physical injury to others or endangered lives. Included are conscientious objectors, military officers charged with sedition or rebellion and those dismissed from state posts for their political beliefs, such as university professors and members of the civil service.

Those sought by the police for political offences who have left the country may now apply to the Spanish embassies in the countries where they are living for passports to return to Spain.

Government sources have said that 160 prisoners had been released under the amnesty by 14 August. However, lawyers have pointed out that the great majority of releases so far have been of conscientious objectors (most of them Jehovah's Witnesses) and others released from military jails who are not, strictly speaking, political prisoners.

There have been few releases so far from Spain's top security jails where the majority of political prisoners are held, and prisoners in some of these jails, including Carabanchel, Ocana and Jaen, have been on hunger strike since 4 August in protest against what they regard as a partial amnesty.

The 30 July decree is the first political amnesty to be pronounced in Spain since the civil war ended in 1939. Then an amnesty released all who had fought for the National Movement both during the Republic and during the civil war, regardless of the offence committed.

• **Changes in the Law:** Apart from the releases under the 30 July amnesty, leading members of the Communist Party of Spain

and others serving long sentences have been released, following the recent modification of the penal code. This now provides for a maximum sentence of 6 years for illicit association and 6 years for illegal propaganda.

Among those released are Lucio LOBATO, who has spent a total of 24 years in prison for membership of the Communist Party, Francisco ROMERO MARIN, also a member of the Communist Party, and José Luís DIAZ FERNANDEZ, Jesús DIZ GOMEZ and Jorge DIZ GOMEZ who were sentenced to between 15 and 18 years for illicit association in connection with FRAP in September 1975 and to whose trial AI sent an observer.

8-YEAR SENTENCES PASSED IN SOUTH KOREAN TRIAL

Eight-year sentences were imposed on four defendants when the trial of 18 prominent opposition and church leaders in South Korea ended on 29 August (July Newsletter).

The former President of South Korea, YUN Po Sun, who is aged 78, and former opposition presidential candidate KIM Dae Jung were each sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment.

HAHM Suk Hon, a prominent Quaker leader and civil rights campaigner, and MOON Ik Hwan, a Christian clergyman, also received sentences of 8 years.

Nine other defendants, including former Foreign Minister CHUNG Il Hyung, received sentences of 5 years. Sentences
continued on page 4, column 4

MORE SOVIET DISSIDENTS IN PSYCHIATRIC DETENTION

Five previously unknown cases of Soviet dissenters confined to psychiatric hospitals in the Soviet Union were reported in August.

Four of the cases were included in issue number 40 of the Moscow *samizdat* human rights journal *A Chronicle of Current Events*. The fifth and most recent case was the subject of two appeals from Soviet citizens to the World Council of Churches.

The cases reported in the *Chronicle* included Mikhail ZVEREV and a person identified only as POPOV (the *Chronicle* had not learned his first name) who were both diagnosed as mentally ill in separate cases after being detained for writing "anti-Soviet" articles or poems. The *Chronicle*

MORE ARRESTS FOLLOW SOUTH AFRICAN UNREST

Winnie MANDELA, a former AI-adoptee and wife of imprisoned African nationalist leader Nelson MANDELA, was among more than 60 people arrested over the weekend 13-15 August in South Africa.

More than 1,000 people have been detained nationally since the June outbreak of rioting in the black township of Soweto, near Johannesburg, in protest against government policies (August Newsletter).

Mrs Mandela is a prominent member of the executive of the Black Parents' Association (BPA), an organization formed after the original Soweto riots to voice black grievances. She was arrested with BPA chairman Manas BUTHELEZI and other members of the executive. Mr Buthelezi was released shortly after arrest and is now the only member of the BPA executive not in detention.

Following the nation-wide unrest in June and July, 17 students at the Coloured University of the Western Cape were arrested when protesting the earlier detention of a number of student leaders. Detentions have also taken place in Durban and in King William's Town, East London where the arrest was reported on 18 August of Steve BIKO, a prominent young black community worker. A young black newspaper reporter was detained at the same time as Mr Biko.

In addition to detentions under the Terrorism Act, which allows for incommunicado detention for interrogation purposes, the South African authorities are also making extensive use of the recently-introduced Internal Security Amendment Act. This allows for indefinite detention on the grounds of public security, subject to annual review *in camera*.

also reported the cases of Anatoly UVAROV, who was sent to Moscow's Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry after he was detained near the Swedish embassy in Moscow carrying placards demanding that he be allowed to emigrate, and Victor MARESIN, diagnosed as mentally ill in Kiev after he expressed "anti-Soviet views" while under investigation for alleged counterfeiting.

