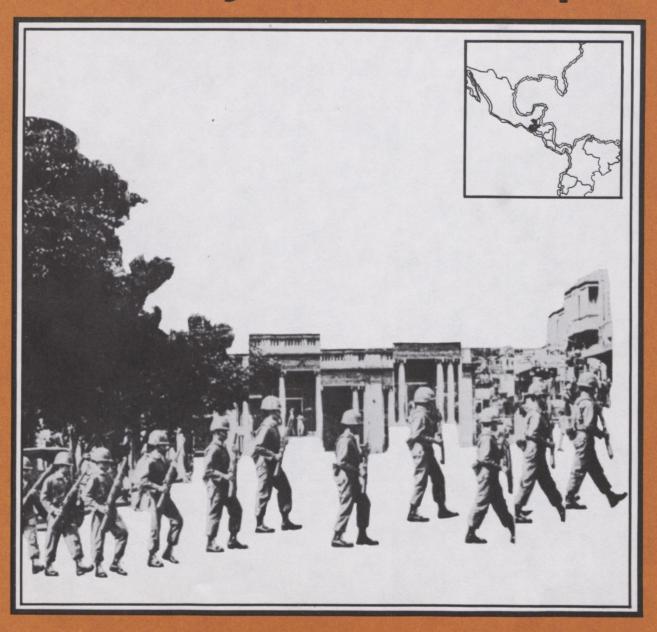
GUATEMALA

A government program of political murder

an amnesty international report



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A government program of political murder

The human rights issue that dominates all others in the Republic of Guatemala is that people who oppose or are imagined to oppose the government are systematically seized without warrant, tortured and murdered, and that these tortures and murders are part of a deliberate and long-standing program of the Guatemalan Government.

This report contains information, published for the first time, which shows how the selection of targets for detention and murder, and the deployment of official forces for extra-legal operations, can be pin-pointed to secret offices in an annex of Guatemala's National Palace, under the direct control of the President of the Republic.

The report also includes transcripts of two unique interviews; the first is with a peasant who, as far as Amnesty International knows, is the sole survivor of political imprisonment in Guatemala in 1980; the second is with a former conscript soldier who served as a member of a plainclothes army unit and who described the abduction of civilians who were later tortured and murdered.

Between January and November in 1980 alone some 3,000 people described by government representatives as "subversives" and "criminals" were either shot on the spot in political assassinations or seized and murdered later; at least 364 others seized in this period have not yet been accounted for.

The Government of Guatemala denies having made a single political arrest or holding a single political prisoner since President Romeo LUCAS GARCIA took office in July 1978. All abuses are attributed to "independent" paramilitary groups beyond official control. This report adds to previously available evidence that these actions are carried out by units of the regular security services. No convincing evidence has been produced that the groups described by the authorities do in fact exist.

In the final section of the report, Amnesty International reproduces the interviews, transcribed from tape recordings, with two Guatemalans who have had personal experience with the torture and murder of political suspects by the Guatemalan army.

The former prisoner was abducted on 15 February 1980 by a plainclothes army squad in a village in northern Guatemala. He escaped from Huehuetenango army base in western Guatemala after being held for 11 days.

He gives details of his place of detention—in the base slaughterhouse—and of how he was interrogated under torture by Guatemalan army officers.

He describes the execution of three other prisoners in his presence, strangled with a garrotte—a technique cited as the cause of death in hundreds of killings in 1980, including those of 37 people found in a mass grave in San Juan Comalapa, near Guatemala City, in March 1980 (see case histories).

The former conscript soldier, of Kekchi Indian origin, gives an account of his second year of military service, when he served as a member of a plainclothes army unit in Guatemala City. He describes the surveillance of civilians under political suspicion, and the abduction of civilians for interrogation under torture, and then murder, at the Guatemalan army base of the *Brigada Militar Mariscal Zavala* on the outskirts of Guatemala City.

His testimony is of particular significance as a document of record. Political killings and "disappearances" involving government forces are not new in Guatemala: in 1976 Amnesty International estimated that about 20,000 people had been victims of these abuses since 1966, when they first began to occur regularly. But although in the past other members of the security services have told of their participation in abductions and killings—for instance, Lauro ALVARADO Y ALVARADO, a National Police

officer, who was later killed in 1975 (see Guatemala: Amnesty International Briefing, 1976, page 15)—this former conscript's testimony is the most extensive and detailed of its kind and the first by a conscript soldier describing the routine extra-legal security measures of regular army units.

Although the two interviews transcribed in part here were not conducted directly by Amnesty International, they are published as illustrations of the nature of political imprisonment and murder in Guatemala.

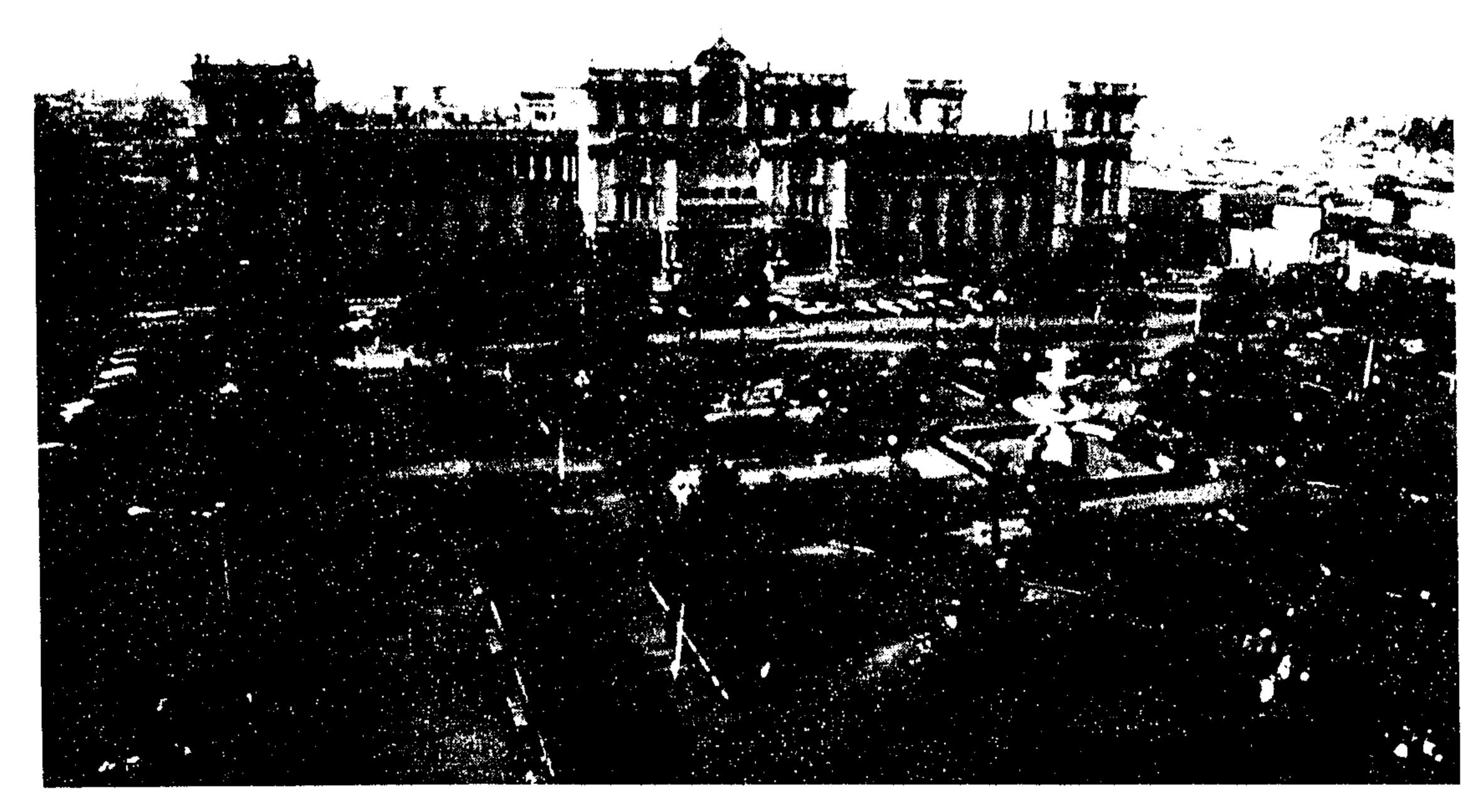
The interviews were conducted in February 1980. The transcripts have been edited for length and the names of those involved removed. Their publication was decided only after their authenticity and accuracy had been determined by exhaustive analysis of the two tapes and extensive cross-checking of information. Only indirect communication was possible with the interviewer of the escaped prisoner but the former soldier was interviewed by a journalist from Europe now in close contact with Amnesty International.

The interviewers agreed to the tape transcripts being published by Amnesty International

provided that they were edited so that no one could be endangered by their release. Although the escaped prisoner, whose identity is known to the Government of Guatemala, and the former soldier are now reported to be safe outside Guatemala, there is still fear of reprisals by the Government of Guatemala if their identities are publicized.

• A number of anti-government guerrilla groups have been operating in Guatemala since 1966 and Amnesty International is aware that there continue to be armed confrontations between government and guerrilla forces, with lives lost on both sides. However, Amnesty International does not accept government assertions that all or most killings of the sort described in this report are the result of armed conflict or are the work of agents operating independently and out of the government's control.

Amnesty International opposes the torture and execution of prisoners in all cases, whether by government forces or opposition groups. It believes that confrontation between government and violent opposition groups cannot be held to justify these human rights violations.



The National Palace in Guatemala City . . . the evidence shows that targets for political murder are selected in secret offices in an annex to the main building.

Guatemala today

Nearly 5,000 Guatemalans have been seized without warrant and killed since General Lucas García became President of Guatemala in 1978. The bodies of the victims have been found piled up in ravines, dumped at roadsides or buried in mass graves. Thousands bore the scars of torture, and death had come to most by strangling with a garrotte, by being suffocated in rubber hoods or by being shot in the head.

In the same three-year period several hundred other Guatemalans have been assassinated after being denounced as "subversives". At least 615 people who are reported to have been seized by the security services remain unaccounted for.

In spite of these murders and "disappearances" the Government of Guatemala has denied making a single political arrest or holding a single political prisoner. (But in February 1980 Vice-President Francisco VILLAGRAN KRAMER put the position like this: "There are no political prisoners in Guatemala—only political murders". He has since resigned and gone into exile.)

