

**URGENT
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Fear of Torture/Health Concern

5 October 1982

URUGUAY: Raúl SENDIC
Adolfo WASSEN
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COUNTRY	SECTION
DOSSIER	7

In September 1973 nine prisoners were taken from their place of detention in the Penal de Libertad and transferred to separate military barracks. All of these prisoners had been detained the previous year and accused of leadership of the *Movimiento de Liberación Nacional - Tupamaros* (MLN, National Liberation Movement). The armed forces announced then that these men would be executed in response to any action taken by their organization.

Although Amnesty International has not adopted them as prisoners of conscience, it is concerned that, since September 1973, each of the nine has been held separately in a different military barracks in the interior of the country and that they are all periodically moved from one place to another. They are kept in solitary confinement in tiny cells, without adequate nutrition, ventilation or sanitary facilities. They are frequently denied exercise, reading and writing materials, regular family visits, legal assistance and adequate medical attention.

AI has received information that in August 1982 one of the nine, Raúl Sendic, was transferred again and is now being held in the military barracks of Minas in the department of Lavalleja. According to our reports he has been tortured by being submerged in a pool of ice-cold water (August is mid-winter in Uruguay). He is being held incommunicado and his family are not allowed to visit him. There are fears of renewed torture.

At the time of his arrest, Raúl Sendic suffered a wound to his face which it is believed has never been adequately treated. For many years he has been unable to take anything but liquids. According to AI's information, a prosthesis that has been made to replace his missing jaw is being refused him by the authorities. Raúl Sendic has been sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment plus 15 years' "security measures".

Adolfo Wassen, another of the nine alleged Tupamaro leaders, is reported to be suffering from a tumour of the cervical vertebrae. The tumour was diagnosed as malignant during an operation on 6 May 1981 and on 15 July 1981 cobalt radiation treatment was begun. On 22 June 1982 he was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment plus 10 to 15 years of "security measures". The additional security measures means that he is not able to request early release. He is believed to have been operated on again earlier this year in the military hospital and was later transferred to the military barracks of Durazno in the department of the same name where he is being held in a small underground cell which is damp, has inadequate light, no heating and no sanitary facilities. He is not receiving any further medical treatment. There is serious concern for his life, particularly in view of his harsh

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for 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.

conditions of detention.

The other seven men held in similar conditions are: Henry ENGLER GOLOUTCHENKO, Elenterio FERNANDEZ HUIDOBRO, Jorge A. MANERA LLUVERAS, Julio MARENALES SAENZ, José Alberto MUJICA CORDANO, Mauricio ROSENCOFF SILVERMANN and Jorge ZABALZA WAKSMAN. AI has received disturbing reports that the conditions of their detention have affected the mental health of at least two of these prisoners, Mauricio Rosencoff and Henry Engler, while all the prisoners have severe physical health problems as a result of torture, poor food, lack of proper sanitary conditions and lack of fresh air and exercise.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Telegrams/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the harsh conditions of detention of the nine prisoners, particularly the reports of their being moved from place to place and the allegations of torture and inadequate medical attention;
- urging that they be treated in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, in particular that they be immediately returned to a regular place of detention, that they be allowed regular family visits and adequate medical treatment;
- expressing particular concern about the reported grave state of health of Adolfo Wassen and urging that the authorities do everything possible to ensure that he is treated humanely in view of the fact that he is suffering from a grave illness.

APPEALS TO:

Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la República
Tte. General (r) Gregorio Alvarez
Casa de Gobierno
Plaza Independencia
Montevideo, Uruguay

*Telegrams to: General Alvarez,
Presidente, Montevideo, Uruguay*

Tte. General Boscán Hontou
Comandante en Jefe del Ejército
Soriano 1090
Montevideo, Uruguay

*Telegrams to: Gen. Boscán Hontou,
Soriano 1090, Montevideo, Uruguay*

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- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

- The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity are often more effective.
- Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.
- In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new information.
- Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your national section Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.