Report Documents Guatemala Rights Abuses

Under the last three military regimes, a large number of people from Guatemala’s academic and scientific community were “disappeared” or murdered, apparently for political reasons, according to a new report issued by the AAAS. Guatemala: Case Reports 1980-1985 is the latest release of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR).

For six years, the CSFR, through its Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights, gathered information on human rights abuses of Guatemalan scientists, engineers, health professionals, and academics and appealed on their behalf to the Guatemalan military authorities. With the publication of this report, the Committee asked the newly elected civilian government of Guatemala to investigate “to the fullest extent possible” these cases.

The report, covering the last five years of military government, demonstrates that human rights violations against the scientific and academic community entailed political killings and “disappearances” rather than mass detentions, involuntary expulsions, or travel restrictions. The report lists the names and circumstances of abuse or death of 201 Guatemalan physicians, scientists, engineers, university professors, and students from 1980 to 1985 with the overwhelming majority cited as dead or “disappeared.”

The Committee notes that responsibility for the violations is attributed largely to political violence sanctioned or tolerated by the Guatemalan military authorities. The scope of violations against the Guatemalan population of seven million cannot be measured with great accuracy due to problems in collecting data but it is estimated at tens of thousands of political killings and “disappearances” in the last 15 years.

In a letter sent to President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arévalo accompanying the report, CSFR chair Elena O. Nightingale expressed the Committee’s strong support for the establishment of a human rights commission comprised of national and international observers to investigate the human rights violations committed in the past in Guatemala.

The submission of the report on Guatemala to the Guatemalan government follows a precedent set in 1984 when the Committee presented to the newly elected civilian government in Argentina documentation on 55 Argentine scientists who “disappeared” during the previous seven years of military rule there. The Argentine government later requested that the AAAS provide forensic science assistance to the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons, the group charged with investigating the cases of the “disappeared.”

Among the cases documented in the report are those of:

Ana Lucrecia Orellana Stormont, a professor of psychology at the National University of San Carlos who was abducted by unidentified men in June 1983 as she was leaving a meeting on mental health in Guatemala City and is considered “disappeared”;

Jorge Alberto Rosal Paz, an agronomist who “disappeared” following his abduction in August 1983 by several armed men in Teculutan;

Sergio Saúl Linares Morales, a civil engineer and lecturer at the National University of San Carlos who was abducted in February 1984 as he left his office in Guatemala City;

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**Hugo de León Palacios**, a teacher of primary education, “disappeared” after his abduction by heavily armed men on 9 March 1984 in Guatemala City. Several of his primary school students witnessed the incident; and **Edgar Leonel Domínguez Ixás**, a physician abducted in March 1984 upon leaving his private clinic in Cantel in the Guatemalan highlands and who was reportedly severely tortured while in detention. Copies of *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980-1985* are available for $5.00 from the AAAS Sales Office, 1333 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Checks should be made payable to AAAS and accompany your order.

—Kathie McCleskey

**Doctors Support Jailed Chilean Colleagues**

On 11 July, Chilean police arrested and jailed Drs. Juan Luis González and Francisco Rivas, president and secretary general, respectively, of the Chilean Medical Association (CMA) on charges that the CMA officers had violated state security laws. The charges related to their role as leaders of the National Civil Assembly, a coalition of over 20 professional, labor, and social organizations, which called a two-day national strike in early July to protest the 13-year-old regime of President Augusto Pinochet.

The day after the national strike, the Chilean authorities issued arrest warrants for the NCA leaders, including González and Rivas, who had gone into hiding. A week later police arrested them, along with 14 other board members of the NCA, when they attempted to report for court arraignment. On 16 July, the court formally indicted the doctors for violating state security. The two doctors were released on bail on 18 August, but they still face up to five years in prison if convicted.

