



amnesty international newsletter

Torture charges as hundreds arrested South Korea bars mission

South Korean authorities refused to let an *AI* mission enter the country at the end of July 1980 to investigate reports of large-scale arrests and torture of political prisoners.

The mission—Deputy Secretary General Dick OOSTING and a United States lawyer, Edward BAKER—left London on 27 July after the South Korean Embassy had been consulted. The next day *AI* was told the mission needed special visas to enter South Korea. The South Korean Embassy in Tokyo then told the mission that its timing was inconvenient because the human rights issue was “too sensitive in South Korea at this time” and it would not be admitted if it continued on to Seoul.

The mission had intended to meet government officials and to seek information on the treatment of hundreds of prisoners reported to be held incommunicado, including the opposition leader KIM Dae-Jung.

More than 1,000 people are thought to have been arrested on political grounds in recent months. Many have been released but hundreds are believed to remain in custody. The government has not disclosed the whereabouts of many, and there have been frequent and widespread allegations of torture.

Many of those held are students seized after the demonstrations in Seoul and Kwangju in May 1980. More recently at least 300 people are thought to have been arrested, including journalists, university professors, members of parliament, clergymen and human rights activists.

A Christian clergyman was taken to hospital after being detained for six days for questioning on political matters. He died the day after he was released to his family. His body is said to have borne marks of ill-treatment. The authorities denied torturing him and said he had collapsed in custody because of chronic high blood pressure.

The mission also intended to investigate the trials and treatment of



KIM Dae-Jung

prisoners convicted before the waves of arrest that followed the extension of martial law in May. These earlier cases included allegations that defendants were tortured to make them sign “confessions”.

Among recent developments about which *AI* is concerned are reports that three or more lawyers were arrested and interrogated in what has been described as an effort to interfere with Kim Dae-Jung’s defence in a trial before a military tribunal which began on 14 August.

The opposition leader, adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience and being tried with 23 other defendants on several charges, including plotting to overthrow the government, faces a possible death sentence.

Of the 24 defendants, 11 have been adopted as prisoners of conscience by *AI* in previous instances; two have been adopted twice: the Reverend MOON Ik-hwan and Dr LEE Moon-young.

‘Massacre’ at Syrian desert prison—hundreds reported dead

Hundreds of prisoners are reported to have been killed in a massacre at Palmyra desert prison in Syria on 27 June 1980.

According to several reports received by *AI*, forces commanded by Colonel Rifa’at AL-ASSAD, President Hafez AL-ASSAD’s brother, flew to the Palmyra area about 150 miles northeast of Damascus and shot the prisoners as they were emerging from the prison.

Reports vary on how the inmates came to be leaving the prison; some say the prisoners had been told they were being released; others that it was part of a mass escape attempt, helped by a number of guards.

Muslim Brotherhood

Estimates of the number of prisoners killed vary from 300 to over 1,000, most of them believed to have been members of the Muslim Brotherhood, an extreme right-wing fundamentalist Islamic group.

AI has urged President Al-Assad to set up a committee of inquiry to investigate the allegations of a massacre at Palmyra and to make public the committee’s findings.

In a letter to the President, *AI* also expressed concern over the growing number of executions in Syria and urged the government to demonstrate its respect for human rights by commuting all remaining death sentences.

AI said it was greatly disturbed at recent moves by the government to increase the number of capital offences at a time when the rest of the world community was trying to restrict the use of the death penalty.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in July of the release of 99 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 252 new cases.

Bolivia

Torture reports after military coup

As many as 1,000 people are believed to have been arrested in Bolivia since the new military leader, General Luis GARCÍA Meza, took power in a coup on 17 July 1980. Reports of violence and brutality after the take-over have aroused grave fears for the safety of the prisoners.

On 8 August *AI* appealed to General García Meza to release all political prisoners and to make public without delay a list of those imprisoned or killed since the coup.

AI told the new leader it had received reports of summary executions, arbitrary arrests and torture leading it to believe that the international standards to which Bolivia was committed were being violated.

AI found it alarming that, when questioned, the acting Minister of the Interior, Colonel Luis ARCE Gómez, was unable to provide the press with either the names or number of those in custody.

Among reports which led to fears for those arrested were many eye-witness accounts of violence against unarmed civilians, persistent allegations of brutality against prisoners and the role of paramilitary groups supporting the military.