The most recent case is that of Alexander ARGENTOV, a participant in a seminar operated by a number of young Orthodox Christians in Moscow. A number of participants of the seminar have been harassed by the police for "anti-Soviet activities". Mr

continued on page 2, column 1

More Soviet Dissidents in Psychiatric Detention

Continued from page 1, column 3

Argentov was sent for psychiatric examination on 14 July, confined to an ordinary psychiatric hospital in Moscow on the same day and subjected to a course of treatment with neuroleptic drugs starting on 16 July. According to the authors of two appeals on his behalf, he is not mentally ill.

• **AI Member Disciplined:** Imprisoned AI member SERGEI KOVALYOV has been subjected to disciplinary measures in colony VS 389/36 in Perm region, according to reports received in July from the Soviet Union.

In February Dr Kovalyov was deprived of his next visit from his wife, (strict regime prisoners are allowed three visits each year). Some time later he was placed in a punishment isolation cell. By late May no letter had been received from Dr Kovalyov since February. Mrs Kovalyov wrote to the colony administration in late April asking whether her husband was alive, and was told that he was.

Dr Kovalyov, a member of AI's Moscow group, is presently serving a sentence of 7 years' strict regime imprisonment and 3 years in exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" (January Newsletter).

In a letter to USSR Procurator General Roman RUDENKO on 30 July, AI drew his attention to Dr Kovalyov's treatment. AI expressed concern that Dr Kovalyov had entered the familiar pattern of spiralling protest and punishment which is known to have undermined the well-being of a number of Soviet prisoners of conscience.

The letter asked Mr Rudenko to keep a close watch on the treatment of Dr Kovalyov. It also reminded the procurator general of AI's view that the imprisonment of Dr Kovalyov violates international human rights agreements to which the USSR is a party and Soviet domestic criminal law procedures. AI urged the procurator general to take steps to initiate a judicial review of the verdict and sentence in Dr Kovalyov's case. The aim of such steps would be to secure Dr Kovalyov's release ■

BANGLADESH EXECUTES GOVERNMENT OPPONENT

A Bangladesh government opponent was executed in Dacca Jail on 21 July, despite appeals for clemency from AI.

Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Mohammad Abu TAHER was among a number of leaders of the *Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal* (JSD—Socialist Nationalist Party) convicted on 19 July by a military tribunal on charges of attempting to overthrow the government. Colonel Taher was sentenced to death and other defendants received long terms of imprisonment (August Newsletter).

AI immediately appealed for clemency to Bangladesh President A.M. SAYEM and to Major General Ziaur RAHMAN, who is deputy chief martial law administrator, and asked that all the defendants be retried

before a civilian court.

On 10 August, Major General Rahman reported from Sri Lanka, where he was attending the Non-Aligned Conference, that Colonel Taher had been hanged on 21 July in Dacca Jail.

AI has expressed its deep distress that the death sentence has been carried out and stressed that the execution "constituted a departure from Bangladesh's humanitarian tradition not to execute political prisoners" ■

SOVIET PRISONERS' HEALTH CAUSES AI CONCERN

AI undertook action programs on 5 August for two adopted prisoners in the Soviet Union whose medical condition has caused serious concern. The two are Yakov SUSLENSKY and Vladimir BUKOVSKY (*Prisoners of the Month Campaign*, January 1974).

Mr Bukovsky is detained in Vladimir prison where he has been subjected to a series of punishments, including various degrees of deprivation of food. His health had previously suffered from several years of poor food and inadequate medical conditions in Soviet corrective institutions and the effect of several hunger strikes. He is known to suffer from heart, kidney and stomach disorders.

Mr Suslensky, a 48-year-old Jew from Moldavia, has been imprisoned since 1970 for writing letters criticizing the Warsaw Pact forces' occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the Soviet government's failure to intervene on behalf of Iraqi Jews executed in Baghdad in 1970. He was also charged with making tape recordings of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Russian-language broadcasts.

For the past 2½ years Mr Suslensky has been serving his 7 year sentence in Vladimir prison where he has been in permanent conflict with the administration over prison conditions. The consequent punishments, including reduction of food rations, have reportedly exacerbated Mr Suslensky's already serious health problems. He is known to have suffered for some time from heart, stomach and sinus ailments.

In March this year, either during or after a period in a punishment cell, Mr Suslensky suffered a major stroke which left him partially paralyzed temporarily and with impeded speech. He was sent to the prison hospital. On 5 August, AI undertook urgent action appeals to the Soviet Union authorities to release Mr Suslensky under Soviet legislation which permits the early release of prisoners who are chronically ill ■

AI PUBLISHES BRIEFING ON MALAWI

AI said on 8 August that more than 1,000 persons were currently detained without trial in Malawi. Some of them have been held untried for periods ranging up to several years.

In a nine-page briefing paper on Malawi, AI said that prolonged detention without trial in the African state was used as a means

of political control and intimidation of potential opposition to the government of President Hastings BANDA.

Most of the untried detainees are held under the Public Security Regulations introduced in February 1965 in the wake of a split in Dr Banda's post-independence cabinet. The number of detainees has rarely dropped below 500 since that time.

