

C/D 9.07

Journalists and writers in prison

1977
Prisoners of
Conscience Year

amnesty
international



It is clear from Amnesty International's records that journalists and writers are particularly vulnerable to political imprisonment. A list published in May 1976 by Amnesty International gives the names of 67 journalists and writers imprisoned in 17 countries throughout the world. Any such list is bound to be far from comprehensive, and it is certain that many journalists and writers who are unknown to us also suffer imprisonment. For, in many cases, it is precisely in the most closed societies that information on the arrest and imprisonment of journalists and writers is most difficult to obtain.

In the many and diverse countries of Africa, even in those countries where there is no overt governmental control of the media, there is a pattern in which a journalist will be liable to arrest, imprisonment and other forms of harassment where the journalist has chosen to report on some issue which is politically sensitive to the government. At

one extreme, it is reliably reported that in Uganda a number of journalists have been killed for political reasons. But it is a feature common to many of the countries of Africa that journalists are liable to long-term detention without charge or trial under some form of internal security legislation that can be invoked by the government in the face of a journalist's alleged threat to national security.

Similarly, in many countries of Latin America the reporting of sensitive issues frequently leads to the arrest or expulsion of journalists, and journalists number among those people who have reportedly "disappeared" in the hands of official security forces or indeed have been kidnapped and sometimes tortured or killed by unofficial vigilante squads.

In Eastern Europe, where the media are subject to direct state control, the content of all publications and programmes is



Gladys Diaz Armijo, Chile

In the late 1960's and up to the toppling of President Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government in September 1973, Gladys Diaz worked as a radio journalist. She became famous for her 15 minute daily radio broadcast on Radio Agricultura. She was president of the radio journalists' union.

After the coup in 1973 she continued writing for an underground publication. She was arrested in February 1975 and

brutally tortured in "The Tower" of Villa Grimaldi interrogation center. She gave a clandestine interview about her torture to the **International Herald Tribune** in June 1976. In retaliation, prison authorities placed her in an isolation cell.

She is one of many journalists persecuted for their activities and opinions. They remain one of the regime's main targets - many were killed, over 100 have been held in prison for the past three years. Almost all have been tortured in the prison

Of the over 1000 journalists accredited in 1973 by the **Colegio de Periodistas** (Journalists' Association) only 300 are practicing their profession under the present regime. Some 400 are unemployed or have other jobs. About 300 have had to leave the country.

Gladys Diaz is an AI prisoner of conscience and has been the

object of numerous "urgent action" campaigns of the organization.

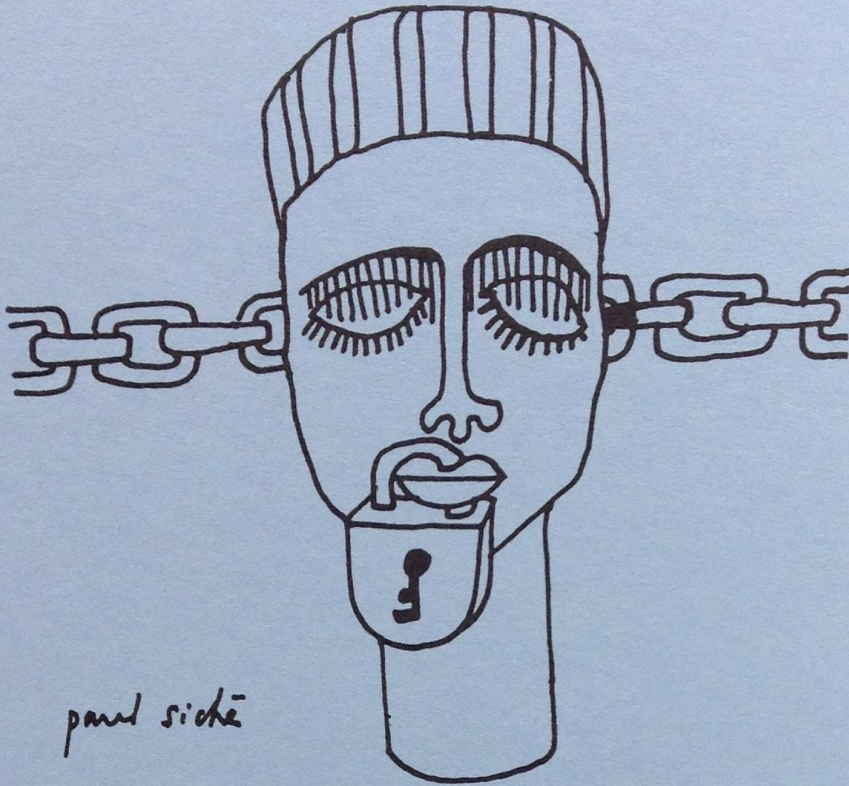
Despite the announcement of 16th November, 1976 that about 300 prisoners were to be released, she was one of the few prisoners in Tres Alamos not included in the proposed releases at the time of printing.

