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YUGOSLAVIA JAILS DISSIDENT WRITER

The Yugoslav dissident writer MIHAJLO MIHAJLOV was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment by the District Court of Novi Sad on 28 February.

Professor FRITS RUTER, a Dutch specialist in criminal law and *AI*'s observer at the trial (March *Newsletter*) said that he was "shocked by this extremely harsh sentence, based on a trial in which the prosecution did not even try to prove that Mihajlov had written 'maliciously and untruthfully' as requested by Yugoslav law" (see *Prisoner of the Month Campaign*, page 3).

Mr Mihajlov was adopted by *AI* when he spent almost 4 years in prison in 1966-1970 for publishing a critical book based on a trip to the Soviet Union. He has now been re-adopted as a prisoner of conscience.

MARTIN ENNALS IN SOUTH ASIA *AI* SECRETARY GENERAL TO MEET PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH LEADERS

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS left for Pakistan on 11 March to meet Prime Minister ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO, as well as other government ministers. Mr Ennals was on his way to attend an *AI* South Asia Regional Conference held in New Delhi, India, 20-23 March.

After the conference, Mr Ennals was scheduled to go on to Bangladesh for talks with the country's President, Sheikh MUJIBUR RAHMAN. In both Pakistan and Bangladesh, Mr Ennals was due to discuss the position of political prisoners under existing emergency regulations.

AI concern about the situation in Pakistan has been heightened recently by a new wave of arrests following the death on 8 February of Home Minister MOHAMMED KHAN SHERPAO. The government official was killed in a bomb explosion in the Northwest Frontier Province.

Although no one has as yet been charged with the murder, the government has put the blame on Pakistan's largest opposition party, the National Awami Party (NAP).

The NAP was banned after the assassination, direct rule was imposed in the Northwest Province and NAP leaders all over the country were arrested. In all 400 politicians have been detained so far, including the highly respected opposition leader WALI KHAN, five members of the Senate and two members of the National Assembly. A constitutional amendment was rushed through parliament depriving assembly members of immunity from arrest during session time.

A second wave of arrests took place on 21 February when the government claimed to have found a large amount of arms in Peshawar University. Some 500 students all over the country were detained.

RHODESIAN AMNESTY HOPES FADE WITH ARREST OF AFRICAN LEADER

A former *AI* adoptee, Reverend NDABANINGI SITHOLE, President of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), and one of the more militant leaders of the newly-enlarged African National Council since his release from detention in Rhodesia last December, was rearrested on 4 March and accused by the government of Prime Minister IAN SMITH of plotting the assassination of several of his associates in the ANC.

The arrest, which was widely interpreted as an attempt to foment divisions within the ranks of Rhodesia's black nationalists, led to an immediate breakdown in the constitutional negotiations which had been in progress between the ANC and the white-minority regime, and appears to have jeopardized all chances of detente in Southern Africa.

New emergency regulations have been gazetted by the Smith government since Reverend Sithole's arrest, creating a special detainees' court in which the nationalist leader was to be "tried" on 25 March. Under these regulations, the proceedings of the special court were to be held *in camera*. Following the introduction of these new measures, a number of new charges were laid against Reverend Sithole.

Reverend Sithole was one of approximately 60 nationalists released from detention in Rhodesia last December (January *Newsletter*). *AI* estimates that there are at least 300 other political detainees still held in Rhodesia, many of whom are adopted by *AI*.

National Sections Act on Guatemala

AI national sections with Christian Democratic or related political parties in their own countries were asked in March to act in response to recent reports of death threats and armed attacks on Christian Democratic Party leaders in Guatemala.

In early February of this year, two Christian Democratic representatives in the Guatemalan Congress presented a petition of questions concerning violence in Guatemala to the Minister of the Interior, General LEONEL VASSAUX MARTINEZ. The questions concerned:

- the high number of assassinations, kidnappings, and disappearances in Guatemala
- the role of security forces in these occurrences; duties, composition and training of security forces
- measures taken by security forces to control violence
- and the existence of paramilitary groups.