Since 1973, a new detention center at Mikuyu, in flat scrubland 13 kilometers east of the town of Zomba, has been used to house long term detainees. Conditions at Mikuyu are bad, with overcrowding, lack of adequate facilities for exercise, and poor diet. AI has received reports of deaths in detention, and of detainees suffering physical or mental collapse.

The paper also reports the extensive use of the death penalty and the persistent and brutal persecution of members of the Jehovah's Witnesses sect over their refusal on religious grounds to join Malawi's only political party, the Malawi Congress Party.

Amnesty International Briefing on Malawi: 9 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 ■

TRIAL POSTPONED OF 14 CZECH MUSICIANS

An Austrian lawyer, Henry GOLDMAN, sent by AI to observe the trial in Czechoslovakia of 14 young rock and roll musicians found the trial postponed when he arrived in Prague on 29 August. The trial was due to begin the next day.

The musicians belong to two groups, The Plastic People of the Universe and DG 307. They were arrested in March on charges of "arousing disturbance and nuisance in an organised manner".

The charges relate to activities, including texts, songs and music, which the musicians regard as an expression of their protest against established art and institutionalized life. All the musicians have been taken up collectively by AI as investigation cases. Three members of the groups have already been tried. They were sentenced in July.

The first trial took place in Pilzen/Bory. The court there sentenced Karel HAVELKA, a master builder aged 26, to 30 months, Miroslav SKALICKY, a carpenter aged 24, to 18 months and Frantisek STAREK, a forestry worker aged 24, to 8 months' imprisonment. All three have been adopted by AI

The trial of the other 14 musicians is expected to take place at the end of September. AI again hopes to send observers to the trial ■

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in July of the release of 66 AI-adopted prisoners and took up 180 new cases.

Prisoners of the Month Campaign

Participants in the campaign are reminded that appeals must only be sent to the officials named at the end of each case. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner. It is important for the prisoner that messages to the authorities are worded carefully and courteously and that they are never sectarian.

Abdul SAMAD bin Ismail, Malaysia
Abdul SAMAD bin Ismail, aged 52, is a leading Malay newspaper editor and writer who was arrested on 22 June 1976. He is internationally known as one of Malaysia's outstanding intellectual figures. He is the author of many short stories and essays and a prominent political commentator in both English and Malay language newspapers.

He was speechwriter and close adviser to the late Prime Minister Tun ABDUL RAZAK, and he served on many government agencies formulating policy on Malay language and culture and the mass media. Only one month before his arrest he was awarded the Literary Pioneer Award, Malaysia's highest literary prize, for his contributions to national literature. His arrest has caused shock and concern in Malaysia and abroad.

Born in Singapore, Mr Samad received only a secondary education in English and Malay. He was appointed a newspaper editor at the age of 16 during the Japanese occupation of Malaya. He was briefly detained during the period of British military administration for his anti-British articles. After his release, he joined the leading Malay language newspaper *Utusan Melayu* and became assistant editor. Through this position, he achieved prominence as a writer of articles and short stories.

In the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s, he was involved in the anti-colonial movement for independence led by the Malay Nationalist Party. In 1951 he was detained again by the British in Singapore for alleged communist activities, but he was never brought to trial. During his detention, Mr Samad's legal counsel was Lee Kuan Yew, who became Prime Minister of Singapore in 1959.

In 1953, after his release, Mr Samad returned to the *Utusan Melayu*. At the same time he joined with Lee Kuan Yew in forming the People's Action Party (PAP), which today is Singapore's ruling party. Mr Samad broke away from the PAP in 1957 following differences of opinion with Lee Kuan Yew and he became editor of *Berita Harian*, a Malay language newspaper launched by *The Straits Times* group in Singapore.

In 1959 Mr Samad moved to Kuala Lumpur when the editorial board of *The Straits Times* transferred there from Singapore. He now has Malaysian citizenship. He subsequently became managing editor of *The New Straits Times* newspaper group in Malaysia, the position he held at the time of his arrest.

Mr Samad was arrested in Kuala Lumpur on 22 June together with SAMANI bin Mohamed AMIN, news editor of the

Malaysian edition of *Berita Harian* (August Newsletter). The two men are detained under Malaysia's Internal Security Act (which allows indefinite imprisonment without trial) on allegations of communist subversion. They were allegedly implicated in "confessions" made in neighbouring Singapore by two Malay journalists who had been arrested there a few days before.

The governments of Malaysia and Singapore allege that the journalists had been involved in a plot to influence the Malay population of the area towards communism through manipulation of the Malay language press.

Informed observers believe that political reasons lie behind the arrests, but the true facts may never emerge because Mr Samad and Mr Samani can be imprisoned without trial indefinitely under Malaysia's Internal Security Act.

