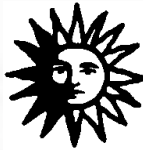


VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY



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PERSECUTION INTENSIFIED ON EVE OF ELECTIONS

With the approach of November 28, the date fixed for elections among the permitted parties, the government has stepped up its campaign of intimidation, threats and persecutions. The clear object is to prevent victory for those groups and leaders in the National and Colorado parties who have come out against the regime, and to prevent parties, groups and citizens that support the banned Frente Amplio from participating through a heavy blank-ballot vote.

Three National Party leaders, Dr. *Horacio Terra Gallinal*, *Rodolfo Saldán* and *Carlos Pita*, were arrested and tried by military justice. All three spoke at public meetings for restoration of democratic freedoms, for freedom of all parties to exist, and against the proscriptions of political leaders. Terra Gallinal said:

"I was always an optimist, always believed that Uruguay would shake off this curse. We don't want our children to continue shuddering at the sound of police sirens, once signifying the hunt for delinquents, now the hunt for free men."

Carlos Pita and a fourth arrested National Party man, youth leader *Tomás Larregui*, were freed while Terra Gallinal and Saldán were tried for "public mockery of the Armed Forces", which could put them in prison for six years. Later two more National Party leaders were arrested: Dr. *Alberto Zumarán*, editor of the weekly *La Democracia* (who was jailed for a week last September), and Dr. *Carlos Rodríguez Labruna*, a candidate in Montevideo on the lists of the Por la Patria and Rocha Movements. The charges against them could hardly be more absurd and arbitrary. Rodríguez Labruna was accused of referring at a meeting to "our natural leaders", alluding to the proscribed Wilson Ferreira Aldunate and Carlos Julio Pereyra; Zumarán of speaking, without any direct mention, about the trial of Terra Gallinal. These references are considered criminal by the government, and both leaders may be prosecuted in the near future.

In the Colorado Party, retired Rear-Admiral *Juan José Zorrilla*, the second candidate on the *Unidad y Reforma* lists, has been tried by a military "honor court". He is accused of referring critically to the process that led to the coup d'état of 1973.

A National Committee of Citizens for the Blank Ballot was formed on 19 October, responding to a call by in Christian Democratic weekly *Opción*. Said one of its members, Dr. Carlos Gómez Haedo: "We are for the blank ballot because it expresses a disagreement with something that divides Uruguayans into those who have the right to political expression and those who don't." Last September the Frente Amplio, under a ban for several years, advocated active participation in the elections via the blank ballot.

The government's reply came quickly. The Committee was dissolved, its members arrested (later freed), and *Opción* was permanently closed down. The decree explained that *Opción* was perturbing the institutionalization process and the democratic *apertura*, and that promotion of the blank ballot was

inadmissible. *Opción* had twice been closed down before: in September 1981 for four issues, and in February 1982 for six issues.

All this has transpired against a background of threatening statements by military dignitaries. On 15 October, General Julio César Rapela, chairman of the Armed Forces' Political Affairs Commission, issued a warning against probable "slips" (criticisms of the military and the policies of the regime) in the speeches of party leaders. Soon afterward Interior Minister Yamandú Trinidad promised severe measures against politicians violating the government's rules for political activity.

ROBALLO HAS "DISAPPEARED"

In February 1976 *Américo Roballo*, secondary students' leader and later a Frente Amplio militant, was arrested and tortured for two months in the Montevideo police headquarters. Charged with belonging to the clandestine Union of Young Communists (which he denied), he was brought to trial for "subversive association", sentenced to nine years and confined in the Libertad Prison. Eventually freed, he was re-arrested on 20 September, 1982, on unknown charges, since when nothing has been heard of him.

Re-arrest and frequently re-trials of freed political prisoners after fulfilling their prison terms are a routine performance in Uruguay today. We call upon international solidarity to demand an explanation of Roballo's whereabouts.

TB IN PUNTA DE RIELES

In the Military Detention Center No. 2, Punta de Rieles Prison for women, many cases of tuberculosis have become known. Some of the women affected (a total of 18 according to some informants) have had to be hospitalized in the Military Hospital.

The Punta de Rieles authorities have "advised" inmates through the prison loudspeaker system to look after themselves by eating well and avoiding alcoholic drinks. TB is a disease that can only be propagated in a situation of deficient diet and medical attention.

MOTHER'S DAY OF SILENCE

Four hundred mothers of Uruguayan political prisoners and "disappeared" organized a Day of Silence on 17 October, in support of a letter they addressed to President Gregorio Alvarez asking amnesty for their children and an explanation of their "disappearance" in Uruguay and Argentina. The letter elicited no reply.

OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORTS ON URUGUAY

The last report of the Organization of American States' Inter-American Human Rights Commission states as follows concern-

ing Uruguay:

"In the first place, the Commission notes that the State of Emergency continues although, according to repeated statements by the authorities, the internal situation is almost normalized and completely under control, and also despite the officially expressed intention of promptly normalizing the country's democratic life.

"The Commission must further note that arrests without due process have not ceased in Uruguay. Persons are still held in detention under exceptional powers, and the Judiciary lacks the necessary authority to intervene, put an end to this situation, and offer the population indispensable guarantees against arbitrary arrests. The situation of the detained persons remains the same. Political prisoners are, according to countless denunciations reaching the Commission, subjected to every kind of humiliation, mistreatment, psychological harassment, lack of adequate medical attention, and in some cases torture.

