



Military aid to El Salvador **Call for review by USA**

AI has called on the United States Secretary of State, Alexander HAIG, to take steps to ensure that the USA did not give El Salvador's government military aid that would be used for murder, torture and other abuses.

In a letter dated 6 May 1981 *AI* told the Secretary of State that there was conclusive evidence of a consistent pattern of killing by the Salvadorian security forces of peasants, young people and other victims who had no part in guerrilla activity.

It called on the US Government to review the effects of its aid on human rights in El Salvador and to make public its findings.

The sending of the letter was publicized by *AI* in a news release on 11 June 1981. It also said that it had received a reply from the State Department disagreeing with its conclusions but expressing willingness to discuss the situation in El Salvador.

AI's letter to Alexander Haig cited case after case of abduction, murder and torture by troops and police of non-violent opponents, human rights workers, priests, teachers, students,

journalists, medical workers and others. It pointed to mass killings, including the shooting down of hundreds of refugees, most of them women and children, as they tried to cross into Honduras in May 1980.

The letter noted that there was fighting between guerrillas and government forces, and that there had also been reports of human rights violations by anti-government groups. However, it added, "analysis of all available data suggests that the majority of the reported violations, including torture, 'disappearance' and deliberate cold-blooded killings, have been carried out by the security forces, and have been directed against people not involved in guerrilla activities."

AI pointed out that the murders of three American nuns and a lay worker in December 1980—still under investigation in El Salvador—were "grimly typical of many thousands attributed to 'right-wing death squads' ". It pointed to plentiful evidence, including official US reports, implicating troops and police in this and other crimes attributed to such groups. Salvadorian President José Napoleon DUARTE had said in a radio interview in February

Continued on back page

FRG **Threat to freedom of expression**

At least 200 people have been arrested and charged in recent months in all parts of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) for expressing support for a protest by politically motivated prisoners over their treatment in jail.

They are being charged with "making propaganda for a terrorist organization".

Some 50 of those arrested are reported to have been held in custody pending trial. They were said to be held under the same high-security conditions as are suspected terrorists, even though they were not accused of violence.

People were arrested for such acts as holding banners, giving out leaflets or painting slogans calling for changes in the treatment of the prisoners, all of whom are convicted or suspected of offences involving violence. They were supporting demands made during a recent hunger-strike by the prisoners—most of whom belong to groups such as the Red Army Fraction—to be held together while in prison.

In a news release on 5 June 1981, *AI* appealed to the FRG authorities to drop the charges against those arrested. It said none of them was suspected of violence and there were no facts which could reasonably be interpreted to show that any advocated violence.

In a letter sent to the Federal Prosecutor, Kurt REBMAN, *AI* said the arrests and charges were a threat to freedom of expression. Those held should be released and action dropped against the rest □

Guatemala: Fears for mother and baby

Iride del Carmen Marasso de BURGOS, 30, and her 18-month-old son Ramiro Ignacio. . . members of the Guatemalan security forces detained them and a Salvadorian, José Sánchez GALLEGOS, in Guatemala City on 25 April 1981. They have not been seen since and there are grave fears for their safety. The mother is of Chilean-Italian parentage and is a graduate of Mount Holyoak University in the USA. From 1976 to December 1980 she lived in El Salvador, before going to Guatemala City as a translator. She is eight-months pregnant. José Gallegos belongs to the



Salvadorian opposition coalition *Federación Democrática Revolucionaria*, Revolutionary Democratic Federation.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in May of the release of 112 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 110 cases.

Yugoslavia Economist on 'hostility' charges

The Croatian economist Dr Marko VESELICA went on trial in Zagreb on 11 June 1981 charged with "hostile propaganda", "incitement to national hostility" and "hostile activity".

His is the fourth political trial in Zagreb so far this year—three of them of people charged with having criticized government policy in interviews with foreign journalists.

On 10 June 1981 *AI* had issued a news release appealing to the Yugoslav authorities to drop the charges against Dr Veselica. It said the pattern of trials in Zagreb indicated a hardening of official policy towards dissent.

In April this year the country's federal Public Prosecutor warned that a "turning point in the policy of prosecuting political offenders" had been reached and that "no compromises" would be made in future.

The charges against Dr Veselica, 45, a former lecturer in political economy at Zagreb University, stem from an interview he gave in August 1980 to a magazine in the Federal Republic of Germany. In it he claimed that the Republic of Croatia was economically and politically disadvantaged within the Yugoslav federation. He is alleged also to have sent articles abroad about human rights violations in Yugoslavia.