Please send politely worded cards, urging a prompt and fair trial or immediate and unconditional release for Abdul Samad bin Ismail, to: Datuk Hussein bin Onn, Prime Minister, The Prime Minister's Office, Jalan Datuk Onn, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; *and to:* Tan Sri Ghazali bin Shafie, Minister of Home Affairs, The Ministry of Home Affairs, Jalan Datuk Onn, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Enrique ERRO, Argentina

Enrique ERRO, a well known Uruguayan politician, was born in Montevideo in 1902. He studied law at university and has worked as a teacher of philosophy and a professional journalist. He was also an active member of the journalists' trade union in Uruguay and once represented the union at a world conference of journalists abroad.

In 1950 he was elected deputy for the *Partido Nacional* (National Party) and retained this position during three further elections (1954, 1958, 1962). In 1959 he was made minister of industry and works. However, his resistance to policies of international investment in Uruguay caused him to be replaced. After 1962, in opposition to the conservative policies of the *Partido Nacional*, he joined with the socialist party in the creation of the popular front *Union Popular*.

In 1971, in conjunction with the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Christian Democrats and others, he helped form the coalition party *Frente Amplio* (Broad Front). As candidate for this party he was elected senator in 1971.

From 1972 onwards, he became one of the most active and courageous defenders of human rights in Uruguay, denouncing the practice of torture and the generalized

repression of the Uruguayan people. In May 1973, he became the center of a conflict between parliament and the executive power, which ended with parliament being dissolved and Enrique Erro becoming a political exile in Argentina.

On 7 March 1975, Enrique Erro was arrested in his hotel in the center of Buenos Aires by a group of Argentinian security agents. He was held in the Central Federal Police Station until 25 March without any reason being given for his arrest. He was then transferred to Villa Devoto prison. The prison governor told his wife it was for "reasons of security" that he had been detained.

On 16 May 1975 he was transferred to Rawson prison, 1,500 kilometers to the south of Buenos Aires. On 19 June he was moved again, this time to Resistencia prison in the extreme north of Argentina. At the beginning of May 1976 he was taken back to Villa Devoto and a month later to Rawson, where he is still being held.

The situation of Enrique Erro's health is said to be very serious indeed and reports state that if he is not shortly released he is liable to die in detention. He is now 74 years old, and he suffers from hepatitis. Rawson is notorious for having the harshest prison conditions throughout the whole of Argentina. Prisoners are not accorded proper medical attention and receive a completely inadequate diet lacking in any kind of salt or sugar content. In these circumstances Enrique Erro's condition can only deteriorate.

Please send courteously worded appeals for his release to: Excelentísimo Gral. Jorge Rafael Videla, Presidente de la Republica de Argentina, Casa Rosada, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Ernst WILHELM, German Democratic Republic

Ernst WILHELM, born in 1944, has been imprisoned in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) since 1970 for acts of conscience.

Herr Wilhelm studied physics at the Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg and subsequently worked as editor on the *Technisches Zentralblatt* in Berlin. In 1969 he was appointed assistant at the Institut für Informatik of the Humboldt University in Berlin. He openly dissented from certain aspects of official policy: for example in 1968 when he distributed leaflets protesting against the Warsaw Pact forces' occupation of Czechoslovakia.

In 1970 Herr Wilhelm tried to leave the GDR illegally through neighbouring Hungary. He was captured in Hungary, returned to the GDR and brought before a Berlin court in May 1971. He was found guilty of attempting to leave the country illegally—the offence of which most prisoners of conscience in the GDR are convicted. He was also found guilty of "incitement hostile to the state". This was the second time that Herr Wilhelm had been

continued on page 4, column 1

Ernst Wilhelm, German Democratic Republic
Continued from page 3, column 3

charged with this offence, which consisted of making statements critical of the authorities. He was also convicted of having helped friends to leave the GDR illegally, which he had done for humanitarian reasons rather than for any profit. He was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment.

Ernst Wilhelm is serving his sentence in Brandenburg Prison. He has been subjected to various punishments for trying to educate fellow prisoners and for refusing to do compulsory prison labour. He has also engaged in at least one hunger strike in protest against conditions in that prison. Ernst Wilhelm's mother or another relative are only allowed to visit him for 30 minutes once every three months, and he is allowed to receive only one letter each month.

Please send courteously worded appeals for the release of Ernst Wilhelm to: Herrn Willi Stoph, Vorsitzender des Staatsrates der DDR (Chairman of the Council of the State of the GDR), Berlin Niederschönhausen, Carl von Ossietzky Strasse, German Democratic Republic.

ZAMBIA RELEASES 16 ADOPTED PRISONERS

Fifteen University of Zambia students and a *Times of Zambia* journalist held without charge since February and March were released on 4 August. All 16 detainees had been adopted by *AI*.

