

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



MISSIONS

Morocco: The trial of 161 persons, all said to be members of the Union Nationale des Forces Populaires (UNFP), began in Marrakesh on 14 June. Mr. Lennart Aspegren, Assistant Judge at the Stockholm Appeals Court, attended the first week of the trial as an Amnesty observer. The accused are charged with plotting against the government, and death sentences are possible. The defence has alleged that all the accused have been either tortured or maltreated in prison, and later in the trial a witness will be called to testify regarding the death of Moujahid Kassem, who died while in prison. The defence has also questioned the impartiality of the presiding judge and complained that the accused were not allowed sufficient documentation to prepare their defence adequately. In addition, it was reported that the defence lawyers were not allowed to see their clients except in the presence of an official, and had not been given an opportunity to examine some of the exhibits. A further anomaly is that the trial is being held in Marrakesh, rather than in Casablanca, the area from which most of the defendants come. The trial will probably last for a number of weeks, and evidence will be heard concerning the manner in which two of the leading defendants, Mohamed Ajar and Ahmed Benjellou, were brought from Spain to face trial in Morocco. Mr. Aspegren is writing a full report on his mission for the International Secretariat, which is continuing to keep a watch on the situation. Another observer hopes to attend the closing session of the trial.

Vietnam: The projected mission to North and South Vietnam has not yet taken place. A visa had been assured by the North Vietnamese Government but the South Vietnamese authorities after much delay indicated: "the timing of your visit is not appropriate." The mission is therefore postponed.

ORGANISATION

International Executive Committee: The International Executive Committee will meet on 10 and 11 July in London. The principle items on the agenda are the arrangements for the International Assembly, and the structure and functioning of the International Executive Committee and the Secretariat. A report prepared by the German Section on the working of the Secretariat will be considered. Other items for discussion include Spain, Rhodesia, Iran and the budget for 1971/72 and 1972/73.

International Assembly: Amnesty members wishing to attend the Assembly (25-27 September) must notify the Luxembourg office before 15 July, as there can otherwise be no guarantee of accommodation. Write to: Mrs. Theo Junker, 69 Rue de la Gare, Leudelange, Luxembourg. We hope that as many members as possible will attend the Assembly. Resolutions are requested from National Sections for consideration by the International Council as soon as possible to allow time for translation and circularisation to all Sections. The final date for receipt of resolutions under the Standing Orders is 21 August.

Tenth Anniversary: Many National Sections were able to raise publicity and funds in connection with the tenth anniversary in May. In Tasmania, a sermon on prisoners of conscience was preached by the Dean at the St. David's Cathedral, and Amnesty was mentioned in the church calendar. There was also a display of Amnesty material in the State library, and some press publicity. In Denmark various activities were carried out both by the Section and individual groups. A television programme on Amnesty was screened in Canada. The Swiss members put up posters, handed out leaflets and sold cakes in the main square in Zurich; and a radio programme was broadcast. Wide press and television coverage also was arranged in Holland. In Britain, there was press and radio publicity, and a charity concert in which star performers provided a big attraction, raising nearly £3,000. In Germany, an exhibition was held in Frankfurt. The American Section is continuing its anniversary events, relating publicity to the theme of 'anniversary year' rather than keeping to a specific date.

Charter Flight: More passengers can be included in the flight to New York after the

International Assembly. Ten more are definitely needed, however, before the flight can be confirmed. There are many who are still thinking about it. Please write to us immediately to ensure that the flight takes place.

South Vietnam: The new address of the Overseas Vietnamese Buddhist Association is: Mr. Vo Van Ai, Secretary-General, O.V.B.A., 25 rue jaffeux, 92 Gennevilliers, Paris. France.

Note to groups with Taiwanese prisoners: You should not try to contact your prisoner's family or anyone else in Taiwan, whether Taiwanese or foreign - except, of course, officials on the list provided: the situation is very tense. Contact with your prisoner should be made through the use of open postcards sent via Taiwan Military Garrison Command in Taipeh or via the Warden of the prison. The same method applies to parcels.

Prisoner of Conscience Week: Material relating to Prisoner of Conscience Week, including cases, has been sent to National Sections. Will all groups please make a special effort to plan a campaign during the Week (14 - 21 November) and to keep the Secretariat informed of their activities.

