

POSTCARDS FOR
PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

April 1969

First some news of people who have been on the Campaign in the past:

Low Tai Thong, Singapore (March 1968) arrived in London on March 16th and has been helping in the Secretariat office. He is now visiting Sweden at the invitation of the Swedish Group 25, the group which had adopted him, and will begin his studies when he returns.

Dr Kibaya, Uganda (June 1968) was released at the end of March together with Rajat Neogy (see below) and 24 others. One of those released with him was Mr George Kalanzi, former Mayor of Mengo, one of Dr Kibaya's closest friends who had been arrested at the same time.

Abu Mayanja, Uganda (November 1968). Rajat Neogy, the editor of TRANSITION who was arrested with Mr Mayanja, has now been released as has David Sebukima, the young Makerere student believed to have been arrested because of a letter of his which had been published in TRANSITION 18 months previously. Abu Mayanja remains in detention and you are asked to renew your appeals on his behalf, at the same time expressing your appreciation of the release of Neogy and Sebukima.

Barbara Torunczyk, Poland (September 1968). There are reports that Barbara has been released and we are trying to obtain confirmation.

Jusu Sheriff, Sierra Leone (December 1968). While out on bail Mr Sheriff stood for a bye-election in his constituency and regained his seat. He is now therefore the official Leader of the Opposition in parliament. Eleven other SLPP members have been returned. However we understand that the government is bringing election petitions against all the SLPP members in what is believed to be a move towards the establishment of a one-party state.

Edouard Chapuis, Malagasy Republic (March 1969). A norwegian member has received a letter from Mr Chapuis in which he wrote about the moral encouragement he had derived from his letter of support. He described his imprisonment, which has been a great shock to him, as the result of a 'grave misunderstanding'.

Don Baty, U.S.A. (February 1969). Many members who wrote to the Pardon Section of the U.S. Justice Department about Donald Baty have sent in replies they received from the Pardon Attorney. The replies, which are all identical, state that Mr Baty has not filed any application for Executive clemency. Such an answer is a mis-interpretation of the appeals which were made on moral, rather than legal grounds. The International Secretariat is writing to the Pardon Attorney on the subject and in the meantime members are asked not to write to the authorities about the case.

Victor Rico Galan, Mexico (September 1968) was tried in January 1969, after being detained without trial for 2½ years. Twenty other members of the Movi-

miento Revolucionario des Pueblo were tried with him. Galan and five others received sentences of 8 years imprisonment, plus fines of 10,000 pesos.

Here are this month's prisoners:

Crimean Tatar Representatives - U.S.S.R.

Roland Kadiev, Is-set Khairov, Svetlana Ametova and six other Crimean Tatars, all of whom have been appointed by the Crimean Tatar community in Soviet Central Asia to represent their interests, were arrested in September 1968. At the end of last month it was reported that they would shortly be brought to trial in Tashkent on charges of anti-Soviet slander.

The Crimean Tatars - who are not a Slav people - lived, prior to 1944, in the Black Sea peninsula of the Crimea. Under Lenin's nationalities policy they had been granted nominal autonomy and lived in what was known as the Crimean Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1941 the Crimea was overrun by invading German troops and occupied until the German retreat from the Soviet Union in 1944. Following the re-establishment of Soviet power in the Crimea, the entire Crimean Tatar population was accused of having collaborated with the Germans and were deported forcibly to Central Asia.

It is reported that the charge of anti-Soviet slander against the nine people due for trial in Tashkent refers specifically to a controversy over how many Crimean Tatars died as a result of deportation. The supporters of the Crimean Tatar cause maintain that 46% died. The authorities assert that 22% is the correct figure and the Prosecution are treating this figure of 46% as defamation of the Soviet State. The Tatars believe that the figure of 22% only refers to those who died in detention camps and that a further 24% died on the journey.

Agitation by representatives of the Crimean Tatars is believed to have started in 1960. In 1965 they were officially rehabilitated, i.e. the charge of collaboration with the Germans was revoked. However, delegations continued to go to Moscow pressing for a return to the Crimea, re-establishment of the Crimean Tatar Republic and more publicity for their rehabilitation. It is believed that the Moscow authorities have brought these representatives to trial in the hope of putting an end to petitions.

Send your cards to:

EITHER

Mr A. Kosygin,
Chairman of the Council of Ministers
of the U.S.S.R.,
The Kremlin,
Moscow,
U.S.S.R.