Two more students and a university lecturer, Younus LULAT, also adopted, remain in detention. All three were also *AI* adoptees (*Prisoners of the Month Campaign*, August Newsletter).

The students, Mr Lulat and three expatriate lecturers were all detained following campus demonstrations in support of British political science lecturer Lionel CLIFFE, detained on 31 January following President Kenneth KAUNDA's declaration of a full state of emergency in Zambia. Dr Cliffe and the three other lecturers were released and deported at the end of March. The students, together with the journalist and Mr Lulat, remained in detention.

It is not yet known whether the released students will be able to resume their studies at the university, although latest reports indicate that they will.

AI APPEALS AGAINST DEATH SENTENCES IN EUROPE

AI undertook urgent action appeals on 2 August to the governments of the Republic of Ireland, France, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union for commutation of sentences of death against citizens of these countries.

This came five days after a French citizen, Christian RANUCCI, was executed by guillotine for the murder of a child and two days after an Irish appeal court had confirmed the sentence of death against a married couple, Noel and Marie MURRAY. Mr and Mrs Murray were convicted of the murder of a policeman during a bank robbery.

The other subjects of the *AI* appeals were Moussa BENZHARA of France, P.B. KIRILLOV and B.P. ROGOZHIN of the Soviet Union, and Nicolas CHAMURLISKY of Bulgaria. All except Mr Chamurlisky were sentenced to death after being convicted of murder. Mr Chamurlisky was convicted in November 1975 of espionage, and *AI* is concerned that the real reason for his conviction and death sentence may have been his political criticism of the Bulgarian authorities.

A week after the execution of Christian Ranucci on 28 July, French President Valery GISCARD D'ESTAING commuted the death sentence on Moussa Benzharah.

AI URGES END TO EXECUTIONS IN SUDAN

AI cabled President Jaafir AL-NEMERY of Sudan on 5 August expressing "profound disquiet" at the execution in the previous 24 hours of 98 persons found guilty of participating in an abortive coup on 2 July.

The cable urged clemency for anyone sentenced to death in a series of trials taking place in the country's capital Khartoum and elsewhere in Sudan.

Some 200 persons still face trial by special tribunals for their alleged involvement in the coup attempt which Sudanese authorities claim was organized by the Sudanese National Front. The latter is a coalition of the major center and rightwing parties which have been banned since President Nemery took power in a 1969 coup.

IRAQI WRITER RELEASED

AI recently learned of the release of 26-year-old Iraqi writer Abdul Sattar NASIR (December 1975 Newsletter).

He was arrested in January 1975 after an article he wrote was published in Lebanon. The article was indirectly critical of the Iraqi government.

Mr Nasir was reportedly released about eight months ago.

GHANA BARS AI OBSERVER FROM TRIAL OF POET

Ghana barred an *AI* observer from attending the trial in August of poet and author Kofi AWOONOR.

Dr Awoonor, aged 31, one of Africa's best known literary figures, went on trial before a specially constituted court in Accra on 20 August. He was charged with harbouring Brigadier Alphonse Kojo KATTA, who the government alleges was the leader of a coup plot last year and who is now in hiding outside Ghana.

Ghana had granted British magistrate Sir Osmond Williams an entry visa on 30 July, for the purpose of observing a number of political trials on behalf of *AI*, including Dr Awoonor's. But several hours before Sir Osmond was due to depart on 23 August, Ghanaian officials informed *AI* that the permit had been cancelled. No explanation was given.

The trials are the outcome of the arrest of approximately 200 persons in Ghana

following a government reshuffle in October 1975. Most of those detained were military personnel accused of subversion in connection with an alleged plot to overthrow the government of Head of State General Ignatius ACHEAMPONG. But also held were a number of civilians, including Dr Awoonor.

In July, a military tribunal sentenced five of the detainees to death, imposed prison sentences of 20 and 15 years on two others and acquitted another. In addition to Dr Awoonor's current trial, four more soldiers charged with plotting the military regime's overthrow were expected to go on trial on 25 August.

AI is particularly concerned at the last-minute cancellation of Sir Osmond Williams' visa because of the serious allegations of torture made by the detainees since January. During the trial completed in July, a number of the defendants, including the most senior of the accused, Captain Kojo TSIKATA, said they were brutally tortured into making confessions.

UGANDA ARMY RAIDS 'KILLED STUDENTS'

AI urged President Idi AMIN of Uganda on 18 August to set up an inquiry into reported shootings of more than 100 students during army raids on Makerere University, Kampala during early August.

The university has several times this year expressed opposition to the government of President Amin and demanded inquiries into deaths and disappearances among its members.

When the new academic year started in July student leaders addressed meetings and issued pamphlets describing President Amin as a murderer who had destroyed Uganda's economy. Attempts were made to arrange demonstrations but this is illegal in Uganda and troops appeared on the campus. Finally on 3 August 2,000 students gathered at Makerere to read a list of grievances. The army reportedly undertook a series of brutal raids which lasted for three days and in which many students died or were injured.