Physicians and scientists worldwide joined their Chilean colleagues in support of González and Rivas by sending telegrams and letters on their behalf and by visiting them in detention. After the initial warrants were issued, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Medical Association (AMA), and the AAAS conveyed their concern by telegram to the Minister of the Interior of Chile.

After the incarceration of the CMA officers in Capuchinas Prison, Dr. Andre Wynen, secretary general of the World Medical Association (WMA), visited the jailed physicians in Santiago and met with Chilean government officials.

In addition, representatives of the American Committee on Human Rights, the American College of Physicians, and the American Psychiatric Association traveled to Santiago to visit González and Rivas in detention. All of the visitors reported that the doctors were in good physical health.

Just six weeks before their arrests, González and Rivas accepted the AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award on behalf of the CMA. The AAAS honored the organization for its efforts to prevent torture in Chile and to halt the complicity of physicians in this practice. The AAAS also honored the CMA for its educational work in publicizing the use of torture by the Chilean government.

Following the ceremonies, González and Rivas left the United States early to return to Chile, partly because of the increased repression of CMA members by the government.

International support for the CMA and its human rights activities in Chile has been growing over the past three years, particularly in the last nine months.

In November 1985, delegates representing national medical associations in Latin America and Europe attended a CMA-sponsored conference on the role of medical associations in the defense of human rights. At that meeting, conference participants witnessed first hand the sort of government intimidation the CMA has endured in recent years because of its strong human rights stance. Two policemen confiscated programs from the meeting which listed the speakers, among whom were two officers of the unofficial Chilean Commission on Human Rights. The next morning two masked men vandalized the offices of the Commission and left with three case files and the Commission's directory of names and addresses (*La Tercera de la Hora*, 30 November 1985, p. 26).

Professional reports and journal articles on the human rights activities of the CMA have appeared in *Science, The New Scientist, Nature, The New Physician*, and other publications. The following are some recent examples:

• Science and Human Rights: Report of a Delegation (December 1986) Published by the National Academy of Sciences, this report chronicles “disappearances,” torture, and repression of Chilean engineers, scientists and physicians, including members of the CMA, since 1973.

• British Medical Journal (11 January 1986) published an editorial by the secretary general of the British Medical Association asserting that the “courageous stand being taken by the Colegio (CMA) in enforcing principles of medical ethics deserves all the international support it gets.”

• The Journal of the American Medical Association (23-30 May 1986) published an article on physicians and human rights, including an account of Dr. Pedro Castillo, a CMA member who courageously exposed the Chilean government’s practice of torture. Included in this issue is an editorial by the vice-president of the AMA on the duty of hospital staff and physicians to join efforts to abolish the practice of torture worldwide.

Other Arrests of CMA Members

In April and May 1986, Chilean police arrested and jailed three physicians, a medical auxiliary, and a clinic secretary following the medical treatment of a gunshot victim. The secretary was released after five days. Except for one physician, Dr. Juan Macaya, the rest were released on bail 7 August and await trial under the Arms Control Law for harboring and aiding a terrorist.

According to Amnesty International, the series of events which led to the arrests began on 28 April when Hugo Gómez requested treatment for a gunshot wound at the Archdiocesan Vicariate, the Catholic church-based human rights office in Santiago. Gómez reportedly advised Vicariate attorney Gustavo Villalobos that he received the wound accidentally as a bystander during an armed clash. Dr. Ramiro Olivares examined Gómez and referred him for treatment to the private Chiloé Clinic on the same day. There Drs. Ramón Rojas and Alvaro Reyes treated and released him. Two days later police arrested Rojas and Reyes, Claudio Muñoz, a medical auxiliary at the Chiloé Clinic, and Maria Ravanal, the clinic’s secretary. A week later, police arrested Olivares and Villalobos. The Chilean authorities claimed Gómez had been in an armed confrontation with the police and therefore Dr. Olivares and the Chiloé Clinic’s staff were charged with harboring and aiding a terrorist.