The government does not deny that people it considers to be "subversives" or "criminals" are seized and murdered daily in Guatemala—but it lays the whole blame on independent, anti-communist "death squads".

According to a distinction drawn by the government under President Lucas García "criminals" are those people who have been seized and killed by what the authorities call the Escuadrón de la Muerte (Death Squad) and "subversives" those killed by the Ejército Secreto Anticomunista (ESA)—Secret Anticomunista army. The authorities have issued regular statistics on the killings and on occasion have come out with death tolls higher than those independently recorded by Amnesty International.

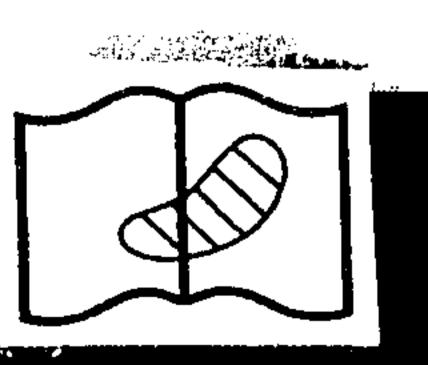
What the Government of Guatemala says

National Police spokesmen told the local press in 1979 that the *Escuadrón de la Muerte* had killed 1,224 "criminals" ("1,142 men and 82 women") from January to June 1979 and that the ESA had killed 3,252 "subversives" in the first 10 months of 1979. Although no similar statistics have been issued for 1980, government spokesmen have continued to report on the latest victims of "anti-criminal" and "anti-communist", but allegedly independent and non-governmental, "security measures".

Amnesty International believes that abuses attributed by the Government of Guatemala to independent "death squads" are perpetrated by the regular forces of the civil and military



A member of the *Policia Militar Ambulante* (PMA), mobile military police, one of the security units said to be responsible for the seizure and "disappearance" of trade union leaders in Guatemala.



security services. No evidence has been found to support government claims that "death squads" exist that are independent of the regular security services. Where the captors or assassins of alleged "subversives" and "criminals" have been identified, as in the cases cited in this report, the perpetrators have been members of the regular security services.

The victims

During 1980 the security forces of the Government of Guatemala were reported to have been involved in unexplained detentions and murders of people generally considered as leaders of public opinion: members of the clergy, educators and students, lawyers, doctors, trade unionists, journalists and community workers. But the vast majority of the victims of such violent action by the authorities' forces had little or no social status; they came from the urban poor and the peasantry and their personal political activities were either insignificant or wholly imagined by their captors.

The precarious balance for the poor in Guatemala between life and death at the hands of the security services is illustrated by the testimonies in this report. The former soldier describes house-to-house searches in which the discovery of certain "papers"—leaflets or circulars—was sufficient reason to wipe out an entire family. The prisoner, who was brutally tortured and escaped only the day before he was due to be executed at Huehuetenango army base, believes that a neighbour denounced him as a "subversive" because of a dispute over the village basketball court-a good enough reason, as far as officers of the Guatemalan army were concerned, for him to be tortured and put to death.

At first glance most of the victims of political repression in Guatemala appear to have been singled out indiscriminately from among the poor; but the secret detentions, "disappearances" and killings are not entirely random; they follow denunciations by neighbours, employers or local security officials, and the evidence available to Amnesty International reveals a pattern of selective and considered official action. By far the majority of victims were chosen after they had become associated—or were thought to be associated—with social,

religious, community or labour organizations, or after they had been in contact with organizers of national political parties. In other words, Amnesty International's evidence is that the targets for extreme governmental violence tend to be selected from grassroots organizations outside official control.

A more elaborate pattern is followed for dealing with Guatemalans of higher social or economic status, such as business people and professionals—doctors, lawyers, educators—or with leaders of legal political parties. Where people in these groups are suspected of "subversive" activity, past or present, the discretionary powers of security service agents do not appear to be unrestricted. Such cases are thought to require consideration by high-ranking government officials before individuals can be seized or murdered; the system appears to function hierarchically, with the official level at which a decision may be taken corresponding to the status of the suspect.

In 1980 a number of occupational groups which, in recent years, had largely escaped being the particular targets of political repression were singled out for violent attacks, resulting in numerous "disappearances" and deaths; they included priests, educators and journalists.

Father Conrado DE LA CRUZ and his assistant Herlindo CIFUENTES were detained with at least 44 other people during a demonstration in Guatemala on 1 May 1980; the pair have since "disappeared"—many of the others



Father Conrado de la Cruz . . . "disappeared".

have been found dead. Three other Roman Catholic priests are reported to have been

killed by the security services in 1980: José María GRAN. Walter VOORDECKERS and Faustino VILLANUEVA. Other clergy have been formally expelled from Guatemala.





Father José María Gran
. . . murdered.

Father Walter Voordeckers
... murdered.

After March 1980 the teachers and administrators of the national university, *Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala* (USAC), were singled out. By mid-September 12 members of the law faculty and 15 other teachers and administrators had been killed, including four members of the USAC executive committee. The Rector, Saúl OSORIO, and some 50 staff members fled into exile.

At least 71 USAC students died or "disappeared" after detention in 1980; 53 teachers have been shot dead in different parts of the country.

The President's 'special agency'

The evidence compiled and published by Amnesty International in recent years indicates that routine assassinations, secret detentions and summary executions are part of a clearly defined program of government in Guatemala.

New information in the possession of Amnesty International bears this out. It shows that the task of coordinating civil and military security operations in the political sphere is carried out by a specialized agency under the direct supervision of President Lucas García.

This presidential agency is situated in the Presidential Guard annex to the National Palace, near the offices of the President and his principal ministers, and next to the Presidential

Residence, the Casa Presidencial. Known until recently as the Centro Regional de Telecomunicaciones (Regional Telecommunications Centre), the agency is situated under two rooftop telecommunications masts on the block-long building.

The telecommunications centre in the palace annex is a key installation in Guatemala's security network. For years informed sources in the country referred to the organization working from there as the *Policia Regional* (Regional Police)—although the authorities repeatedly denied the existence of such a body. In 1978 a former Mayor of Guatemala City, Manuel COLOM ARGUETA, denounced the *Policia Regional* as a "death squad". On 23 March 1979 he was assassinated in the city centre as a police helicopter hovered overhead.

The centre was previously called the Agencia de Inteligencia de la Presidencia (Presidential Intelligence Agency); in a speech in 1966 Colonel Enrique PERALTA AZURDIA, head of state from 1963 to 1966, described its founding in the National Palace complex in 1964.

During 1980 sources in Guatemala City reported that the name had been changed again, to the Servicios Especiales de Comunicaciones de la Presidencia (Presidential Special Services for Communications); an alternative title was said to be the Servicios de Apoyo de la Presidencia (Presidential Support Services).

It is this presidential agency, situated in the palace complex and known by various names, which Amnesty International believes to be coordinating the Government of Guatemala's extensive secret and extra-legal security operations.

In 1974 a document from the records of a United States assistance program described the Centro Regional de Telecomunicaciones as Guatemala's principal presidential-level security agency, working with a "high level security/ administrative network" linking "the principal officials of the National Police, Treasury Police, Detective Corps, Ministry of Government [Gobernación; alternatively translated as "Interior"], the Presidential House [Palace], and the Guatemalan Military Communications Centre". (The document, which was declassified, came from the United States Agency for International Development, Termination Phase-

Out Study, Public Safety Project: Guatemala, July 1974.)

The National Palace complex makes it possible for the security services to centralize their communications and also to have access to the central files of the army intelligence division, which are reported to be housed in the Presidential Residence itself. The files are believed to include dossiers on people who were political suspects even at the time of the

de Defensa de las Instituciones Democráticas). It is believed that outdated files are still used as a basis for political persecution.

In many cases on record with Amnesty International political activities during the 1940s and 1950s appear to have been the sole motive for a detention followed by "disappearance" or by a "death squad" killing. For instance, the submachine-gun attack in September 1980 on Professor Lucila RODAS

'A program of pacification'

The 'death squads' of Guatemala are part of a 'program of pacification' carried out by the Guatemalan security services, according to a former official of the Ministry of the Interior who resigned on 3 September 1980.

Elías BARAHONA Y BARAHONA, who had been the ministry's press representative since 1976, described his job there as that of carrying out a press policy to explain governmental violence in terms of fighting between "clandestine groups of the extreme right and left". He said that blank letter-head stationery of the alleged "death squads", *Ejército Secreto Anticomunista* and *Escuadrón de la Muerte*, was stored in the office of the Minister of the Interior, who is responsible for internal security.

According to Elías Barahona lists of people to be eliminated were prepared from the records of Military Intelligence and the National Police. They included the names of "trade union leaders and *campesinos* (peasants) provided by the Department of Trade Unions of the Ministry of Labour and by a sector of private enterprise".

Citing as his authority an officer of Military Intelligence, he said that the "definitive lists" were prepared "in a dependency of the army called 'military transmissions' (transmissiones militares), on the fourth floor of the National Palace, and were approved at meetings held there attended by the Ministers of Defence and the Interior, and the Chief of the General Staff of the Army".

The former press official said the Chief of the Presidential Staff and of Military Intelligence and the head of the Military Intelligence Archive (Archivo de la Inteligencia Militar) were responsible for coordinating operations. Decisions were carried out by "the principal army and police headquarters of the republic", he said.

Elías Barahona fled to Panama after his defection and later declared his membership of the Guatemalan guerrilla organization *Ejército Guerrillero de los Pobres* (Guerrilla Army of the Poor).

overthrow of the government of Colonel Jacobo ARBENZ in 1954—they include Colonel Arbenz' active supporters in the left-wing political parties of the time.

Files of political suspects were established by law in Guatemala first in the wake of the 1954 coup and more recently under the auspices of Military Intelligence in 1963, when they were incorporated into a "National Security Archive" (Decree Law 9, 1963, Ley DE VILLAGRAN, 60-year-old head of a girls' school, was widely attributed to her active membership in her youth of the *Partido Acción Revolucionaria* (Revolutionary Action Party), which ceased to exist more than 25 years ago (see case study on page 13).

Reliable sources in Guatemala say that the presidential intelligence agency is directed by the joint head of the Presidential General Staff (Estado Mayor Presidencial) and Military Intel-

ligence. Policy decisions and the selection of who is to "disappear" and be killed are said to be made after consultations between the top officials of the Ministries of Defence and the Interior, and the Army General Staff, who command the forces responsible for the abuses.

