

AMNESTY



amnesty
international

1977 Prisoners of Conscience Year
World Campaign for Human Rights and against political repression and torture

Are Human Rights a Lost Cause?

"Every day, opening your paper in the morning, you read that somewhere in the world human beings are being thrown into prison, tortured or killed because their political or religious views are at variance with those of their government. . . . One experiences a feeling of unease and helplessness. Yet if disgust and disapproval could be translated into collective action, something effective might be done."

This statement is still terrifyingly relevant. It was made 15 years ago by a British lawyer, Peter Benenson, and Amnesty International was founded:

15 years prior to the making of this

statement - that is, now 30 years ago - the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the Plenary Session of the United Nations.

Now, three decades after the making of this Declaration, 15 years after Peter Benenson's appeal, let's examine the situation: millions of people have been persecuted; there have been countless victims of injustice and incredible cruelty, and still in many countries violent suppression of political opposition is the established procedure.

Is the fight for human rights really a lost cause?

THE GEOGRAPHY OF TERROR

We had intended to print a map of the world with black spots on it to indicate which countries are violating the Declaration of Human Rights. But we had to drop the idea as no map could possibly illustrate the actual gravity of the situation.

Amnesty International's 1975/76 Annual Report reveals that in just one year we have had to deal with human rights infringements in 112 countries. The Report states that there are more than 500,000 pris-

oners of conscience in the world and that torture is used in about 60 countries. Human rights are violated in every kind of country: members of the Eastern bloc, the Western bloc and the "Third World" - the geography of political repression and torture is global.

To reduce the number of black terror spots on the map we must have more and more human rights campaigners all over the world.



Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "No one shall be arbitrarily arrested, detained or exiled."

Can't Anything be Done to Help Prisoners of Conscience?

In our offices there are stacks of information and reports about innumerable cases of political oppression.

Human beings are degraded in every part of the world. They are subjected to:

- arbitrary imprisonment;
- unjust detention;
- the most modern and refined forms of torture;
- kidnapping;
- assassination.

All these crimes are committed over and over again.

And it is not only the actual political victims that we must consider; we must not forget their relatives (including children) and friends who, although "free" are nevertheless in peril and suffering great distress.

They all need help, and every day Amnesty International shows how

valuable it is to support and encourage these people.

Since Amnesty International was founded, thousands of our adopted prisoners of conscience have been freed. We have managed to help their families in all sorts of ways. We have also assisted numerous political refugees, and made life easier for them.

Persistent campaigning by our members all over the world has saved prisoners' lives and led to improved prison conditions for all categories of prisoners.

Moreover, the mobilization of public opinion everywhere against infringements of human rights has increased the speed and efficiency of our work.

The joint, practical, concentrated action proposed when Amnesty International was first founded is still our most effective means of guaranteeing

basic human rights.

But to become increasingly efficient, our organization must grow. Our present membership is 100,000, and there must in addition be thousands who sympathize with our aims. All the same a tremendous amount of work and money is still needed for every prisoner we adopt and every victim of torture and oppression that we try to help.

So it is vital that we increase both our active membership and our funds. The success of our work is dependent on the devoted efforts of as many people as possible; and to remain solvent we must be able to rely on financial support from the general public.

We owe it to ourselves to do absolutely all we possibly can to help.



CALL TO ACTION!

We can all help provided we don't just give up but take action.

The number of victories won by Amnesty International over the torture and political persecution cases we have taken up reveal the effectiveness of direct, practical action.

Faced by the continuous violation of human rights we simply cannot remain silent.

We must take action to help prisoners of conscience and their families and to preserve civil liberties.

You can take action through Amnesty International. Read the facts and decide what you are going to do about the situation.



THE STRUGGLE AGAINST REPRESSION

Hundreds of thousands of people all over the world are oppressed because of their political or religious beliefs, their membership of trade unions, or their ethnic or racial origin.

More and more cases are being "adopted" by Amnesty International, but our work must expand and our organization develop accordingly.

The following cases, picked from an endless list, are typical. They illustrate the need for an organization like Amnesty International, as well as the enormous size of the workload.



