

ACT 31

HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR 1968



# PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WEEK

17-23 NOVEMBER 1968

a world-wide campaign for the release  
of political and religious prisoners



sponsored by  
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WEEK

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NOW  
YOU  
CAN  
HELP

\* Hundreds of thousands of men and women in scores of countries are now in prison because their political or religious beliefs are unpopular with their governments.

They are Rhodesian nationalists, Spanish socialists, Portuguese communists, Hungarian Catholics, Greek democrats, Russian Jews, Brazilian trade unionists, Italian conscientious objectors, American draft-card burners, Czech writers . . .

\* Prisoner of Conscience Week is an intensive world-wide campaign to urge governments to allow freedom of opinion and religion and to release their prisoners of conscience during this Human Rights Year.

\* Amnesty members in over 20 countries are joining together to mount this campaign. Many sympathetic organisations are being invited to give their practical support.

\* During Prisoner of Conscience Week there will be services, meetings, exhibitions, films, vigils, fasts, processions, and other special events.

\* National Sections of Amnesty and the International Secretariat in London will make representations to Embassies, Ministers and Heads of State.

\* Amnesty members will lead an international letter-writing campaign on behalf of individual prisoners of conscience.

## 1. Pledge your support for Prisoner of Conscience Week — NOW

Our campaign is ambitious — to win freedom for prisoners of conscience. Our success depends on the active help of our supporters around the world, even before the campaign is launched.

Contact your National Amnesty Section or the International Secretariat *now* and offer your services: to help organise your national campaign or as a volunteer worker during Prisoner of Conscience Week.

If you are a member of an organisation concerned with human rights, help it to mount its own campaign for the Week.

## 2. Become a Member of Amnesty

Join your National Section of Amnesty International. Every new member adds to the authority of our appeals on behalf of prisoners of conscience.

## 3. Join an Amnesty Group

Groups adopt three prisoners — from each of the main 'power-blocs'. Groups work directly for the release of their prisoners and for the well-being of their prisoners' families.

## 4. Join the postcards for Prisoners Campaign

Members send special cards each month on behalf of three urgent cases. Nearly one thousand members already participate in this increasingly successful campaign.

## 5. Send a donation

Prisoners *can* be released. Their lives *can* be saved. Their families *can* be cared for. But it costs money — money *you* can help to provide.

## THIS IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty was started in 1961. Today it is a focal point for international action against political and religious persecution. There are Amnesty Sections in 19 countries, 550 local voluntary Groups and thousands of members all over the world.

Amnesty's first concern is to obtain the release of prisoners of conscience. It also campaigns for humane prison conditions, raises money for prisoners' families and informs public opinion. Nearly 1,500 prisoners of conscience adopted by Amnesty have been released.

Amnesty is an impartial movement with no political or religious affiliation. It has consultative status with the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, proclaimed at the United Nations on 10 December, 1948, contains these two Articles which are the basis of Amnesty's appeal to governments:

**Article 18**

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

**Article 19**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

For further information write to Prisoner of Conscience Week Campaign, or to your Amnesty National Section.

Amnesty International, Turnagain Lane, Farringdon Street,  
London, EC4, England.