



## Zaire replies to charges on torture and detention camps

The security police in Zaire have arrested large numbers of students, teachers and workers over the past six months—some have been tortured to death or summarily executed while in custody.

*AI* has sent appeals on behalf of many of these prisoners to members of the government, and at the beginning of May was informed that all the students who had been arrested had been released at the end of April.

In a memorandum sent to President MOBUTU at the end of February 1980, *AI* expressed its serious concern about human rights violations in Zaire.

A reply, in the form of comments by three government departments, included a denial by the security police that there had been frequent deaths in their interrogation centres.

The government said several prisoners cited by *AI* had now been released.

It also said that conditions in prisons and detention centres were not as harsh as had been reported to *AI*, and that torture was not practised in the country—several officials who killed or tortured prisoners had been prosecuted.

The latest reports of killings received by *AI* come from Kinshasa, where security police shot dead five students at the city's security police prison in January.

They were killed after dozens of students had been arrested following a strike over student grants.

Other recent arrests include suspected members of opposition political parties and relatives of prominent

political exiles.

In late 1979 teachers, bank employees and other workers were arrested in Kinshasa for planning strikes. Three of them died in custody in September 1979, after being tortured and condemned to 10 years' imprisonment.

Launching a campaign to draw attention to human rights abuses in Zaire, *AI* published a report on 20 May giving details of political imprisonment, summary executions, torture and starvation in prisons and camps.

The most notorious camp is Ekafera in the Equatorial region, normally holding up to 500 people.

Hundreds are known to have died there, some of disease, others of hunger—yet others are said to have been summarily executed or to have "disappeared" in the forest.

President Mobutu's government has shown signs of trying to improve its record and the President has ordered a series of amnesties for political prisoners and Zaireans living abroad. But a number of exiles who returned under amnesty have been arrested, and some were executed.

*AI* has welcomed Zaire's response to its memorandum and would also welcome the opportunity to discuss with the Zairean authorities the concrete cases of human rights violations it has described.

## PRISONERS HARMED BY WEST GERMAN ISOLATION SYSTEM

Prisoners held in connection with politically motivated crimes in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) are being kept in conditions that can, and sometimes do, inflict serious physical and psychological damage.

More than 100 such prisoners have been kept for years in solitary confinement or other forms of isolation, and some have suffered severe illness and mental disorders.

One prisoner, Ingrid SCHUBERT, was found hanged in her cell in 1977 after sinking into a state in which she said she could no longer distinguish reality and illusion.

Another, Werner HOPPE, was held for seven years in varying degrees of isolation. Doctors said the psychosomatic effects of his conditions had endangered his life and they doubted if he would recover even if released—which, following a court order, he was, in February 1979.

*AI* has now released the text of a memorandum to FRG authorities, describing the results of its research over more than two years.

The study concentrated on the prison conditions of members of the "Red Army Fraction", the "June 2 Movement" and the "Revolutionary Cells".

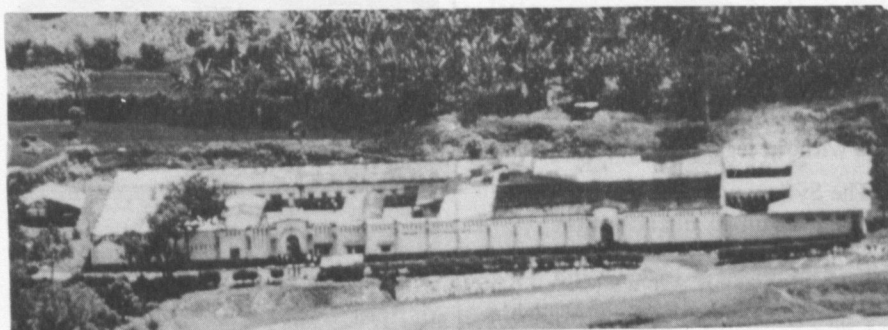
Prisoners suspected of politically motivated crimes are always kept in solitary confinement for part of the period between arrest and final conviction—for some, solitary confinement has lasted three years.

When they are taken out of solitary confinement they often go into "small-group isolation"—kept alone in a cell but allowed out for a brief period each day with one or more prisoners with a political background.

At Zweibrücken, two prisoners had only each other for company for four years—after each had already spent three years in solitary confinement.

These measures are applied to prisoners charged with non-violent crimes, as well as those accused of violence.