Maria Angeles Barroso Pena
SPAIN

She worked in a hospital and was accused of belonging to an illegal organization - an underground Basque separatist movement. The charges made against her rendered her liable to 30 years' imprisonment for terrorism.

Her trial was held two years later. The charges of terrorism had to be dropped. Condemned to six years' imprisonment, she was freed in December 1975 as a result of the political amnesty granted by the King on 25 November 1975.

Maria Angeles Barroso Pena had been adopted by Amnesty International.



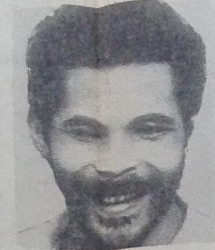
Dr. Jaroslav Studeny
CSSR

A theologian and priest, Mr. Studeny aroused the suspicion of the authorities in 1950 because he had previously studied and worked in Rome.

He was sent to an internment camp for two years. After his release he was banished to a remote parish. During his trial he was accused again and again of having illegally published and sold religious writings.

He was sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment.

Adopted by Amnesty International, he was freed in 1975.



Manoel da Conceicao
BRAZIL

Mr da Conceicao was a farmer in N. W. Brazil. He was first arrested in May 1968 for attempting to initiate agrarian reforms. At the time of his arrest, the police fired into the crowd and Manoel was shot in the leg five times. When he was released in July, his leg had to be amputated because he had not received adequate medical attention while in prison.

He remained President of the Farm Workers' Association and was re-arrested in February 1972.

He was viciously tortured. After his adoption by Amnesty International a campaign to save him was organized. His health was seriously affected by the tortures he suffered. In April 1974 he was released. He now lives in exile in Europe.

In 1976 we took on almost 2,000 new prisoners of conscience in various parts of the world. During the same period some 1,700 prisoners whom we had helped in some fashion were released.

Amnesty International works on 5,000 cases of prisoners of conscience a year. We campaign for their release, for improvements in their prison conditions and to get them a fair trial etc.

We also help their families and numerous refugees. Our efforts have achieved tangible results: over 3,000 of our adopted prisoners were freed between 1960 and 1970. Others have been given better treatment. After 1970, as the organization expanded, the number of prisoners released increased and we were able to give more direct effective help to prisoners, people being persecuted and refugees.

However, we never claim that the release of some prisoner is solely due to our efforts. The important thing is that Amnesty International, epitomizing as it does genuine concern for human values, exists at all. The technique of adopting prisoners is only the central part of a much wider range of activities.

As well as endlessly helping indivi-

duals, we are busy organizing more and more worldwide campaigns, such as the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture and campaigns about particular countries.

Our campaigns against injustice are conducted on many levels - within the United Nations and other international bodies. We make representations to individual governments and both to international as well as non-governmental organizations. We intervene directly in situations by sending observers, publishing reports and making accurate, objective press statements.

How Does Amnesty Work?

Our credibility, hence our effectiveness over pressurizing culpable governments to free their prisoners of conscience and treat all their prisoners humanely, depends in the first instance on the reliability of our reports and the impartiality of our research.

We receive information about arrests and infringements of human rights from a variety of sources:

- the press;
- letters from prisoners or their friends and relations;
- sympathetic organizations;
- individuals.

The reports we receive are always scrupulously checked. Once it is clear that someone is a "prisoner of conscience" in Amnesty International's sense of the term, his/her case is sent to a local group for adoption. Each local group deals with three cases simultaneously, selected in such a way that the organization's political impartiality is preserved - that is, the group gets one case from the Western World, one from the Eastern World and one from the Third World.

Amnesty International is not concerned about prisoner's political or religious opinions but rather about the treatment they receive. In other words, we share Voltaire's view: "I disagree with what you say but I shall fight to the last for your right to say it."

The local groups work hard on behalf of the prisoners they have adopted. They write letters to the authorities; get in touch with embassies and consulates; give reports to newspapers; contact influential individuals; organize meetings and peaceful demonstrations; circulate petitions etc. They also try to get in touch with the prisoners themselves and help them and their families in every possible way. Over £ 250,000 a year is spent on prisoners by local groups and Amnesty International members.