Mrs. Rusijati, Indonesia

Mrs. Rusijati was arrested October 1965 following an attempted coup aimed against the army leadership. She has been detained for eleven years without formal charges or a trial.

Since the 1950s Mrs. Rusijati had been involved in Indonesia in leftwing mass organizations. She worked as a journalist for regional newspapers before moving to Indonesia's national news agency, Antara, where she specialised in domestic political affairs. Mrs.

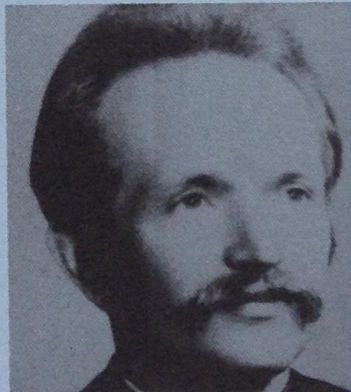
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Rusijati was an active member of the Indonesian Journalists Association. During the early 1960s she was sent to study journalism in Australia with a group of women journalists.

Mrs. Rusijati was dismissed from Antara following the abortive coup. Journalists associated before 1965 with Antara were accused of helping to create a political climate which favoured the coup attempt. She was detained shortly afterwards and for several years at Bukit Sari prison in Jakarta. In 1971 she was transferred to Plantungan Women's Detention Camp in Central Java where she faces indefinite detention without trial. Adopted as a prisoner of conscience in 1973, she featured in a AI campaign for Indonesian women prisoners in 1975.

AI estimates the number of political prisoners held in Indonesia as between 55,000 and 100,000.



Vyacheslav Chornovil – USSR

In January 1972 several prominent Ukrainian dissidents were arrested, among them the journalist, Vyacheslav Chornovil. Their arrests were the opening moves of an intensive official campaign aimed at repressing dissent in the Ukraine, and in particular the growing circulation of Ukrainian samizdat (unofficial) literature.

During the early 1960's Chornovil had worked as an editor in the

Lvov television studios and later in the editorial offices of several publications. He also published many educational and literary articles in various Ukrainian newspapers and magazines. In 1965 he was sent to report on the trials of a number of Ukrainian intellectuals. He was disturbed by what he regarded as the illegality of the proceedings and when he himself was summoned as a witness at a political trial in January 1966, he refused to testify. His stand on this occasion led to his dismissal from his job and three months' imprisonment. Chornovil subsequently issued a number of declarations and protests about the 1965-66 trials which have since been published outside the USSR under the title **The Chornovil Papers**. As a result of these protests, Chornovil was tried for circulating fabrications slandering the Soviet state, and in November 1967 he was sentenced to three years in a labour camp, reduced later to 18 months.

decided by governmental organs. In such a situation, the arrest and harassment of a journalist tends to occur where the journalist has sought to use an outlet for publication other than that provided by the government. In the European context, this would mean publishing abroad or publishing in some form of unofficial underground press.

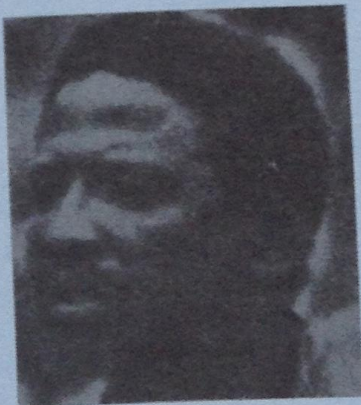
In virtually every country of Asia, the government is invested with sweeping powers of arrest and imprisonment by various forms of emergency regulation, preventive detention laws and special ordinances relating to internal security. In such a situation, journalists have often numbered among political prisoners who are held for long periods without trial under the provisions of internal security legislation.

Almost invariably, they are held under circumstances which make it impossible for the government's allegation that they pose a threat to national security to be tested

Chornovil continued to issue appeals and write critical articles until his latest arrest in January 1972. He was held incommunicado for 13 months before eventually being brought to trial in February 1973 on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". Chornovil pleaded not guilty and refused to make any statement of repentance or to testify against other Ukrainians arrested during the course of 1972.

He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and five years' exile.

Vyacheslav Chornovil is under adoption as a prisoner of conscience has featured in several Amnesty International campaigns. In 1975 he was awarded The Nicholas Tomalin Award, a British newspaper prize for outstanding journalists. In announcing the award *The Sunday Times* (London) described *The Chornovil Papers* as "a classic product of investigative journalism".



Peter Magubane

Peter Magubane is an internationally known black photographer for the *Rand Daily Mail*. His pictures of the Soweto disturbances have been published throughout the world. He was arrested on 26 August 1976 while on assignment in Soweto and is held under the Internal Security Amendment Act. Detained for several periods, he is known to have been held for a total of 586 days in solitary confinement. In addition, he was restricted

fairly, since there is no recourse to the courts.

