

The 22

In May and June 1969 large numbers of people were arrested and detained without trial, specifically for interrogation. They were held in solitary confinement, incommunicado, i.e., without access to their families, friends, ministers of religion or lawyers.

22 of these people were formally charged in October 1969 and the trial proceeded in the Supreme Court until the 16th February, 1970. On that day the Attorney General appeared in Court and withdrew the charges.

The Judge formally acquitted all 22 accused. Normally in such cases, acquitted persons are free to leave the Court.

These 22 people were then and there immediately redetained under the Terrorism Act and whisked away from the court to disappear from public sight and knowledge. The Terrorism Act gives the Security Police the power to hold detained persons incommunicado, for an indefinite period, specifically for interrogation. They are entitled to see only their jailors and their interrogators.

"When circumstances permit they may see a magistrate once a month."

During the brief trial of the 22, State witnesses testified that they had been subjected to torture during their interrogation.

WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE IN DETENTION?

What has been happening to these 17 men and 5 women since their redetention?

There is no way of finding out, as no one has access to them.

HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE ARE LOCKED AWAY WITHOUT TRIAL IN OUR PRISONS?

Figures are not available. It is "not in the interests of the State" to disclose this information.

During 1969, 9 people died in detention.

The laws of our country are circumventing the administration of justice. Some years ago the cry was "Charge or Release". This year 22 people were charged and were found not guilty of the charges against them.

THEY WERE NOT RELEASED.

These 22 people must not be forgotten.

NOR MUST ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE LOCKED UP WITHOUT TRIAL IN OUR JAILS BE FORGOTTEN.

We stand here today to record our total condemnation of a system which can remove people from their homes, take them to far away places, keep them in solitary confinement, interrogate them continuously, and detain them indefinitely before it is decided whether to charge them or not.

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DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

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