One week after the petition was presented to General Vassaux, Representative ENRIQUE GUILLEN FUNES, co-sponsor of the appeal, suffered the first attempt on his life. He reported that prior to the attack he had received telephoned death threats warning him to abandon his political career.

Representative Guillen was attacked with gunfire from a yellow Mazda sedan earlier observed near his home and his office.

In the past year a number of Christian Democrats have been brutally murdered, including Professor JULIO DAGOBERTO RIOS MONTT, brother of the Christian Democratic candidate in the last presidential election.

AI Appeals to Ivory Coast to Free 85

AI appealed on 17 March to President FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY of the Ivory Coast to declare an amnesty for 85 political prisoners detained since October 1970 in connection with clashes in a provincial town of the West African republic.

The 85 were finally tried last August and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment at hard labour.

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to President Houphouet-Boigny urging him to free the men as a humanitarian gesture and as a step towards national reconciliation and unity. Mr Ennals visited the Ivory Coast in 1973 and discussed the prisoners with government officials. An *AI* observer also attended the August 1974 trial of the men and later reported irregularities in the proceedings.

The prisoners were allegedly involved in an incident in October 1970 in Gagnoa, a major town in the former French colony's southwestern region. A young man named GNAGBE-OPADJILE—whom the government felt had secessionist aims—led his fellow tribesmen in a march on the town. Several persons died in the resulting clashes and hundreds of men from the Gagnoa area were rounded up in the ensuing weeks. Several of these died in detention.

Although 55 persons were acquitted in the August 1974 trial, held in a cinema in Gagnoa, 85 others received sentences ranging from 5 years to life imprisonment. Many of the prisoners alleged that they had been beaten or otherwise maltreated by police.

South Korea Re-Arrests Poet Kim Chi-Ha

AI cabled South Korean President PARK CHUNG-HEE on 14 March to protest against the rearrest of the poet KIM CHI-HA.

Mr Kim was released from detention with 147 other political prisoners in February under a presidential suspension of sentence (March *Newsletter*). He had been serving a life sentence for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government.

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS said in his cable that the organization was "saddened and shocked" by the rearrest of Mr Kim and urged his immediate release.

Reports from Seoul said that Mr Kim had been handed over by police to the Korean Central Intelligence Agency after being questioned about a newspaper article he had recently published. The article stated that political prisoners had been tortured during interrogation and that the government had fabricated charges in alleging that the so-called People's Revolutionary Party was involved in a conspiracy to overthrow the government last April.

Kim Chi-Ha, who is widely known for his satirical verse criticizing the Park regime and for his defence of human rights, has spent much of the last 13 years in jail. He was adopted by *AI* in 1972 and will be re-adopted if he is imprisoned yet again.

AI Takes up 31 More Egyptian Cases

AI in March adopted 39 more Egyptians arrested in Cairo following the New Year's Day riots (March *Newsletter*). This brings the total number of adopted prisoners who were arrested at that time to 152.

Several have recently been released on bail, but the majority of appeals for release on bail have been rejected by the Egyptian authorities. Among those who have been released are SAFINAZ KAZEM, a well-known journalist and theatre critic, her husband AHMED FOUAD NEGM, a poet, and SHEHATA HAROUN, a leftwing lawyer.

Lesotho Jails 20 Opposition Leaders

Twenty members of the Basutoland Congress Party, Lesotho's main opposition party, received jail sentences of from

3 to 9 years on 10 March at the end of the country's first major treason trial. Two other men received suspended sentences and nine of the accused were acquitted.

The Congress Party members were arrested after an abortive coup in January 1974 and were accused of having plotted to overthrow the ruling National Party of Chief LEABUA JONATHAN. Evidence was produced at their trial to show that Congress supporters had been subjected to "relentless and ruthless persecution and repression" at the hands of the government since Chief Jonathan's National Party seized power in 1970.

