

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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@30th Anniversary Campaign Appeal Cases - 2nd Update

Mexico

Please note that the date Carlos Salinas de Gortari came to power in Mexico was 1 December 1988, not July as stated in the appeal case. This is an important change as it shows that the "disappearance" of José García was the first after the new President came to power.

Morocco

The Oufkir family are free! Attached you will find the replacement case of Mohamed Srifi who is also from Morocco. His photograph (and negative) will be sent to all campaign coordinators within the next two weeks.

USSR

Oleg Gorshenin is free! Also attached, you will find the case of Nikolay Shust. As with Oleg, there is no photograph of Nikolay.

Somalia

The recent coup in Somalia has led to the withdrawal of this case from the appeal cases for this campaign. There will not be a replacement.

Any Other Releases

Please note that if there are any further releases - campaign coordinators will be informed, but we do not intend to replace any more cases unless it is felt to be imperative.

NIKOLAY SHUST**USSR**

Nikolay Shust has been jailed twice within the last four years because he has religious objections to being conscripted into the military in the Soviet Union.

Nikolay Shust first refused to be conscripted in late 1987 and was jailed in November of that year. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment but as is now common in such cases, he received some remission and was released in July 1989.

Within months of his release he was again sent his call-up papers for active duty in the military. Nikolay Shust had already shown that his religious convictions meant more to him than the threat of a jail sentence and once again he refused to be called up.

On 24 October 1990 he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment by a court in the city of Mazyr for "*evasion of regular call-up for active military service*" under Article 77 of the Belorussian Criminal Code. He is now serving his sentence in an unknown corrective labour colony somewhere in the Mogilyov area of Belorussia.

The USSR Constitution describes military service as the "*honourable duty*" of every Soviet male citizen. Conscription is obligatory for every able-bodied man between the ages of 18 and 27.

In the same month that Nikolay Shust was given a second prison sentence for refusing to be called-up, a new USSR law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations came into force. This new law granted religious believers many rights previously denied them. It did not, however, introduce a civilian alternative to military service.

At the time of writing, Amnesty International knows of some 16 young men, mostly Jehovah's Witnesses, serving prison sentences for refusing military service in the USSR.

There is news from the USSR which shows that attitudes to religious conscientious objectors may be improving. On 14 February 1991 the official news agency, TASS, announced that the USSR parliament would soon consider legislation which would provide for alternative non-military service for those unable to perform military service because of their religious or other beliefs.

Attitudes towards conscientious objectors in the USSR may be improving, but as the law stands people like Nikolay Shust face the possibility of being called-up for military service, and perpetually jailed for each refusal.

SHORT PUBLICITY TEXT

Jailed for refusing to perform military service on account of his religious beliefs

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to the President of the Soviet Union. Tell him that you have read about the imprisonment of Nikolay Shust. Let him know that you are concerned that religious, pacifists and other conscientious objectors have no option other than joining the army or facing the courts. Say that you have heard reports that some civilian alternatives are being discussed. Welcome these discussions and urge the President to do all he can to introduce measures which would mean that people like Nikolay Shust would not have to face jail sentences.

ADDRESS FOR LETTER WRITING

SSSR, RSFSR
Moskva
Kreml
Prezidentu Gorbachovu M.S.
USSR

copies to:

SSSR, BSSR
g. Minsk
ul. Lenina, 28
Verkhovny Sud BSSR.
Predsedatelyo Karavayu V.S.
USSR

PHOTOGRAPHS

None available

MOHAMED SRIFI**MOROCCO**

The authorities produced left-wing leaflets and a duplicating machine in court as evidence that Mohamed Srifi and over 170 others accused with him wanted to overthrow the Moroccan monarchy.

Mohamed Srifi was sentenced to 30 years jail although there was no convincing evidence that he believed in the violent overthrow of the authorities. He simply believed that Morocco should have a different political structure.

Mohamed Srifi was born in Tangiers in 1952. At the time of his arrest in 1974 he was studying Spanish literature at the Faculté des Lettres at Rabat University. He was also a member of *Ila'l-Aman* ("Forward"), a Marxist organization which is outlawed in Morocco.

Mohamed Srifi went into hiding to avoid arrest in 1972. For two years, he and other members of *Ila'l-Aman* produced and distributed leaflets which called for the creation of a people's republic of Morocco.

In November 1974 Mohamed Srifi was arrested and taken to the Derb Moulay Cherif detention centre in Casablanca. He remained in the detention centre for over a year without charge or trial. During that time he was tortured.

In January 1977 he was finally brought to trial. The prosecution argued that by calling for a people's republic he was calling for the violent overthrow of the Moroccan monarchy. The leaflets and duplicating machine were produced as evidence against him. An Amnesty International observer at the trial said there was no evidence produced which backed the charges that Mohamed Srifi or any of the others had ever suggested using violence. The trial was blatantly unfair. Defence lawyers were intimidated and not allowed to talk to defendants in court during the hearings. Neither did the judge allow Mohamed Srifi to describe the torture he suffered while in the Derb Moulay Cherif.

It can be dangerous for defendants to complain about the fairness of their trials in Morocco. Mohamed Srifi and those tried with him received an extra two years' sentence because they protested in court about the fairness of their trial.

Mohamed Srifi's fiancée received a 5-year sentence at the same trial. From 1978 onward they were allowed to visit each other. Later they got permission to marry, but continued to serve their sentences apart. Mohamed Srifi is one of eight remaining prisoners of his group. The others were either released on expiry of their sentence or after an amnesty.

Mohamed Srifi is serving his sentence in the Kenitra Central Prison in Casablanca. His only crime was expressing his peaceful political views; he should be free.

SHORT PUBLICITY TEXT

Sentenced to 30 years in jail for his peaceful political views

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to the King of Morocco. Tell him what you have read about Mohamed Srifi. Tell him that you think he should be set free immediately.

Write to Mohamed Srifi. Tell him that you have heard about his case and will do all you can to make sure he is released.

NOTES FOR SECTIONS

Photographs available:

Mohamed Srifi

ADDRESSES FOR LETTER WRITING

His Majesty King Hassan II
Office of HM the King
Palais Royal
Rabat
MAROC

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Prison centrale
Kenitra
MAROC

Telex 31008 GOUMAROC M