Much of the information included in this section is general knowledge among informed Guatemalans of many political orientations. It is widely accepted that the Presidential Guard annex of the National Palace houses the head-quarters for the secret operations of the security services. Entry to the centre is guarded by heavily armed soldiers, with closed-circuit

television cameras mounted on the corners of the building. Unmarked cars without licence plates, or with foreign plates, are usually parked outside the centre.

Details of the presidential coordinating agency's operations are not known—for example, Amnesty International has not been able to confirm allegations by some Guatemalans that the agency holds prisoners inside the Presidential Guard annex—but that the agency exists and that it serves as the centre of the Guatemalan Government's program of "disappearance" and political murder seem, on the evidence, difficult to dispute.

The army and the police –the units accused

Most of the responsibility for the thousands of cases of human rights violations reported to Amnesty International during the presidency of General Lucas García has been attributed to either army or police units. This is how they operate:

The army—Regular uniformed units, including paratroops and Kaibiles (Special Forces), are those most frequently held responsible for arbitrary detentions, "disappearances" and killings in rural areas where guerrilla groups are active, notably El Quiché Province. House-to-house searches by uniformed soldiers are regularly reported throughout the country. In addition, plainclothes army squads are routinely reported in Guatemala City. Recently a number of their members have been overpowered and found to be in possession of identification cards showing them to belong to the army (see the case of Víctor VALVERTH, page 15).

The most widely reported mass killing by regular army forces took place on 29 May 1978 in the town square of Panzós, Alta Verapaz. More than 100 Kekchi Indians, including five children, were shot dead. Soldiers positioned on rooftops and inside buildings had opened fire as the Indians gathered in the square to protest about land rights. Townspeople say that mass graves had been dug two days before the killings. The army issued a statement charging the Indians with attacking one of their garrisons. Two trucks filled with bodies were photographed as they were driven off to the graves.

The *Policia Militar Ambulante* (PMA)—mobile military police—is an army unit which serves in both urban and rural areas as a mobile force with powers to arrest civilians. Large landholders in the countryside and private enterprises in the cities can hire individual members of the PMA from the army as plantation or building guards—and in practice

as bodyguards. The PMA is named in many reports of abuses on and around large plantations in rural areas, and of seizure and "disappearance" of trade union leaders at factories where the PMA provide security services.



A vehicle used by the *Policía Militar Ambulante* (PMA), mobile military police.

The size of the PMA is a state secret in Guatemala. It is difficult to compute with accuracy: personnel are recalled from army reserves as the demand for privately contracted PMA guards rises. In 1974 there were an estimated 1,140 PMA members on active duty.

The comisionados militares are civilian agents of the army, serving under military discipline. Most are former non-commissioned officers. They are responsible for recruitment—forcible conscription is the norm in Guatemala—and for routine intelligence reports to regional army headquarters; comisionados are stationed in every hamlet in Guatemala and one of their main roles is to serve as the eyes and ears of the army. They have law enforcement functions and in some areas are heavily armed and are regularly reported to be involved in arbitrary detentions and killings.

The Policía Nacional (National Police)-

GUATEMALA

Headed by an army colonel, the National Police is the major civil police body in Guatemala, and is particularly active in the capital, Guatemala City. The National Police works closely with regular army forces in provincial areas and in the cities it works closely with the PMA.

In 1980 the National Police was responsible for the killing of prisoners officially recognized to be in police custody—the killings took place during transfers from one prison to another, and while prisoners were receiving treatment for gunshot wounds in public hospitals (see page 13). Another group of "disappearances" and killings attributed to the National Police involves people convicted of non-political criminal offences, particularly recidivists, who have been found dead after being detained in Guatemala City, and of people killed immediately after their release from prison. Prisoners on El Pavón Prison Farm (Granja Penal), near Guatemala City, went on strike in 1979 to protest against the systematic murder of convicts who had been released after their sentences expired. Many of the 37 bodies of victims killed by garrotte who were found in a ravine in San Juan Comalapa were identified as those of former prison inmates.

Two special units of the National Police, the Comando Seis (6th Commando) and the Pelotón Modelo (Model Platoon), have been particularly active during political demonstrations and have been identified as having detained demonstrators who subsequently "disappeared" (see case of Liliana NEGREROS, page 14).

The Cuerpo de Detectives de la Policia Nacional (National Police Detectives Corps) is a semi-autonomous branch of the National Police known popularly as the Policia Judicial (Judicial Police) or the Policia Secreta (Secret Police). Detectives in this force are most frequently identified as the perpetrators of political arrests in and around the capital. The Detectives Corps was reported to have directed two mass arrests of leaders of the Central Nacional de Trabajadores (CNT) labour federation on 21 June at its headquarters in Guatemala City (see case of Florencia

Catholic conference centre in Escuintla on 24 August 1980 (see case of Juan GUERRA CASTRO, page 12). A 16-year-old girl, detained in October 1979 on the steps of the Guatemalan Supreme Court by Detectives Corps members while handing out leaflets protesting against the seizure and "disappearance" of trade unionists, was temporarily blinded as a result of being hooded, beaten and raped while in Detectives Corps custody.



Bearing the skull and crossbones arm flash of his unit, a young member of the *Guardia de Hacienda*, Treasury Police, stands guard as two peasants pass behind.

The Guardia de Hacienda (Treasury Police) is a principal rural component of the civil police structure. Its development was described in a peasant trade union newspaper in a November 1979 report in the following terms:

"Little by little it has changed to become one of the most repressive police bodies in the countryside, especially in the high-lands (*Tierra Fria*) and in the border areas. . . . Previously they were simply agents who, on the pretext of investigating the brewing of *cuxa* [a homemade alcohol] and controlling contraband, used to demand bribes with menaces from the peasants. . . . But they are now a force of control and repression . . . they enter the houses to go through our documents and to take everything they can find."

Case histories

Raids on trade union headquarters

Florencia XOCOP CHAVEZ and 26 others

Florencia XOCOP CHAVEZ is a leader of the trade union at the ACRICASA (Industrias Acrílicas de Centro América S.A.) textile plant in Guatemala City, affiliated to the trade union



Florencia Xocop Chávez . . . "disappeared".

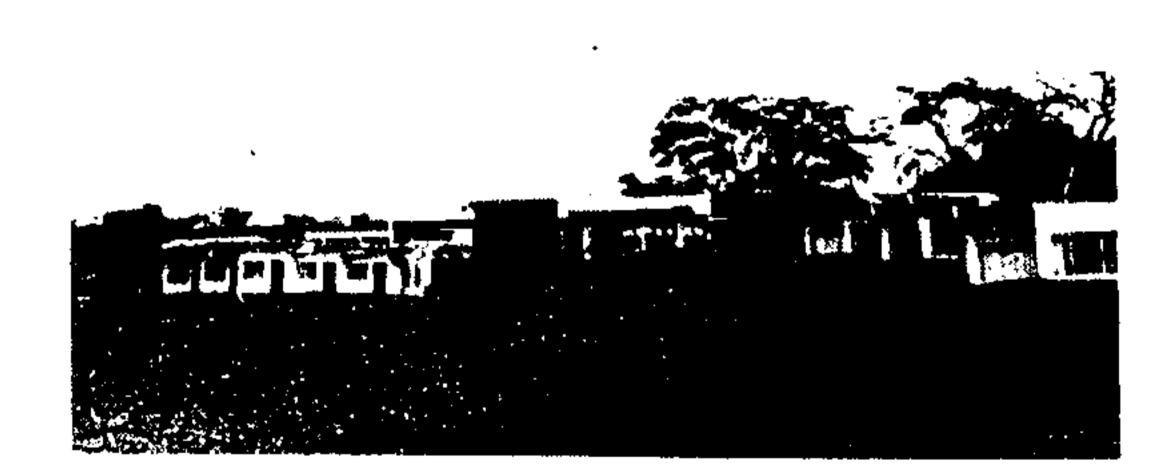
federation Central Nacional de Trabajadores (CNT). She was detained with 26 other CNT leaders on the afternoon of Sunday 21 June 1980 during a meeting at the CNT headquarters, one block from the National Palace and the Presidential Guard barracks. The street was closed to traffic by uniformed National Police officers while an estimated 60 plainclothesmen entered the CNT headquarters. The 27 trade unionists were taken away in

unmarked Toyota jeeps but the authorities later denied that there had been any detentions. The 27 CNT leaders seized have not been seen since; Amnesty International has adopted them as prisoners of conscience.

Florencia Xocop was missing for a week in April 1979 after being detained by police for handing out CNT leaflets at Guatemala City's International Airport; she was the subject of appeals by Amnesty International before she was released.

Juan GUERRA CASTRO and 16 others

Juan GUERRA CASTRO, a leader of the trade union Industria de Café, and 16 other trade unionists associated with the CNT were detained on 24 August 1980 by combined police and army forces at the Roman Catholic retreat and conference centre Centro Emaús, in Palín, Escuintla. Several hours after the



The Roman Catholic retreat and conference centre Centro Emaús, where 17 trade unionists were seized by the security forces in August 1980 before "disappearing".

trade unionists had been seized, security forces returned to the centre and detained the administrator of the farm, José Luís PEÑA, who had witnessed the detentions. He was subsequently found shot dead, his body bearing marks of torture.

The union leaders were initially reported to Peasants and have been taken directly to Guatemala City and held secretly in the motor workshop of the National Police Detectives Corps. But the authorities have denied that the detentions were ever made; they have refused to say where the 17 unionists are being held or to accept responsibility for their fate. Amnesty International has adopted the 17 trade unionists as prisoners of conscience.

Many of the 44 CNT members involved in the raids of 21 June and 24 August had been seized in other National Police raids on the trade union headquarters in Guatemala City earlier in the year.

Indians killed

Gregorio YUJA XONA

Gregorio YUJA XONA, a peasant farmer from El Quiché Province took part in the occupation of the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala City in January 1980 in protest against abuses committed by the army in El Quiché. He and the Spanish Ambassador were the sole survivors of the police assault and fire at the embassy on 31 January. He was first held under heavy police guard at a private hospital, then removed without explanation by the police; he was later found tortured and murdered.



Headquarters of the Central Nacional de Trabajadores (CNT) scene of major police raids in 1980.