In 1971 Dr Veselica was deprived of his university post and a seat in the Yugoslav Federal Assembly during a purge of the Croatian Communist Party. The following year he was sentenced to seven years' imprison-

ment for "anti-state conspiracy". He was adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience.

Since his arrest on 24 April this year, he has twice gone on hunger-strike to protest against restrictions on his lawyer's access to him and to the court dossier.

In messages to the Yugoslav President and the Public Prosecutor, *AI* also urged the authorities to grant appeals against sentences passed on Dr Franjo TUDJMAN, a historian (see April 1981 *Newsletter*); Vlado GOTOVAC, a writer, and Dobroslav PARAGA, a law student (see June 1981 *Newsletter*). *AI* has adopted all three as prisoners of conscience and sent observers to the trials of Dr Tudjman and Dobroslav Paraga in February and May this year.

Public access to all hearings was restricted to a very limited number of people who had been issued with official passes. At Dobroslav Paraga's trial, the main evidence for the prosecution was a confession which the accused had retracted; the court prevented the defence from introducing evidence and refused to call all but one defence witness, the father of the accused.

Dobroslav Paraga, who was arrested in November 1980 after collecting signatures calling for an amnesty for Yugoslavia's political prisoners, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment on charges of "hostile propaganda" and "hostile activity" □

GDR HONECKER accuses *AI*

The Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Erich HONECKER, has accused *AI* of appearing to be "one of the many associations in the West which are financed from shady sources and which have made it their task to discredit respectable states".

His comments were made during an interview with the British publisher Robert MAXWELL and were publicized by the news media in the Federal Republic of Germany, including the magazine *Stern*. The comments came in response to a question about the 16-page *Amnesty International Briefing: Germany Democratic Republic (GDR)*, published on 4 February 1981 (see February 1981 *Newsletter*). *AI* had sent the document to the GDR Government with an appeal for a review of the GDR's criminal laws to bring them into line with the country's commitments on human rights (see March 1981 *Newsletter*).

Stern carried the interview with Erich Honecker in February.

In it he said that a statement (incorrectly attributed by the interviewer to *AI*) that "3,000 to 7,000 GDR citizens" were currently in prison on political grounds was "quite simply, a blatant lie".

In fact, *AI*'s briefing paper had said: "Amnesty International learns of the arrest of 200 prisoners of conscience a year but believes this to be only a fraction of the total. Unofficial sources estimate the number of such prisoners held at any one time at between 3,000 and 7,000."

On 26 March 1981 *AI* wrote to Erich Honecker to correct any misunderstanding. It pointed out that the estimate of 3,000 to 7,000 came from sources other than *AI* and were quoted to indicate that the total number of prisoners of conscience was likely to be much higher than *AI*'s figures. The letter added: "The very secrecy surrounding political imprisonment in the GDR prevents the making of exact assessments and *AI* did not attempt to do so."

AI's letter also included information on the movement's funding and—in response to the charge that its task was to "discredit respectable states"—on its worldwide activities □

Singapore Two long-term detainees freed

Three prisoners of conscience adopted by *AI*—two of them held or restricted for more than 17 years each—were released in Singapore on 1 June 1981.

They had been held without trial under the Internal Security Act, 1961, (ISA) which allows for unlimited detention of any person considered by the President to be a threat to Singapore's internal security or public order.

HO Piao, now 43, a trade union leader, has been detained continuously since 1963. LEE Tse-tong, now 50, also a trade union leader and a member of parliament for the Socialist Front party, was detained from October 1963 to February 1980, when he was released from prison and con-



HO Piao (left) while still in detention

fined to a small island off Singapore under an ISA restriction order. The third man, CHUA Sea-kea, now 31, was a student when he was arrested in April 1970 □

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.

Doru BODNARIUC, Gerhard KLOOS, Romania

Both prisoners are from the town of Medias in the county of Sibiu. They were sentenced to five years' imprisonment after they had publicly demonstrated in support of their right to emigrate.

Doru BODNARIUC, a joiner aged 24, and Gerhard KLOOS, a 25-year-old welder, conducted their placard demonstration in the centre of Medias on 19 September 1979 after the authorities had refused them permission to leave Romania. They were arrested immediately and later sentenced to five years' imprisonment each for "seriously disturbing the public peace". They are reported to have been denied the right to legal defence at their trial and the court is said to have refused to allow evidence to be given by defence witnesses.