8-Year sentences Passed in South Korean Trial

Continued from page 1, column 2

ranging from 2 to 4 years were imposed on five other defendants.

All 18 defendants were on trial in connection with a declaration read out in a Seoul cathedral which called for freedom of political opposition and the press, the release of political prisoners and restoration of independence of the judiciary.

At a court hearing earlier in August defence lawyers walked out, protesting that a fair trial was impossible. The panel of three judges had refused to hear the evidence of all 16 defence witnesses.

On 31 August, *AI* protested to President PARK Chung-hee of the Republic of Korea over the heavy sentences. It said the organization was deeply concerned at irregularities in the trial. In a statement issued that day *AI* said the sentences imposed for what was a peaceful act of conscience were a gross miscarriage of justice and a gross violation of the defendants' human rights.

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Uruguayan Refugees Kidnapped and Tortured in Argentina

SITUATION WORSENS IN INDIA

Prior to the emergency declaration in India in June 1975, allegations of torture received by *AI* were confined to the provinces of West Bengal and Bihar, where the revolutionary marxist Naxalite movement had strong support. Recently, however, there have been incidental reports of torture emanating from different parts of India.

Three students from Delhi and New Delhi universities have alleged that they were detained on 23 June 1976 and badly beaten over a five-day period in an effort to force confessions of subversive activity from them. In a signed deposition, one of these students, Jasbir SINGH, says:

My hands and feet were tied to a pole which was rested on two chairs and I was hanged between the two chairs. In this position, I was made to "swing" from side to side, owing to which first I started vomiting and, later on, vomiting blood.

Similar reports of torture come from the southern province of Kerala.

Another documented case concerns Lawrence FERNANDEZ, brother of the Socialist Party leader George FERNANDEZ. Lawrence Fernandez was arrested in May and allegedly tortured in an effort to extract information concerning George's whereabouts. George was subsequently arrested. The following statement comes from the mother of the Fernandez brothers:

On May 21, after waiting for over three hours from 10.45 am, at about 2 pm I was taken to the cell to see him [Lawrence], but not the lawyer. I found him looking dead. He was unable to move except with two persons helping him about, and then, too, with great pain and limping. His left side is without use as if crippled, and both his left leg and hand are still swollen. He is in a mentally and physically wrecked condition and is unable to talk freely without faltering. He is terribly nervous and mortally afraid of police, of anyone in khaki uniform, of the approaching sound of anyone walking with shoes on, or of any other person, all of whom he fears to be interrogators and tormentors.

The torture allegations from throughout the country should be seen in the context of the government's suspension of all fundamental rights formerly guaranteed to Indian citizens. These include systematic amendments to the constitution and the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, which have removed all legal safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention, including the right of *habeas corpus*.

At least 40,000 and perhaps as many as 100,000 political prisoners remain detained; senior officials have been granted immunity from legal action and the courts have been deprived of jurisdiction to review legal action which claims that the emergency powers have been misused.

By ruling last April that *habeas corpus* petitions were not admissible in any court so long as the emergency remains in force, the Supreme Court of India has removed the most important protection against the ill-treatment of detainees. In the single dissenting judgement from that ruling Justice H.R. KHANNA was of the opinion that

...the position would be that, so far as the

Convincing evidence that the campaign of terror against refugees in Argentina has increased dramatically since the March 1976 coup there comes from 12 Uruguayan refugees, including three children, who arrived in Paris in mid-July.

Three of the refugees—one woman and two men—had been kidnapped and severely tortured during captivity by unknown assailants, whom the victims believe to have included both Uruguayans and Argentinians. The three torture victims were abducted in Buenos Aires on 6 July by about 30 armed men, who hooded them and bundled them into a car and took them to what they believe to be a private house in the countryside.

The three were released on 13 July, the same day that 23 other Uruguayan refugees, including 11 women and two children, were abducted in Buenos Aires. *AI* believes that it is unlikely that many of these 23 are still alive.

The three torture victims now in Paris were photographed and fingerprinted while in captivity in Argentina. They were also shown lists of names of other Uruguayan refugees who were being sought. Some of the names were marked with a cross. They were told this meant that the persons were marked for death.

Prior to a news conference in Paris sponsored by *AI*'s French section, the torture victims were examined by two members of the *AI* Danish doctors' team. The doctors confirmed that the marks and symptoms on the victims are consistent with their allegations. They were also consistent with marks and symptoms shown by other victims of torture examined in the past by this team in Greece and among Latin American refugees in Scandinavia.

The woman victim, aged about 22, has marks of electrical shocks over her breasts and thighs and a very bad bruise on her spine. She has cigarette burns on her wrists, breasts, arms and legs.