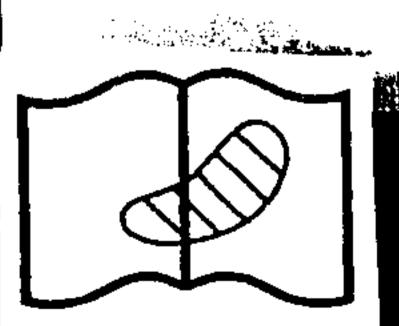
- On 22 February 1980 seven trade unionists were seized at CNT headquarters.
- officers wearing bullet-proof vests stormed into the building, ransacked the offices, destroyed equipment and confiscated archives; they seized 18 people.
- On 25 July five trade unionists were taken from the building and held in unacknowledged detention; their release some days later followed domestic and international protests.

All the trade unionists were badly beaten before their release. In each case the government denied any responsibility for the raids or for what had happened to the victims.

Six people in similar circumstances were reported to have been killed in Guatemalan • On 29 April about 25 plainclothes police hospitals in September 1980 alone. One was a 60-year-old teacher, Professor Lucila RODAS DE VILLAGRAN, killed by submachine-gun fire in the observation ward of the Quezaltenango hospital; she was being treated for a bullet wound and was under police supervision.

Juana TUM DE MENCHU

In October 1979 a 55-year-old Ixil Indian, Juana TUM DE MENCHU, travelled with a delegation of villagers from the Uspantán region to appeal for the release of nine villagers detained by soldiers during the previous month.



She told an interviewer (see AI Index: AMR 34/08/80, 8 February 1980) that one of the nine had been her son Patrocinio who had been taken from her home in the hamlet of Chimel. After over three months' secret detention, seven of the nine "disappeared" were found murdered at a roadside in El Quiché in December 1979.

Her husband, Vicente MENCHU, accompanied a second Indian delegation from El Quiché to Guatemala City in January 1980. He was one of the 39 who died at the Spanish Embassy on 31 January 1980.

Juana Tum de Menchu was detained by an army patrol as she walked home from the parish convent of San Miguel Uspantán on 19 April 1980. She has "disappeared" and the Menchu family has ceased to exist in the hamlet of Chimel.

Villagers in El Quiché continue to bear the brunt of army operations in the region. On 15 October 1980 soldiers killed seven members of the PU ZEPETA REYNOSO extended family, including children, in Chajbal. The sole survivor, Abelino PU ZEPETA, reached Guatemala City and was admitted to the Roosevelt Hospital. Plainclothes security officers traced him there and took him out of the hospital; he was found murdered on 20 October.

Liliana NEGREROS and 37 others

On 3 February Guatemala City newspapers reported the detention of Liliana NEGREROS during the funeral procession of the 21 Indian peasants who died in the Spanish Embassy on 31 January 1980. She was said to have been held by forces of the *Comando Seis* (6th Commando) unit of the National Police. The press later reported that her body had been found on 19 March with up to 37 others in a deep ravine near San Juan Comalapa, about 13 km from Guatemala City.

Most of the bodies had short loops of rope around their necks; the loops had been twisted with pieces of wood. Death was attributed to strangulation by garrotte. The same technique was witnessed by the escaped prisoner whose testimony is included in this report. He saw army personnel strangle three prisoners by garrotte at Huehuetenango army base. Many of the bodies found in the clandestine cem-

eteries and mass graves of Guatemala show signs of strangulation.

No recognition or explanation of the detention and murder of Liliana Negreros has ever been made by the Government of Guatemala.

A letter received by Amnesty International from San Juan Comalapa in November 1980 reported the continued use of the secret grave where Liliana Negreros was found. The letter says that between March and October 1980 army units near the village seized and murdered the principal leaders of the local earthquake reconstruction committee *Vivienda Popular*. The writer said he had visited the site himself. He writes:

"More than 30 bodies were pulled out of the 120-foot gorge . . . but farmers who live near the site told me there were more bodies, many more, but that the authorities didn't want to admit as much or go to the trouble of dragging them out. . . . They said vehicles have been arriving at the edge of the gorge late at night, turning out their lights, engaging in some mysterious activities.

"We went down to the bottom of the ravine the next day. . . . About halfway down the ravine the stench became unbearable. Barely visible in the dim light reaching the hole were piles . . . of bodies. Most were in extremely advanced states of decomposition from what could be made out, but still with remnants of tattered clothing."

University victims

Horacio FLORES GARCIA

A Professor of Architecture at the *Universidad* de San Carlos (USAC), San Carlos University, Horacio FLORES GARCIA was detained at the Immigration Office of the Ministry of the Interior on 11 April 1980 while renewing his passport. He and other teachers and students of the USAC had received death threats the same week and he had intended to go into voluntary exile immediately.

The professor and an engineering student, Víctor Hugo VALDEZ, were found murdered

the following day about 20 km from the capital. The police denied that Professor Flores García had ever been detained at the immigration office, and no satisfactory explanation for his murder was provided by the authorities.

Edgar René CELADA QUEZADA

A history student at the *Universidad de San Carlos*, Edgar René CELADA QUEZADA was arrested at a National Police roadblock during routine traffic checks on 24 June 1980 in Colonia Atlántida, Guatemala City. When fellow students applied for a writ of *habeas corpus* on his case police denied he had been detained. Nothing has been heard of him since.

Víctor Manuel VALVERTH MORALES

An engineering student and student representative on the Executive Committee of the Universidad de San Carlos, Víctor Manuel VALVERTH MORALES was seized at gunpoint on 10 June 1980 by two men in plain clothes inside the university School of Engineering in Guatemala City. His assailants did not identify themselves as law enforcement officers or produce a warrant for his arrest; when he tried to escape they shot him several times. Other students then came to his assistance and overpowered the attackers.

One of the attackers, Adán de Jesús MELGAR SOLARES, was murdered by students when a force of uniformed army troops attacked his student captors inside the university precincts. Students took the dead man's identification card which showed him to be a Military Intelligence agent from the "General Aguilar Santa María" army base in Jutiapa Province.

The second man, who was not harmed, carried an identification card issued by the

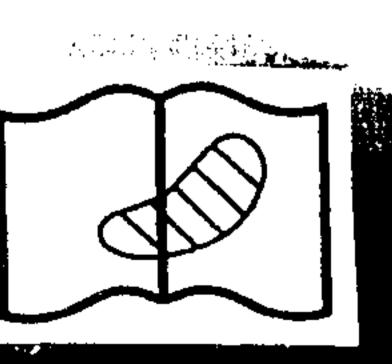


Víctor Manuel Valverth Morales . . . seized at gunpoint.

Guardia de Hacienda (Treasury Police) for "Servicio Especial" (Special Service), in the name of Baldomero MENDOZA.

The government denied that either of the two men who attacked Víctor Valverth were members of the security services, but the dead man's widow later confirmed his identity to the press. Baldomero Mendoza told the press that he had been "visiting" the university and had not participated in the attack on Víctor Valverth; he did not deny the authenticity of his identity card.

The wounded engineering student was treated in the university medical centre for severe bullet wounds; the Costa Rica Ambassador later escorted him to Costa Rica, where he was granted political asylum.



Testimony of a survivor

Who captured you?

Well, at first I didn't know they were soldiers because they were dressed like civilians, wellarmed, in a van. And on the way, when they were taking me away, they kept saying that I was a traitor, that I had been betraying my friends, saying they were guerrillas. On the way to Huehuetenango-well, actually at first I didn't know where they were taking me-but from the route, since I'm from around there, we went up little roads that I could recognize even with my eyes closed. We went up the hill at Tabacal, the one that cars can only get up if they're loaded and the van I was in slipped a bit because it didn't have enough grip, and I could tell we had reached the main road (la transversal) at a place we call Cuatro Caminos and we got onto tarmac. We got to Huehuetenango about 9.30.

On what day were you captured?

They captured me on Friday 15 February.

How did they capture you?

Well, they tricked me. They came to my house asking for someone else who doesn't even exist, and since I didn't know anything, I went out of the house, and then they said, come along with us, the minute I stepped outside—just like that they got me in the van and off it went; the engine was already running.

Where were you taken?

At first I had no idea they were taking me to the Huehuetenango military base, but the next morning they locked me in a very small room and I heard the sound of bugles, and I heard marching and military commands, and running and shouting and that's when I got the idea that I was at the military base.

Could you tell us what the place where you were kept was like?

There was a big room; there was a toilet and

another very small room. It had two troughs of water, two doors, one opening out on to the interior of the base and the other opening towards the old highway. The place they kept me in is the slaughterhouse which will be used for butchering cattle, but they haven't opened it yet, as that base is still being built.

How many people were held prisoner there?
When I got there the next day I realized there were nine.

Was anyone you knew there? What was his name? Did they kill him?

Yes, there was one person from my town who had disappeared from there a year ago and we thought he had gone to Mexico to work. They killed him. I don't know when they killed him, but they showed me his body, with six others.

What kind of treatment did they give you, as regards food and sleep?

They didn't have a fixed time for giving us food. They brought us a big piece of bread and a glass of water and then when they remembered in the afternoon they brought us a bit of rice and another glass of water. As for sleeping, we slept really badly because we were handcuffed to the legs of some concrete tables.

What torture did you see them inflict on the others?

Several. Electric shocks between the water troughs. They put a hood on one of them with quicklime in it. They pulled one up by his testicles; I also saw them pull a boy of about 17 by his testicles and an officer slashed his jaw in two with his knife; and he cut his wrists to the bone; but I suppose although the boy screamed at first he stopped later because he'd fainted. I also saw another boy they had handcuffed with his hands behind his back; they also locked his feet together then lifted

him up between the two of them and dropped him. I saw his teeth drop out and gushes of blood—that's how they break your ribs—from the way you fall—and that's when they give you the worst kicks. That's what they did to me—that is, they didn't lift me up but they kicked me in the ribs, the mouth, the stomach until I passed out.

How did they torture you?

They pulled me up by my testicles; and they hooded me with quicklime—that means they put a bit of quicklime inside the inner tube of a truck tyre, then they put it over your nose and then they roll it onto you and you feel like death itself until you pass out, or, well, you tell some lies or the truth if you don't know. [sic]

What did they accuse you of?

They accused me of being a guerrilla and said that I should tell them where the camps were, who were the leaders, who were my friends and what ideology they taught us. Well, that's what they accused me of, and that I should tell them these things but as far as I can tell they had only one reason for capturing me. The only problem I had had in my town was having got involved in a sports committee, because you see there were two other authorized committees, and so we were always at loggerheads with them, and there's no doubt, at least so it seems to us, that they must have sent some kind of anonymous letter to the [military] base, accusing me of being a guerrilla, to get me out of their hair.