World Conference on Religion and Peace: Representatives of every major religion in the world met at Kyoto in October 1970. Their recommendations have now been published, and two of these are of particular interest to Amnesty. The first is a call for the setting up of a U.N. Commission of Inquiry to investigate violations of humanitarian conventions in armed conflicts. The second relates to conscientious objection. It makes three points: 1) The right to refuse to participate in war or armed conflicts; 2) The right not to serve in a particular war or in cases where weapons of mass destruction are likely to be used; 3) The right - even the duty - of members of the armed forces to refuse to obey military orders which may include the commission of criminal offences, or of war crimes, or of crimes against humanity. The delegates at the Kyoto Conference represented Moslems, Shintoists, Jews, Sikhs, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, Jains and Confucians. Their decisions are therefore far-reaching and National Sections are urged to draw them to the attention of religious leaders and institutions in their own countries, and press them for further action.

COUNTRIES

Taiwan: The increasing sense of insecurity of Chiang-Kai-shek's government has been apparent for some time; and the growing control over the people of Taiwan is not, therefore, altogether surprising. With the relaxation of tensions between Washington and Peking and particularly with the support for the Nationalist Chinese position declining in the U.N., the government - which claims to be the legal government of all China - is very sensitive to any criticism which might be interpreted as undermining its legitimacy. Since the autumn of 1970 lists with over 1,000 names of potential prisoners of conscience have reached the Secretariat. More than 150 of those with sufficient details have been sent to groups so far. The latest information is that 228 persons have been arrested during recent months. Some Taiwanese lose their jobs; others are being watched 24 hours a day; some foreigners are also under surveillance; mail is censored on a large scale. It is clear that those persons who were recently arrested are victims of the general political repression. In fact, it appears that any individual... student, professor, worker, peasant, journalist, businessman, government official, party-member... who might be a potential opponent to Chiang Kai-shek's government is liable to arrest.

Imprisoned journalists: A list of 47 journalists imprisoned in a number of countries for their professional activities was taken to Helsinki by the Secretary General. He addressed the 20th Assembly of the International Press Institute and suggested the creation of a special committee within the IPI to work for journalists in prison. Also present was the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yu, whose appearance at the assembly created a special awareness of the situation in Singapore where censorship of the press and the jailing of journalists has been unusually severe. There were five Singapore journalists on the Amnesty list. The Secretary General, referring to this, quoted a statement made by Mr. Lee in 1956 when in opposition: "Repression, Sir, is a habit that grows. I'm told it is like making love - it's always easier the second time! The first time there may be pangs of conscience, a sense of guilt. But once embarked upon this course, with constant repetition, you get more and more brazen."

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

"Ferment in the Ukraine", by Michael Browne, MacMillan Press 1971. £1.50. "Vietnam: the other conflict (The Catholic Church in Vietnam)" by Harry Haas and Nguyen Bao Cong. Sheed and Ward 1971. £1.65. "Stalinism in Prague: The Loebel Story", by Eugen Loebel. Grove Press. \$1.95. 1969. "Hope against Hope", (Memoirs of the wife of a Russian poet, imprisoned under Stalin), by Nadezhda Mandelstam, Collins and Harvill Press 1971. £3.15.

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

First some news of prisoners who have been on this Campaign:-

Alfred Csallner - Rumania (May 1971) - is reported to have been released at the end of May.

Gerlinde Dierke - East Germany (January 1971) - was released from prison in June and has been able to go to West Berlin.

Ntsu Mokhehle - Lesotho (December 1970) - was released from Maseru Central Prison on 7 June. However, he remains under certain restrictions, including confinement to his own house.

Aida Skripnikova - USSR (September 1970)- was released from a Mordovian labour camp on 12 April. Until October she is required to live in a provincial town under partial house arrest and to report to the police twice a week. According to the same source, she sends greetings to all people who have interceded on her behalf.

Helen Joseph - South Africa (November 1967). Mrs. Joseph, now recovering from a cancer operation has been freed from the house arrest order imposed on her more than eight years ago.

This month's prisoners:-

Hossein Rezai - IRAN

Hossein Rezai was arrested on 21 October in Tehran while on an Amnesty mission. He was acting as interpreter for another Amnesty representative, Dr. Hans Heinz Heldmann, a German lawyer. Mr. Rezai, an accredited delegate of Amnesty International, is an Iranian citizen, but in recent years has been a student at Mainz University in West Germany. On 10 October he travelled to Tehran with Dr. Heldmann after the Austrian Section had asked them to enquire into reports of widespread political arrests, and into police interrogation practices. On 21 October, Dr. Heldmann was expelled and Mr. Rezai arrested. Initially, the Iranian Government said that he would be released after questioning, but after 2 November, when the Confederation of Iranian Students published a statement claiming Rezai as a member and itself as a sponsor of the mission, the Government's attitude has been that Rezai must stand trial. The Confederation of Iranian Students is an organisation of Iranian students abroad, one of its main activities being the dissemination of information about events in Iran. It is an often impassioned opponent of the present Iranian Government. In January 1971, the Government made membership of the Confederation an offence, carrying a substantial prison sentence.