AI RESUMES PUBLICATION OF A CHRONICLE OF CURRENT EVENTS

AI will publish in May the English translations of numbers 28-31 of *A Chronicle of Current Events*, the samizdat journal of the Soviet movement for the defence of human rights in the USSR.

The decision to resume publication—*AI* published numbers 16 through 27 in English before the *Chronicle* was temporarily suppressed by the KGB—was taken by *AI*'s International Council in Denmark last September (October *Newsletter*) after the journal had reappeared in Moscow.

The four latest numbers are being published in a single 168-page edition, with numerous photographs of Soviet citizens who have been persecuted for their political or religious beliefs.

Copies will be available from national sections or from Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. The price per copy is 95 pence (US \$2.50).

Malaysia Re-Arrests Opposition Leader

The Sarawak opposition leader DATUK JAMES WONG was rearrested as he left the courtroom in Kuching after the High Court of Borneo had ordered his release following an application of *habeas corpus*.

Datuk WONG, who is adopted by *AI*, was arrested in October 1974, and was held under the Preservation of Public Security (Detention) Regulations for alleged participation in activities detrimental to the national interests. He was held at the Kamunting detention camp near Taiping in Western Malaysia, from where he was flown to the hearing.

The High Court ordered his release on 10 March, but a Special Branch officer arrested Datuk Wong when he stepped outside the courtroom.

South Africa Releases Bram Fischer

On 10 March, South African Justice Minister JAMES KRUGER announced the conditional release of BRAM FISCHER, the country's 66-year-old former Communist Party leader who was jailed for life in 1966. Announcing the decision, the Minister said that Mr Fischer, who has been having hospital treatment for cancer, would be set free for one month so that he could visit relatives in Bloemfontein while recuperating.

Mr. Fischer's release follows appeals by *AI* (February *Newsletter*) and other organizations, including the United Nations. *AI* Deputy Secretary General HANS EHRENSTRALE has now written to South African Prime Minister JOHN VORSTER to ask that Mr. Fischer be left at liberty at the end of the month of freedom he has been officially allowed.

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.

Mairaj Mohammed KHAN, Pakistan

MAIRAJ MOHAMMED KHAN is a former Minister of State for Public Affairs in Pakistan. As a former member of the central committee of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP)—even described by some as Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's political heir—he became a government minister in Mr Bhutto's first cabinet in 1970.

Before that, Mairaj had suffered numerous terms of imprisonment for his opposition to the military rule of President Ayub Khan and later General Yahya Khan. However, he was dismissed from his ministerial office in 1972 and decided to leave the PPP shortly afterwards.

Since then, he has not concealed his criticism of the present government and was arrested in June last year after making a number of speeches. On 9 January 1975 he was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment under sections 42 and 49 of the Defence of Pakistan Rules for making an "objectionable speech". A special tribunal conducted his trial—the last days *in camera*—in Karachi Central Jail, and the verdict of the tribunal is final.

No appeal is possible with the High Court or the Supreme Court. Mairaj Mohammed Khan's eyesight is reported to be bad following injuries received during a police charge at the time of his arrest.

Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for his release to: His Excellency Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

Mihajlo MIHAJLOV, Yugoslavia

MIHAJLO MIHAJLOV, prominent Yugoslav dissident, writer and former lecturer at the University of Zadar was tried in Novi Sad between 24 and 28 February following two postponements (see page 1). Mihajlov is a former *AI* adoptee who spent almost 4 years in prison between 1966 and 1970 for publishing a book entitled *The Moscow Summer* based on critical observations from his trip to the USSR in 1964.

After his release from prison in March 1970 he was banned by a court order from undertaking any professional work for a period of 4 years. Furthermore, he was deprived of his passport and thus not allowed to travel abroad despite the fact that he received several invitations to lecture in foreign universities. He was unable to find work even though he applied regularly to the employment bureau, and other attempts were also made to deprive him of his accommodation in Novi Sad where he lived together with his mother.