*Continued on back page*



BUKAVU prison in the eastern KIVU region. Prisoners are known to have starved to death here in mid-1979.

## Council of Europe Assembly move on death penalty

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has called on those member states which still retain the death penalty for peacetime offences to abolish it from their penal systems.

The Assembly, which consists of members of parliament from 21 West European countries belonging to the Council, adopted an appeal to abolish the death penalty for peacetime offences in Strasbourg in April—seven years after it began debating the issue.

It also adopted a recommendation to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to amend the European Convention on Human Rights accordingly.

The Convention at present still

allows for the death penalty as an exception to the right to life.

People can be condemned to death for certain peacetime offences in Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

But of these countries only France has carried out executions during the past eight years.

In August 1979 *AI* appealed to the Council to codify the existing trend of not applying the death penalty in Western Europe, and several members of parliament speaking in favour of abolition in the April debate referred to *AI*'s Stockholm Declaration and other information supplied by *AI*.

## USA

### Call for commission on executions

*AI* has appealed to President CARTER to set up a presidential commission to study the death penalty in the United States of America.

*AI* said such a commission should examine whether executions violated the USA's international commitments to human rights.

In a proposal sent to the President on 14 April, *AI* recommended a moratorium on executions until the proposed commission had reported.

More than 600 people are under sentence of death in the USA—prisoners are being sentenced to death at a rate of some 10 a month.

Three people have been put to death since executions were resumed in 1977, after a 10-year break.

Among the issues which the proposed commission should study is whether the "living death" inflicted on prisoners segregated in "death row" to await execution violates the US Constitution's ban on "cruel and unusual" punishments.

In 1967 a commission appointed by President JOHNSON concluded that the death penalty was imposed disproportionately on the poor, on black people and on "members of unpopular groups".

## Syria

### Summary executions in the north

Syrian security forces are reported to have carried out summary executions and large-scale arrests in the north of the country.

After a wave of violence, general strikes and demonstrations, the security forces are said to have sealed off sectors in Hama, Aleppo and other towns, with local inhabitants being taken away for questioning.

With access to the north restricted, it has been difficult to get clear information. Travellers have spoken of seeing prisoners executed at the roadside, for "trying to escape".

One eyewitness said he had seen prisoners being dragged into a tent, beaten with a cable and burnt with cigarettes.

An outspoken government critic in Hama is reported to have been shot dead without legal proceedings.

The Syrian authorities, who blame the troubles on an alliance of the Moslem Brotherhood, Israel and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), have pledged to use all means available to "eradicate these reactionary elements".

## News in Brief

### Tunis

Thirteen people were hanged in Tunisia in April after being convicted of taking part in an armed attack on Gafsa in January 1980.

The State Security Court in Tunis sentenced them—and two others tried *in absentia*—to death on 27 March.

Twelve members of the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT), serving sentences of between five and eight years, have been freed as a result of two conditional amnesties by President Habib BOURGUIBA.

The twelve, all *AI*-adopted prisoners of conscience, are members of the UGTT's executive bureau.

They had been sentenced to jail terms with hard labour following the general strike of 26 January 1978 (March 1979 *Newsletter*).

All are reported to be living under restriction; some are said to have to report to the police twice daily.

### Grenada

At least 56 people were being detained in Grenada in April without charge or trial, according to the Grenada Council for Human Rights.

Some had been held since the coup which brought the Prime Minister, Mr Maurice BISHOP, to power in March 1979.

On 28 March 1980 *AI* wrote to Mr Bishop asking to be informed on what the government intended to do about the detainees, and urging him to release them or bring them to trial.

### Yugoslavia

The Yugoslav authorities have allowed Professor Davor ARAS, a prisoner of conscience (January *Newsletter*), to travel to Switzerland for a heart operation.

The operation, early in April, is reported to have been successful, and Professor Aras has returned to Yugoslavia.

Sentenced to six and a half years' imprisonment in 1975, Professor Aras was temporarily released for health reasons in early 1979—*AI* has urged the authorities not to make him serve out the remainder of his sentence.

### Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in April of the release of 187 prisoners under adoption or investigation, and it took up 101 new cases.

