

To:-

19th June, 1975.

The Minister for Home Affairs
through the Superintendent of
Moon Crescent Detention Centre.

We, the undersigned five persons, four of whom were arrested in June 1974, and one in July 1974, had been subjected to various barbarous forms of torture during our periods of detention in solitary confinement in Whitley Road lock-up (four of us) and Central Police Station lock-up (one of us). In addition to the infliction of mental torture on all of us, three of us were subjected to extremely atrocious forms of physical torture.

One, among the three who were physically tortured, was kept in a specially built air-conditioned cell for the first three days and nights with only a bare pyjama trouser by way of protection against extreme coldness. On the 4th day, he was removed to a still colder cell with the same pyjama trouser only for a further period of three days and nights. Throughout the six-days period, he was kept in a standing position. He was not allowed to sleep during these six days and nights. It was impossible even to nod as the cell was guarded by at least three police officials at any one time and they were replaced by others from time to time. A spot-light was so fixed that he had to face it throughout the 6 days and nights. He was unable to eat any food during this period. He was not seen by a doctor during these days of torture. In addition, he was fisted and kicked many times during periods of interrogation and he had blue-black marks on most parts of his body.

Another, among us, was stripped naked during the early part of his interrogation in a specially built cold room. For the first one week, interrogation was carried out both in the mornings and afternoons for a continuous period of about three hours each morning and afternoon. Although the cell was very cold, cold water was poured over his body and heads during periods of interrogation. On one occasion during interrogation, he was handcuffed and pushed forcibly to the floor and thereafter he was fisted and kicked in various parts of his body, leaving blue-black marks and internal injuries. On one occasion, a lighted match stick was placed very near his private parts. He was not seen by a doctor for nearly two weeks during the early part of the interrogation.

And another, among us was kept in a specially built cold cell on five different occasions for a duration of about two hours on each occasion. On two occasions, he was fisted several times in the region of his stomach. When he resisted to the physical assaults perpetrated on him, his hands were tied with his pyjama shirt and he was pushed to the floor and kicked. On some occasions during interrogation, he was spat upon with water by the police officials concerned. He was kept in solitary confinement for a continuous period of seven months without any form of interrogation.

In addition to these forms of physical torture, all of us were kept in solitary confinement, almost 23 hours a day in the cell. Four of us were kept in solitary confinement in Whitley Road Lock-up; three among us for about 5½ months and one for about 10 months. The flow of air in the Whitley Road Lock-up was extremely inadequate and some of us succumbed to acute forms of dizziness for several days. One of us was almost paralysed with severe cramp-like pain from the back downwards for more than a month soon after his removal to the present place of detention. Another, among us, is still afflicted with throat pain - these are the after effects of continued solitary confinement for long period. In fact, all of us are still suffering from the aftermath of the tortures deliberately inflicted on us.

In the present place of detention, we are subjected to strict and unnecessary forms of control of our movements. We are locked-up in the cell for about 15 hours a day and for about 16 hours on Sundays and holidays. The food is of low quality. We shall elaborate on our conditions of detention here at the appropriate time.

With regard to arbitrary arrests without trial, your prime minister said, words to this effect in the years 1955 and/or 1956 in the then Legislative Assembly - To arrest a man and detain him without giving him an open court trial, if this is not fascism - then what is it?. Your prime minister has also publicly stated that if he was asked to choose between communism and anti-communism, he would choose communism (about 1955 or 1956). Yet in the name of "Communism" "subversive activities" and "anti-national elements" we had been subjected to most savage-like and primitive modes of ill-treatment and punishment even without a semblance of a public trial. It is common knowledge that many political detainees are still being detained for varying periods - for indefinite periods - 8 years, 9 years, 10 years and more, and three for almost 12½ years. In this enlightened era, it is unthinkable that man can oppress and humiliate man just for his political convictions.

We hereby make a strong protest and express our strong indignation and condemnation at the atrocious treatment meted out to us in the police lock-ups. To express our indignation in a more tangible way, we have decided to stage a one-day hunger strike today.

SIGNED BY

- (1) Tan Ek.
- (2) Lim Ah Kow.
- (3) T.T. Rajah.
- (4) Tan Kim Sew.
- (5) Wong Hon Siak.