Both men are serving their sentences in Aiud prison, where they are reportedly being subjected to a severe regime. Both are believed to be in poor health and Doru Bodnariuc has a lame leg, the result of a beating by police in 1973 after he had tried to leave Romania without official permission.

Please send courteous letters appealing for the release of Doru Bodnariuc and Gerhard Kloos to: The President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae CEAUSESCU, Palatul Republicii, Bucuresti, Romania.

TAN Kim Oh, Singapore

A former student at Nanyang University—then a private Chinese university—he has been held without trial since late 1966.

TAN Kim Oh was arrested under the provisions of the Internal Security Act in late 1966 because he had criticized government policies. For instance, he is known to have opposed the government's introduction of "suitability

certificates" which, between 1964 and 1978, were needed for admission to a university in Singapore: they were granted according to the political record of the student concerned, or that of his or her family.

The Internal Security Act allows the Minister of Home Affairs to serve a two-year detention order so as to prevent a person "from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of Singapore. . . or to the maintenance of public order". Such detention orders may be renewed indefinitely.

Tan Kim Oh had previously been arrested and charged with unlawful assembly after taking part in a protest demonstration on 4 July 1966 against United States involvement in Vietnam.

He is believed to be in the Moon Crescent Detention Centre.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: Mr CHUA Sian Chin, Ministry of Home Affairs, Phoenix Park, Tang Lin Road 1024, Singapore, Republic of Singapore.

José Félix MARTINEZ Salgueiro, Uruguay

A former army artillery officer, he was arrested in March 1971 and is one of the longest-serving prisoners of conscience in Uruguay.

José Félix MARTINEZ Salgueiro was 29 and a first lieutenant in the army when he was arrested on 16 March 1971. One of the charges against him was espionage. *AI's* information is that this was based on a report he wrote disclosing military officers' preparations to take over the country—which they did in June 1973.

He was accused also of conspiring "to attack the constitution", although it was he who had uncovered the officers' plan to commit an unconstitutional act in assuming power.

A court martial later sentenced him to 12 years' imprisonment. On appeal, the prison term was increased

to 15 years', plus three to seven years' "security measures"—which means he is not entitled to ask for early release on parole.

He is now being held in Libertad Prison—*Establecimiento Militar de Reclusión No. 1*, Libertad, San José. Released prisoners have reported that he has been harassed constantly by the guards. He is said to be allowed only half an hour's recreation a day.

He has spent three and a half of his 10 years' imprisonment in punishment cells.

The latest charge reported to have been brought against him is based on an allegation that he acted violently against an armed guard who had told him he was to move into a cell with a psychiatrically disturbed prisoner. He has no access to legal defence.

José Félix Martínez is reported to have a stomach ulcer and to be suffering from gastritis, loss of weight and pyorrhea.

Please write courteous letters appealing for his release to: Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la República, Dr Aparicio MENDEZ, Casa de Gobierno, Plaza Independencia, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Mexicans freed

Three Mexican prisoners whose cases were under investigation by *AI* have been freed under an amnesty granted on 6 May 1981 by the Governor of Morelos Province. Salvador RONCES Porcayo, Pedro HELGUERA Jiménez and Eladio GARCIA Ortíz were arrested in August 1975 and were serving 36-year sentences in a prison in Cuernavaca □

DEATH PENALTY

AI has learned of 55 people being sentenced to death in five countries and of 52 executions in another five countries during May 1981 □

In December 1979 a four-member AI delegation visited Viet Nam at the invitation of the Prime Minister, Pham van DONG. It met the Prime Minister and senior government officials and visited three "re-education" camps, where a number of prisoners were interviewed. In a memorandum based on the mission's visit, AI submitted 18 recommendations to the Vietnamese Government and this began an oral and written exchange between the two parties which continued over 10 months. On 3 June 1981 AI published its "Report on an Amnesty International Mission to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam", which includes the Vietnamese Government's comments on the recommendations.

Call for end to 're-education' camps in Viet Nam

In a series of detailed recommendations to the Government of Viet Nam, AI has called on it to end 1013-term detention without trial and to abolish "re-education" camps still holding several thousands of inmates without charge or trial.

The camps were set up after the defeat of the South Vietnamese Government in 1975. In September 1980 the Government of Viet Nam told AI that 20,000 prisoners were still being held in them.