# Campaign for Prisoners of the Month



Each of the people whose story is told below is a prisoner of conscience. Each has been arrested because of his or her religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated violence. Their continuing detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International appeals can help to secure the release of these prisoners or to improve their detention conditions. In the interest of the prisoners, letters to the authorities should be worded carefully and courteously. You should stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. In no circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

## Armando F. VALLADARES Pérez, Cuba

*Born in 1937; a poet who also studied painting and sculpture in Havana; arrested in 1960 at the age of 23; imprisoned in 1961 for "offences against the powers of the state"—sentence: 30 years.*

Armando VALLADARES is now virtually paralysed and has to use a wheelchair to move about. This followed a protracted hunger-strike in 1968, when he demanded visits, correspondence, medical attention and better food.

His first book of poems to be published was called *Desde mi silla de ruedas* (From my wheelchair).

After his conviction in 1961, Armando Valladares was sent to Isla de Pinos prison where, he said, he was held in darkened cells whose windows were covered by metal sheets.

In 1966 he was transferred to La Cabaña with a group thought to be leaders of "problematic prisoners". When the blue uniform of rehabilitated and common prisoners was introduced at La Cabaña the following year, Armando Valladares and most of the group refused to wear it. He and others were transferred to another prison, although he was returned to La Cabaña in 1968, the year he went on hunger-strike.

In February last year he was transferred from yet another prison to the Orthopaedic Hospital in Havana.

Apart from his paralysis, Armando Valladares is also reported to be suffering from asthma and heart trouble.

On 2 April this year he was taken to an unknown destination, which may have been Boniato prison in Santiago de Cuba. It is feared that his condition may get worse.

Two years ago the Cuban Government announced an amnesty for 3,600 political prisoners—Armando Valladares was one of a number to be excluded.

Armando Valladares has been adopted as a prisoner of conscience. He has persistently maintained that his personal and religious convictions are the sole causes of his detention.

*Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Armando F. Valladares Pérez to: Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz, Presidente del Consejo de Estado y del Consejo de Ministros, La Habana, República de Cuba.*

## Khalil BRAYEZ, Syria

*A 45-year-old former captain at Aleppo Military Academy; married with four children—spending his ninth year in detention without trial, at al-Mezze military prison, Damascus.*

After the 1967 war with Israel, Khalil BRAYEZ wrote two books—*The Downfall of the Golan* and *From the Golan Files*—both highly critical of the performance of the Syrian forces, and particularly of President Hafez Assad, then a commander in the air force.

The coup of November 1970 brought President Assad to power, and shortly afterwards Syrian security forces abducted Khalil Brayez from Lebanon, where he was reported to be working on a third book on the 1967 war.

Khalil Brayez had taken refuge in Lebanon in 1964, a year after the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party came to power. He had been against union with Egypt in 1958, and was ideologically opposed to the Ba'athists, whose primary goal is the unification of all Arab countries under one Arab Nation.

His political beliefs earned him several spells in detention, and in 1963 he was dismissed from the army, following a general purge of all non-Ba'athists.

With the prospect of further arrests ahead because he would not join the party, he fled into Lebanon with his family.

After his abduction in 1970 Khalil Brayez was held incommunicado for

three years. Since 1973 his family have been allowed to visit him once a month.

AI took up his case two years ago. Syrian authorities have issued no reason for his detention.

*Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Khalil Brayez to: President Hafez Assad, Presidential Palace, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic.*

## Samad ISMAIL, Malaysia

*Born 1924, married with a large family; former managing editor of the New Straits Times and one of Malaysia's leading intellectuals; held in solitary confinement for the past four years under the Internal Security Act (ISA).*

As a young man Samad ISMAIL was active in the nationalist movement and was twice imprisoned by the British. Considered by many to be the finest living writer in the Malay language, he has been awarded Malaysia's highest literary award for his work in journalism and literary criticism.

Samad Ismail was arrested in June 1976 accused of "trying to lower the resistance of the Malays against communist ideology."

Since then he has been detained in solitary confinement at an undisclosed Special Branch Holding Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Under the ISA, detainees are kept for an initial 60-day period in such holding centres; after this the Minister of Home Affairs may release the prisoner, or serve a two-year detention order.

Samad Ismail is the only detainee known to AI who has been held continuously in such a holding centre.

