

HUMAN RIGHTS Playing politics with people's lives

Amnesty International's annual report reveals that during 1992 prisoners of conscience were held in at least 62 countries, over 110 governments used torture in prisons or police stations, and political killings were used by the state in 45 countries to exterminate opponents and 'troublemakers'

EUROPE

Armed conflict, including torture and rape, in **Bosnia, Azerbaijan and Tadjikistan**, where 20,000 deaths alone were reported. Racially motivated attacks in **Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain**. Conscientious objectors, including Jehovah's Witnesses, imprisoned in **Greece, France, Finland, Russia and Spain**. Torture remained

common in **Turkey**, with an upsurge in killings of Kurds. In the **UK**, there were fears of collusion between security forces and Loyalist paramilitaries in **Northern Ireland**. Armed political groups committed abuses in **Spain**, with 26 ETA deaths (7 civilians) and the **UK**, where Loyalists killed 34 (29 civilians) and the IRA was responsible for 29 deaths (20 civilians)

MIDDLE EAST

Widespread abuse. Thousands detained without charge, particularly **Egypt and Algeria** – 10,000 in custody. 120 Palestinians killed by security forces in **Israel** and 415 deported to **South Lebanon**. Most countries use systematic torture, **Saudi Arabia** and **Iran** employ Islamic punishments such as flogging and amputation of the right

hand. All retain death penalty and use extensively – **Iran** the worst offender with 330 executions. Numbers of extrajudicial killings in **Iraq** unknown. Hundreds of Marsh Arabs 'disappeared' or killed. Mass graves discovered – suspected to contain 100,000 Kurds who 'disappeared' in 1988



ASIA

Repression continued in **Myanmar** – 1,550 political prisoners – **Philippines, East Timor, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka**. Killings escalated in **Cambodia** despite UN presence. More

than 1,000 executed in **China**, with torture of political and criminal detainees frequent. Death penalty also abused in **Afghanistan, Malaysia Japan and Pakistan**. In **India**, extra-judicial killings and 'disappearances' in conflict zones common. Widespread torture and rape

AMERICAS

Human rights violations, including killings, of indigenous peoples in **Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Colombia and Brazil** – where hundreds of street children were killed by police.

Armed opposition groups in **Peru** (Shining Path) and **Colombia** killed many civilians. Torture reported in 26 countries, including **Mexico, Chile, and Haiti**, where asylum seekers were forcibly repatriated by the U.S. 31 people executed in the **United States**

AFRICA

Demands for political change or opposition to reform resulted in hundreds detained without charge or trial in **Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Malawi** and extrajudicial killings in

Sierra Leone, Chad and Zaire. Civil war and inter-ethnic violence in **Sudan, Angola and Somalia** brought mass political killings and 'disappearances'. Further evidence in **South Africa** of politically motivated assassinations backed by security forces