However, Mihajlov continued to publish his articles in foreign magazines and newspapers since this was his only source of income apart from assistance given by relatives and courageous friends such as Milovan Djilas. Two years ago a collection of his essays entitled *Russian Themes* was published abroad in several languages.

Mihajlov was rearrested on 7 October 1974 on the grounds that during the same year he had sent for publication abroad articles which were considered by the authorities to be hostile to the socialist system of Yugoslavia.

AI Secretary General Martin Ennals appealed to President Josip Broz Tito on Mr Mihajlov's behalf on 17 January 1975, and *AI* sent a team of two observers

to the trial in Novi Sad. Mr Mihajlov was charged under article 118 of the Yugoslav Penal Code and sentenced to 7 years of strict imprisonment and banned from any writing and public speaking for another 4 years after completion of his sentence.

Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to: His excellency Josip Broz Tito, Bulevard Oktobarske Revolucije 70, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

David SILBERMAN Gurovich, Chile

DAVID SILBERMAN GUROVICH is a 35-year-old engineer who until 11 September 1973 was the general manager of the *Compañía del Cobre Chuquicamata*, the largest copper mine in the country. He was also a member of the hitherto legal Communist Party.

Within two or three days of the coup he was arrested on charges connected with his administration of the mine. Stories also appeared in the *El Mercurio* chain of newspapers alleging the theft of a large sum of money David Silberman was adopted as a prisoner of conscience because there is no doubt that the real reason for his arrest was his membership of the Communist Party and the prominent post he had held as director of a nationalized copper mine. The newspaper stories were subsequently denied and a retraction printed. The use of generalized economic and administrative charges in trials against prominent members of the Allende administration is a common occurrence and rarely has any significant basis in fact. At the secret trial by court martial, David Silberman was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment.

He was transferred to the Penitentiary of Santiago from Calama, the town adjacent to the mine, on 29 September 1973 to serve his sentence. On 4 October 1973 he was removed from prison for further interrogation by an officer of the FACH (Chilean Air Force). After 20 days during which he was reportedly tortured he was returned to the prison to complete his sentence. Finally on 4 October 1974, exactly a year later, he was taken away again and has not officially been seen since.

Different reasons have been given for his disappearance: the Ministry of Justice contradicted the commander of the Santiago military district, and furthermore General Pinochet and General Leigh, leading members of the Chilean junta, alleged that he had fled the country—a story which had been denied by the authorities in September 1973.

Despite a plea of *habeas corpus*, representations made by religious bodies, the Chilean Supreme Court, and evidence submitted to the United Nations, no further information as to his whereabouts has been made available. *AI* has information that he was seen in the hospital of the prison camp of Tres Alamos in very poor condition and that he has recently been transferred to the Instituto Traumatológico in Santiago.

Please send courteously-worded cards asking for information as to his health and whereabouts to: General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Presidente de la Republica, Edificio Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile; *and to:* General Cesar Benavides, Ministro del Interior, Edificio Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile; *and to:* General Sergio Arellano Stark, Jefe de la Zona de Santiago en Estado de Sitio, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, Santiago, Chile.

Soviet Union Detains Former Adoptee

Former *AI*-adoptee ANATOLY MARCHENKO of the Soviet Union was rearrested on 26 February. Mr Marchenko served 6 years in Soviet prisons and labour colonies between 1960 and 1966. After his release he was subject to stringent post-release regulations and was not allowed to live in Moscow.

It was at this time that Mr Marchenko wrote *My Testimony*, one of the most famous and important accounts of Soviet prison conditions. In 1968 Mr Marchenko was again arrested, allegedly for violation of passport regulations but more likely on account of his statements about his prison experiences. He was sentenced to one year in a corrective labour colony. While serving this sentence he was charged with "anti-Soviet slander" after *My Testimony* was smuggled out of the USSR by his friends. A further two years was added to his sentence.