The fall of the government of Nguyen van THIEU in 1975 led to hundreds of thousands of military personnel, civilian functionaries and prominent political figures of the previous administration being required to register for a period of "re-education". According to the Government of Viet Nam one million people were "re-educated" in the months that followed the change of government in April 1975. Most of them attended short-term "re-education" courses and were released within a brief period—in some cases within days or weeks.

Forty thousand people were detained for longer periods, according to information given by the government to AI's mission in 1979. They were said to include "29,000 puppet military personnel, 7,000 civilian officials, 3,000 policemen and security officials and 900 members of reactionary parties and organizations".

Although the Vietnamese Government announced in 1976 that the "re-education" period would last three years, AI noted in its memorandum to the government in May 1980 that prisoners were now being held for what appeared to be indeterminate periods of detention in the camps.

One of the recommendations in AI's report is that the government should publish a list of all "re-education" camps and other places of detention without delay, including detailed

figures on individuals and categories of those still imprisoned.

As a first step towards the abolition of the system of "re-education", AI urges in the report, the authorities should set up an independent commission to examine the reasons for people being held, in many cases for up to six years without formal charge or trial.

AI believes that after such an examination of individual cases all those people against whom there are no grounds for criminal charges should be released.

Other recommendations in the report deal with improved safeguards for prisoners against ill-treatment, including the introduction of procedures for people in custody to be informed of the charges on which they are being held and for their families to be notified immediately they are arrested, with the prisoners being allowed regular visits.

Inspections urged

The recommendations deal also with conditions in "re-education" camps and prisons, urging, among other things, that they should be regularly inspected by an independent body.

The report calls for the abolition of the death penalty in Viet Nam and ratification by the government of international covenants on human rights.

The larger part of the Vietnamese authorities' response to AI's May 1980 memorandum explains in detail that people still held in "re-education" camps are officially considered to have committed "national treason". For this reason, the government argues, the policy of "re-education" is more humane than bringing such prisoners to trial before courts of law, where they face the possibility of being sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

On the question of legal safeguards

and related recommendations by AI, the government's response is that such provisions are already incorporated into Vietnamese law.

In December 1980 AI submitted an aide-memoire to the Vietnamese Government to follow up on the previous recommendations. In this, AI reiterates its original concerns and illustrates them by providing details of the cases of several prisoners assigned to AI adoption groups. For example:

- Buu HUONG, a former diplomat and civil servant now aged 60, has been detained since 1975—yet he had spent the last 20 years of his career up to then entirely in the financial branch of the Foreign Service of the former Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) and was in no way involved in the prosecution of the war.

Information is also given on people arrested on political grounds after 1975 and regarded by AI as prisoners of conscience. For example:

- Duyen ANH, aged 45, a writer of children's stories and former editor of two weekly journals, was a popular author in the south with more than 30 books to his name; he was a member of the national branch of the writers' organization PEN International. His novels and short stories dealt largely with themes of family life and childhood and were directed at young people. After a reevaluation of Vietnamese literature by the authorities his writing is now considered to be "decadent". He was arrested in April 1976 and is being held in a "re-education" camp in the Ham Tan region, some 100 km from Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). AI's information is that he has not yet been formally charged.

Concluding its aide-memoire of December 1980, AI urgently calls the attention of the Vietnamese authorities to the deteriorating health of some prisoners held for indeterminate periods of detention. It expressed con-

cern that, in addition to the psychological effects of isolation from their families and uncertainty about the prospects of being released, prisoners are not provided with the medical care they require. In some cases this resulted in prisoners dying in detention.

In the final document contained in the report, the Vietnamese Government justifies the detention of people for "re-education" in terms of a 1967 ordinance of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), which provides for "the severe punishment of heads and ring-leaders stubbornly opposed to the revolution".

At the same time the government states that the tempo of releases has been stepped up for those prisoners who have made progress while undergoing "re-education".

- *AI* welcomes the releases and is encouraged to note that all the individual prisoners referred to in the report have now been released, except for the writer Duyen Anh and Pham Van TAM, a former opposition senator under the Thieu administration and one-time Secretary General of the Vietnamese League of Human Rights.