OR

The Attorney-General of Uzbek Republic,
S.S.S.R.,
Uzbek S.S.R.,
g. Tashkent,
Prokuratura Uzbek S.S.R.,
U.S.S.R.

Fernanda Paiva Tomaz - Portugal.

Hopes for liberalisation in Portugal after the appointment of the new Prime Minister, Marcello Caetano, have not been fulfilled. Opponents of the regime are still imprisoned and allegations of torture continue. One of the long-term prisoners is Fernanda Paiva Tomaz, a young art student who was arrested in 1961. She was an active member of the Portuguese Communist Party

which, like all political parties with the exception of the ruling National Union Party, is illegal. On November 28th 1961 she was sentenced to eight years imprisonment with security measures and to 15 years loss of political rights. During the trial she was expelled from the court-room after complaining that she was not given proper facilities for her defence. The sentence was pronounced in her absence.

In 1967 Fernanda Paiva Tomaz wrote in a letter: "I am 32 years old and I have been persecuted by the present regime since the age of 22, only because I love my country It is due to that "crime" that I have been submitted to physical and mental torture by the police - 24 hours without sleep, followed, after some days, by 94 hours of the same punishment during which I was brutally insulted by the police agents who asked me questions hurting for my dignity as a woman, a wife, a mother."

Fernanda Tomaz, as a result of all these years in prison, is in a very bad state of health and her family is unable to help her very much. She is married and has a son who lives with his grandmother.

Send your cards, which should stress the humanitarian aspect, to:

EITHER

Professor Dr Mario julio Brito de
Almeida da Costa,
Ministerio da Justica,
G Arsenal,
Lisbon 2.

OR

the Portuguese Ambassador or diplomatic
representative in your own country.

Additional cards could be sent to Fernanda Tomaz herself
c/o Cadeie do Forte de Caxias,
Caxias,
Lisbon.

M. Achkar Marof - Guinea.

M. Marof was, until his recent disappearance in October 1968, Guinea's Ambassador to the United Nations. An eloquent champion of subject peoples, he won international respect and recognition as a result of his able Chairmanship of the U.N. Committee on Apartheid. The reasons for his arrest still remain obscure.

M. Marof has served as Ambassador to the United Nations since 1959 and was generally considered to be one of the most experienced and able of the African representatives. In July 1968 the Secretary General of the United Nations wrote to M. Sekou Toure, President of Guinea, offering M. Marof a position with the U.N. as High Commissioner for Namibia (South West Africa) with the rank of Assistant Secretary General of the U.N., a position of considerable prestige both for M. Marof and for his country. After a 2 month delay Sekou Toure cabled his refusal to U Thant saying that a "post of great importance" was being reserved for M. Marof. Two days later the Ambassador was abruptly relieved of his responsibilities and re-called to Guinea. Understandably reluctant to return in these rather unusual circumstances, M. Marof asked for a year's leave of absence to complete his studies. His request was angrily dismissed by Sekou Toure and, after receiving assurances from friends and colleagues in Guinea that it would be in his interest to return, M. Marof left for Conakry. He arrived with his three children at the airport in Cona-

kry on October 17th 1968 only, it seems, to be immediately arrested. Con-
flicting rumours as to his fate circulated both within Guinea and outside
the country, ranging from a report of his appointment to a top security
mission to one of his execution. It seems that he was accused of high
treason during a mass meeting in Conakry, a charge which was altered to
one of embezzlement at another mass meeting the following day. The most
recent report - not verified - is that he has been released and placed
under house arrest in order to enable him to prepare for his defence at
a trial due to begin on April 11th.

On March 25th the new Guinean Ambassador to the UN presented his cre-
dentials to U Thant. He said that at the same time he presented a letter
from Sekou Toure to U Thant providing all the necessary details about M.
Marof. The text of this letter has not, however, been published as yet.
and disturbing rumours continue to circulate. On March 26th Sean McBride,
on behalf of the International Commission of Jurists, cabled to U Thant
asking for his intervention, referring to reports of a death sentence. In
his reply U Thant stated that to the best of his knowledge the reports of
a death sentence were not correct.

Since M. Marof's removal from the United Nations he has been variously
accused of participation in a French-supported plot and of involvement in
the alleged army coup which led to the arrest of several military personnel
earlier this year. During March 1969 M. Foudeba, Minister of Agriculture,
an old friend of M. Marof, was arrested together with two other prominent
Guineans and it is believed that these arrests are linked with Marof's.
The charge of embezzlement does not appear to have any solid foundation
and the only reason for M. Marof's arrest suggested by those familiar with
Guinean politics is that the apparent conflict between M. Marof and M. Sekou
Toure has arisen out of personal jealousies and antagonisms.