*Please send courteously worded letters appealing for Samad Ismail's release, or for his transfer to a normal prison pending an early trial, to: Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, Minister of Home Affairs, Jalan Datuk Onn, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

*"AI was able to identify at least 33 centres where political prisoners and former detainees had reported the use of torture. . . approximately 50 torture techniques were identified. . . In most cases there are three stages in the use of torture: psychological torture, including sensory deprivation and threats against the detainee's family; physical torture, such as beatings, burns, suffocation, hanging; finally, more sophisticated methods carried out in secret centres, such as the application of electric shocks on the most sensitive parts of the body and the use of drugs"* — Extract from AI mission findings sent to the Government of Colombia.

## Repression in Colombia

An AI mission to Colombia in January 1980 found that political prisoners were being tortured in military installations and that there existed in the country a pattern of widespread arbitrary arrests and torture of political prisoners.

A 44-page document containing AI's findings and presenting detailed recommendations for ending human rights abuses in Colombia was given to the government on 1 April.

The authorities rejected the findings and President TURBAY Ayala—who had publicly invited AI to visit Colombia—spent 58 minutes denouncing them on the country's broadcasting services.

AI decided to make the recommendations public to end rumours and speculation about them in the Latin American media.

The government, as well as civil and military authorities, had denied the existence of political prisoners or human rights violations.

They attributed these allegations to "subversive agents" and blamed armed revolutionary groups for violent acts against the state. It was held that the government was justified in suppressing "subversion" on grounds of "national security."

AI is aware of violence by certain opposition groups in Colombia, but insists on respect for human rights even in situations of violence.

In any case, the mission has confirmed that political imprisonment is used against both violent and non-violent opposition.

The three-delegate mission, which included a judge and a medical doctor, met more than 400 political prisoners in 11 prisons, two military installations used as prisons, and in two hospitals.

The majority of those interviewed in prison gave evidence of torture or maltreatment. Evidence also came from ex-prisoners and their families and from political and professional organizations.

The mission also received detailed information on political arrests and preventive detentions—most detainees being members of



An AI mission delegate, Antonio CARRETERO Pérez, a Spanish judge, interviewing political prisoners at Villaneuva prison, Cali.

peasant, Indian or trade union organizations, although those arrested in 1979 included doctors, lawyers, journalists, members of slum-dwellers associations, teachers, students and relatives of detainees.

Colombia has been under emergency measures—the state of siege—almost continuously since November 1949.

From being a temporary and exceptional measure, the state of siege has become a permanent instrument of government.

It has led to the virtually permanent suspension of human rights guarantees in the Constitution and in international agreements to which Colombia is a signatory.

Under the state of siege, exceptional decrees and the emergency provisions have been used to justify massive raids by security forces, to control the private and social lives of people living in rural zones under military occupation, to detain people involved in trade union activities, and to try civilians before military tribunals.

They have also facilitated indiscriminate and widespread political arrests, prolonged detention without trial, torture, summary trials and political murders, particularly in peasant or Indian areas.

Another measure influencing conditions is the "security statute", promulgated in 1978, under which a wide range of actions and offences—including the ill-defined charge of "disturbance of public order"—are placed under military jurisdiction.

Under the terms of earlier decrees defendants are effectively denied the right of appeal in cases related to social protest, and some authorities charged with maintaining public order, such as police chiefs, are empowered to decide what, in fact, constitutes a "crime".

The structure and practice of military justice in Colombia seriously threaten, among other rights, the individual's right to be judged by an impartial tribunal.

In the military courts, with the military acting as both judge and accuser, normal defence rights are denied and in some cases defence counsel have been obstructed, harassed and obliged to leave the court.

Between 1966 and 1973 nearly 1,500 "Oral Councils of War" (*Consejos Verbales de Guerra*) were conducted, with more than 3,800 sentences imposed.

In 1979 alone nine courts-martial tried a total of 427 civilians.

In one trial, in secret session during

AI's visit, 219 people came before a military court on charges of rebellion and sedition.

Arrest and detention procedures were found to be indiscriminate and lacking in effective guarantees against arbitrary detention, with prisoners held in military installations beyond judicial control.

From information given by detainees, the following typical pattern has emerged: after a dawn raid on a suspect's house, the detainee is taken to a military centre, held incommunicado for several days... in some cases blindfolded and handcuffed, kept standing almost continuously and almost totally deprived of food and sleep...

The detainee may be subjected to intense interrogation at any hour of the day or night, and frequently to psychological or physical torture...

Finally military judges decide whether the detainee is to go before a Verbal Council of War...

The evidence received by AI makes it clear that political prisoners are tortured in military centres in Colombia, to such an extent that this is happening systematically.