Archbishop Jorge MANRIQUE of La Paz condemned the use of ambulances to carry out armed attacks and to take away prisoners.

AI called on General García Meza to prevent further loss of life, to release and guarantee the safety of

political prisoners and to consider making reparation to the families of people killed as a result of military action during and after the coup.

It sent him a list of 55 known prisoners and asked for information on their health and whereabouts.

Those arrested include a number of Bolivian journalists—among them Raúl GONZALEZ Almanza, René BASCOPE, Juan Leon CORNEJO, Jorge MENDOZA, José MARQUEZ and Myrta SALAVERA.

AI has also learned of the arrest of Alberto BONADONA, a lecturer in the Faculty of Economics at the University of La Paz.

On 5 August two United States Maryknoll priests, Father William COY, 61, and Father John MOYNIHAN, 45, were detained, allegedly after they had refused military requests for a Mass to be celebrated for the success of the coup. They were released on 11 August.

Another priest, Father Julio TUMIRI, President of the *Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos* (Permanent Assembly for Human Rights) in Bolivia, was arrested in La Paz on 28 July. He is reported to be in poor health because of repeated torture.

• On 13 August 1980 Daniel SALAMANCA, Undersecretary at the Ministry of the Interior, replied to *AI*'s letter of 8 August, and rejected allegations of torture and killings as "lies and falsehoods spread by foreign correspondents." He informed *AI* that the Minister of the Interior would issue a detailed list of all prisoners and the charges pending against them.

News in Brief

Yugoslavia

The health of Dr Veselin MASIC, prisoner of the month in July 1979 (see *Newsletter*), is reported to have deteriorated severely earlier this year and he has been officially declared a total invalid. His six-year sentence had been reduced on appeal to five years'; he is still held in Foca prison.

USSR

A 42-year-old Ukrainian Helsinki monitor (a former prisoner of conscience adopted by *AI*), Vitaly KALYNYCHENKO, is reported to have been sentenced in June 1980 to seven years' imprisonment and three years' internal exile for "anti-Soviet

agitation and propaganda".

AI has also received reports that Pastor Mikhail KHOREV, a 48-year-old Baptist leader, was recently sentenced to five years' imprisonment for his religious activities. Pastor Khorev is said to be ill and almost blind.

Senegal

At its July meeting *AI*'s International Executive Committee recognized the national section in Senegal. The address is:

Amnesty International
Section Sénégalaise
152 Avenue du Président Lamine Gueye
Dakar
Senegal

West Berlin

Call for end to use of 'squeezing' instrument

AI has written to the judicial and government authorities of West Berlin about a decision of its highest court of justice (*Kammergericht*) accepting that an instrument of restraint known as *Knebelketten* may be used on prisoners, in contravention of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (UNSMR).

Knebelketten is an instrument for applying steadily increasing pressure to the wrist or arm.

In letters sent on 6 August 1980 to the President of the *Kammergericht*, Dr DEHNICKE, and to the Berlin senator responsible for the police, Peter ULRICH, *AI* referred to a case in which the instruments were used, in May 1977, on six prisoners held in connection with the kidnapping of Peter LORENZ in West Berlin in 1975.

The *Knebelketten* were used deliberately to cause injuries in an attempt to break the prisoners' resistance to taking part in an identification parade.

According to Rule 33 of the UNSMR, instruments of restraint may only be used "as a precaution against escape during transfer" or to "prevent a prisoner from injuring himself or others or from damaging property."

Dr Dehnicke, in a letter to *AI* in December 1979, argued that the use of *Knebelketten* had been in accordance with these principles. But *AI*, quoting directly from the *Kammergericht* decision of 2 April 1979, said it was clear this had not been the case and that Rule 33 had been contravened.

In 1977 and 1978 *AI* wrote to the police and judicial authorities of West Berlin and to the Chief Federal Prosecutor of the Federal Republic of Germany expressing concern at the use of the instrument and saying this was "unacceptable under any circumstances."

• Resolution (73) 5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recommends "that governments of member states be guided in their internal legislation and practice by the principles set out in the text of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners . . . with a view to their progressive implementation."

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.