Daniel Vergara Bustos
CHILE

Mr. Vergara was arrested on 11 September, 1973, the day of the military coup.

He was Secretary of State in the Allende Government, also a member of the Chile Communist Party. He was imprisoned on Dawson Island where the conditions were appalling.

He had to go to hospital in Punta in November 1973. Along with others, he was transferred in May 1974 to Ritoque concentration camp.

He is still waiting for a proper trial.

His wife and son have been expelled from Chile. His lawyer was arrested in April 1975 and is also in a concentration camp. Mr. Vergara is an Amnesty International adopted prisoner.



Nurtjahja Murad
INDONESIA

Mrs Murad's husband was arrested in October 1965 shortly after the abortive coup which occurred the same month. He was freed in 1967 but re-arrested in September. This time his wife was arrested too.

She was a teacher and had studied in Moscow, which made her a suspicious character. But she never played an active part in politics. Her only "crime" probably was being the sister-in-law of the President of the Communist Party.

Although ill, she was put in solitary confinement in 1971. Today, she is one of 380 women interned in a camp in the center of Java.

None of them has ever had a proper trial.

Mrs Murad is an adopted Amnesty International prisoner.



Dr. Mykola Grigorievitch Plakhotniouk
USSR

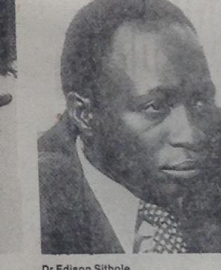
Like many other political prisoners in the USSR, Dr. Plakhotniouk is detained in a psychiatric hospital.

He was interrogated in 1969 by the KGB about his contacts with Ukrainian nationalists. In 1972, he was arrested for "anti-Soviet propaganda".

He was forced to have a psychiatric examination, and was pronounced a paranoid schizophrenic.

He was interned in an asylum for "especially dangerous" inmates, then was later transferred to the Dnepropetrovsk asylum.

In the same asylum was Leonid Plyusch. When he was released he reported that Dr. Plakhotniouk was in very poor health. He has been adopted by Amnesty International.



Dr. Edison Sithole
RHODESIA

Dr. Sithole has been arrested and imprisoned many times since 1959 because of his strenuous political activity. On 15 October 1975, he was kidnapped in Salisbury by unknown people.

He has not been seen since.

Those who witnessed the kidnapping, and others, believe he was arrested by the Rhodesian Security Forces.

The reluctance of the Smith Government to initiate an enquiry can only confirm our suspicions that Dr. Sithole is in captivity in Rhodesia, possibly a torture victim. He has been named as a negotiator for the nationalists at the Gwelo negotiations. However, Mr. Ian Smith disclaimed any knowledge of his whereabouts.

He has been adopted by Amnesty International.

Amnesty International in Action

Amnesty International permanently leads international campaigns about violations of human rights. We plan "urgent actions" - get letters and telegrams sent from as many parts of the world as possible to culpable governments. In cases of emergency - e.g. when a prisoner suddenly gets seriously ill, is tortured, likely to be killed or has

"disappeared" - we make press statements, try to get the story on radio and television, hold meetings and demonstrations, draft petitions etc.

Every month a special international campaign is organized on behalf of three prisoners urgently needing help.

Violations of human rights in some countries are often so grave that we find we cannot confine ourselves to publicizing individual cases; general campaigns have to be mounted. And frequently we collaborate with other non-governmental organizations over spreading information, arousing public opinion and bringing as much pres-

sure as possible to bear on the governments concerned. In addition, we send missions to countries where human rights are being violated. They comprise lawyers and other appropriate people whose job it is to make on-the-spot investigations and generally observe what is going on. Often they go as observers to improperly conducted

trials. Members of these missions frequently manage to make direct useful contact with the authorities.

We report on the way prisoners are treated, and our reports on prison conditions constitute an ever-increasing fund of information on violations of human rights in more and more countries.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CAUSE

Membership

At present we have about 100,000 members in 78 countries.

There are national sections and groups in 33 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, The Middle East, North and South America and Australia.

As the membership has grown, so has the effectiveness of the organization: we have been able to achieve more of our aims.

The safeguarding of human rights depends on the number of people around the world prepared to struggle to defend them.