Numerous allegations of abductions, torture, killings, and disappearances were made against military and paramilitary personnel in peasant areas under military control and in Indian reserves (*resguardos indígenas*).

The allegations were heard first-hand by the mission and were also documented by professional organizations, priests, doctors and lawyers.

The lives of people in these areas are rigidly controlled, and degrading penalties are imposed on those who break the regulations—the pervasive atmosphere is of permanent threat and terror.

Many allegations in the Indian reserves refer to hired gunmen—*pajaros*—who act as a kind of private police for landowners: 48 Indian members of the Regional Indigenous Council of the Cauca (*Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca*) have been murdered since 1973.

AI's main recommendations were that:

- the government should consider lifting the state of siege and repealing the "security statute"; there should also be safeguards to protect people held under Article 28 of the Constitution, which allows detention without charge for up to 10 days;
- civilians should no longer be tried by military courts;
- arrest and detention procedures should be reviewed, by either the

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**Amnistía Internacional**

**Importante separata**

# Confirma torturas

**Asesinatos, desapariciones, encarcelamientos y agresiones, especialmente en zonas campesinas militarizadas y resguardos indígenas**

Ver completo informe en paginas 7, 8, 9, 10 y 11

AI confirms (existence of) torture—headline from the newspaper *El Bogotano's* special edition on AI's findings.

AI's visit to Colombia intensified a wide-ranging national debate on human rights, and there was extensive press coverage of the mission.

Squads of reporters and photo-

graphers were in attendance. Headlines recorded the delegates' passage through the country, with feature and leading articles explaining the visit and detailing reactions to it.

Individual delegates were written up as personalities of the week and they appeared in political cartoons.

When AI's recommendations were made public, newspapers ran special editions and one published 16 full columns of the details.

During its 16 days in Colombia the mission also had talks with the authorities, meeting President Turbay, five government ministers, supreme court judges and members of parliament.

In the prisons delegates spoke to prisoners alone, often in the prison chapel or in the gardens.

## Crucial period

Verifying allegations of torture was clearly a problem. Obviously few were accompanied by official medical certificates—for one thing, medical examinations were practically impossible during the crucial period while the detainee was held in military custody, incommunicado for the 10 days allowed by law, and often for longer periods.

Delegates satisfied themselves by checking the available records, by comparing detainees' accounts, by careful questioning—the doctor on the mission was a psychiatrist.

The same methods of torture cropped up, the same patterns of arrest and detention—people far away from each other, those in prison and those who had been released, gave similar accounts.

In the words of one delegate: "The 'coincidences' were surprising..."

Council of State or the Supreme Court.

A series of recommendations to end widespread torture were submitted to the government. These included: the creation of a commission, with independent doctors and lawyers, to investigate torture allegations and report publicly; allowing detainees to contact lawyers and families within 24 hours of arrest; regular medical examinations; compensation for torture victims.

On the human rights violations in military-controlled rural areas and in Indian reserves, AI recommended that the government define strictly the military and police powers in these areas, publicly and in writing, and that it act against paramilitary groups killing or otherwise using violence against peasants and Indians.

AI also called for:

- the release of trade unionists arrested for peacefully exercising their rights, with speedy trials for those facing criminal charges;
- the protection from arrest or harassment of professional people observing their professional ethics.
- a review of the judicial constitutional reform and the new penal code, introduced this year, to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and to ensure effective protection of human rights.

The mission's final report is being prepared for publication later this year.

## Iraq Religious leader is executed

A 50-year-old Iraqi religious scholar, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqr AL SADR, and his sister, Bint AL HUDA, have been executed after their arrest at home in Najaf on 5 April this year.

The Iraqi authorities have declined to confirm that he had been executed.

Ayatollah Al Sadr and his family had been under house arrest since mid-1979 and he had been threatened with death if he did not keep silent.

The leader of growing opposition among sections of the Shi'i community, the Ayatollah had called on Shi'is to challenge and demonstrate against the Sunni-dominated government.

His brief arrest on several occasions

in May and June 1979 provoked huge and at times bloody demonstrations in major Iraqi towns—and these led to extensive arrests and a number of executions: *AI* has been given the names of 23 of those executed.