And really, what I had opposed was these two committees using the basketball court for dances! I would never have been against that if it had been for the benefit of our sport, but they just kept the profits. Some of those people on the committee ended up with fine houses and that's why the rest of us began to notice what was going on and tried to stop it; and that's how the problems began.

Did they kill anyone in your presence? If so, how?

Yes, before my very eyes they killed three people; they strangled them. The way they killed them was with a piece of rope, a kind of noose, which they put round the neck and then used a stick to tighten it like a tourniquet

from behind—handcuffed, and with their heads held down in the trough. When they came out, their eyes were open; they'd already turned purple. It took at most three minutes in the water. I also saw that one of these three, a boy, when they threw him down on the floor with his clothes wet, was still moving and one of the officers ordered them to put the tourniquet on him again until he stopped moving.

They just showed me the other six bodies and said the same thing would happen to me if I tried to lie to them.

You saw bodies? How many?

I saw nine, including the three who were killed in front of me.

Do you know what they did with the bodies?

No. Not directly; no, but I could guess, because they opened the door and put two men on each side in a van with its back door open, with some canvas over the back door of the van, until they got the bodies inside; then they closed the door again. But I think they took them up in a helicopter, in order to drop them out a long way away because about fifteen minutes later a helicopter flew over the slaughterhouse, very low. I don't know where it was going but I suppose it was taking the bodies.

Could you talk to anyone who had been a prisoner there longer, about the number of dead?

I couldn't talk to anyone.

As far as you know, did they let anyone go?

No. In a conversation I heard them having—the ones who were guarding us—people who land up there never leave; but even so, well, we had some hope of being freed since, well, they told us that we would be handed over to the courts, civil or military, depending on whether you were a soldier or deserter, or something like that.

You had some hope of being released?

No. After seeing those corpses I imagined that they would not want any witnesses at large. I had already made up my mind that they were going to kill me.

How did you manage to escape? Why did you escape?

I escaped for the simple reason that I saw how they killed the other prisoners there and I thought that that sort of death was just too horrible. So I decided it was better to die from a bullet or possibly win my freedom; only God helped me.

The way I escaped was first by pretending I was sick. I told the guard on watch that I had to go to the toilet but he abused me, and asked why, seeing next day I wasn't going to need anything anymore. Because already, earlier on the officers had told me my turn was coming next day. That was when I became completely desperate, praying, asking God to help me, until I got the idea of breaking out. I pretended I was sick, that I had diarrhoea, and I told the guard I had to go to the toilet. Finally he gave in a bit and unlocked the handcuff chaining me to the post to fix it on my other hand while I went to the toilet. That was my opportunity. I hit him, not really hard, but hard enough to leave him stunned for a minute; then I grabbed his submachine-gun and hit him with it several times on the nape of the neck. The guard didn't shout; I just saw some blood coming out of his nose and mouth and thought he might be dead. I opened the door—it opened from inside—and took the submachinegun with me. I left by the route I knew and I didn't see anybody. There were two guards; I saw them, but they were quite far away so I went out very slowly. I didn't run because I didn't want to look suspicious. When the lights on the base weren't on me any more, I ran until I reached the old highway. I left the submachine-gun there because it slowed me down; anyway, since I didn't know how to use it, it could well have done me more harm than good—it got in the way and it was too heavy. I ran down the highway some 200 metres, then went off onto the plain on the left, maybe some 45 minutes, or about an hour away from the base. What I was looking for was Huehuetenango. I saw some lights, but I got completely confused, and I almost ended up at the very base I had escaped from. When I saw some eight or nine guards, nine soldiers, coming down the highway at a trot, I thought they were already searching for me. I got over to the side of the highway. I let them pass. I

rested for about half an hour and continued on my way in the same direction, searching for Huchuetenango. But after about two hours I could see cars criss-crossing the area I had escaped from, in front of the base on the large plain where the ruins of Zaculeo are. Two cars were passing each other-I even heard the conversation between the drivers of the cars some jeeps and a red car. I waited for them to leave, then headed off into the undergrowth, and carried on until I reached Huehuetenango, about 6.30 in the morning in daylight. I escaped from the base at about 12.30 at night, or maybe 12.40.

Did they pursue you? If so, who? Did you hear what steps they took to recapture you?

Yes, there was a tremendous uproar throughout the province. All the villages near the base were searched the next day; the soldiers came through as if they were looking for illegal liquor stills. There were several truckloads of soldiers at the guardposts outside the towns, and the passengers from buses and trucks had to get out and show their wrists, as they knew my hands had marks from the handcuffs and were infected.

How long were you in that place? Eleven days.

Who tortured you? Soldiers?

Well the officers themselves did the torturing, and so did the people there they used as killers some men with long hair. They didn't look like especially bad people.

What proof can you give us that you were at an army installation?

Since I'm from Huehuetenango I know the area, and when I was escaping I saw the lights on the guard towers. And as I said before, there were bugles and the shouting of the officers who were training the recruits.

I should also add that when the men were torturing someone, so that the soldiers should know absolutely nothing about what was going on inside, they would put tape-recorders on at full blast and make it sound as though they were singing. That's why when someone screams, when they are torturing him, these screams are simply not heard outside. They just hear the music they're playing. I also noticed

that the Colonel himself at the base, the actual commander there, when they were torturing a man in front of him and the man asked them just to shoot him and stop torturing him—that the Colonel told him he was worthless dead, that they wanted him alive, and only when he had told them everything would they give him the satisfaction of killing him.

GUATEMALA

I should also add why I know they were holding me in the cattle slaughterhouse. There was a post for tying cattle to and some tubes on both sides, like this, horizontal, at about two meters from the floor which I suppose they hang the pieces of cows from.

Also, when they opened the doors when some officer came in, I could see there was a loading dock; that is, a separate area enclosed in chain link fencing. And the pipes they had us handcuffed to hold up a concrete table about one and one half metres wide by two metres long where they skin the pigs. The floor of the slaughterhouse is polished cement and has several drains—I suppose for washing it

out. It has a toilet and a little separate room which I suppose is where the workers will get changed—the people who are going to work in the slaughterhouse, because in practice the slaughterhouse still hasn't been opened, but is used for murdering people.

From the slaughterhouse to the old highway that used to be the route from La Mesilla to Huehuetenango, the distance is between 250 and 300 metres—I can't be more precise—before reaching the slaughterhouse. About halfway between the slaughterhouse and the old highway there's a ravine, where there used to be a creek. This base has an entrance, approaching from La Mesilla, one entrance, and another entrance approaching from Huehuetenango on on the side of the old highway. It also has an entrance on the tarmac road.

Was anyone you knew a prisoner? If so, what was his name? Did they kill him?

Yes, a man from my town was held prisoner there. His name was Adelaido Camposeco.

How long did you serve in the army?

Well, when I joined, well they didn't tell us anything but, when they seized us, they just seized us without letting us, well, talk to our families—what did it matter to them? that's what they told us then, but when they got us there they said that it was three years, because that's the service that you have to do.

So you have been in the army three years?
Only two years; I was in the army two years.

It is the military commissioners (comisionados militares), isn't it, men in plainclothes but armed, who hunt down the men for the army?

Yes, well, here the commissioners are like that, civilians, they don't carry weapons, just their machetes, but actually clubs too—big ones.

Does this military commissioner do his work alone, or helped by other soldiers or civilians?

Yes, well before they used to seize people, well more peacefully. They didn't beat them, not a lot that is, but now they do.

Why now?

Because now, now they aren't the only ones who seize the young men for the barracks; the military police do too. They go around with a truck, and anyone they find . . . they don't tell them even where they are being taken, if you are carrying some of your things, something like a pack or something, they don't care, if there is room in the truck then they take it in. If they don't like you, they throw it in the street. . . .

So, now it isn't just the military commissioners but also the military itself?

Yes. What happens now is that the military commissioners are afraid because really the peasants now know what's going on and what they do now is get together in crowds and if the commissioner dares to seize one of their

group, what they do is beat them up, so now this means the commissioners are afraid.

The boys attack the military commissioners?

Yes, this is happening, because as they already know—just as we do who have already left—we tell them that the army isn't any good because, because, well, because I've finally discovered the army is nothing, nothing but a school of murderers, so that's what you are dragged into, nothing better than that.

. . . . [a long section concerning recruitment procedures and basic training methods has been eliminated from this transcript for reasons of space.]

soldiers, then we became regular soldiers and we did our service, then they gave us arms, because we could use them, and we went to the firing range to shoot, and so on. By then they were sure that we wouldn't run away. . . . They sent us to watch banks, plantations, different zones in the capital, at night. Even if it was raining, we went out in the back of a pick-up truck with our machine-guns, we went out to keep an eye on everything, at midnight.

Weren't you afraid that one day an officer might have ordered you to kill someone?

I wasn't afraid. At that time I was full of the ideas they filled me with. I wasn't afraid they might tell me to kill someone. I used to do it because my mentality by then had changed completely—that's what had happened to me.

You could kill people without any problems?

Yes, without problems. Once they saw that I was really keen and understood the things they had taught me, they took me out of my unit with two others. Afterwards, we didn't stay in the same unit but were instructed separately. They didn't discipline us much then; we had already suffered enough, so they didn't

discipline us so much, although the men in the unit did get disciplined.

Then they gave us a little black "galil" that had only just arrived.

Is that a weapon?

Yes, "galil".

It's very sophisticated isn't it?

Yes, it's very new. They said Israel sent them to Guatemala, because it owed Guatemala something and other arms arrived. This one can fire a maximum of 350 shots a minute.

So they gave us this weapon and we were happier because we were better equipped. When these weapons arrived they gave us one each, then stopped giving us the M-1 rifles. They collected these and stored them. When they gave us this weapon, they took me out of the unit but the others stayed on.

Then they sent the three of us to the office of the S-2, where we met officers. They stopped cropping our hair, instead they let us look really good. They told us: "Now you have been selected; you were chosen; you aren't just simple soldiers any more, like those in the unit. If you've got guts you might even become officers", they told us.

They told you that you were better than the others?

Yes, better than the others.

Then, they had already brainwashed you?

Yes, that's what I'm saying, they had already brainwashed me; they had already filled my head with their own ideology, so I felt superior to my fellow soldiers. . . . What I thought then was that I was superior to everyone because I had managed to reach this position. They gave us separate training and each of us was given a .45 and left full of enthusiasm.

.45, what's that?

It's a weapon only officers use, with eight shots. They gave us one and we went out in civilian clothes. They told us: "You are going to get orders. You are going out now." They sent us out on the street in an army car.