SENNI "la Presse", Guinea

A bus-driver in the capital, Conakry, when he was arrested in late 1977 for alleged involvement in an anti-government demonstration in August 1977; held in Camp Boiro, Guinea's main prison for political detainees.

SENNI "la Presse" was an active trade unionist whose nickname derives from his reputation as an articulate and persistent campaigner for workers' rights.

On 27 August 1977 large numbers of market women demonstrated in Conakry over government action against private trading; the protests were particularly directed against restrictive and corrupt practices by the Economic Police, a body established to enforce price controls and prevent black marketeering.

Army and police units are reported to have opened fire. The disturbances spread rapidly to provincial centres and continued for several days, by which time hundreds of people are believed to have been arrested.

President SEKOU TOURE blamed the riots on agents of "imperialism" plotting to overthrow the government. A Revolutionary Tribunal was formed to try all those arrested but the names of the defendants were never made public, nor were any verdicts or sentences.

Senni "la Presse" was one of those arrested, apparently because the transport company for which he worked had leased buses to take market women to the demonstration.

He is one of an estimated 4,000 people detained without charge or trial since 1971, mostly for alleged involvement in various "plots" against the government. A few have been released but AI fears that most have died in prison through torture, starvation or disease. Only 20 are believed to be still alive.

Please send courteously worded letters, preferably in French, appealing for the immediate and unconditional

release of Senni "la Presse" to: Son Excellence Ahmed Sekou Toure, Président de la République, Conakry, République révolutionnaire et populaire de Guinée.

Humberto MONTAÑO, Uruguay

Aged 75; worked for many years for the Uruguayan Port Authority (Administración Nacional de Puertos); arrested five years ago and sentenced in 1977 to nine years' imprisonment—now held in Libertad Prison, Department of San José.

Humberto MONTAÑO is almost certainly the oldest political prisoner in Uruguay. He was arrested in 1975 and later charged with "subversive association" (*asociación subversiva*) under the Law of National Security, which brings civilians under military jurisdiction.

His subsequent nine-year sentence was based on his alleged membership of the Uruguayan Communist Party and his long record of trade union activities within the Port Workers' Union (*Sindicato del Puerto*). Both were legal organizations when he was active—they were banned only after the military took power in 1973.

It is not known where Humberto Montaña was detained before his transfer to Libertad Prison but it is standing practice in Uruguay for detainees to be held incommunicado for many months for questioning and torture. Libertad Prison is known for its harsh conditions and many prisoners become ill, some gravely. Humberto Montaña already had circulatory troubles and he has been taken to the military hospital repeatedly, once for a hernia operation, which was unsuccessful. His old age and increasing weakness raise serious doubts about his ability to survive another four years in prison.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate

release of Humberto Montaña on humanitarian grounds to: Excmo. Sr. Presidente de la República Dr. Aparicio Méndez, Casa de Gobierno, Montevideo, Uruguay.

OTHMAN, bin Haji Karim, Brunei

A 66-year-old farmer, detained since 1962 on emergency orders renewed every two years at the discretion of the Sultan of Brunei. Since July 1973 he is believed to have been held in Gadong Prison, Jerudong, Brunei; his prison number is 893.

OTHMAN bin Haji Karim is reported to have been a member or local official of the *Partai Rakyat Brunei-PRB* (People's Party of Brunei) and is allegedly being detained for participating in a political revolt in December 1962. He has not been charged or tried.

The PRB was banned in 1962, when meetings of the Legislative Council were suspended. At this time it held all the elected seats in the Council, having won 80 per cent of the votes in elections to district councils under a system of indirect election to the Legislative Council. Unable to form a government because its members were outnumbered by Council members nominated by the Sultan, the PRB declared that it had set up an independent government.

On 12 December 1962 the Sultan declared a state of emergency (which is still in force) and called in British troops—Britain is responsible for the conduct of the country's external affairs until 1983 when Brunei becomes fully independent—and 2,500 PRB members were arrested. Most of these have been released, suggesting that the government no longer regards PRB members as a security risk.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Othman bin Haji Karim to: His Highness, Sir Muda Hassanah Bolikiah, Sultan of Brunei, Istana Darul Hana, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.

Human rights violations have been getting much worse in Chile over the past few months. As the seventh anniversary of the September 1973 coup by the military junta drew near, horrifying details of torture began to emerge once more. Then, in July, came the shooting of a senior military officer, and within weeks the number of political prisoners had multiplied and the length of time for which they could be held before being brought before a judge was extended drastically . . .