Meanwhile, Gómez, who had not been apprehended, arrived on 13 May in serious condition at the home of Dr. Juan Macaya, a physician who had assisted the Vicariate in the past. Macaya received assurances from the Interior Ministry through inquiries made by the Vicariate that it would be acceptable for him to treat Gómez until the police arrived and arrested him. But after Gómez was treated and taken into custody, police arrested Macaya on 3 July.

The AAAS sent telegrams on behalf of the detained physicians and health worker to Chilean officials and notified members of the U.S. Congress and Senate about all the detentions of the Vicariate and Chiloé Clinic personnel. Many AAAS medical affiliates responded to the arrests with letters and telegrams to Chilean officials.

In addition, the officers of the CMA were outspoken in the defense of the detainees and cited the physician’s duty to provide professional attention to any person requiring it.

—Carol O’Hallaron

Prison Notes From Koryagin Reach West

Prison notes written by Soviet psychiatrist Anatoly Koryagin dating from the fall of 1985 to spring 1986 portray a grim picture of labor camp life. The notes reached the West this summer. Koryagin describes his trial, his confinements in punishment cells, his hunger strikes, the treatment of friends, and his dedication to humanist ideals despite threats from KGB officials and prison doctors.

Koryagin writes that he had been on a series of hunger strikes from March 1984 until June 1985 to protest the ill-treatment and torture of political prisoners in Chistopol prison. He lost 40% of his weight by the time he ended the last of these strikes, he says. While in Chistopol prison, Koryagin was tried again. He writes: “The trial took place in January 1985... They secretly carried me away on a stretcher and tied me to a chair. [I] did not say a word to the investigator or to the court. They take revenge for my hunger strikes and my struggle for prisoner’s rights. [I] did not denounce anything. My beliefs are as firm as ever.”

Amnesty International reported that in October 1985 Koryagin was placed in a prison hospital following his extended hunger strike. It was later learned that he had been resentenced to another two years in prison for reportedly resisting the authorities. Koryagin was transferred from Chistopol to the Perm labor camp. He is now in Perm camp 35.

On 4 April 1986, Koryagin stated that he was confined to punishment cell for “refusing to accept the verdicts pronounced in my trials.” He then went on a hunger strike for 26 days but was not force-fed. He wrote that “with the deterioration of my heart and blood system, stomach, and intestines, I lost 12 kilograms.” Koryagin’s notes conclude: “The KGB and the doctors—Lysenko, Kozyrev—want to make me into a wreck. The KGB agent Anatoly Semenov threatens me with murder. They hate me and oppress me with particular cruelty for my humanist convictions.”

—Kari Hannibal
CASE STUDIES

USSR: Irina Ratushinskaya

Irina Ratushinskaya, a Soviet physicist and poet, is reported to be in poor health in a Mordovian labor camp due to inadequate medical treatment while in prison. She reportedly underwent "re-education" in a KGB investigative prison in Kiev during the summer 1986. Soviet authorities reportedly had asked her to appeal for a pardon but she refused.

Ratushinskaya, 32, was arrested in September 1982 and convicted in March 1983 to seven years in a strict regime labor camp and five years of internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." She had been active on behalf of other human rights dissidents and has written numerous articles and poetry which aroused the anger of Soviet authorities. Ratushinskaya received a master's degree in physics and was a teacher at the Odessa Pedagogical Institute until she was demoted and eventually fired for her human rights activities.

During her imprisonment, Ratushinskaya has been given numerous periods in the punishment cell or in the camp prison, particularly after she participated in hunger strikes on behalf of other women prisoners. In January 1984, Ratushinskaya was diagnosed as having pyelonephritis, an inflammation of the renal pelvis. In August 1985, she suffered a concussion but was confined to punishment cells for five months where she was not adequately treated. She reportedly suffers from stenocardia and hypertension, and there is concern that she may have suffered serious damage to her kidneys.

While held in Kiev, Ratushinskaya was allowed a short visit with her mother and a short visit later with her husband, Igor Gerashchenko.