That's how we used to go out, as civilians, but to keep an eye on things, especially to control the students, because there [in S-2] we went to different classes where they told us

that the students could be guerrillas and that they were the people who cause the disorder on the streets, and that according to the law in the army's constitution, you've got to kill all of these people.

That's what they told us, then we went out in twos and threes to drive around the capital and control things.

Did you have permission to kill anyone?

Only suspicious characters. And they gave us orders of the day. And we also had classes—we were students just like the suspects! And we could kill them.

And they gave us special identity cards so that if there were any police around, even if there were more of them than us and we did certain things we could just show them these, so they wouldn't seize us and we could get away. That's what they told us. They gave us cards, so that if we made some great mistake—we could kill someone, just like that, and then escape, and the police wouldn't have the power to seize us; we could just show them the cards.

And the police don't do anything?

They don't do anything, nothing. So I realized that the army is a school for murderers, it's as simple as that. They said to me, if you discover your father is in subversive movements—I didn't understand the word—"subversive", they said, is whatever is against the government and is what causes disorder in Guatemala—if your father is involved in groups like that, kill him, because if you don't he'll try and kill us. . . .

Could you kill your father or your mother or your sister?

Anyone who turned up, if we were ordered to. I could have done it then, that's how I used to feel, I'd do anything the army told me to. I remember how, when I was in it and we set off to bring in two students—I say they were students—I didn't think of fighting, or anything; there was nothing in my mind. So we went to get these students, and we went to get another man who was also a student, at about two in the morning.

And there were others as well as us; there were others who got the job of seeing what time they left school, what time they got back, where they ate, how they dressed and so on. That's what other people did.

But aren't there officers who tell you to investigate what these people do? Do you get the names from officers?

Yes, the officers give us this information—the names and the places.

And you have to check them out?

Yes, that was my job. We went out to find things out; we even talked to a lot of people.

To learn more?

Actually, to watch them; see who they were, and where they were. That was the job we had to do in the streets. We would stay there, and there were always officers travelling around in private cars too, with radios. There might be one in the central park in zone 1, another could be in zone 6, or in zone 7, who were in contact—they could talk directly to each other.

And they wore the uniforms of judicial police? G-2?—all these people?

Well, they were in plainclothes; in civilian clothes or in actual army uniform. When they set out to attack that man I was telling you about, he said he was just out having a lemonade. I asked the boy about it; he was very young; they brought him in all tied up, they had him well and truly tied up and blindfolded. Only his mouth was uncovered so he could talk. His arms were tied. We were going to move him, they had him. . . .

You had to transfer him—did you have to capture this boy?

We had our job to do, but there were other people who had to actually do that job. We just set out to move him from where they had him.

And where did you have to go to see these people?

We took him to the Brigada Mariscal Zavala to hand him over.

An army base [un cuartel]?

Yes, the base. But not actually the barracks; but in Guatemala City in the base there are cells; let's see, there's one cell they call "the powder magazine" ["el polvorin"], there's another cell they call "the olive" ["la aceituna"], that is where we put him in a locked room. We arrived about two in the

morning. They had him all tied up then; his mouth was gagged, and he had a bullet wound here—he couldn't talk. Then they did whatever they wanted to with him, and later, when we arrived, we just picked him up as if he was an animal, then threw him into the car and that was that. We took him there, sat him down, untied his feet, sat him up again, and next day an officer arrived. He brought a tape-recorder and began to ask: "What is your profession?" "What work do you do?" "Where do you work?" "Where do you study?" and so on, questioning him.

Were you there all the time?

Yes, because it was my job to be. I was there and so I knew what they did.

Had they tortured this boy? Well, yes.

Beaten him?

Yes, sure.

Was electrical apparatus also used? Yes, it was.

You saw it?

Yes, I have seen it—some things the Model Platoon [Pelotón Modelo] carry about with them which they call "canes" ["bastones"], with electric batteries—no, they're called "batons" ["batones"]. If they touch you with these things, you fall down, you're electrocuted, they, that's what they have.

I mean, I knew this man didn't want to say whether he belonged to a secret organization, or was "subversive" as they put it, and they began to beat him savagely.

How did you feel then?

When I was there, I felt sorry when I watched them hitting him.

Did you think that boy was a guerrilla?

Yes, yes I did. But I felt sorry for him when they beat him, and he didn't want to say he was one. He said he was accused of being a guerrilla—but no, what he said was: "They have accused me of being a guerrilla, but why should they?—if I was a guerrilla I wouldn't be here". "Talk", they said, and began to beat him.

Where did you have to beat this boy?
No, it wasn't me . . .

You just watched?

Yes, I watched. They were from G-2; they were the people who beat him, plainclothes army agents.

Are they from the secret service of the army?

Yes, they were. I stood back when they were beating him, because I didn't want to be drawn into it—I didn't want to join in beating him up. I kept out of the way when I saw they were beating him. Three more men arrived, all trussed up. They tape-recorded everything these men said and as there were a lot of names on that list—there were countless names on the "black list", that's what we call it. The people on the list are—that's the order they gave us—wherever we find them we just ask their names and if it's them, we kill them.

Did they kill that boy too?

Yes, what they said to him was, if you don't talk, we'll kill you.

But was he killed?

No, I didn't kill him.

No, but did the others kill this boy?

Oh yes, definitely; he confessed: "I confess everything, everything"—that he wasn't a guerrilla or anything, but, in any case, they began to beat him, that is to torture him, and they even tried to knock out one of his teeth like this, with a hammer. They hit him with a hammer like this. He screamed. They even smashed his finger. They put it on a piece of iron and hit it with the hammer to make him talk; but he didn't say anything; and so the next day, at about 12 o'clock at night-though I'm not sure of this—if it was the judicial police, or the G-2 who turned up—there is such a bunch of them, so you couldn't figure out who was who—who am I for example? If I'm from G-2, you wouldn't tell me anything and I wouldn't tell you anything because this is a security precaution to stop enemies getting control of us. They tell us not to identify ourselves but we have the same idea, the same work. Then at midnight they took those men who were there; they just went and grabbed them by the hair and feet and threw them into a car and took them away—took them who knows where.

They went off to kill them and then leave them somewhere?

Must have. That's how it's done. Because at that time of the night... if they were going to set them free they would have done it in the daytime. Why drag them out at that hour of night? So they would have killed them on the road and left them just thrown down anywhere.

Do they always take the people they capture out at night-time?

Yes, they go out . . .

Always at night?

Yes.

Never in daylight?

No, only at night, at the quietest time of night.

In official or private cars?

Private . . . what they use mostly are those cars—vans—like station-wagons, with darkened windows—cars you'd never imagine had killers in them—though they can be in any car.

But where do they capture and kill the people? In the countryside? In the towns?

In the towns. Like the students that "disappear". It's definitely them that do it and they come and take them away at night, they seize them at night and kill them just like that; then they turn up just dumped anywhere.

But what have you done in the little towns and in the countryside? Have you gone out in trucks? And did you have to do house-to-house searches, or what?

Yes, when we were there, it was pretty much like that. We'd go off in a truck; we'd get to the place we had to search, yes, search and so forth; I mean if there were any people there who were, well, suspicious characters. What we kept an eye on was mostly the organizations where a lot of people get together—and there are guerrillas there too. So that's what we would go off to deal with. They'd take us in a truck. In the villages which cars can't get to, we'd walk and then search the houses just like that. Simple.

You searched from house to house?

In . . . where they killed . . . where we went, about 20 of us went through all the houses to see if we couldn't find any papers, the ones they'd told us about.

When we found a paper in a house, we took the family out, and if there was just one person we killed him. And that's what happened. We arrived in a car, left it far away then walked on. And they told us not to be afraid and if we found the papers to kill those people, and that's the way it was—but we didn't find any papers, so we didn't do anything. . . .

You could have killed anyone?

Anyone who was a suspicious character.

And has your unit killed too?

Well, yes—the others did.

Yes, the people you find when you search like that you kill. And if they are not killed then, you just leave them and note things down. You get to know them really well, and in order not to commit these crimes at that moment, you jot down the name of the house and such like, so that they can secretly order another commission to "bring them to justice", [ajusticiar]. That's what you do, that's what we all do—I mean, get the name of the young man, the father and so on; find out what work he does, where he works etc. The reports these commissions make are sent into the offices, such and such an office, circulated in such and such a way. The people there are in charge of finding a commission and secretly giving it its orders. Only they know where it's gone and what it's going to do. This is all done by Army G-2—that's the way they work.

And the reason I'm telling you this is because I was there. These killers come from the actual army. They told us I wasn't guilty of anything,

because they told us: "You yourselves are going out to kill and because you've got your cards, you can kill the people on your list. If a policeman turns up, show him your gun like this and your card in this hand, then they won't seize you"—that's what they said.

So what I mean is, you kill, then you return; you get dressed. You've maybe committed these crimes in army uniform; if so, they tell you to get out of those clothes fast and put on civilian clothes or police clothes then go out and look for whoever killed the person.

But how are we supposed to find them if it was us that did it in the first place? How can we go out and find them? They have this fantastic idea [idea mágica] and—this is what's going on right now today in Guatemala.

They say "unknown persons" killed the student and that today they are being sought by the police; but how can they find them if the people who did it are the people going out to do the searching? This is what the army is up to.

The soldiers can kill people when they have orders to, but can they kill people without orders, just because someone is a suspicious character?

Yes, certainly, any of us can be ordered to kill any man like that, who is a suspicious character. Yes, we have got the right to kill him, and even more so if we have been given strict orders to. Yes, we have the right to commit these offences.

What did the officers say?

Well, they say that if we don't carry out all the orders that they give us, if we disobey, instead of them dying, they will kill us, so you have to be very careful about all this.

The missing people

The names of "disappeared" people mentioned in the case histories are taken from a list compiled by Amnesty International of 615 people who have "disappeared" since mid-1978-364 of them between January and November 1980. Most of the names on the list are those of peasants, trade unionists and students, but among the victims are people of widely differing backgrounds-a schoolgirl,

small traders, a judge, two magistrates, taxi drivers, a tailor, a plumber, post office workers, an undertaker, an ice cream vendor, a footballer, a singer . . .

None of these people have been accounted for by the Government of Guatemala and Amnesty International holds that government responsible for their fate.



Irma Flaquer, journalist, "disappeared" on 16 October 1980 in Guatemala City.