She stated that she also had buckets of freezing cold water thrown over her (it is now winter in Argentina). She is currently undergoing tests for tuberculosis and bronchitis. She further alleges that she was raped in front of her two companions.

One of the male victims, aged about 25, has electric shock marks on his chest, navel and the top of his legs, as well as bruises on his legs, severe cigarette burns on his arms and legs and 40 cigarette burns on one hand. Besides similar marks, the second man, aged

government officers were concerned, they would not be governed by any law, they would not be answerable to any court, and they would be wielding more or less despotic powers in matters relating to the life and personal liberty of citizens.

about 24, shows symptoms of psychological stress from a former two-year period of solitary confinement in prison in Uruguay before his kidnapping in Argentina.

The refugees confirmed the substance of the following excerpt from a letter received in August by *AI* from other Uruguayan exile sources in Buenos Aires:

The Uruguayan security forces, with the tacit support of the Argentinian authorities, are those directly responsible for all that has happened to Uruguayan residents in Buenos Aires...At this moment it would be impossible for their families to negotiate for the life or liberty of these victims because their disappearance forms part of the so-called *Plan Mercúrio* destined to eliminate all Uruguayans of leftwing tendencies in both countries. This plan relies on the official support of the police authorities in both countries.

To this information the refugees who arrived in Paris add that there is a specially selected force of 600 Uruguayan army personnel operating in Argentina under the direction of a certain Colonel RAMIREZ, who, according to the refugees, recently arrived from the United States to direct the campaign. With his second-in-command, Campos HERMIDAS, he operates from private houses without any set headquarters in Argentina.

The particular targets for these semi-clandestine activities are Uruguayan trade unionists in Argentina, who have accounted for a relatively high percentage of the kidnap and murder victims in the last several months.

GHANAIAN DEATH SENTENCE BASED ON ALLEGED TORTURE EVIDENCE

Since January 1976 *AI* has received periodic reports of torture being used against some of the 150 mostly military personnel who were arrested in Ghana during November and December 1975.

No charges were brought against any of the 150 prisoners until May 1976, when eight of them were put on trial in Accra, the Ghanaian capital. The defendants were accused of subversion and conspiracy to commit subversion.

At the trial, which ended in August with five

continued on next page, column 1

appeals

South African Student Leader Dies in Custody

Mapetla MOHAPI, a 25-year-old South African student leader, died on 5 August while being held in police custody. The official reason given for his death is that he committed suicide by hanging himself.

There is reason to believe that if Mr Mohapi's death was indeed from suicide, the precipitating cause was torture. The death occurred at the Kei Road Police station near East London, 21 days after Mr Mohapi was detained. He is the 24th known political detainee to have died in detention since 1963, and the second detainee to have died in the last six months.

His arrest in July was his second in two years. During his previous detention for 173 days without charge in 1974-75, he was allegedly seriously assaulted by security police. At that time he was arrested with other members of the South African Students Organization (SASO) and the Black Peoples' Convention (BCP). He was released and subsequently "banned" under the Suppression of Communism Act. Until his arrest this July, he had been working as an administrator with the Zimeli Trust Fund, a black organization which helps to rehabilitate newly released political prisoners.

Mr Mohapi's more recent arrest is believed to have been connected with the unrest following the disturbances in June and July in the African township of Soweto near Johannesburg. He was detained under section 6 of the Terrorism Act. This act and the newly introduced Internal Security Amendment Act empower the Minister of Justice to detain a person incommunicado and for an indefinite period without charge.

Both acts have been extensively used following the disturbances in Soweto and other black townships. It is not known how many persons have been detained by security police since the beginning of these disturbances in mid-June, but it is estimated that the figure exceeds 1,000.

Over the years there have been consistent allegations of torture of detainees in South Africa by the security police during interrogation. In March of this year Joseph MDLULI, former member of the banned African National Congress, died less than 24 hours after being detained by Durban Security Police under the Terrorism Act.

Four security policemen have since been charged with culpable homicide over the death of Mr Mdluli (July 1976 Newsletter).

In view of the deaths of Mr Mdluli and Mr Mohapi, there are fears for the safety of those detained in the aftermath of the township disturbances.

Please write courteously worded letters, requesting (a) an immediate inquest into the death in detention of Mapetla Mohapi, (b) a full and independent inquiry into the activities of the security police, noting two deaths in detention since March 1976, and (c) a full and independent inquiry into and review of the South African detention regulations to: Hon. B.J. Vorster, The Prime Minister, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa; and to: Hon. J.T. Kruger, Minister of Justice, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.

Alberto ALTESOR, Uruguay

AI adoptee Alberto ALTESOR was arrested in Uruguay on 21 October 1975. He is 62 years old and married. His four children are living in exile. Señor Altesor is a former deputy in the Uruguayan congress. The congress was dissolved following a coup which took place in July 1973. The armed forces then assumed effective control of the country behind a civilian president. Señor Altesor is a leader of Uruguay's railway workers' union and of the banned Communist Party.

