

# Halt "dis-appearances"

Amnesty International today (Tuesday 1 December 1981) launched a worldwide campaign to expose and halt the use by governments of "disappearances" as a means of eliminating suspected opponents.

Members and supporters of the human rights movement in more than 100 countries will make a concerted effort to spotlight the practice by which uncounted thousands have been abducted and made to "disappear" either by government forces or with their complicity.

The abuse, which also inflicts terror and suffering on family and friends of the victim as well as other suspected opponents, has been documented in the last decade in country after country — in Chile, Argentina, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea, the Philippines, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and other nations. In addition to the mass killings that took place in Kampuchea under the Khmer Rouge and in Uganda under the government of Idi Amin, there were also many "disappearances".

Many of the victims are feared dead, but the special mark of "disappearances" as a tool of repression is that people remain unaccounted for, missing without trace, and that government officials claim to have no knowledge of them. Families are left without even the solace of mourning, in permanent uncertainty. Sometimes a released prisoner reports having seen one of the "disappeared" alive in captivity, but for most families this is followed by more years of anxious waiting.

In Guatemala, where many thousands of people have "disappeared" in the last 15 years, many bodies have been found mutilated so as to be unidentifiable. In Argentina, where it is estimated that up to 15,000 people may have "disappeared" after the 1976 military coup, a network of secret detention camps was created. Torture was commonplace and many of those sent to the camps are feared dead, though the government still

amnesty international



refuses to account for them.

Amnesty International members around the world will use letters, appeals, posters, meetings and other public events to call attention to such victims as a Filipino trade union leader, a businessman in Zaire, an Ethiopian church leader, a teacher in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Among other places in which "disappearances" have been reported, sometimes under governments no longer in power, are Afghanistan, Brazil, East Timor, Syria, Morocco, Mexico

and Namibia.

Amnesty International's campaign aims at strengthening and increasing efforts already under way to counter the terror technique of "disappearance". The United Nations has recognized the problem and called on member governments to cooperate in finding the victims and ending the abuse. The UN Commission on Human Rights has set up a working group to seek facts and act on them; it reported after its first year that some of the many people it sought had been released or traced after it asked for information.

## Medical Center north

An \$85,000 grant from the Donner Canadian Foundation to the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies will allow a team of medical specialists to work towards improving the health of native children living in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The study will assess the present physical and nutritional status of native children between the ages of 6 and 8. The children participating in this project will be those who were involved in the 1973-75 NWT Perinatal and Infant Mortality and Morbidity Study (NWT PIMMS), which investigated the factors responsible for the high death and illness rate of native infants.

Dr. D.W. Spady of the department of pediatrics at the

University of Alberta will head the study, which will look into the frequency of significant illness occurring during the interval between the child's first birthday and the present. With this information, the research team will see if there are any demonstrable relationships, between events occurring since infancy and the present health and the nutritional status of the child.

Beginning in the late fall or early spring, the medical team will visit the children in each settlement, and collect the appropriate data. Once the information is assembled, it and data from the NWT PIMMS study will be compared. The project is expected to continue for approximately one year.



## Church responds

Rev. Arie Van Eek, chairman of the Inter-Church Committee for Refugees, and Sandra Pentland, Director of International Programs, Montreal YMCA Downtown Branch, left Canada for Honduras on Monday, November 23rd. They proceeded immediately to refugee camps at La Virtud on the border between Honduras and El Salvador.

This action was taken in response to an urgent request received by church councils in Canada, the United States, Europe and Latin America from agencies in Honduras who are the operational partners of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and who operate the relief and assistance programs for refugees in Honduras.

Appalling reports of completely ineffective protection resources, particularly in La Virtud, have escalated over the last

year to a state of acute crisis at the present time.

At La Virtud, where 5,000 refugees are grouped in three sub camps, there is a need for three international church representatives to stay in each camp each night. The persons sent by the churches are to be senior, mature and Spanish speaking. Each person is asked to remain seven days, arriving in the camps Monday and staying until the following Sunday.

Churches in Europe, the United States and Latin America are also responding to this urgent appeal. Canadian churches are being asked to send two or three persons each week until the end of December. Coordination of Canadian church response to this request is being undertaken by the Inter-Church Committee for Refugees and the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (ICCHRLA).

### SPECIAL STUDENT PRICES

Men's Shampoo, Cut & Style • \$10  
Ladies Shampoo, Cut & Style • \$14

### CAMPUS HAIR CENTRE

8625-112 St • 439-2423 439-1078  
University Hospital • 432-8403 432-8404

### Student Counselling Services

### ASSERTION TRAINING

- How to say NO
- Assertive Styles
- Interpersonal Skills
- How to make a request

Dates: January 17 & 24, 1982 (Sunday)  
Time: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Limited enrollment. To register, contact STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICES, 102 Athabasca Hall, or phone 432-5205. **THERE IS NO FEE.**

## CAMERA CITY EXTRA SPECIAL Vesta Electronic Flash



Computer controlled flash. Vesta gives perfect pictures everytime' this flash analyses the amount of light required to properly expose the film you are using based on the type of film and the distance your subject is away. Works with all 35 mm cameras. A perfect Christmas gift.

A perfect Christmas gift.

**ONLY 24.88**

Camera City Color Lab  
South End HUB Mall 432-0338

peoples pub

THIS WEEK'S ENTERTAINMENT

**REBEL**

- No cover Mon-Tues
- Wed. is Ladies night & U of A Pub Night (Admission free to U of A students with I.D.)

Renford Inns

10620 82 (Whyte) Ave.