Clearinghouse Report readers are requested to send politely worded letters to the following Soviet officials asking that Irina Ratushinskaya receive prompt and adequate medical treatment: (Director of medical services for the Mordovian labor camps Major Samoylenko) Mayorov Samoylenko, nachalnik medsluzhby ITU ZhKh-385, uchr. ZhKh-385, pos. Yavas, Zubovo-Polyansky raion, Mordovskaya ASSR, USSR; and (Director of the corrective labor colony, Captain Parshnev) Kapitanu Parshnev, uchr. ZhKh-385/3, s. Barashesov, Tengu- shevsky raion, 431200 Mordovskaya ASSR, USSR.

TOGO: Ablavi Randolph, Emmanuel Yema Gu-Konu, Ati Randolph

Ms. Ablavi Randolph, a professor of philosophy; Emmanuel Yema Gu-Konu, professor of geography; and Dr. Ati Randolph, a veterinary surgeon, were among 15 individuals arrested in September 1985 on suspicion of activities against the Togo government. They are still in detention and have not yet been tried. Dr. Randolph has allegedly been charged with "insulting" the authorities. To date, Ablavi Randolph and Emmanuel Gu-Konu, professors at the University of Benin, have not been charged.

In August 1985, there were a series of bomb explosions at government buildings which led to government action against dissidents and opponents of the government. At that time, the government said that a number of individuals were arrested for obtaining and distributing antigovernment propaganda. Several of the 15 detainees have since been released along with other political prisoners.

Randolph, Gu-Konu, and Randolph are currently held in Lomé Civil Prison. During his first few days in detention, Dr. Randolph was reportedly tortured to the point that he had to be revived by an injection. Conditions in Togolese jails are poor and there have been many reports of ill-treatment of detainees. Detention without trial for political cases is common. The government can hold prisoners for an indefinite period of time and there is no right of habeas corpus.

Courteously worded letters should be sent inquiring about the health of the prisoners and the charges against them. Please write Togolese Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Elom-Kodjo Schupius, Embassy of the Republic of Togo, 2208 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. Copies should be sent to the U.S. Ambassador to Togo, Owen Roberts, U.S. Embassy-Lomé, c/o U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.
Iranian Medical Association Leaders Arrested

The Iranian government arrested between 15 and 30 physicians in mid-July following protests by Iranian medical personnel against government control of the Iranian Medical Association (IMA). Days earlier, the Iranian Parliament passed a bill preventing IMA members from electing their own council representatives. The government has now appointed representatives to head the organization. Physicians opposing the bill went on strike on 14 July 1986. During the two-day strike, Iranian authorities arrested some 20 physicians, including the chairman of the IMA’s Board of Directors, Dr. Hazizi, and two other board members, Drs. Nasr and Maleki.

Subsequent reports alleged that some of the arrested physicians were tortured while in detention. Torture has been a widespread practice in Iran and often takes place immediately after the arrest of a person.

Following these arrests, Iranian opposition groups outside of the country reported in August that some 450 physicians in Iran had been detained for protesting the detention of the initial group of doctors and the government’s actions to control the IMA. Opposition leaders reported that the Khomeini government had set up an advisory board for the medical association, comprised of a large number of clergy, and appointed government-selected representatives to the association’s board of directors.

The Iranian medical profession under the Islamic government has reportedly had a difficult time in preserving its standards and independence as a profession. There have been extensive government budget cuts in medical care and a lack of funds for improving existing facilities. There are unconfirmed reports that hundreds of health practitioners have been executed by the Khomeini government.

Since 1979, Amnesty International has reported over 6,000 executions in Iran but believes the actual number to be higher. Opposition groups claim as many as 12,000 persons have been executed by the government in the past seven years. According to Amnesty International, physical and psychological torture are widespread and judicial proceedings are often arbitrary.