Independence

We are an impartial worldwide human rights movement, independent of any government, of all political bias, of all ideology, of all religion and we are not influenced by any financial considerations.

Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations and the Council of Europe, links with the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights of the Organization of American States and observer status with the Organization for African Unity.

Our organization is most careful to preserve its financial independence. All funds consist of subscriptions and donations from members and sympathisers.

To guarantee our financial independence, we have made very strict rules and our book-keeping is most methodical. Our Annual Treasurer's Report provides full details about our income and expenditure.

The structure of Amnesty International

The local groups and members comprise the basis of the organization.

There are national sections in the countries where we have members, and these sections are divided into regional and local groups.

Delegates from the national sections attend the International Council, the chief policy making body of the organization, which meets annually. It decides on the main lines of action that shall be taken and elects the International Executive Committee, which is responsible for carrying out the Council's decisions and conducting the organization's general business.

The International Secretariat, based in London, conducts the day to day business, guided by the International Executive Committee and the Secretary General. The Research Department in the Secretariat collates information for reports on violations of human rights in different countries, examines individual cases then sends them to the adoption groups. It initiates, plans and co-ordinates the many campaigns which the organization undertakes.



"Defense of law and order" . . . in Europe



. . . in South America



. . . in Africa



In view of the continuous brutal infringements of human rights . . . how can we remain silent without ourselves becoming guilty?



1977
Prisoners of
Conscience Year

amnesty
international

For Human Rights

We are an international organization based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We aim to:

- achieve the release of people detained because of their political or religious beliefs or because of their ethnic origin or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence;
 - oppose capital punishment, torture and the cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of any prisoner.
- Amnesty International has three main approaches:
- 1) **Internationalism**
We don't recognize national frontiers. However, to avoid internal political arguments, our national sections may in no circumstances intervene in their own countries.

Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, is recognized by UNESCO and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees). We seek the promotion of and respect for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

3) Objectivity

There are no limits to the countries where we are prepared to take action. We check carefully all the evidence we get and give an equal amount of attention to all the cases we deal with.

The kind of action we initiate distinguishes us from the other similar international organizations with which we often collaborate.

Amnesty International publications

Over the past 15 years, we have published numerous books and pamphlets about human rights, including our "Report on Torture" and important papers on Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, the USSR, Northern Ireland, Spain and Indonesia.

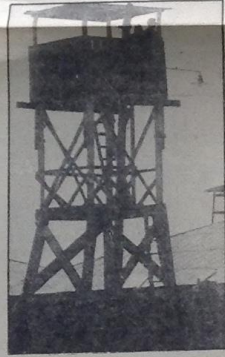
We produce a monthly Newsletter about current affairs and current actions by our national sections. It is translated into a number of languages so that people all over the world can read it.

We also publish a detailed Annual Report describing the human rights situation in every country we have been dealing with.

Most of our publications are translated into the most widely spoken languages and can be ordered from the national sections or from the International Secretariat in London.



Prisoner in an Indonesian camp



Watchtower at Chacabuco, concentration camp in Chile

Campaign for the Abolition of Torture

Amnesty International is conducting a persistent, worldwide campaign for the abolition of torture.

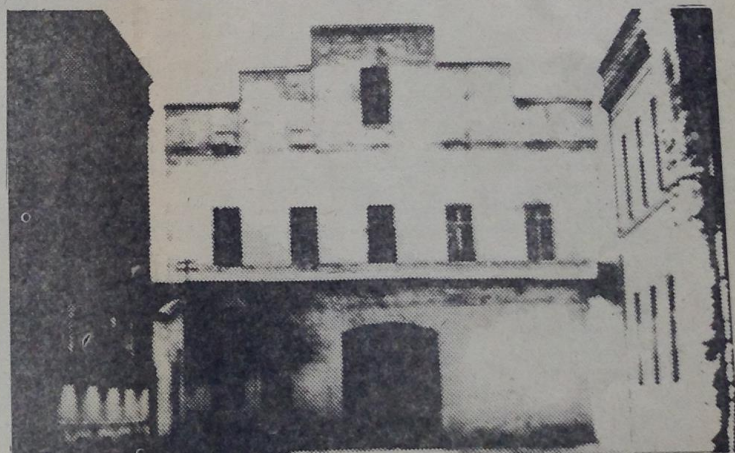
We keep getting reports show torture is used generally and not just by any one type of political regime. On the contrary, these horrifying reports suggest that the use of the most brutal, sophisticated types of torture is spreading like cancer - has become a worldwide disease.