Detention and torture in Chile

According to reports reaching *AI* up to 2,000 political arrests have been made since 15 July 1980—when the Director of the Army Intelligence School, Lieutenant-Colonel Roger VERGARA Campos was shot dead in Santiago—and *AI* fears that many of those still detained are being severely tortured.

As a result of the killing the Minister of the Interior, Sergio FERNÁNDEZ Fernández, announced that the period during which detainees could be held before having to be brought before a judge had been increased from five to 20 days.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vergara, 43, was killed on his way to work by four people said to have been dressed as electricity company workers. His chauffeur was wounded in the attack.

Afterwards President Augusto PINOCHET said he had placed all the security forces under a single command in the hunt for the killers.

Military edict

On 19 July a military edict (*bando*) was announced by the Commander in Chief of the Santiago Military Zone in State of Emergency, General Humberto GORDON Rubio. Based on Decree Law 12.927 (Internal State Security), the edict prohibits "the divulging of information about declarations, antecedents, identity or opinions of witnesses or of authorities in relation to terrorist actions or acts which affect the security of the country."

The edict effectively prevents people from speaking out legally about any form of human rights violation. According to General Gordon, it was passed to prevent investigations into the murder of Lieutenant-Colonel Vergara from being hindered.

After the edict came into force General Gordon became Director of the *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI), one of the Chilean security services.

Indications of what is feared may be happening to those still detained incommunicado come from, among other sources, the detailed cases of a



Inés Angélica DIAZ Tapia . . . arrested by 11 armed men and tortured.

number of detainees arrested during May 1980.

On 8 May 1980 a nightmare began for Inés Angélica DIAZ Tapia, a 25-year-old university student living in Santiago. An 11-strong armed group forced her into a private vehicle and she was driven off "under arrest."

The following day her family presented a *recurso de amparo* (*habeas corpus*) application to court.

On 10 May CNI agents arrived at Inés Diaz's home and forced the maid to sign a paper—which she was not given time to read—notifying the family officially that the student was in CNI custody.

Torture centre

She was held in a torture centre until the afternoon of 12 May when she and others were brought before a military court (*fiscalía militar*). According to one of her sisters and defence counsel none of the defendants were able to stand unaided.

Inés Diaz tried to call to her sister and was punched and taken away. The presiding judge ordered her to be held for a further five days incommunicado and in solitary confinement

in the Women's Prison (*Centro de Orientación Femenino*).

Her family saw her on 18 May. She was unable to walk without help. She complained of severe pains all over her body, especially in the vagina, anus and breasts.

Inés Diaz told her family that from 8 to 12 May she had been tortured day and night. She said she had been stretched out and tied to a *parrilla* (a metal grid like a bedstead) and tortured with electric shocks, particularly in the vagina and anus.

She was hung up by the legs and burnt on different parts of the body with cigarettes. She was given pentathol injections.

She has a metal prosthesis in her right arm—electric shocks were repeatedly applied there.

Doctor standing by

Inés Diaz said that all the time she was being tortured a doctor was on hand to ensure that she was not killed.

She also said that while she was being tortured she heard a voice she recognized as belonging to the judge before whom she later appeared.

Eventually she was forced to sign a "confession".

Five others arrested at the same time as Inés Diaz were subjected to similar treatment: Fernando ALVA Sánchez, Juana Rosa AGUILERA Jaramillo, Pedro Alejandro FERNANDEZ Lembach, and Ana Olivia ARMIJO Vásquez.

The men are detained in one of Santiago's main prisons, the *Penitenciaría*, where most male political prisoners are held; the women are in the city's *Centro de Orientación Femenino*.

On 20 May 1980 José MALDAWSKY Kischinevsky and Jorge María SOZA Egaña, both members of the Chilean

Journalists' Association (*Colegio de Periodistas de Chile*), were arrested and charged under the Law of Internal State Security and Decree Law 77. (Both have been adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience). Two others, José TARIFENO Urra and María Inés GONZALEZ Figueroa, were arrested on the same day. All four were accused of being members of a "cell of the Communist Party specialized in propaganda."