In addition, *AI* welcomes the opportunities afforded by the Vietnamese authorities to discuss the concerns of the organization and is prepared to continue this exchange. However, in making public the exchange of memoranda, *AI* now wishes to draw attention to the fate of those people who are still detained six years after the end of hostilities in Viet Nam, without formal charge or trial □

Report
of an
Amnesty International
Mission
to
the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam

10-21 December 1979

in full and unedited exchange between the government and Amnesty International



an amnesty international publication

The report is available from the International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, United Kingdom; price £2.00 □

Death penalty appeal

Bernabe BUSCAYNO, Victor CORPUZ, Philippines

The two men were sentenced to death—for the second time in four years—by a military tribunal on 4 May 1981 after being found guilty of subversion, murder and illegal possession of firearms.

On 6 May 1981 *AI* cabled President MARCOS urging him to commute the death sentences passed on the two men, on humanitarian grounds.

In November 1977 they were sentenced to death after being convicted on the same charges. Sentenced with them then was former Senator Benigno AQUINO, who was President Marcos' main political rival before martial law was imposed in September 1972. The President ordered a retrial after international appeals against the court's decision.



Bernabe BUSCAYNO

Benigno Aquino was released from detention in May 1980 so that he could undergo heart surgery in the United States of America. He was still there when the new trial began in April 1981.

Bernabe Buscayno, 41, also known as Commander DANTE, had been Commander-in-Chief of the New People's Army (NPA), the military wing of the Philippines Communist Party, for nearly eight years when he was captured in August 1976. He was reported to have been badly tortured after his capture and since then has been held in isolation in the 4th Regional Security Unit Stockade, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Victor Corpuz was a cadet in the Philippines Military Academy before defecting to the NPA. He is reported to have been tortured after his arrest in January 1976 and is now said to be psychologically disturbed. He has been held in continuous isolation

for the five years of his detention in the Military Security Unit, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

AI believes that about 800 imprisoned people are under sentence of death in the Philippines: most are held in the National Penitentiary, Muntinlupa, awaiting review of their sentences by the Supreme Court. Eleven prisoners are known to have been under sentence of death since the 1950s. A number of those on death row were convicted of offences allegedly committed as members of the NPA or its predecessor, the *Hukbong Mapagpalayang Bayan*—popularly known as "the Huks".

Relatively few death sentences have been carried out in the Philippines in recent years.

Please write courteous letters appealing for the sentences on Bernabe Buscayno and Victor Corpuz to be commuted on humanitarian grounds to: President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Malacanang Palace, Manila, The Philippines □

USSR executions

Three people have been executed in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaidzhan after being sentenced for their part in a swindle involving the equivalent of £1.5 million of state money, according to a report in the USSR newspaper *Baku Worker* on 31 May 1981.

They were said to have died after the Praesidium of the Azerbaidzhan Supreme Soviet had rejected their appeals for clemency.

The case involved the illegal production and sale of knitwear in a factory in Baku. The executed men were the factory's chief engineer and two senior justice officials said to have been bribed by him.

The report did not name the executed men but *AI* believes they were Raphael ADZIASHVILI, Elia MIKHAILISHVILI and Gabriel SPIASHVILI—three Jews from Georgia who were sentenced to death for an identical crime by a court in the Ukraine in August 1978. A fourth man sentenced with them—Mahmoud ABASSOV, a Moslem from Baku—was executed in 1980. *AI* issued urgent appeals for these men in 1978, 1979 and 1980.

In the Soviet Union the death penalty is applied for 18 different crimes in peace time, including economic offences, and every year *AI* learns of death sentences passed on people convicted of economic offences that do not involve the use of violence □

Zaire Political killings reported in Kivu

More people are reported to have been tortured while in detention in the Zairian capital, Kinshasa, in recent months, and two opponents of the government are said to have been shot dead after they had been arrested in Kivu region in the east of the country.

On 17 March 1981 six young men were arrested in Uvira, a town in south-eastern Kivu near Zaire's border with Burundi. The bodies of two of them, SADIKI and SHINDANO, were found several days later, dumped near the shore of Lake Tanganyika, about 20 km south of Uvira. They had been shot in the head. The whereabouts of the other four detainees are not known.

Other civilians arrested in Kivu between January and April 1981 are reported to have been assaulted and ill-treated in Uvira and Bukavu. They included the wife of a political detainee, ANZURUNI, who has been held incommunicado without charge since his arrest at the end of June 1980.

In late March 1981 the authorities in Kinshasa arrested Professor DIKONDA wa Lumanyisha, a socio-

logist at the University of Zaire. He is thought to have been suspected of having given an incognito interview on a Belgian television program in which he criticized government policies.