Cards expressing concern and bewilderment at M. Marof's arrest should be
sent to:

- | | |
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| EITHER | OR |
| M. Ahmed Sekou Toure, | H.E. M. Abdoulaye Toure, |
| President of the Republic of Guinea, | Guinean Ambassador to the U.N., |
| Government of Guinea, | Permanent Mission of the Guinean Republic |
| Conakry, | to the U.N., |
| Guinea. | 295 Madison Avenue, 24th Floor, |
| | New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A. |

Additional cards could be sent to M. Marof himself
c/o M. Louis Beavogui Lansana,
Foreign Minister,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Conakry,
Guinea.

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Amnesty International,
International Secretariat,
Turnagain Lane,
Farringdon Street,
London E.C. 4., U.K.

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

BACKGROUND PAPER

PORTUGAL

April 1969

The country is a dictatorship with a Parliament which has purely nominal powers. It has been ruled for almost 40 years by Dr. Oliveira Salazar. In September 1968 Dr. Marcello Caetano was appointed Prime Minister following the illness of Dr. Salazar. Human Rights have been gravely limited in Portugal since Salazar came to power. It is too early to say whether any significant change of policy will result from the new appointment.

The Constitution of 1933 guarantees certain freedoms but subsequent decrees have eliminated freedom of association and freedom of speech and all political parties, apart from the ruling party the National Union (Union Nacional) are illegal. No opposition member has ever been elected to the Parliament. Since all political parties are banned political activity aiming at constitutional change is necessarily clandestine. There is a tendency to label all opposition as 'of communist character'. 'Communist character' is not defined and the law is deliberately so loosely worded so as to give the authorities wide powers of interpretation.

It is difficult to estimate the number of political prisoners but there are certainly several hundred of them, apart from those in the so-called Portuguese territories. The victims of this repressive legislation are democrats, liberals, catholics and members of the Communist Party and the Popular Front. The Portuguese Communist Party is a rather small party which does not advocate the violent overthrow of the government.

One of the most undesirable aspects of the Portuguese Penal Code is the so-called "security measures", which is a form of preventive detention. A person sentenced to security measures is held at the discretion of the PIDE (the secret police). These measures are renewable indefinitely which means that in effect a person can suffer life imprisonment on the recommendation of the police although life imprisonment has been legally abolished in Portugal under Article 8 of the Constitution of 1933.

The powers of the PIDE are considerable. Under Decree Law 35.042 they can arrest and imprison without charges for 3 months which can be extended by 2 subsequent periods of 45 days each to 6 months with the permission of the Ministry of Interior. Prison conditions in Portugal are bad and there are frequent allegations of torture.

UL/SJ

Research Department

GUINEA (West Africa)

April, 1969

Guinea, which is roughly the size of Yugoslavia, lies on the West Coast of Africa between Portuguese Guinea and Sierra Leone. Its population is estimated to be about 3½ million. It is a comparatively backward country dependent on tropical agricultural products, the income from which is supplemented by some mineral production.

In September 1959 Sekou Toure led his country into defiant isolation with the slogan "We prefer poverty in freedom to riches in slavery". A former French colony Guinea was the only territory to vote 'non' in the referendum and leave the French Community in total independence. French reaction was immediate and vindictive. All aid was stopped, all French personnel withdrawn, capital equipment removed, administrative records, machinery, the telephone system, even the lavatories in civil servants houses were destroyed. Guinea faced economic disaster and administrative chaos but survived under the dynamic leadership of Sekou Toure with the help of a £10,000,000 loan from President Nkrumah of Ghana and aid from the Communist Bloc (not always of a very practical kind). Survival was achieved at the cost of individual liberties and Guinea became a one-party state of a fairly representative kind, constantly haunted by threats and rumours of plots and counter-plots. Hundreds of political prisoners have been detained at one time or another, including several prominent trade union leaders. Many have been detained without trial and conditions in the prisons are reported to be far from good. Periodic amnesties are announced, but are nearly always followed by further reports of plots and arrests. In the last two years a change of attitude has been perceptible. Guinea has for the first time attempted a reconciliation with neighbouring states and sought foreign aid, in particular, American investment.

SJ

Research Department