José Maldawsky said he was tortured for four days . . . "I was put on the *parrilla* for three prolonged sessions. Electricity was applied to my head, back, chest, arms, legs and, especially, to my genitals. The marks of the torture were seen after 10 days by the doctor in the *Penitenciaría*, after they received an order from the Minister of the Appeals Court, Adolfo BAÑADOS. While I was held by the CNI I was kept blindfolded and threatened constantly . . ."

Stripped naked

Jorge Soza said he was blindfolded and then stripped naked and punched. "Then they placed me on the *parrilla* to which they tied me by the hands and feet. They applied electric current to various parts of my body, keeping me gagged and threatening me . . . The second time, they increased the intensity of the electricity and applied it also to my left temple and my mouth.

"They kept me naked on the *parrilla* for a long time, and also threatened to submit my wife and elder daughter to similar interrogations."

At the end of May 1980 33 people were arrested in the towns of Antofagasta, Calama and Taltal by members of the regional security forces, presumed to be from the CNI. Those carrying out the arrests did not identify themselves or produce warrants, nor did they carry out legally established formalities, such as informing the detainees' families of the arrests.

Secret sites

The 33 were accused of being leaders and activists of political parties banned under Decree Law 77 of 1973.

They were taken to secret places of detention. Two were in Antofagasta; one was near a beach, the other used to belong to a religious order, the Sisters of Divine Providence.

The detainees were brutally



José Eduardo JARA Aravena, 28, who died in a Santiago clinic on 2 August 1980 after being kidnapped and held for 10 days by what was originally reported to be a "paramilitary" group.

On 11 August the government admitted that those responsible were members of the Chilean police force, "acting illegally". An investigation was promised. Information in AI's possession suggests that the security forces, especially the CNI, have been involved in hundreds of similar abductions, with torture reported to be a regular feature. No serious inquiries into such cases have been made so far.

José Jara, who died within hours of his release, was married with a two-year-old son (seen here with him); he was a student of journalism at the Catholic University in Santiago and was working for the Church's radio station *Radio Chilena*.

tortured. They were kept hanging upside down by their feet for hours at a time; they were stripped naked and taken outdoors where icy jets of water from a high-pressure hose were turned on them (it was winter in Chile); they were punched and kicked, and given electric shocks in the most sensitive parts of their bodies.

Two detainees were treated with particular cruelty: Julio CARRILLO and Nolberto RIVERA, the latter being forced to swallow human excrement and urine; after eight days their limbs were so swollen and bruised that they could barely move about without help from their companions.

Twenty-three of them were brought before a prosecuting magistrate (*ministro sumariante*), Manuel

ZAÑARTU Vera, on 2 June for allegedly breaching legislation banning political parties and activities; 21 were charged and two released, "for lack of evidence."

AI believes that all those detainees named above are prisoners of conscience. There are hundreds more in Chile.

Please send courteously worded letters expressing concern at the increasing number of reports of systematic torture in Chile and asking for the immediate and unconditional release of prisoners of conscience to: Señor Sergio Fernández Fernández, Ministro del Interior, Ministerio del Interior, Edificio Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile.

REFERENDUM ON NEW CONSTITUTION

General Pinochet announced recently that on 11 September 1980—the seventh anniversary of the 1973 coup—a referendum would be held on a new constitution. A commission was appointed in 1973 to draw up such a new constitution and the results of its work were presented to the *Junta* in July of this year. General Pinochet then announced that the people were to be allowed to vote on a revised version of this draft. The latest version differs substantially from the one presented in July. Both were drawn up without independent lawyers being consulted.

The draft constitution has been widely criticized in Chile.

- It does not provide for elections in the near future.
- It gives enormous powers to the President of the Republic.
- It makes it an offence to create or organize political parties of any kind during an eight-year transitional period beginning in 1981. Even after 1981 so-called "marxist" parties would be banned.

General Pinochet would remain President during the transitional period, and in 1989 the *Junta* would reserve the right to propose the name of the first President to be elected.

Some opposition leaders have said that, if accepted, the constitution would not significantly change the present situation in Chile, with human rights and civil liberties remaining severely restricted.

amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture



Turkey: urgent plea for action on torture

As more reports of torture in Turkey reach *AI*—including accounts of two more people dying after being interrogated—it has again called on the Prime Minister, Süleyman DEMIREL, to order an urgent investigation into the use of torture by his country's security forces (June, July 1980 *Newsletters*).

