

CARD SCHEME NEWSLETTER
JUNE 1966

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
12, Crane Court, Fleet Street, London E.C.4.

The Christian Council for Social Action, whose address you were given on behalf of FLORENCE MATOMELA, South Africa (May 1966 Newsletter), write that they have been flooded by your cards, which they are distributing among the relatives of the prisoner. Unless you have already done so, you can send appeals to:

The Hon. J.B. Vorster, M.P., Union Buildings, PRETORIA, Republic of South Africa.
as well as to your nearest South African Embassy.

MELANIE BOEK, East Germany (February 1966 Newsletter)

We have heard that in April she was brought to trial and sentenced to $5\frac{1}{2}$ years penal servitude. This means that she is a category one prisoner, i.e. receiving the hardest sentence. She is allowed four visits a year and one letter a month, and it is reported that she is working in the kitchen of Pankov prison (East Berlin) and in very poor health. Regrettably, there is at present no way in which Kit Members can help her, but the Investigation Department are following her case, which is adopted by an Amnesty Group as well.

PEDRO VEIRA DE ALMEIDA, Portugal (February 1966 Newsletter)

We have now received confirmation that he was not in any way involved with the Communist Party, and that he simply gave hospitality to a member of the Party. But he will be tried by the Boa Hora Tribunal; anyone interested in his welfare can send cards to the President of the Court, addressed simply:

President of the Plenary Tribunal, Rua Boa Hora, Lisbon, Portugal.

State that you are referring to the trial that is now fixed for the 12th July, 1966.

On the 26th May, 1966, when Guyana became independent, four more political detainees were released, CHARLIE CASSATO (April 1966 Newsletter) is however still detained with 8 others, still uncharged and untried. Those members interested can continue to send appeals on his behalf to:

The Prime Minister, Forbes Burnham, Office of Premier, Public Buildings, Georgetown, Guyana.

One administrative point: Kit Members will automatically receive reminders to renew their membership, but those members so wishing can obtain further cards at 5/- a dozen and headed Amnesty paper is also available at 1/- a dozen.

Finally, the Investigation Department is most anxious to know if any Kit Members have received answers to their cards concerning SAO KHUN HKIO, Burma (May 1966 Newsletter), and PHILLIPOVIC MILIGOJAE, Yugoslavia (March 1966 Newsletter).

Here are this month's prisoners:

AECIO MATOS - Brazil

Aecio Matos is an 18 year old student of Engineering at the University of Recife. He is also a member of Catholic University Action which is a national organisation headed by Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Recife. Matos was arrested together with two other members of Catholic University Action during April of this year. The three of them have been detained ever since in military prisons, incomunicado, and without formal charges having been made against them. Matos is the President of Co-Operatives (Committees) of the Engineering School's student federation, elected under rules laid down by the Castelo Branco regime. His arrest and that of his two co-students was made after Archbishop Camara refused to celebrate a Mass on the 31st March commemorating the second anniversary of the revolution saying that such a Mass would have 'political objectives'.

The three young students have been handed over by the political police to the Fourth Army authorities. A petition for their release was prepared and submitted by lawyers to the Military Supreme Court. The lawyers claimed that no justified cause for the arrests had been established. It is likely that the three young people were arrested because the engineering school's student federation published a periodical 'Movimiento' which was critical of the Government's educational policies. Cont....

Your cards appealing for his release should be sent to:

General Arthur Costa e Silva,
Minister of War,
Ministry of War,
Brasilia,
Brazil.

(he is a candidate for the
Presidency and since this
prisoner is held by the Army,
the responsible person).

Letters of sympathy for Aecio Matos can be sent to:

His Excellency Dom Helder Camara,
Archbishop of Recife,
Recife.

FATHER GABRIEL VLASTIMIL KOFRON O.P. - Czechoslovakia.

Father Kofron, is 45 years old and was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1945. Since that time he has spent most of his time in prison. He was arrested in 1948, released but then interned with other priests in 1950, amnestied in 1960, but soon re-arrested.

We have no information about the exact reasons for his imprisonment, but the heavy restrictions imposed on religious liberty in Czechoslovakia may explain it. In 1948, all religious affairs having been placed under the State Bureau For Religious Affairs, clergy were required to take an oath of allegiance to the State and church property was confiscated. Many religious people who resisted these restrictions were imprisoned or sent to hard labour. Cardinal Beran, Archbishop of Prague, refused to take the oath of allegiance to the State and was in prison from 1951 to 1964. In 1956, half of the total number of Czechoslovak bishops were either in prison or exiled to remote areas. Recently the situation has slightly improved, but the process is very slow.

Send your cards to: Dr. Hruza,
Directeur de l'office des cultes,
Praha (Prague), 3
Waldstejnska Ul.10.
Czechoslovakia.

SABAHATTIN EYUBOGLU - Turkey

He is one of several left-wing writers and intellectuals who have been brought to trial during the last few months on charges of "Communist propaganda". Since last year under the present Justice Party administration of Premier Demirel, the political atmosphere of the country is lending itself to persistent judicial harassment of writers, journalists, teachers and intellectuals.

Eyuboglu has been on trial since earlier this year together with Vedat Gunyol and Aziz Nesin. He and Mr. Gunyol translated and published in "Gundem" the journal of the Turkish Union of Journalists, a revolutionary treatise by Babeuf, the 19th century socialist writer. Last year the Editor of "Gundem" ATILA BARTINLI (December 1965 Newsletter), was sentenced to 7 years and 2 months imprisonment.

Eyuboglu and his friends are on trial under Articles 141 and 142 of the Turkish Penal Code. These Articles permit the prosecution of any person connected with publication of politically controversial i.e. left-wing material. Despite strong pressure from Turkish liberal circles to alter the Laws, the present Minister of Justice has merely indicated that the articles should be clearer and more efficiently applied.

There is a Bill for a general amnesty under discussion in the Turkish Parliament and it is suggested that the condemned intellectuals would benefit from it. On the other hand, this Bill is strongly opposed and it is felt that the authorities wish to make an example of the sentenced men.

You should send your cards of protest to:

Mr. Hasan Dincer,
Minister of Justice,
Ankara, Turkey.

and you can send copies of your appeals to your nearest Turkish Embassy.