He is reported to have been badly tortured and was eventually transferred to the university clinic for medical treatment. In late May he was said to have been taken back to the security police detention centre in Gombe district.

Professor Dikonda had been scheduled to address a human rights seminar at the end of April on "Work and Human Rights".

Among other detainees reported to have been tortured in Zaire recently is KAMBINGA Sele, a former diplomat, one of a group of people arrested in January 1981.

The Zairean authorities have not replied to inquiries by *AI* about him or other political detainees being held and reportedly tortured in Kinshasa and Kivu □

Czechoslovakia Big crackdown on dissenters

In the most severe crackdown on Czechoslovak dissenters since 1971, some 30 signatories and supporters of the unofficial human rights movement Charter 77 and members of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS) were arrested in May on suspicion of engaging in subversion.

An official announcement linked the arrests to the detention on 28 April of two French nationals, Gilles THONON, a lawyer, and Françoise ANIS, a law student, accused of attempting to smuggle in materials and money to be used for subversive activities by a number of Czechoslovaks.

Criminal proceedings are said to have been instituted against 15 people for subversion "in collusion with foreign powers" and "on a large scale". If convicted, they face up to 10 years' imprisonment. Eight of them have been remanded in custody: Jaromir HOREC, poet and journalist;

Eva KANTURKOVA, writer and journalist; Karel KYNCL, journalist; Jan MLYNARIK, historian; Jan RUMIL; Jiri RUMIL, journalist; Jirina SIKLOVA, sociologist; and Milan SIMECKA, writer.

AI believes that, contrary to the official charge, they are being prosecuted for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of expression, and has adopted them as prisoners of conscience.

The seven who have been charged and released from custody include Ivan HAVEL, mathematician and brother of the playwright Vaclav HAVEL who is currently serving a four-and-a-half year prison sentence, Jiri HAJEK, the former Foreign Minister and Charter 77 spokesperson. Some 15 other people who were detained have been released, and no criminal proceedings are reported to have been instituted against them. The two French nationals were released and expelled from Czechoslovakia on 20 May 1981 □

South Africa Dr Barnard apologizes to prisoner

Dr Christiaan Barnard, the heart surgeon, has publicly apologized for remarks he had made to an *AI* group in Austria about their adopted prisoner of conscience in South Africa, Strini MOODLEY.

He issued the apology in early June 1981 as part of an out of court settlement agreed shortly before the Cape Town Supreme Court was due to hear a R10,000 (about £5,900) action for damages brought against Dr Barnard by Strini Moodley.

The action was a sequel to correspondence about Strini Moodley's case between the Austrian *AI* group and Dr Barnard in 1978. At the time, Strini Moodley was reported to be in ill-health because of his imprisonment on Robben Island. He had been sentenced in late 1976 to five years' imprisonment, the mandatory minimum for offences under the Terrorism Act.

Appeal for help

The *AI* group wrote to Dr Barnard asking for his help in arranging proper medical treatment for Strini Moodley. The doctor said he would look into the case, then wrote back: "Firstly, he is not in prison for political reasons. He has been tried in an open court of law for terrorist activities and has been found guilty and sentenced to five years." Dr Barnard went on to equate Strini Moodley with members of an urban guerrilla organization in Europe known for its violent activities.

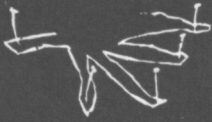
In fact, Strini Moodley had been convicted of non-violent offences relating to his activities as a leader of South Africa's Black Consciousness Movement. He is due for release at the end of 1981.

In his apology, Dr Barnard unreservedly withdrew his reference to the urban guerrilla organization in Europe and expressed regret that his comments to the Austrian *AI* group might have been construed as suggesting that Strini Moodley had been convicted of similarly violent acts.

• Dr Barnard's apology was reported in the South African press on 3 June 1981 □

amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture



appeal

Torture fears for Bolivian detainees

Horrifying accounts of the torture of Bolivian detainees in the aftermath of the July 1980 military coup have been reaching *AI* over the past three months and, with political arrests continuing in Bolivia, there are fears that political detainees held by the security forces are still being tortured.

In the weeks that followed the military coup led by General GARCIA Meza, real or suspected opponents of the new government were subjected to serious human rights violations.