"The Commission is also concerned by the number of political prisoners who are re-tried and re-sentenced for some conspiracy that they are alleged to have organized from inside the prison, to re-organize the Tupamaro movement and promote subversive activities in Uruguay, on the basis of which the re-tried persons have been sentenced from 3 to 18 additional years.

"Among the illegal measures that the political prisoners allege to be applied against them are long incommunicado periods. Prolonged deprivation of communication is a measure not contemplated by the law as a punishment, and hence nothing can justify its frequent application, which not only seriously affects the prisoners' mental condition but also imposes punishment on members of their families who receive no kind of explanation and do not know the situation of the incommunicado prisoner."

With respect to freedom of expression, the Report says the situation has not improved, in view of the temporary or permanent banning of the various press media.

The Commission concludes with a reiterated plea to the Uruguayan government to permit an on-the-spot investigation in the country.

CAMPAIGN FOR PRISONERS & DISAPPEARED

A group of 400 mothers of "disappeared" and imprisoned political opponents has called on the Uruguayan government to request the Argentine authorities for information as to whether any of the bodies recently found in common graves in Argentine cemeteries are those of Uruguayan citizens. The mothers' group has delivered a list of 124 Uruguayans who "disappeared" in Argentina, and has also asked President Alvarez for amnesty for all political prisoners. No reply has so far been received.

Meanwhile a list of jailed or "disappeared" Italo-Uruguayans has been published in Italy. The names are Nino Rufo, Bruno Sanmartino, Roberto Argento, Raúl Cariboni, Mario de Negri, Julio Savarelli, Elio Ferrario, Libero Mandressi, Antonio Marotta, Guillermo Martiello, Umberto Montano, Mario Moreni, Raimundo Marcos, Giocondo Ravagno, Américo Rocco, José Sassarini, Néstor Sclavo, Felipe Sclavo, Mario Teti, Jorge Tiscornia, Omar Vose, Fredy Borroni, Juan Picone, María Rosa Antonucci, Giuserpina Detta, Lilián Celiberti, Saverio Casello and Rodolfo Giorgi.

A. I. REPORTS ON URUGUAY

Amnesty International has published its 1981 report on the human rights situation in Uruguay. The organization expresses its concern for "the large number of prisoners of conscience, the hard and inhuman prison conditions, the use of emergency powers to deprive arrested persons of legal guarantees, torture, and the trying of civilians by military courts whose procedures do not conform with internationally recognized standards for an impartial trial."

By official figures, the report continues, there are 1,060 political prisoners, not including persons arrested and not yet sentenced. The inmates of Libertad and Punta de Rieles prisons are submitted to inhuman conditions, apparently designed to disturb the prisoners' psychological equilibrium. Frequent practices are threats of death against the inmate of reprisals against his relatives; destruction of personal objects in the cells; blows on the cell doors to disturb sleep; constant harassments, humiliations and arbitrary punishments, such as prohibition of visits and recreation and incommunicado periods of up to 90 days.

Most prisoners who are released remain under detention for periods of indefinite duration varying from a few days to several months in a military barracks.

Some 330 prisoners were adopted by A. I. or their cases were being investigated as possible prisoners of conscience. The report makes particular reference to the situation of:

Ledys Castro Techera, who at the conclusion of her sentence in Punta de Rieles, on 28 July 1980, was transferred to No. 1 Infantry Barracks in Montevideo and then to the Police H. Q. Central Jail. She remained there until 22 January when she was expelled from the country.

Cristina Arnábal de Costa, Pilar, Asencio de Serboni, Lucía Fabri Garrido and Marisa Albarenga de Caravia, who had been taken to the same barracks after completing their sentences in 1980, then put back in Punta de Rieles.

Washington de Vargas Saccone and Ignacio Fonseca, who had been taken out of prison to be tortured.

Augusto Kennedy Arbiza, who completed his 8 1/2-year sentence in December 1980, remained in prison until 20 February 1981 and was then taken, along with Julio César Etchechury Moreira and José Luis Frustáceo, to the 6th Infantry Battalion Barracks (San José) where he was presumably tortured. Later he was brought to trial again, the military prosecutor demanding another 8-year prison term.

The re-trying of prisoners to prevent their release has been frequent in recent times, A. I. reports. The organization knows of 24 cases.

A. I. adopted José Carmelo Pacella Giglio, Ariel Casco Fischetti, Héctor Mario D'Alessandro Brena and Sonia Amalia Fossati Eguren, who were accused of organizing a clandestine opposition press and could receive sentences of from 6 to 11 years. Also A. I. issued an urgent call on behalf of 15 persons, mostly students, among them Omar Pérez, Ana Ma. Varela and Gonzalo Fernando Mújica Denoit.

A. I. and the UN Human Rights Commission collaborated in the study of 7 cases in which the UNHRC considered the Uruguayan government to have violated the International Agreement on Civil and Political Rights. The cases are: Sergio Ruben López Burgos (released in mid-1981), Rosario Pietraroia Zabala, Lilian Celiberti de Casariego, Ismael Weinberger Weisz, Luis Alberto Tourón Landaburu, Raúl Sendic Antonaccio and José Luis Massera.