After his release in 1971 Mr Marchenko was again prevented from living in Moscow and resided instead in Tarusa, south of the capital. He was interrogated a number of times (for example in connection with the KGB's campaign against *A Chronicle of Current Events* and in connection with his statements in support of Academician ANDREI SAKHAROV's hunger strike in 1974).

In December 1974 he announced that he had renounced his Soviet citizenship and applied to emigrate to the United States.

The charges involved in his latest arrest are reportedly the same as those brought against him in 1968: violation of post-release regulations for prisoners.

Indonesian Student Faces 16 Years' Jail

The prosecutor in the trial of DRS SYAHRIR, an Indonesian prisoner adopted by *AI*, demanded on 11 March that Mr Syahrir be sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment for allegedly taking action which could undermine the authority of the state.

with the student demonstrations against the visit of the then Japanese Prime Minister KUKEI TANAKA to Jakarta Japanese Prime Minister KUKEI TANAICA to Jakarta. He was accused during the trial of criticizing government policy in social and economic development. The prosecution attempted to show that there was a conspiracy amongst the student leaders to overthrow the government, but the evidence was unconvincing.

Another student leader, HARIMAN SIREGAR, was sentenced in December to 6 years' imprisonment on the same charge. About 50 people detained since January last year remain in prison, despite government assurances that they would be released if not tried within one year as required by the 1963 Subversion Law.

More than 55,000 prisoners have been held for more than nine years in Indonesian prisons in connection with the 1965 attempted coup.

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

The International Secretariat learned in February of the release of 241 *AI*-adopted prisoners and took up 161 new cases.

Treasurers Support Higher *AI* Budget

A meeting in London on 8-9 March of treasurers from 24 *AI* national sections pledged support for a revised 1975-1976 budget of £366,800.

The new budget figure, which will have to be approved by the International Council meeting in Switzerland in September (see page 4), has been necessitated by inflation and increased demands on the International Secretariat in London.

The treasurers also agreed to recommend to the council that *AI* launch a major international

tundraising campaign.

International Treasurer KEVIN WHITE of Ireland chaired the meeting, which was addressed by the Chairman of the International Executive Committee, DIRK BORNER of Germany, and by the Chairman of the *AI* Financial Control Committee, ARNOUT RUITENBERG of the Netherlands.

The JEC itself will meet in London 11-13 April. Among the items to be discussed are reports of recent *AI* missions, proposals for further missions, finance, *AI* development, and new initiatives in the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.

AI News in Brief

Dates Set for 1975 International Council

The eighth International Council meeting of *AI* will be held in St Gallen, Switzerland 12-14 September. Details of the meeting will be sent shortly to all national sections. Arrangements in St Gallen are being handled by MARKUS EDELMANN, Sommerlistrasse 1, CH-9000 St Gallen.

The first of the Sean MacBride Lectures on Human Rights established by the International Executive Committee last September (October *Newsletter*) in honour of the Nobel Peace Prize-winner after he stepped down as IEC chairman, will precede the council and will be delivered by Mr MacBride himself.

Also preceding the council meeting will be meetings of the IEC, national section treasurers and national section coordinators of the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.

AI Message Delivered to Meeting in Mexico

AI's Mexican Section, represented by ALICIA de ZAMA, read a message from Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS to the International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of the Military Junta in Chile, which was held in Mexico City between 18-21 February. The message was subsequently published in English and Spanish and distributed to delegates.

Fundraising: Swedes Collect Waste Paper

A Swedish representative at the *AI* International Council meeting in Denmark last September reported that many Swedish groups raise funds by collecting and selling waste paper. The door to door collectors also take the opportunity to talk about *AI* and its work to householders.