*AI* has also received the names of 16 Baghdad Shi'is reported to have been executed since the beginning of 1980. They include: Sheikh Mahmud AL MALAKI, religious scholar, Dr Ghalib Abdul Sahib ALESH and Dr Riyadh Bakr ZAINI, both medical doctors, aged 30, Juwad Kadhim AL ZUBAIDI, 39, merchant and former professor of religious studies at Baghdad University.

## Egypt 'Riot' trial verdict

Egypt's Supreme State Security Court has acquitted 155 of the 176 people accused of political offences in the period up to the riots which shook the country in January 1977.

But six of those acquitted face similar charges in a new trial.

Eleven of those convicted were jailed for three years and fined £100 (Egyptian); nine got one year, with a £50 (Egyptian) fine.

The case against Zaki MOURAD, a lawyer adopted by *AI*, was dropped: he died in a car accident in December.

*AI* observers attended part of the trial.

There is no right of appeal against the verdicts, which have still to be ratified by President SADAT.

All 176 had been accused of being members of the Egyptian Communist Party (ECP) and the Egyptian Workers' Communist Party, or with instigating the riots by disseminating leaflets or notices which were said to have contributed to the atmosphere of revolt at the time—the riots took place after the announcement that subsidies on basic foodstuffs were to be removed.

Now 30 people—including six of those acquitted—are to be tried on charges of being members of the ECP and involvement in illegal communist activities from the end of 1977 to August 1979.

The prosecution is said to be asking for up to life imprisonment with hard labour for all 30.

The authorities have also ordered the arrest of another 24 people alleged to have represented the ECP abroad.

They include members of the Central Committee of Fretilin, which declared East Timor independent after the Portuguese withdrew in 1975, and resisted the subsequent invasion by Indonesia.

Central Committee member Leopoldo JOAQUIM surrendered early in 1978. He was held for several months, then released. But in April 1979 he and his 17-year-old niece, Maria Gorete JOAQUIM, a former student leader, were both taken away. Neither has been seen since.

Former members of the Fretilin armed forces and other members of the movement are among those who have "disappeared".

## Poland Rally speaker on hunger-strike

A prisoner of conscience in Poland, Dariusz KOBZDEJ, went on hunger-strike last month in Gdansk prison after being jailed for speaking at an unofficial rally on 3 May.

He and Tadeusz SZCZUDLOWSKI were sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

According to Polish regulations prisoners on hunger-strike are forcibly fed from the fourth day.

Another prisoner of conscience, adopted by *AI*, Miroslaw CHOJECKI, went on hunger-strike for one month

at Warsaw's Makotow prison, before being released on 10 May pending trial.

*AI* had appealed on behalf of Mr Chojecki, a member of the Social Self Defence Committee (KSS KOR) and manager of the unofficial publishing house NOWA.

He was arrested on 25 March on charges of illegally procuring a state duplicating machine—but *AI* believes that the real reason for his arrest is that he is a political dissenter.

If found guilty Mr Chojecki faces up to five years in jail.

## Indonesia Executions fear after amnesty

There are fears that former members of the East Timor independence movement—Fretilin—may have been executed after surrendering under an amnesty offered by the Indonesian authorities in 1977.

Apart from a number missing since their surrender, others have "disappeared" after being rearrested by Indonesian troops last year.

It is also known that at least 800 prisoners—some held since Indonesia invaded East Timor in December 1975—are being detained in the territory in harsh and dangerous conditions.

They are underfed and *AI* has received persistent reports of prisoners being beaten or tortured.

Most of the prisoners are being held in Comarca prison, which is near a

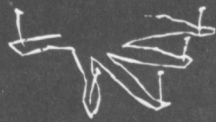
swamp on the outskirts of the capital, Dili.

*AI* has written to President SUHARTO, urging him to order an investigation into the whereabouts of former members of Fretilin (*Frente Revolutionaria do Timor Leste Independente*) who disappeared after surrendering to or being captured by Indonesian forces.

*AI* also called for an investigation of the conditions under which the Fretilin prisoners are being held.

It asked the President to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to trace missing people and to visit prisons.

*AI*'s letter, of 28 April, included a list of 22 people who may have been summarily executed.



amnesty international

## campaign for the abolition of torture

# appeals

## More killings and torture

### Turkey: the terror gets worse

Nearly 3,000 people have been murdered for political reasons in Turkey over the past two years—the political assassination rate now averages 10 a day. And as the killings—by both left and right-wing extremists—multiply, so do the detentions and allegations of official torture.