Julio Antonio Ponce Valdez,

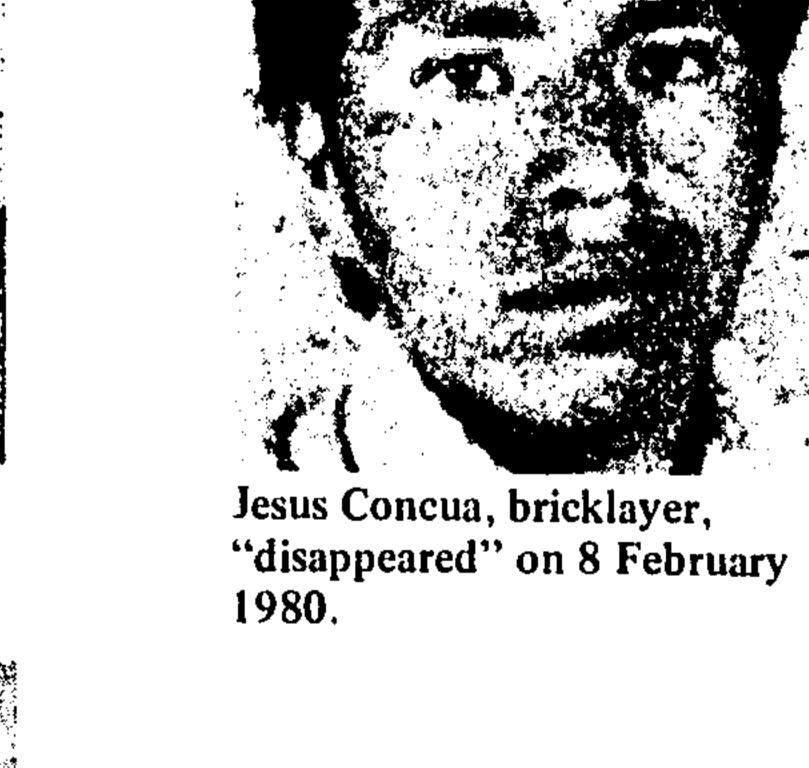
Director of the Psychological

of San Carlos, "disappeared"

on 22 August 1980 in

Guatemala City.

Science Department, University





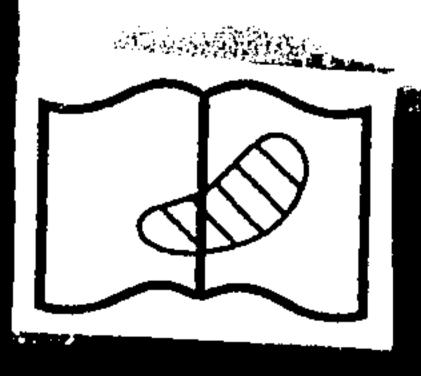
Ismael Hernández, ice cream vendor, "disappeared" on 27 June 1980 in Guatemala City.



Jorge Héctor Reyes Celada, printer, "disappeared" on **14 September 1979.**



Gloria Amparo Girón Pérez, schoolgirl, "disappeared" on 26 January 1980 in Guatemala City.



The next step

The first step in trying to ensure the protection of human rights in any country is to get information about how people are being treated by the authorities there, taking care that the information is accurate and complete and that it is not politically biased or distorted. Amnesty International has been collecting information on Guatemala since the early 1970s and has issued a number of important documents listing its findings. For instance, in 1971 it made the first of a continuing series of submissions about arrests, "disappearances" and murders of the opposition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and Guatemala has featured regularly in Amnesty International's annual report; in 1976 it published a special briefing paper on Guatemala.

The next step is to act on the information available by mobilizing international public opinion in defence of the victims. Most of the Guatemalan victims are unknown outside their own country—many are unknown outside their own village or hamlet. The persecution they face may be little-understood by the outside world, although international publicity may well be their only hope of protection. In some cases world attention has saved lives. The single most important need, therefore, is to make people aware of what is happening.

What you can do

- 1: Write to the President of Guatemala appealing for an end to the involvement by government forces in murder and "disappearances" and urging investigations into allegations of brutality against people exercising their human rights peacefully. Address your appeals to: General Romeo Lucas García, Presidente de la República, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2: Address similar appeals to the Foreign Minister. You can point out that although you are living in another country, you are concerned when the human rights of people anywhere in the world are violated. Stress that you do not oppose any government or political system but that you do oppose all human rights abuses. Address your appeals to: Ing. Rafael Eduardo Castillo Valdez, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 3: If there is a Guatemalan Embassy in the

- capital of your country, send similar letters to the Guatemalan Ambassador.
- 4: Try to help mobilize public opinion in your country. Send letters to newspaper editors asking them to publicize what is happening in Guatemala; if possible, send them a copy of this publication.
- 5: Share this report with other people you feel ought to know about the facts in it. Discuss it with your family and friends; encourage them to express their concern by writing appeals.
- 6: For other information about Amnesty International's work on Guatemala and other countries where human rights are violated, look in your telephone directory for your national section or local Amnesty International group, or contact the International Secretariat in London at: 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, United Kingdom. You can also make a donation to support the work.

Amnesty International—a worldwide campaign

In recent years, people throughout the world have become more and more aware of the urgent need to protect human rights effectively in every part of the world.

- Countless men and women are in prison for their beliefs. They are being held as prisoners of conscience in scores of countries—in crowded jails, in labour camps and in remote prisons.
- Thousands of political prisoners are being held under administrative detention orders and denied any possibility of a trial or an appeal.
- Others are forcibly confined in psychiatric hospitals or secret detention camps.
- Many are forced to endure relentless, systematic torture.
- More than a hundred countries retain the death penalty.
- Increasingly, political leaders and ordinary citizens are becoming the victims of abductions, "disappearances" and killings, carried out both by government forces and opposition groups.

An international effort

To end secret arrests, torture and killing requires organized and worldwide effort. Amnesty International is part of that effort.

Launched as an independent organization 20 years ago, Amnesty International is open to anyone prepared to work universally for the release of prisoners of conscience, for fair trials for political prisoners and for an end to torture and executions.

The movement now has members and supporters in more than 130 countries. It is independent of any government, political group, ideology, economic interest or religious creed.

It began with a newspaper article, "The Forgotten Prisoners", published on 28 May 1961 in *The Observer* (London) and reported in *Le Monde* (Paris).

Announcing an impartial campaign to help victims of political persecution, the British lawyer Peter Benenson wrote:

Open your newspapers any day of the week and you will find a report from somewhere in the world of someone being imprisoned, tortured or executed because his opinions or religion are unacceptable to his government. . . . The newspaper reader feels a sickening sense of impotence. Yet if these feelings of disgust all over the world could be united into common action, something effective could be done.

Within a week he had received more than a thousand offers of support—to collect information, publicize it and approach governments. The groundwork was laid for a permanent human rights organization that eventually became known as Amnesty International. The first chairperson of its International Executive Committee (from 1963 to 1974) was Sean MacBride, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974 and the Lenin Prize in 1975.

The mandate

Amnesty International is playing a specific role in the international protection of human rights.

It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*.

It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial.

It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

This mandate is based on the civil and political rights set down in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it reflects the belief that these rights transcend the boundaries of nation, race and belief.

Through its practical work for prisoners, Amnesty International participates in the wider promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Amnesty International does not oppose or support any government or political system. Its members around the world include supporters of differing systems we gree on the defence of all people in all countries against imprisonment for their beliefs, and minst torture and execution.

Amnesty International at work

The working methods of Amnesty International are based on the principle of international responsibility for the protection of human rights. The movement tries to take action herever and whenever there are violations of those human rights falling within its mandate. Since it was founded, Amnesty International groups have intervened on behalf of more than 20,000 prisoners in over a hundred countries with widely differing ideologies.

A unique aspect of the work of Amnesty International groups—placing the emphasis on the need for *international* human rights work—is the fact that each group works on behalf of prisoners held in countries other than its own. At least two prisoner cases are assigned to each group; the cases are balanced geographically and politically to ensure impartiality.

There are now some 2,500 local Amnesty International groups throughout the world. There are national sections in 40 countries (in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East) and individual members, subscribers and supporters in a further 94 countries. Members do not work on cases in their own country. No section, group or member is expected to provide information on their own country and no section, group or member has any responsibility for action taken or statements issued by the international organization concerning their own country.

Continuous Research

The movement attaches the highest importance to balanced and accurate reporting of facts. All its activities depend on meticulous research into allegations of human rights violations. The International Secretariat in London (with a staff of 150, representing nearly 30 nationalities) has a research department which collects and analyses information from a wide variety of sources. These include hundreds of newspapers and journals, government bulletins, transcriptions of radio broadcasts, reports from lawyers and humanitarian organizations, as well as letters from prisoners and their families. Amnesty International also sends fact-finding missions for on-the-spot investigations and to observe trials, meet prisoners and interview government officials. Amnesty International takes full responsibility for its published reports and if proved wrong on any point is prepared to issue a correction.

Once the relevant facts are established, information is sent to national sections and groups for

action. The members then start the work of trying to protect the individuals whose human rights are reported to have been violated. They send letters to government ministers and embassies. They organize public meetings, arrange special publicity events, such as vigils at appropriate government offices or embassies, and try to interest newspapers in the cases they have taken up. They ask their friends and colleagues to help in the effort. They collect signatures for international petitions and raise money to send relief, such as medicine, food and clothing, to the prisoners and their families.

A permanent campaign

In addition to casework on behalf of individual prisoners, Amnesty International members campaign for the abolition of torture and the death penalty. This includes trying to prevent torture and executions when people have been taken to known torture centres or sentenced to death. Volunteers in dozens of countries can be alerted in such cases, and within hours hundreds of telegrams and other appeals can be on their way to the government, prison or detention centre.

In its efforts to mobilize world public opinion, Amnesty International neither supports nor opposes economic or cultural boycotts. It *does* take a stand against the international transfer of military, police or security equipment and expertise likely to be used by recipient governments to detain prisoners of conscience and to inflict torture and carry out executions.



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Amnesty International does not grade governments or countries according to their record on human rights. Not only does repression in various countries prevent the free flow of information about human rights abuses, but the techniques of repression and their impact vary widely. Instead of attempting comparisons, Amnesty International concentrates on trying to end the specific violations of human rights in each case.

Human rights have been violated not only by governments, but also by political groups. People have been taken prisoner and held hostage; torture has been inflicted and executions carried out in the name of different political causes. Amnesty International opposes these acts in all cases, whether they are perpetrated by government forces or opposition groups. It believes that international standards for the protection of human rights and the humane treatment of prisoners should be universally respected.