New Addresses for Italian and Bangladesh Sections

The address for the Italian Section is now: Amnesty International, Italian Section, Via della Penna 51, Rome, Italy. Telephone: 679-6012. The Italian Section is selling a compelling anti-torture poster designed by the well-known artist BRUNO CARUSO. The posters cost 1,100 lire each and may be obtained by writing to the section at the above address.

All correspondence for the Bangladesh Section should now be addressed to Mr H. Hafizullah, c/o Orr, Dignam and Company, 195 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dacca, Bangladesh.

Additions to Prisoner of Conscience Library

The International Secretariat in London has received the following additions to the Prisoner of Conscience Library:

Valdés, Hernán. *Tejas Verdes: Diario de un campo de concentración en Chile*. Editorial Ariel, Esplugues de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain. 1974. 174 pages. (An English translation is expected from Gollancz in London in the autumn of 1975.)

Kuznetsov, Edward. *Prison Diaries*. Translated by Howard Spier. Valentine, Michell & Co. Ltd., 31 Furnival Street, London EC4, England. 1975. 255 pages. £2.95.

El-Asmar, Fouzi. *To Be an Arab in Israel*. Frances Pinter Ltd., 161 West End Lane, London NW6, England. 1973. 106 pages. £1.95. (The author was an *AI*-adopted prisoner of conscience.)

Kim Chi-Ha. *Cry of the People and other Poems*. Auttmm Press, Japan, 1974. Also available from Book People, Berkeley, California, USA for \$2.95.

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AI SECTION PROTESTS TO GOVERNMENT

COURSES IN 'TORTURE RESISTANCE' GIVEN TO BRITISH SERVICEMEN

AI's British Section has raised with British Minister of State for Defence WILLIAM RODGERS the question of the training currently being given to selected British servicemen in resistance to torture. Mr. Rodgers argues that the training prepares British servicemen to resist interrogation at the hands of an "unscrupulous enemy". The techniques involved in the training include hooding, wall standing, restricted diet, sleep deprivation and the use of noise-making machines—the very techniques that were disallowed by the British government in 1972 for use by the military in Northern Ireland.

The British Section's campaign coordinator, DAVID IVE, has responded that the long-term medical effects of such sensory deprivation are uncertain although what evidence there is, which comes from studies of concentration camp victims, suggests that the mental and physical effects may not appear for many years after the experience. Mr Rodgers and Mr Ive disagree over the definition of "torture", Mr Rodgers distinguishing torture from sensory deprivation and Mr Ive pointing out that the techniques used are meant to break the will of the victim.

Mr Ive also draws attention to one of the lessons learned from AI's talks with Portuguese and Greek victims of torture at the Workshop on Human Rights held in London last December (January *CAT Bulletin*). These victims of torture related how the training of military personnel to resist torture could provide a cover for the teaching of torture techniques. From their own experiences they testified that resistance to torture comes only from moral conviction and not from training because the latter can only approximate the real terror and pain of torture. Thus to maintain courses in the resistance to torture is largely useless. What is more, Mr Ive argues, it is altogether possible that in future circumstances the trainers and the trained could become re-cast as actual torturers.

Mr Rodgers states that the safeguards built into the program include the voluntary nature of the training, the right to drop out at any time, the care in the selection of instructors and close medical supervision. Mr Ive concludes that such training "increases the expertise of the trainers in the application of torture, and the existence of such a body of men is, in Amnesty's view, itself a threat to basic human rights". With Mr Rodgers' consent, the AI British Section has submitted its correspondence with him to the British news media, which has paid considerable attention to it, and at the British Section's initiative the entire matter is receiving Parliamentary attention.

AI Sends Mission to South Korea

AI is sending a mission to Seoul, South Korea, to investigate allegations of torture made against the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) by some of the 148 political prisoners who were released from prison in mid-February of this year (March *Newsletter*).

Most of the stories of torture come from students who were opponents of the government. After release some of them have described their treatment, which allegedly included beatings, electrical shocks, prolonged sleeplessness, and being hung from the ceiling and spun around or being hung upside down while water was poured into the nostrils, causing near drowning.