Some members of the Iranian medical profession have been targets of persecution by the government because of their religious affiliations. The Bahai International Community reports that, since 1979, at least 19 members of the Bahai medical and scientific professions have been executed or have “disappeared” and are now presumed dead. (Most of these deaths occurred between 1979 and 1981.) In a report issued in 1981, the Bahai International Community reported that in several instances the government refused to give Bahai nurses their diplomas and forced them to repay the money spent on their medical education. The Bahai group has documented incidents where Bahai students, including a female student in her final year of medical school, were expelled from the University of Isfahan.

—K. H.

Helsinki Final Act Under Review This Fall

Vienna, Austria will host the third follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), scheduled to begin 4 November and expected to continue into the spring of 1987. The purpose of the conference is to review compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Final Act by the 33 participating countries from Western and Eastern Europe and the U.S. and Canada. The provisions of the Act fall into three “baskets”: The two parts of Basket I cover respect for human rights, including freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief; and security in Europe, including the inviolability of national frontiers and certain aspects of disarmament. Basket II involves cooperation between East and West in science, technology, trade, and environment. Basket III concerns cooperation in humanitarian fields such as family reunification, freedom of travel and information, religious contacts, and cultural and educational exchanges.

In theory, the three baskets are linked. That is, progress in one area is concomitant with progress in the others. There is growing concern, however, that agreements on security and certain cooperation measures between East and West are advancing without the same level of progress on human rights issues.

Interested individuals or scientific groups should send background material on individual cases or issues related to human rights for representation at the Vienna conference to Ambassador Warren Zimmermann, Chief, U.S. Delegation, Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting, Room 6515A, Dept. of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.
CASE UPDATES

A number of refusenik scientists received permission to emigrate: Dr. Lev Goldfarb, a Soviet epidemiologist, and his wife and two children left the Soviet Union on 12 January 1986 and emigrated to the U.S. Goldfarb had worked as a senior researcher at the Institute of Poliomyelitis and Viral Encephalitis for 26 years but was dismissed after he applied to emigrate. He is currently employed with the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Grigory and Isai Goldstein, both physicists (cyberneticists) and Candidates in Technological Sciences, emigrated to Israel in March 1986 after fourteen years of waiting. Physicist Armen Khachatryan and his wife and son also left the Soviet Union in March 1986. They settled in Berkeley, California. Leonid Ozernoy, an astrophysicist employed at the Lebedev Physical Institute and member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, emigrated to the U.S. in July 1986. He settled in the Boston area.

Radu Filipescu, a 28-year-old Rumanian electronics engineer, was released early from prison on 15 April 1986, three years after his arrest for circulating pamphlets calling for demonstrations against the government.

Dr. Carlos Filizzola, 26, a physician at the Hospital de Clinicas in Asunción, Paraguay was held in detention from 2 to 23 May 1986 for his support of medical colleagues who had gone on strike for better pay and who were later detained.

The Little School

Alicia Partnoy, a former prisoner in Argentina who “disappeared” in January 1977, has written a book about her experiences in detention. The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival in Argentina describes the five harrowing months Alicia spent in La Escuelita, the military’s name for a secret detention camp in Bahia Blanca. Alicia was then transferred to a regular prison and acknowledged as a prisoner. After three years in prison, she was released and forced to leave Argentina. Alicia now resides in the United States. A brief account of her experiences was previously published in The Breaking of Bodies and Minds by Eric Stover and Elena O. Nightingale.