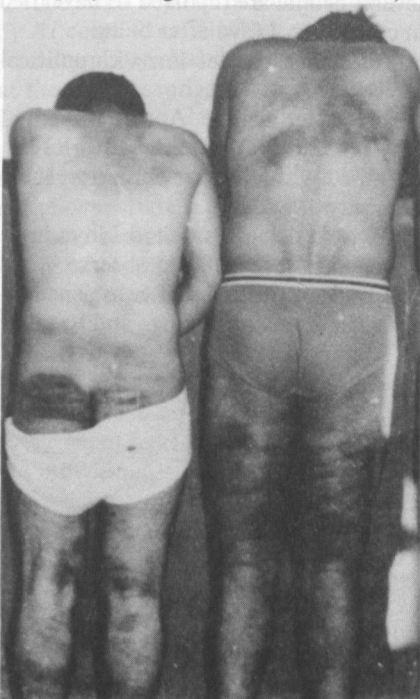
The Turkish daily newspaper *Cumhuriyet* reports that in the four months up to the beginning of April 1980, 46,796 people were detained for political reasons.

Martial law was imposed in December 1978 and has been renewed every two months—it is now in force in 21 of Turkey's 67 provinces.

The latest allegation of torture received by *AI* concerns a psychiatrist who had been doing research on torture—Dr Dursun KIRBAS.

After being picked up in a dawn raid on his house on 28 March this year, Dr Kirbas was interrogated at the Political Police Centre at Gayrettepe, Istanbul.

From the second day of his detention Dr Kirbas was tortured—punched, kicked, given electric shocks and *falanga* (beating the soles of the feet).



On the sixth day of torture, Dr Kirbas fell ill and was taken to Taksim Hospital, where a doctor diagnosed acute infection of the lung—Dr Kirbas had previously had half his left lung removed.

The torture began again as soon as Dr Kirbas arrived back at the police station. It continued until he had been held for two weeks.

When Dr Kirbas was taken before a military tribunal the judge ordered his immediate release.

In another report which reached London on 25 April, *AI* learned of 18 members of the Progressive Youth Organization, said to have been tortured at the First Police Division in Istanbul.

They were denied access to their lawyers and families and it was feared the torture was continuing.

*AI* has sent urgent appeals on their behalf to the Prime Minister, Mr Demirel.

Last August *AI* wrote to his predecessor about the arrest and alleged ill-treatment of members of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey. In April 1980 *AI* raised further reports of anti-union action with Mr Demirel.

*Please write courteously worded letters expressing concern about the rising number of torture allegations coming from Turkey to: His Excellency Süleyman Demirel, Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey.*

**Two victims of anti-union action in Turkey: arrested in January with 13 fellow-members of the Progressive Iron-workers Union, they were all tortured for 48 hours before being released without charges.**

## Ethiopia Church leader 'disappears'

On 28 July last year unidentified gunmen kidnapped the Reverend Gudina TUMSA, 49, General Secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Mekane Yesus Church, and his wife, Tsehai TOLESSA, outside church headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Mr Tumsa's wife was freed on the outskirts of the city—he has not been seen since.

His kidnapers are believed to have been plainclothes government security agents—but the Ethiopian authorities have not acknowledged the arrest or detention of Mr Tumsa.

His Church—a member of the Lutheran World Federation—is the largest non-orthodox Christian Church in Ethiopia. Most members belong to the Oromo ethnic group in the south.

Oromo resistance to the military government has been growing and parts of the country are said to be controlled by the Oromo Liberation Front.

Oromos in Addis Ababa and other towns are often suspected of sympathizing with the Front and there have been large-scale arrests this year.

Many members of the Mekane Yesus Church have been arrested in the past two years, accused of being "counter-revolutionaries". But the Church, though criticizing excesses carried out in the name of the revolution, has sought a role within the revolution, not against it.

Mr Tumsa himself has been detained twice before—in October 1978 and in June 1979. He has never been charged, but it is thought he was suspected of supporting Oromo resistance, an accusation he has flatly denied.

*Please write courteously worded letters asking for information about the disappearance of the Reverend Gudina Tumsa to: Lieutenant-colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, Head of State, Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia, Provisional Administrative Council, PO Box 5707, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*

# Iranians executed after unfair trials

Thousands of Iranians have been convicted by the country's Islamic Revolutionary Tribunals after trials that were inadequate and unfair—and many defendants were sentenced to death and executed after they, too, had been denied a fair trial.