On 4 July 1980, *AI* informed Süleyman Demirel of allegations that three students from the Middle East Technical University, Mete Gürbüz FEHİM, Cegiz KORKMAZ and Bedahet TOSUN, had been tortured in Ankara after their detention on 15 June.

On 25 July *AI* appealed to the Prime Minister for an urgent investigation into allegations that the Mayor of Fatsa, Fikri SONMEZ, and others detained with him had been tortured.

In a letter to *AI* on 23 July the Turkish Ambassador in London, Vahap AŞIROĞLU, wrote: "The martial law authorities have already looked into a total of 39 complaints concerning allegations of torture. The investigations of 14 complaints have been completed and since there was no evidence to substantiate them, the martial law authorities have decided to take no further action. The investigations in connection with the remaining 25 allegations are still continuing and I understand that a number of people are assisting the martial law authorities with their enquiries."

Newspaper accounts

AI has asked the Ambassador for further information about these investigations.

On 5 July a left-wing Turkish daily newspaper, *Aydinlik*, published accounts of torture at military headquarters in Kartal, a district of Istanbul, and at the 1st section of the political police at Gayrettepe, also in Istanbul.

Gülseren MENDEKLI, a reporter from *Aydinlik*, was detained with many others while she was investigating an incident in which an army officer and a soldier were killed by terrorists.

She was taken into custody on 16 June and held for 16 days; during that time she was subjected to electric shock torture and *falaka* (beating of



Gülseren MENDEKLI

the soles of the feet).

Emphasizing the arbitrariness of the detentions, Gülseren Mendekli pointed out that only three of more than 100 people detained and tortured were eventually indicted. The rest were released.

She herself was first taken to military headquarters where she was sworn at, insulted and had her head knocked against a wall by soldiers while she was interrogated. She was then transferred with other detainees to the 1st section of the political police at Gayrettepe. There she was tortured with electric shocks and *falaka* and threatened with rape. The other prisoners with her were also tortured, she said.

Gülseren Mendekli said that the police knew that she was a reporter working for *Aydinlik* and was not involved in the terrorist shooting. According to her the police questioned her about how the newspaper obtained its information on torture and torturers.

Kept blindfolded

After two days she was taken back to military headquarters; she was kept blindfolded for a week and interrogated further. She was shuttled between military headquarters and the political police centre, where the torture continued even though she fainted several times. She also fainted at military headquarters and was eventually taken to the military

hospital at Haydarpaşa.

According to Gülseren Mendekli two of the prisoners detained with her died after being tortured.

- Aziz ARAS was in the vehicle that transferred her to the political police centre, she said; she managed to see and recognize him from under her blindfold.

When she saw him at the centre he was unable to speak and could only make noises when questioned, but in spite of his condition the police continued to torture him with electric shocks. At one point an official ordered him to be given an injection; when he was taken back to his cell he was unconscious. He was eventually taken to hospital, where he died.

Teenager's death

- Songül KAYABAŞI, an 18-year-old lycée student, died on 30 June. Gülseren Mendekli said she had seen her in the room in which they were kept at military headquarters; according to the reporter she was vomiting.

Songül Kayabaşı's mother said her daughter was brought back home by soldiers some days after she had been detained. The soldiers then said that while they were searching the house the student threw herself out of a third floor window. They took her to hospital, where she died without recovering consciousness. The doctor's report stated that she died of cerebral haemorrhage.

Her father said that after her death he had seen signs of torture on her breasts.

Aydinlik reported that after Songül Kayabaşı's death a military court found her not guilty of the charges against her.

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

Tanzanian torture trial convictions

The Tanzanian High Court has sentenced Isaias MKWAWA, former Mwanza Regional Police Commander, and Godfrey IHUYA, former Mwanza Regional Security Officer, to seven years' imprisonment for causing the death by torture of a prisoner in early 1976. Sentence was passed in July 1980.

Two other security officers, Andrew MAYALLA and James MULOKOZI, were also imprisoned; a fifth was acquitted.

Those sentenced, detained since 1976, have appealed against their convictions.