In countries where journalists are actually brought to trial, they may face long prison sentences on what are essentially political charges: Mykhaylo Osadchy of the USSR, for example, who received seven years with hard labour, or Dundar Erenler and Demir Kucukaydin of Turkey, who were both sentenced to 16½ years imprisonment to be followed by exile. In Spain, a number of journalists are currently facing prosecution for publishing articles critical of the police. They too may face long prison terms if convicted.

under an administratively-imposed banning order from 1970 to 1975, and thereby prevented from following his profession because the work of a banned person may not be published in South Africa.

Black journalists have been often the main source of information on the upheavals in Soweto and other black South African townships. By September 1976 twelve other black journalists had been detained without trial. The *Rand Daily Mail* described the arrest of its staff members as "strategic forward repression for political purposes".

Mr Joe Thloloe, president of the Union of Black Journalists is detained and the union's official bulletin has been banned.

Peter Magubane was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by AI from October 1970 till 1975. He was readopted as a PoC in December 1976.

What you or your organization can do to support Prisoner of Conscience Year.

- 1 Become an active member of Amnesty International and encourage your colleagues to do the same.
- 2 Join the list of journalist members of Amnesty International who can be contacted to intervene in particular cases of imprisoned or tortured colleagues.
- 3 Join the Amnesty International Urgent Action network and send telegrams in cases of extreme urgency to prevent someone being tortured, to appeal for clemency in a death sentence situation, etc.
- 4 Donate funds to further Amnesty International's work.
- 5 Sign the Petition on the back of this coupon which Amnesty International is presenting to the United Nations and Governments of the world.

• I/We want to join Amnesty International and enclose £ membership fee

• Send the following number of copies of the Petition

100 500 1000

• Put me/us on the mailing list for Amnesty International's Newsletter during Prisoner of Conscience Year.

• Send details of Amnesty International publications

• Send copies of this brochure for distribution by/in my organisation

100 500 1000

• Send sample copies of lists and brochures of prisoners as they become available.

• I/We enclose £ as a donation. Funds are urgently needed.

Name, address and organisation (if any)

Petition

for the Release of Prisoners of Conscience

During 1977 Prisoners of Conscience Year, Amnesty International supporters will be circulating the petition below. We welcome your help in obtaining signatures from colleagues and friends:

"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;

this, despite the many humane and noble declarations of the assembled nations of the world, beginning 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

and urge each and every government in the world

to act for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience."

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**, with your signature, and return with coupon on back to:

Name

Address

Signature

Name

Address

Signature

Amnesty International, Promotion
Department, PO Box 1341, Luxembourg.

Name

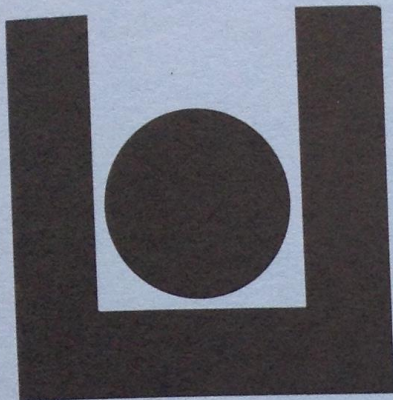
Address

Signature

Name

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Signature



1977 Prisoners of Conscience Year

**amnesty
international**

The Year 1977 has been declared Prisoners of Conscience Year. In a coordinated campaign, the groups and members of Amnesty International will seek to intensify public awareness and concern about violations of human rights wherever they occur and to bring greater support to prisoners of conscience throughout the world. Special contributions are being made by outstanding figures in the world of art, film, music, literature and design. Signatures will be collected in all countries for a petition urging: 1) the General Assembly of the United Nations "to take swift and concrete steps to ensure strict observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," and 2) urging all governments "to act for the immediate

release of all prisoners of conscience."

Funds raised during this special year will be administered under the authority of the International Executive Committee of Amnesty International and will be devoted to the strengthening of the national programs and structures of the Amnesty International movement and for capital expenditure within the International Secretariat. The headquarters for the coordination of these activities has been established in Luxembourg:

Promotion Department
PO Box 1341
Luxembourg

During Prisoner of Conscience Year Amnesty International will be producing lists of prisoners who are adoption or investigation cases in the following categories. These lists do not include all prisoners of conscience in the relevant category.

- Trade Unionists
- Journalists/Writers
- Parliamentarians/Politicians
- Medical Personnel
- Students/Teachers/Academics

And brochures on the following topics:

- Journalists/Writers
- Parliamentarians
- Medical Profession
- Lawyers
- Business World
- Peasants
- Churches
- Trade Unionists
- Women
- Teachers and Schools
- Youth Movements

amnesty international

... is a worldwide human rights movement which is independent of any government, political faction, ideology or religious creed. It works for the release of men and women imprisoned anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin or religion, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. These are termed "prisoners of conscience".

... opposes torture and capital punishment in all cases and without reservation. It advocates fair and speedy trials for all political prisoners.

... seeks observance throughout the world of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

... has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees).

... is financed by its members throughout the world, by individual subscription and by donations.