By September 1980 between 1,500 and 2,000 people had been detained. All arrests were without a warrant and prisoners were held without charge: *habeas corpus* was in effect suspended.

In February 1981 *AI* sent a memorandum to General García condemning the widespread use of torture (see April 1981 *Newsletter*). It was based on the findings of an *AI* mission to Bolivia in November 1980. There has been no response from the Bolivian Government.

AI's information is that official disrespect for the law and the constitution is continuing. No citizen appears to be safe from unlawful arrest and violent ill-treatment at the hands of the army, the *Servicio Especial de Seguridad* (SES)—a special security unit established after the coup and under the Ministry of the Interior—and right-wing vigilante groups known as *paramilitares*. Members of the Argentine security forces are also reported to have taken part in or supervised torture sessions.

The following case histories of torture victims cover the period July 1980 to March 1981. The identities of three victims are not being revealed for fear of reprisals against members of their families. Two said their names could be used.

- **Adela VILLAMIL de Flores**, aged 31, a student and member of the Bolivian Women's Federation, *Federación de Mujeres de Bolivia*, was arrested by *paramilitares* and SES agents in La Paz on 15 October 1980. No warrant or form of identification was produced.

Her detention was not acknowledged

for two weeks. From 23 October to 25 December she shared a 2m by 2m cell with another woman prisoner. She could not identify the place of detention.

SES agents interrogated her in a room partitioned by a curtain. Blinding lights were shone in her eyes and her feet were placed in a basin of water through which an electric current was passed. She was forced to sign a blank sheet of paper which was to be her "confession".

She was beaten with a horse whip, tied up and left hanging by her wrists. Small nails were stuck in the soles of her feet; she was hung upside down and beaten; she was kicked and beaten until her ears, nose and lips bled (she was given tablets to prevent swelling).

For three days and nights she was locked in a wooden box, breathing through a small hole. She had to remain crouched all the time and when eventually taken out was unable to stand. She was then beaten on the knees until she fainted.

One night six uniformed men raped her and her cell-mate. They threatened to kill them if they told anyone.

On one occasion Adela Villamil was placed on a table and an electric prod was pushed inside her vagina.

Her husband, Juan Carlos FLORES Bedregal, a former Bolivian deputy, "disappeared" after the coup.

- **Franz Alvaro MICHEL Torrico**, a lawyer and former elected deputy aged 35, was arrested in January 1981 in Camiri. His arrest was never officially acknowledged. At first he was held incommunicado in a small cell in the *Departamento de Investigación Criminal*, police criminal investigation department, where he was under SES control. He was later moved to Pari, still incommunicado, and beaten by *paramilitares*. Eventually he was taken to the main SES headquarters in La Paz.

During his detention he was punched and beaten with a club—he and other detainees were beaten continually, not only during specific torture sessions.

During interrogation he was hooded and handcuffed. Twice he was stripped, thrown to the floor and kicked in the back. He was made to hold out his hands so that they could be clubbed. Pins were forced under his nails. Once he was put in a tub of water through which an electric current was passed.

He was released in March 1981—after being forced to sign a declaration that he had not been tortured.

- **Case No. 3:** A student, aged 28, he was arrested on 17 July 1980 and released in November. He was tortured by Bolivian *paramilitares* and Argentine army officers. He was forced to lie in horse-dung for 15 hours while being threatened with death, kicked and beaten. One of his ribs was broken and he now has pains in his spine.

- **Case No. 4:** A 21-year-old man arrested in October 1980 and held in Oruro, in the *Departamento de Orden Político* (DOP), security police, and in a "safe house".

He was kept in isolation for eight days and badly beaten. He was tortured with electric shocks and put through two mock executions.

- **Case No. 5:** This man was arrested by the army in Cochabamba. He was beaten on the testicles and all over his body, especially on the hands. Sticks, rifle butts and chains were used in the repeated beatings.

His captors shaved his scalp and then beat him about the head. He was left with deep wounds in the head and several broken ribs, and he is still unable to move the fingers of his left hand.

General García Meza has said he will step down from the presidency in August 1981. His successor is not yet known.

Please write courteous letters expressing concern about reports of torture in Bolivia, and urging the authorities to implement the formal detention procedures guaranteed by the Bolivian Constitution, to: President Luis García Meza, Palacio Quemado, La Paz, Bolivia.