The Little School is available from Cleis Press, P.O. Box 14684, San Francisco, CA 94114 or P.O. Box 8933, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. (Paper $7.95, cloth $15.95; please add $1.00 postage for the first book, $.50 each additional book. PA and CA residents please include sales tax.)
ASSOCIATION NEWS

American Society of Civil Engineers

In June 1986, the National Capitol Section Civic Affairs Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers published the latest of its reports on engineers and human rights. The report entitled "Human Rights Violations Against Engineers in Chile" contains a listing of 27 Chilean engineers who have been imprisoned, exiled or who have "disappeared" or died in detention. It also offers an analysis of the current human rights situation in Chile, with particular focus on the states of exception, torture, "disappearances," exile, and their effects on higher education. For free copies of the report, please write to Milt Mortman, Chair, Civic Affairs Committee, American Society of Civil Engineers National Capitol Section, 7730 Hanover Parkway, Suite 303, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

International Congress of Mathematicians

At the August meeting of the International Congress of Mathematicians in Berkeley, CA, over 1,300 conferees signed a petition addressed to Soviet government and scientific officials on behalf of 17 Soviet mathematicians who had been refused visas to emigrate from their country for five years or more. In addition, American colleagues presented two papers written by Soviet refugee mathematicians for the authors who were not given permission to leave the Soviet Union. Professor Peter Lax of the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences and a past president of the American Mathematical Society stated, "As the second Reagan-Gorbachev summit approaches, the solid support for Soviet colleagues in distress from conferees here in Berkeley just might bring positive results. We are hoping for some human rights gesture from the Russians similar to those they made in conjunction with Summit I."

American Medical Association

On 19 June 1986, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association (AMA) passed a resolution opposing medical complicity in torture and expressing concern for physicians who are imprisoned or tortured for their humanitarian care of their patients. Excerpts of the text of the resolution are presented below.

Whereas, Physicians have been targets of political reprisal, attack, and imprisonment in some countries for their open opposition to policies and expressions by their governments; and
Whereas, In other cases, physicians actively have participated in campaigns against the human rights of those who would speak out in opposition to policies of their governments; and
Whereas, The United Nations and other international organizations have decried both the persecution of medical personnel for their humanitarian efforts as well as the participation by medical personnel in the violations of human rights of others... therefore be it RESOLVED, That the AMA House of Delegates reiterate its endorsement of the 1975 World Medical Association Declaration of Tokyo, which provides guidelines for physicians in cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in relation to detention and imprisonment; and be it further RESOLVED, That the AMA House of Delegates express its opposition to the participation of physicians in the torture or inhuman treatment or punishment of individuals in relation to detention or imprisonment; and be it further RESOLVED, That the AMA House of Delegates express its sympathy to those physicians who have been subject to imprisonment or torture because of their humanitarian efforts to improve the health of their patients.

Canadian Nurses Association Approves Rights Resolution

The Canadian Nurses Association, at their 1986 convention in June, approved a resolution requesting the International Council of Nurses (ICN) to obtain information on human rights violations directed against nurses. Delegates at the convention passed the resolution by a majority vote on 25 June 1986. The resolution also requests the ICN to publish in the International Nursing Review information and appeals on behalf of nurses and other health workers who become victims of human rights violations.

Chalk Leaves AAAS, Frankel Now Heads CSFR Office

Mark S. Frankel became the new program head for the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR) last July. Rosemary Chalk, who served as the Committee's program head since its inception in 1976, left the Association in early June to move to Boston where she will write and consult.

Frankel was director of the Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago and adjunct associate professor of political science at IIT.

He has written numerous articles on professional ethics, bioethics, and public policy with regard to science and technology. Frankel received his Ph.D. degree in political science from George Washington University and his undergraduate degree from Emory University.
AAAS CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT ON SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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The Clearinghouse is a project of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility. The Committee is authorized by the AAAS Board and Council to monitor the actions of the governments of the United States and other nations which circumscribe the freedom of scientists or restrict the ability of scientists to exercise their professional responsibilities, and to report on developments affecting scientific freedom and responsibility.

The Clearinghouse collects and disseminates information about foreign scientists who are victims of government persecution. It is designed to assist those who wish to bring effective aid to foreign scientists who are in serious trouble. The concerns of the Clearinghouse and the AAAS Committee are universal and independent of the ideology of any government or the individuals they attempt to aid.

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