In late 1975 President Julius NYERERE was informed of a wave of unsolved murders in the Mwanza and Shinyanga regions. A special Security Committee meeting was held in Mwanza on 14 January 1976, chaired by the then Prime Minister Rashidi KAWAWA (now Defence Minister) and including government ministers, senior police and security officers, and Mwanza government and party leaders. The committee initiated a special operation headed by Mkwawa and Ihuya.

In the next two days 374 people were detained on the authority of the Mwanza Regional Party Secretary. They were taken to Kigoto Interrogation Centre, where torture was used systematically, and a number of those held died as a result.

A two-man presidential commission conducted a confidential inquiry into subsequent torture allegations. Its report—believed to have verified the torture allegations—was not published (nor was it available to the High Court, sitting in Mwanza).

One of the commission members, an advocate, was detained and held for over a year in Ukonga prison, Dar es Salaam.

Police investigations did not begin until 1977. The trial began in late 1979 and focused on the deaths after torture of a Mwanza businessman, Masanga MAZEGENUKA, and a peasant, Kwozo NKOBOKU. Evidence was given by other torture victims and detainees, police and prison officers and medical personnel. A psychiatrist testified how he assisted in the interrogation of the businessman shortly before his death (see box).

It was established that systematic torture had taken place at Kigoto Interrogation Centre: men and women prisoners had been stripped naked, tied and beaten by teams of security officers; hot chili peppers were inserted into the anus, sexual organs, eyes, nostrils, ears and mouth; other sexual tortures were practised; victims were made to crawl on stones; food was

'TRUTH DRUG'

Dr Samuel NKULILA, chief psychiatrist at Bugando Hill Hospital in Mwanza, stated in court that he administered 1.5cc of methedrine (a so-called "truth drug") to two male detainees and one female at the request of a security officer conducting interrogations.

Questioned about the ethics of his action the doctor said: "I believed it was in order because it would minimize the effect of the tortures on these people . . . I thought it was all right for me to use this method. It was scientific, reliable and had been proved by experts to be safe. I did all this to facilitate easy communication between the interrogators and those people." (*Tanzania Daily News* 18 June 1980).

Dr Nkulila examined the prisoners before injecting them and declared them fit to receive the drug. Interrogation began in his presence but continued afterwards for one prisoner, Masanga Mazegenuka, who "still refused to talk". The man died some hours later.

Dr Nkulila said the autopsy revealed that the victim was suffering from severe starvation, but, the court heard, the autopsy reports had disappeared.

AI's Medical Adviser has urged the Tanzanian Health Minister, Dr Leader STIRLING, and the Director of Tanzania's National Mental Health Committee, Dr W. NTUYABALIWE, to ensure that the World Medical Association's guidelines relating to the question of doctors participating in torture are obeyed.

denied.

Mkwawa and Ihuya were accused of directing and participating in the tortures.

It was not explained in court why so many people had been detained in the original operation and why there have been no further trials of those found to have been responsible for torture.

In January 1977 senior government and party officials involved in the

operation resigned—but many still hold high office.

AI received no reply from President Nyerere to its call for him to investigate the Kigoto and other allegations of torture (at the time such practices were said to be widespread in mainland Tanzania) and to cause those responsible to be brought to trial in compliance with the United Nations Declaration against Torture.

Iraq Ayatollah's execution confirmed by Governor

The Governor of Najaf in Iraq is reported to have confirmed that the 50-year-old Shi'i religious leader, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqr AL SADR, has been executed. The Iraqi authorities have been declining to confirm the execution for the past five months.

The Governor is reported to have told a foreign journalist that the Ayatollah had been hanged after a Baghdad trial at which he was condemned for, among other things, "his continued relationship with Ayatollah Khomeini" (of Iran).

According to unofficial sources the Ayatollah was beheaded on 9 April and his body returned to the family for burial. The execution of Ayatollah Al Sadr's sister has not been confirmed officially (June, July 1980 *Newsletters*).

Other reports from Iraq received by AI concern a prisoner said to have died in Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad while serving a 15-year sentence. According to unofficial sources, Murthadha Sa'id Abdul Baqi AL HADITHI died around the middle of June from "unnatural causes".

He was tried in August 1979 with 68 others—including senior government and Ba'ath Party officials—after the discovery in mid-July 1979 of an alleged conspiracy against the government (September 1979 *Newsletter*).

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