This is the major conclusion to emerge from an *AI* report, published on 9 May.

It covers the period up to 14 September 1979, and focuses on the role of the revolutionary tribunals—the special courts set up after the revolution.

On the evidence of hundreds of cases studied, the report finds that defendants were “consistently denied fair trials, including the opportunity to prepare or present an adequate defence”.

Guarantees needed for a fair trial were “effectively lacking” because:

- defendants were often not told of the exact charges against them;
- they could not choose their own counsel;
- they were often not allowed to call defence witnesses, or to question witnesses for the prosecution;
- many trials were closed to the public, and defendants were not presumed innocent unless proved guilty;
- there was no right of appeal.

Sometimes defendants only learned of the charges against them just before their trial—and the only known facility offered was an opportunity to write a defence on a piece of paper.

According to one Iranian newspaper estimate the tribunals processed about 10,000 cases in the first four months after the Shah's overthrow in February 1979.

Up to now more than 800 people are reported to have been executed.

At first the tribunals heard cases dealing with offences that the authorities said had been committed in

## PRISONERS HARMED BY WEST GERMAN ISOLATION SYSTEM

*Continued from page 1*

*AI*, which also released the minutes of a meeting with the authorities and the text of relevant correspondence, urged that severe forms of isolation should no longer be used as regular forms of imprisonment.

The authorities rejected *AI*'s recommendations—including one to allow independently authorized medical examinations.

support of the Shah. Their jurisdiction was soon extended to cover violent and sexual crimes, and “counter-revolutionary” activity said to be directed against the Islamic Republic.

The tribunals operate independently of the Provisional Government. In April 1979 the Minister of Justice was reported as saying that the courts are “like wartime trials acting under their own rules and regulations”.

On 5 April 1979 regulations on the courts' jurisdiction and procedure were promulgated, but the defence facilities they offer are inadequate.

In addition, the decision on whether

### MORE EXECUTIONS

The latest executions in Iran include seven members of the Baha'i faith and a former Education Minister, Farroukhrou PARSa, who died early last month.

*AI*—which has repeatedly called for an end to all executions in Iran—had appealed to Ayatollah Khomeini to commute the death sentence passed on Farroukhrou Parsa.

or not to draw up an indictment seems in most cases to be an effective determination of guilt or innocence, rather than a decision on whether there is a case to be answered.

The most frequent complaints of prisoners reported to *AI* were that some were not told why they had been arrested, and that they were not interrogated promptly after arrest.

These findings come mostly from information on some 900 cases given to an *AI* mission in April 1979. The mission studied the tribunals' procedure but were unable to observe them in operation.

Each time it went to Qasr Prison in Teheran it was told the trials were not scheduled to take place, or had “just finished”.

*AI* has called on Iran to conform to agreed standards for trials and the treatment of prisoners to which the country is committed by international treaty.

*AI* welcomed a decision by the authorities—reported in Iran in March—to set up a Supreme Court to hear appeals against verdicts passed by Islamic judges.

But it remains concerned about reports of arrested people being held incommunicado for long periods—the relatives of some of those arrested in November and December last year say they still have not been able to find out where they are or why they were arrested.

*AI* sent its report to Ayatollah KHOMEINI in January 1980, and to President Bani-SADR in February, inviting them to comment. There has been no response.

• *AI* condemned human rights violations under the Shah's regime on a number of occasions; the most recent document published, in 1978, was a legal memorandum on the Shah's military tribunals.

## LIBYA

### CALL TO RENOUNCE OFFICIAL 'LIQUIDATION' PROGRAM

*AI* has called on the Libyan authorities to renounce an official program to liquidate “enemies of the revolution”. The program was approved in the Libyan Arab Jamahariya early in February this year.

Since February seven Libyan citizens have been killed abroad, and several people are reported to have died in custody in Libya after being imprisoned in connection with political or economic offences.

The latter include 'Amer DEGHAYES, a former Ba'athist leader who died within days of his arrest in February 1980.

Two *AI* delegates visited Libya in March and April 1980 to observe two trials of prisoners of conscience—both trials are continuing—and to talk to Libyan authorities.

They explained *AI*'s total opposition to the death penalty and drew attention to the large number of offences—many of them political—punishable by death in Libya.

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