Policy and funds

Amnesty International is a democratically run movement. Each year major policy decisions are taken by an International Council comprising representatives from all the national sections. They elect an International Executive Committee to carry out their decisions and supervise the day-to-day running of the International Secretariat.

The organization is financed by its members throughout the world, by individual subscriptions and donations. Members pay fees and conduct fund-raising campaigns—they organize concerts and art auctions and are often to be seen on fund-raising drives at street corners in their neighbourhoods.

Its rules about accepting donations are strict and ensure that any funds received by any part of the organization do not compromise it in any way, affect its integrity, make it dependent on any donor, or limit its freedom of activity.

The organization's accounts are audited annually and are published in its annual report.

Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe. It has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States and is a member of the coordinating committee of the Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees of the Organization of African Unity.

The following list includes a selection of reports issued since 1976. For a complete list, write to Amnesty International Publications, London.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

This annual report provides a complete country-by-country survey of Amnesty International's work to combat political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty throughout the world. The report is organized into regional sections and normally covers developments in at least 100 countries.

This is probably the most widely read-and most influential-of the many reports published by Amnesty International each year.

Now available: the Amnesty International Report 1980. This 416-page report, illustrated with regional maps for easy reference, covers the period 1 May 1979-30 April 1980. First published 10 December 1980. £5.00. English, French, Spanish.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

This monthly bulletin provides a regular account of Amnesty International's work: the latest reports of fact-finding missions, details of the arrest and release of political prisoners, reliable reports of torture and executions. It also gives practical information for Amnesty International supporters: each issue includes appeals on behalf of prisoners of conscience and victims of torture around the

The newsletter is written-without political bias—for human rights activists throughout the world. It is widely used by journalists, students, political leaders, doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

Individual subscriptions: (US\$10) a year.

HOW TO ORDER THESE REPORTS

If you live in a country where a national section of Amnesty International has been formed, you can obtain all these reports from the section. Section addresses are available from the International

If there is no national section in your country, you can order these reports direct from the International Secretariat of Amnesty International:

- select the publications you wish to order
- note the listed price
- make out a money order or bank | draft payable to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL for the total price of all the publications
- send your order and payment to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 10 SOUTHAMPTON STREET LONDON WC2E 7HF

THE DEATH PENALTY

UNITED KINGDOM

This unique study of the ultimate punishment examines the laws and methods by which people can be put to death in 134 countries. The 206-page report draws on more than a decade of research, using official and unofficial sources. Devoted mainly to a countryby-country survey of legislation and practice, the report also covers the phenomena of "disappearances" and summary executions through which suspected political opponents have been eliminated in large numbers by repressive regimes. First published 1979; illustrated. £2.00. English, French, Spanish.

AFRICA

GUINEA

A 12-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1978. £0.40. English, French, Spanish.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

An account of political killings, the destruction of the rule of law, political imprisonment, prison conditions, the use of torture and the death penalty. First issued 1977. 26 pages. £0.50. English, French.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA

An examination of human rights violations during the presidency of Idi Amin, including the overthrow of the rule of law, murder of judges, public executions, killings and torture. First issued 1978. 25 pages. £0.50. English,

HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZAIRE

Details on political prisoners and their conditions, torture, extrajudicial executions and the use of the death penalty, together with the political and legal background. First issued 1980. 22 pages. £1.00. English, French.

A 16-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1977. £0.40. English, French.

POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

detailed report, including photographs and case histories, on the political and legal background to human rights violations, the treatment of prisoners, killings, use of torture and the death penalty. First issued 1978. 108 pages. £1.00. English,

THE AMERICAS

PRISONERS IN DISAPPEARED CHILE

A dossier on political prisoners held in secret detention camps. It comprises background information on "disappeared" prisoners, appeals from their relatives, a selection of case histories and numerous photographs. First issued 1977. £1.45. English, French, Spanish.

GUATEMALA

A 16-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1976. £0.40. English (out of print), French, Spanish.

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

Findings and recommendations of a mission that visited Havana in 1977 to examine questions of long-term political prisoners, prison regimes, the situation of released prisoners and the application of the death penalty. First issued 1978. Eight pages. £0.50. English, Spanish.

PARAGUAY

A 16-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1978. £0.40. English, French, Spanish.

PERU

A 12-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1979. £0.40. English, French, Spanish.

POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT IN URUGUAY

A dossier of documents on political imprisonment, law and justice for political prisoners, detention conditions, ill-treatment and torture, with 14 case histories. First issued 1979. £0.40. English, French, Spanish.

PROPOSAL FOR A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The 1980 appeal to President Carter, urging the creation of a body to examine the social and legal impact of the death penalty, and a moratorium on all executions. First issued 1980. Four pages. £0.25. English.

TESTIMONY ON SECRET DETEN-TION CAMPS IN ARGENTINA

Testimony of two detention camp victims, including detailed information about their fellow prisoners; list of prisoners and correspondence to and from government officials about missing people. First issued 1980. 60 pages. £1.00. English, Spanish.

THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

Includes the findings of a mission in 1976. An examination of judicial procedures, political imprisonment, torture and "disappearances"; plus recommendations, case studies, lists of prisoners and an account of a trial in a military court. First issued 1977 75 pages. £0.75. English (out of print), French, Spanish.

ASIA

ALI LAMEDA: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE EXPERIENCE OF A PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The personal story of a Venezuelan poet and Communist Party member subjected to six years' political imprisonment in North Korea. First issued 1979. 39 pages. £0.50. English, French.

INDONESIA

A detailed account of political imprisonment between 1965 and 1976, including description of trials, prison conditions and forced labour, permanent post-release "resettlement" and case histories. First issued 1977. 146 pages. £2.00. English, French, Indonesian.

POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC CHINA

A major report on the constitutional, legal and penal systems under which political dissenters have been detained, interrogated, tried and punished. First issued 1978. 171 pages, illustrated. £2.00. English, French, Spanish.

AN -AMNESTY REPORT OF MISSION TO INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH

Representations to the Bangladesh Government reflecting Amnesty Inter-

national's concern about trials of civilians by martial law courts and the execution of military personnel. First issued 1978. 20 pages. £0.50. English.

REPORT OF AN AMNESTY INTER-NATIONAL MISSION TO THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA

An examination in 1978 of Malaysia's Internal Security Act, under which political prisoners, including members of political parties and trade unions, have been held without charge or trial and tortured. First issued 1979. 67 pages. £0.50. English.

REPORT OF AN AMNESTY INTER-NATIONAL MISSION TO INDIA

The findings and recommendations of an investigation following the 1975-1977 Indian Emergency. First issued 1979. 84 pages. £1.00. English.

REPORT OF AN AMNESTY INTER-NATIONAL MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The conclusions and recommendations of a mission that visited South Korea at a time when Emergency Regulations resulted in the suppression of dissent throughout the country. First issued 1976; revised 1977. 45 pages £2.00.

REPORT OF AN AMNESTY INTER-NATIONAL MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Second edition of the conclusions of a mission in 1975 together with the government's reply and Amnesty International's comments. Includes interviews with prisoners and an examination of the incidence of torture and other violations of human rights. First issued 1977. 95 pages. £2.00. English, Spanish.

REPORT OF MISSION TO INTERNATIONAL SINGAPORE

Report of a mission in 1978 plus recommendations to the government. An examination of preventive detention, trials, arrest and interrogation, prison conditions, torture and the use of the death penalty. First issued 1978. 60 pages. £2.00. English.

SHORT REPORT OF AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MISSION TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Findings of a mission in 1978 that documented martial law provisions curtailing fundamental freedoms and the infliction of harsh punishments by military courts on civilians for exercising the right of free speech. First issued 1978. 24 pages. £0.50. English, French.

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

A 14-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1976; second edition 1980. £0.40. English, French, Chinese.

VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

A report, released in September 1979, on consistent violations: widespread arrests, torture, "disappearances" and deaths in detention between April 1978 and May 1979. 34 pages. £0.50. English.

EUROPE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A 16-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1977. £0.40. English, French, Spanish.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

A 12-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1977; second edition 1981. £0.40. English, French, Spanish.

TORTURE IN GREECE: THE FIRST TORTURERS' TRIAL 1975

A rare insight into the inner clockwork of a torture state, this 98-page report analyses a contemporary example of the possibility of submitting accused torturers to due process of law. First issued 1977. £0.85. English, French, Spanish.

ROMANIA

A 19-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1980. £0.60. English, French, Spanish.

REPORT OF AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MISSION TO NORTHERN IRELAND

The findings and recommendations of a mission in 1977 that investigated allegations of ill-treatment of detainees and called for a public inquiry. First issued 1978. 72 pages. £1.00. English.

REPORT OF AN AMNESTY INTER-NATIONAL MISSION TO SPAIN

First published in November 1980, the findings of a mission that examined the treatment of security detainees, plus Amnesty International's recommendations to prevent torture. 68 pages. £3.00. English, Spanish.

TURKEY

A 12-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1977. £0.40. English, French.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE USSR: THEIR TREATMENT AND CONDITIONS

This 200-page report, containing photographs of prisoners of conscience and camps in which they are held, examines Soviet laws and their application to dissenters and includes new material on the treatment of dissenters in psychiatric institutions. First issued 1975; second edition 1980. £5.00. English, French, Spanish.

MIDDLE EAST

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A 12-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death

penalty. First issued 1976. £0.40. English, Farsi.

LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

An examination of legal procedures, revolutionary tribunals, offences and post-revolutionary executions during the first seven months after the 1979 revolution. First issued 1980. 216 pages. £10.00. English.

MOROCCO

A 16-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1977. £0.40. English, French.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

A 12-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1976. £0.40. English, French, Arabic.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDA-TIONS OF AN AMNESTY INTER-NATIONAL MISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Report of a mission in 1979 that examined allegations of ill-treatment in the Occupied Territories and legal procedures used. Includes Amnesty International's recommendations, the government's reply and Amnesty International's comments on it. First issued 1980. 71 pages. £2.00. English, French.

SYRIA

A 16-page briefing on political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty. First issued 1979. £0.40. English, French, Spanish, Arabic.

TUNISIA: IMPRISONMENT OF TRADE UNIONISTS IN 1978

An account of the arrests and trials of trade unionists plus a description of prison conditions and torture allegations. First issued 1979. 24 pages. £0.75. English, French.