Sri Lanka

Tamils held incommunicado after bank robbery

At least 30 people belonging to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority are reported to have been arrested after a bank robbery in the town of Neerveli on 25 March 1981. Two police officers were killed in the incident.

Those arrested are reported to have been detained incommunicado and without charge. By mid-June, 28 were still being held.

The government has blamed the robbery on Tamil "extremist" groups—Sri Lanka's Tamil minority has been demanding a separate state in the north of the country.

On 30 April *AI* sent a cable and a letter to President J.R. JAYEWARDENE of Sri Lanka expressing concern that lawyers and relatives had not been given access to the arrested Tamils. *AI* informed the President that relatives were worried because they had not been able to visit or even trace prisoners. It had also been reported that lawyers and relatives did not know under which laws the prisoners were being held.

AI's messages said that by holding the prisoners incommunicado and without charge the authorities appeared to be breaching the minimum safeguards provided for in Articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on

Civil and Political Rights to which Sri Lanka was a party.

Incommunicado detention is provided for under Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act, and *AI* drew the government's attention to the organization's concerns—expressed in a memorandum to the government on 23 May 1980—that the removal of ordinary legal safeguards under the Act created conditions under which human rights violations, such as torture, could easily occur.

AI urged the government to:

- publish the names of all those arrested after the robbery, where they were being held and under which laws;
- allow the detainees immediate access to lawyers of their choice;
- inform the relatives where they were being held and allow immediate and subsequently regular visits to the prisoners;
- publish the charges against the prisoners—or else consider their early release.

In a more recent development, in Sri Lanka, five Tamils are reported to have been shot dead by the army on the night of 3 June, some hours before voting began in district council elections throughout the country.

One of the Tamils was said to have been shot at the home of a Tamil member of Sri Lanka's parliament, another in the town of Urumpirai and a third in Neerveli—the scene of the 25 March bank robbery.

The day before the reported shootings a state of emergency had been declared in northern Sri Lanka and this was extended to cover the whole country on 4 June, the day of the district elections. The emergency was lifted on 9 June.

On 11 June *AI* cabled President Jayewardene to express its concern at the reported shootings by the army. It urged the government to arrange for an independent investigation into the killings and to publish the findings. It also urged the government to take appropriate measures to protect the lives and safety of all Sri Lankans.

The cable noted also *AI*'s deep concern that lawyers and relatives had still not been granted access to the Tamils arrested in early April after the Neerveli bank robbery.

- Applications for writs of *habeas corpus* on behalf of 13 of those detained have been made in the courts, but by mid-June none of the detainees had been brought before a judge □

El Salvador

Continued from page on

1981 that his security forces were not prepared to control such groups as they supported government goals and policies, the letter said.

AI said it shared international concern over the effects of military aid to El Salvador, and noted that in December 1980 the United Nations General Assembly had called on all governments to refrain from giving such aid.

The letter recalled that in 1980 *AI* had urged the Carter Administration to re-examine its policy on aid to El Salvador, and that the then Deputy Secretary of State, Warren CHRISTOPHER, had replied that the US would not continue any assistance which it believed was being used for repressive purposes.

It noted that both President Ronald REAGAN and Alexander Haig had said it was still US policy to try to protect human rights in the area. *AI* welcomed that commitment, but said it was still receiving reports of abduct-

ion, torture and murder.

Replying for the State Department, the Deputy Secretary, William P. CLARK Jr, said he disagreed with *AI*'s views on El Salvador, but he expressed willingness to discuss the situation in more detail.

AI sent a preliminary reply to William Clark on 10 June 1981, welcoming the invitation for discussions □

Nineteen freed in Djibouti army camp case

Nineteen of the 41 people detained since mid-1979 and charged with being involved in two attacks on army camps in Randa and Khor Angar during 1979 were unconditionally freed in February 1981 after all charges against them had been withdrawn, according to information reaching *AI* recently.

A number of others arrested at the same time but granted provisional release were also discharged.

The remaining 22 detainees were tried before the State Security Tribunal in March: 12 were acquitted and 10—mainly soldiers—were convicted on the lesser charge of *association de malfaiteurs*, criminal association, and sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to seven years. No charges relating to actual participation in the attacks were sustained. There is no right of judicial appeal against the tribunal's verdict or sentence.

AI has received no reports on what view the tribunal took about the admissibility of statements by defendants allegedly made under torture.

The organization had sent a mission to Djibouti in March 1980 to express concern about allegations that those detained had been tortured □

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