Such serious allegations of torture warrant an on-the-spot investigation, AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS said. The AI mission consists of Mr BRIAN W. WROBEL, a British lawyer, and Dr ERIK KARUP PEDERSEN, a surgeon from Copenhagen who served with the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Mekong Delta, South Vietnam, in 1973. The mission was scheduled to begin work in Seoul during the last week of March.

APPEALS

SPAIN

Lawyers Protest Torture of Prisoners

The Governing Junta of the Barcelona Bar Association (*Colegio de Abogados de Barcelona*) has protested the torture of prisoners recently arrested in that city. PEDRO MORAL LEON, DIEGO ROMERO PEREZ, and LUIS GUERRERO GUIJARRO were arrested in mid-January under charges of being members of the FAC (*Front d'Alliberament Català*) and a few days later had to be interned in hospitals as a result of torture. Señor Guerrero showed signs of a fractured skull, and Señor Mora is reported to have entered hospital close to death, having suffered cigarette burns, electric shocks, cuts with razor blades in the tongue and beatings of his genital organs.

The Superior Chief of Police, Señor APESTEGUI, informed the Bar Association, Dr MIGUEL CASALS COLDECARRERA, that Señor Mora's bruises and lacerations had been caused by accidental falls during transport in custody. Señor Apestegui is reported to have said afterwards that the Bar Association was "collaborating with the terrorists".

The Governing Junta of the Bar Association has also received a report on the case of a worker, GONZALO LAMELA CAHEIRO, arrested by the police in Barcelona on 29 January, in connection with trade union activities. It indicates that Señor Lamela was subjected to forced standing, kicking and beatings with guns.

The Bar Association's denunciation has been filed at Court of Instruction Number 13 (Juzgado de Instrucción No. 13, address: Nuevo Edificio Juzgados, Salón Víctor Pradera, Barcelona).

Meanwhile, another group of 30 lawyers has also presented a public statement denouncing the ill-treatment suffered by Pedro Mora León and Gonzalo Lamela Caheiro.

The issue has now developed into a major one, and the latest news indicates that on 14 March, 30 lawyers locked themselves inside the offices of the Colegio (Bar Association) to express their support for the attitude taken by the Governing Junta of the Association with regard to these cases, and to offer their own protest against ill-treatment of detainees.

Letters to the *Colegio de Abogados*, particularly from colleagues abroad, would show support for their

courage in protesting the use of torture: Señor Decano del Ilustre, Colegio Abogados de Barcelona, Dr Miguel Casals Colldecarrera, Mallorca 283, Barcelona 9.

Also, please write courteously worded letters, inquiring about the legal situation and physical condition of these prisoners to: Señor Comandante, Guardia Civil de Barcelona, San Pablo 92, Barcelona; *and letters urging an inquiry into these allegations of torture to:* Excelentísimo Señor Ministro de Justicia, Don José María Sánchez Ventura y Pascual, Ministerio de Justicia, San Bernardo 47, Madrid.

SOUTH VIETNAM

US Delegation Confirms Torture

A delegation of eight members of the United States Congress that visited South Vietnam in February has brought back fresh confirmation of the continuing ill-treatment and torture of political prisoners in the jails of the Saigon government. Representative PAUL N. McCLOSKEY Jr said on 27 February that a 19-year-old prisoner, Miss TRAN THI PHUONG THAO, had whispered to his interpreter when the police escort left them alone for a moment: "they beat us very much".

Miss Thao, a law student at Saigon University, said she had no idea why she had been arrested. She was arrested on 3 February 1975, along with 17 journalists, many of them among Saigon's best known, after five newspapers were closed down by the government. They are accused of being "confirmed communist agents", but the only evidence produced against them reportedly comes from two men who claimed to be former communist agents now specialised in subverting Saigon's press. One of them rallied to the government in 1973, and the other has long been suspected of working for the police, according to an editor of the paper employing him.