Torturing people - women, children and men - has become an established governmental technique in some countries; in others it is either encouraged or tolerated.

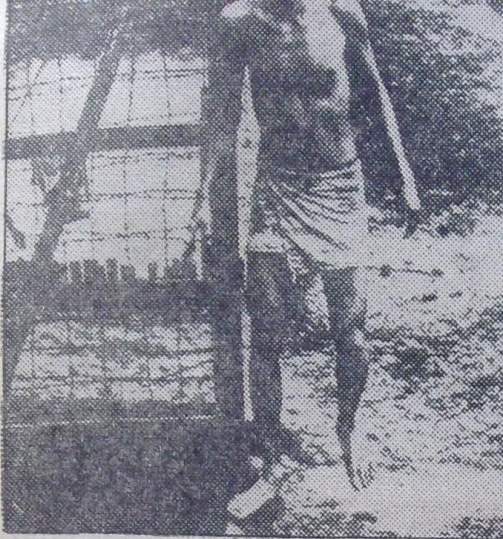
Amnesty International aims to make the use of torture as outlandish and unacceptable as slavery has become. All those who share this aim must do everything in their power to get the practice abolished and save and help its victims.

To this end, we organize combined group actions as well as "urgent actions" by individuals.

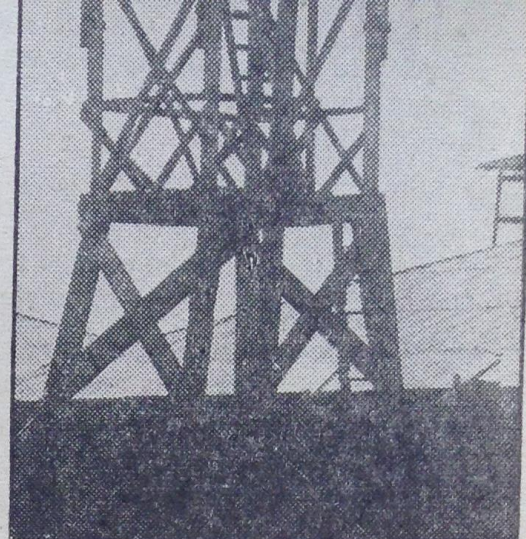
Such a campaign requires the support and commitment of more and more people.



The Tschernjachowski psychiatric clinic is an annex of Kaliningrad Prison (USSR)



Prisoner in an Indonesian camp



Watchtower at Chacabuco, concentration camp in Chile

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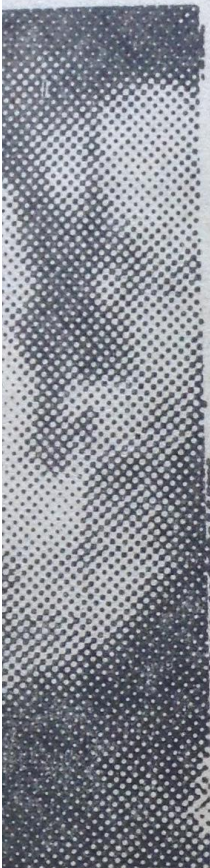
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Ali Barnani
TANZANIA

A month after Zanzibar
dence in December 1963
d'état and the opposition

Ali Barnani was a support
regime. He was arrested
charged or tried; nevert
prisoned for 10 years an
health deteriorated grave

He was adopted by Am
and was released in Ma
get permission to rejoin
until the winter of that
there now.

1977 Prisoners of Conscience Year

For over 15 years, of course, every day has been a Prisoner of Conscience Day for Amnesty International, but in 1977 we are focusing special attention on human rights violations wherever they are occurring.