Following his arrest last year, Señor Altesor was held at the 13th Infantry Battalion, where he was subjected to beatings, electric prods, hangings and, reportedly, 400 hours of enforced standing. On 14 December he was transferred to the 5th Artillery Battalion, where it is believed he remains today *handcuffed and blindfolded*.

In December 1974, 10 months before his arrest, he underwent surgery in Argentina. An artificial valve was placed in his heart, thus leaving his health still vulnerable. Despite a medical prescription stating that he must walk a moderate distance each day, he is not permitted to do so. He reportedly suffers from severe hypertension, and is not given his prescribed medicines.

Please write courteously worded letters, in your personal or professional capacity, requesting Señor Altesor's release in view of his health, to: Sr Presidente de la República del Uruguay, Dr Aparicio Méndez, Casa de Gobierno, Pza Independencia, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Captain Tsikata said that, in addition to torture, he was degraded and humiliated by being kept naked and having to appear before his interrogators in a blanket. He said for six months he was never allowed to see any member of his family or his lawyers, even when he made specific requests for individuals to witness the statement which he ultimately made.

He stated that he was shown the unconscious and battered body of one of the witnesses. He was threatened that the same thing would happen to him unless he cooperated with the interrogators. He was, according to his statement, beaten by his

FRENCHMEN 'TORTURED IN ALGERIA'

Two French citizens currently serving prison sentences in Algeria were reportedly tortured before their trial in May 1976.

The two men, Michel PELLOIE and Jean-Claude CHAUCHARD, were sentenced on charges of economic espionage to 10 years and 3 years in prison respectively on 7 May 1976 by a state security court in Medea, Algeria. Both men were arrested last November and have been held in various prisons, including those of Annaba, Constantine and Medea. Following their arrest, there was no news of the two men until January 1976 and no indication of what charges they would face.

Reports indicate that they were severely tortured between mid-January and mid-February 1976. At one stage Mr Pelloie was said to be incapable of speech because of his physical condition.

During their trial, both men indicated that they had been put under pressure during interrogation. They are now being held in the prison of El Asnam, where they are reported to be isolated in single cells measuring approximately three by four metres. They are allegedly allowed only brief exercise twice a day.

PROGRESS OF TORTURE TRIALS

An undisclosed number of agents of the *Dirección de Seguridad e Inteligencia Política* (DISIP) in Venezuela have been arrested on the orders of the Attorney General José RAMON MEDINA on torture charges. These arrests follow the murder of socialist leader Jorge RODRIGUEZ, who died on the morning of 24 July of a heart attack after being interrogated through the night at DISIP headquarters, and the arrest of four policemen held responsible for Señor Rodriguez's death.

Señor Rodriguez and eight others had been arrested in connection with the kidnapping of United States businessman William NIEHOUS six months ago. The arrests of the DISIP agents followed a stormy congressional debate in which former presidential candidate José VICENTE RANGEL accused DISIP of torturing three of those arrested at the same time as Rodriguez in connection with the kidnapping.

Congress itself reacted with a call by opposition parties for the dismissal of the head of DISIP, Aristides LANGER—who has since resigned—and a full investigation into the workings of the secret police organization.

At least two of the four policemen held responsible for Señor Rodriguez's death had a list of well-documented torture allegations against them. AI therefore wrote on 28 July 1976 to Venezuelan President Don Carlos ANDRES PEREZ, welcoming the investigation into Señor Rodriguez's death. AI offered to put at the president's disposal any information on alleged Venezuelan torturers which AI has in its possession.

EGYPT: Twenty former policemen and officers were sent to prison with hard labour on 10 August after being found guilty of assault and battery, unlawful detention, rape and torturing. The case arose from an incident 10 years ago when the late President Gamal Abdel NASSER, for political reasons, ordered 20 officials to extract confessions from inhabitants of the village of Kamshish blaming the death of a local peasant on their landlords.

interrogators and, after one session of such treatment, was so weak that he had to crawl back to his cell.

Of the eight accused at the May-to-August trial, one defendant was acquitted, two received long prison sentences and five were sentenced to death. These five are Captain Tsikata, Staff Sergeant Godfried AMEREKA, Warrant Officer Raphael NYATEPEH, Francis AGBOADA and Michael HAMENOU. The five are now waiting for their sentences to be confirmed or commuted by General Ignatius ACHEAMPONG, the Ghanaian Head of State.

Ghanaian Death Sentence Based on Alleged Torture Evidence

Continued from previous page

death sentences, some of the defendants made strong allegations of torture, which may indicate that the statements made by some of the accused were given under physical threat.

During the closing stages of the trial, Captain Kojo TSIKATA, the most senior of the accused, who is now under death sentence, made a statement regarding the brutal manner in which he had been treated while under interrogation by security police and military intelligence officers.

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.