During their stay in Saigon, the congressional delegation also visited the National Police Headquarters, which over the years has become notorious as a torture center. There they saw Mr HUYNH TAN MAM, the 29-year-old student leader whose whereabouts had been unknown for almost two years, and who at various occasions has been subjected to brutal torture.

As a result of his opposition to American policy in Indochina, Mr Mam has been in and out of prison since March 1970, when he was first arrested for "being a member of a communist spy ring". Widespread international protests secured his release several times, but he has been in prison ever since his last arrest in January 1972. He was then taken to the National Police Headquarters in Saigon and apparently was subjected to a brutal series of interrogations.

A student released from the National Police Headquarters said that he had seen Mr Mam being tortured by the police and that he had "blood flowing from his eyes and ears". Liquid had been injected into his veins, according to this report, and he had been conscious only intermittently for seven days. It was further alleged that his eyes were exposed for long periods to a powerful electric lamp, as a result of which his eyesight deteriorated. He was eventually transferred to Chi Hoa prison in a state of partial paralysis.

In May 1973 the Saigon government announced that Mr Mam was included on a list of prisoners to be exchanged with the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG). But Mam refused to be "repatriated", claiming that he was a supporter of the Third Force Movement of South Vietnamese who consider themselves to be neutralists, supporting neither President NGUYEN VAN THIEU nor the communists. He was taken to a "rallying center", because the government claimed he had "rallied" to them, but his

family and friends were unable to locate him, despite repeated efforts.

The fact that Mr Mam has now been located for the first time in almost two years calls for a renewal of efforts for his release. No charges have been brought against him, nor could they be if, as the government claims, he has rallied to their side.

Please send courteously worded letters requesting his immediate release to:

Major-General Nguyen Khac Binh,
Commander of the National Police,
National Police Headquarters,
Tran Hung Dao Street,
Saigon,
Republic of Vietnam

and to:

Major-General Trang Si Tan,
Commissioner of Police,
Saigon Police Headquarters,
Nha Giam Doc Canh Sat Do Thanh,
Vo Thanh Street,
Saigon,
Republic of Vietnam

and to:

His Excellency Dr Ho Van Cham,
Acting Minister of Public Information and Open Arms,
Ministry of Public Information,
Saigon,
Republic of Vietnam

Separate letters should also be sent to the same authorities urging that Miss Thao and the imprisoned journalists be immediately released or brought to trial.

Appeal Halts Floggings in Namibia

In late February the Appellate Division of the South African Supreme Court granted the suit of two Namibian bishops and a mission student to end the flogging of members of two legal political groups in Namibia, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the Democratic Development Cooperative Party (DEMKOP). The ruling was the result of an appeal against the March 1974 decision by the South West Africa Supreme Court not to issue interdicts against tribal authorities to stop the floggings.

In support of the suit Bishop JAMES WOOD of Damaraland submitted affidavits sworn by male and female victims of the (often public) floggings, which were administered by tribal policemen with the firm central stem of the Makalani palm branch, causing severe physical damage to the victims (June 1974 *CAT Bulletin*). In July 1974 the Campaign Department published a selection of these affidavits and initiated a campaign to bring pressure upon the South African government to intervene against the tribal authorities.

Despite the government's many refusals to intervene in what it quite wrongly termed "tribal law and custom", the Supreme Court has —many floggings later—put an end to the floggings that had focused so much international criticism on South Africa's "homelands" policy.

AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

The *Amnesty International Campaign for the Abolition of Torture* needs considerable resources in order to carry on its program and expand the scope of its activities. If you want to support the campaign financially please send your donation to the *AI* national section in your country or by bank transfer to account number 2101 6768 of Amnesty International, Midland Bank, 25 Bedford Row, London WC1R 6BG, England, with the specification *CAT*. You can also send your international postal money order with the same specification direct to: Amnesty International 53 Theobald's Road London WC1X 8SP, England.