We have become steadily more efficient over the past 15 years, and now, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, we are calling on the peoples of the world to insist that international conventions be respected and repression and torture ended wherever they occur, regardless of the political systems of the countries involved.

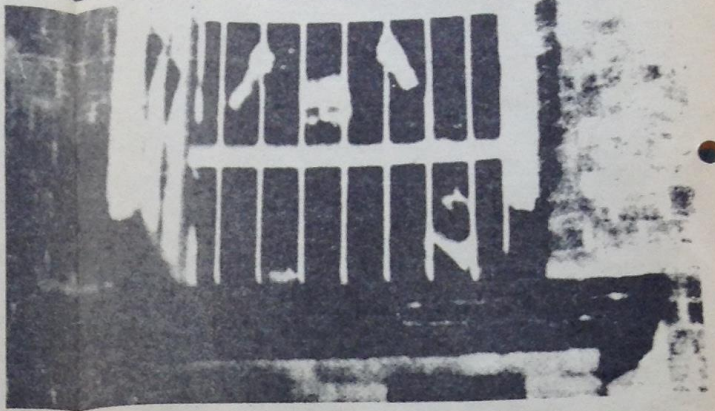
Every prisoner of conscience is an

individual, a human being, who can be helped only by other individuals.

The more of us there are involved, the greater will be our effectiveness.

We urge you, in 1977, to strengthen the Amnesty International organization in your own country, in your own area, in your own neighbourhood.

Become an active member or a supporter; help to publicize human rights violations; give money to Amnesty International; sign the petition which will be presented to member states at the United Nations.



Address of the national sections of Amnesty International are available from the International Secretariat. Further information may be obtained from:

amnesty international
International Secretariat
53 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8SP
England

Telephone: 01-404-5831/7
Telegrams: Amnesty London
Telex: 28502



We need your help

Hundreds of thousands of people are imprisoned all over the world. In more than 100 countries people are oppressed simply because of their opinions. Torture is practised in some 60 countries.

If you wish, you can:

- 1) join with those struggling for human rights;
- 2) help publicize the horrifying reports of all too frequent violations of human rights and generally spread knowledge of the bad situation existing in so many countries of the world;
- 3) form an Amnesty International group which will actually adopt and directly try to achieve the prisoners' release;
- 4) become a member of Amnesty International and support us financially and by participating in our various activities;
- 5) Make a direct donation to us or arrange a standing order through your bank;
- 6) Tell people in your area about Amnesty International and encourage them to join too.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Art. 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Art. 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile

Art. 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion: this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Art. 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

These articles form part of the text adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and proclaimed on 10 December 1948.

In 1978 this document will be 30 years old. Meanwhile, the two covenants intended to implement the declaration have entered into force; resolutions referring to the text of the declaration have been adopted; other conventions guaranteeing the integrity and rights of the individual have been signed and ratified.

Yet throughout the world these rights continue to be ignored.

Hundreds of thousands of people are imprisoned without ever having committed an offence or incited anyone to violence. They are imprisoned simply because of their race, religion or opinions.

Let us strive to ensure that the principles incorporated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are eventually practised by the governments of the world.

SIGN THE PETITION

During Prisoners of Conscience Year 1977 this petition will be distributed worldwide and submitted by Amnesty International to the United Nations and to the governments. Please return your signature before November 1977. If you want more forms for the collection of signatures please write:

Name _____
Profession _____
Signature _____

Name _____
Profession _____
Signature _____

Name _____
Profession _____
Signature _____

Name _____
Profession _____
Signature _____

Petition for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience

"We the undersigned,

Outraged that in many parts of the world, men and women who have neither used nor advocated violence suffer imprisonment solely because of their political or religious beliefs, their race, colour or language and this, despite the many humane and noble declarations of the assembled nations of the world, starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights three decades ago,

urge the General Assembly of the United Nations

to take swift and concrete steps to ensure strict observance in all countries of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, **each and every government in the world** to act for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience."

Name _____

Address _____

I wish to become a member. Please send the address of the National Section in my country.

I wish to receive more information on Amnesty International. Please send basic literature and your list of publications.

I wish to support your work by a donation. In enclose

Please contact me for financial support.

Other: _____