Mr. Rezai has not yet been charged or tried, and the Iranian Government has consistently refused to discuss his detention with Amnesty. No date has been set for a trial, nor has the offence with which he is charged been specified. Cards should ask for Mr. Rezai's release or public trial, stressing that he has now been under arrest for eight months. They should be very courteously worded. In October, Iran celebrates the 2,500th anniversary of the foundation of the Persian Empire by Cyrus the Great. This is an event of great national importance and members should suggest that it is a fitting occasion for clemency. Please send your cards to: The Prime Minister, Emir Abbas Hoveida, Office of the Prime Minister, Avenues Kash and Pasteur, Tehran; or to the Minister of Court, His Excellency Asadollah Alam, Saadabad Palace, Tehran.

Valentin Moroz - USSR (Ukraine)

Valentin Moroz was born in the province of Volhynia in the Western Ukraine (then under Polish administration) in 1934. He taught modern history at the Leska Ukrainka Pedagogical Institute in Ivano-Frankovsk. During this time he prepared a doctoral dissertation on "The Lutsk trial of 1934 - an example of revolutionary collaboration of the Polish and Ukrainian peoples in their joint struggle against the fascist regime of bourgeois Poland." However, Moroz was unable to defend his dissertation. In August 1965 he was arrested and charged with anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. About thirty Ukrainian intellectuals were arrested at that time under suspicion of having nationalist views and opposing Soviet policies in the Ukraine. Moroz was sentenced to four years' hard labour in January 1966. He served his sentence in the labour camps of the Mordovian ASSR, 500 km south-east of Moscow, where most political prisoners are believed to be detained.

On 1 September, 1969, Moroz was released on completion of his four-year sentence. He was re-arrested on 1 June 1970, charged under Article 62 once again - anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. Moroz was tried on 17-18 November 1970 in the Ivano-Frankovsk Regional Court.

The Procurator demanded a heavy sentence amounting altogether to 15 years of prison, camp and exile. This was reduced by one year in the actual verdict, which was as follows: 6 years prison, 3 years special regime camp (the most severe kind) and 5 years exile. Only Moroz's father and wife were allowed to be in court when the verdict was read. Since the trial was not open to the public - which in itself is a contravention of Soviet law - it is impossible to know whether the reports on the proceedings are accurate. The charge of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda was apparently based solely on Moroz's writings. These writings are reported to reflect the author's strong attachment to the Ukraine, his belief in the need to preserve its culture, language and traditional values, and his opposition to the arbitrary rule of the KGB (security police). "Anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" is normally punishable by a maximum of seven years' imprisonment and five years' exile. In cases of 'recidivists' like Moroz the penalty is increased to a maximum of ten years' imprisonment and five years' exile. Nevertheless, a sentence of this severity is rare in the USSR today.

Please send your cards to:

SSSR,
Ukrainskaya SSR,
KIEV, ul. Ordzhonikidze, No.11,
Pervomu sekretaryu TsK KPU i,
chlenu Prezidium TsK KPSS,
P.Yu. SHELESTU.

OR

SSSR,
Ukrainskaya SSR,
Kiev, ul. Kotsyubinskogo, No. 12,
Ministerstvo yustitsii USSR.

Dr. Domingos Antonio Mascarenhas AROUCA- PORTUGAL (Mozambique)

Some time ago the Portuguese Bar Association made an appeal for three lawyers imprisoned in Portugal. Two of them, who were white, were released. But the third, this prisoner, who is black - and the first African in Mozambique to graduate in law - remained in detention. Dr. Arouca was born in Inhambane (Mozambique) in 1928. When he won a sum of money in a lottery he used some of it to move to Lisbon, where he entered university, supporting himself by working at the same time. When he finished his law studies in 1960 he began work as legal adviser to the Banco Nacional Ultramarino and also practised as a barrister. In 1963 Dr. Arouca returned to Mozambique. Here, having gained academic distinctions, he was appointed member of the Mozambique Administrative tribunal - a post which he left for political reasons. In 1964 he left his post with the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, again for political reasons. High political office was offered to him, but he rejected it.

In March 1965 he was elected Chairman of the Mozambique Black People's Association, by acclamation, defeating the candidate backed by the Portuguese Government. In May he was arrested by PIDE, the political police, and the association's offices were closed. It was alleged that it had become a centre of subversive activities against the Portuguese - an allegation that was never proved in court. Dr. Arouca was accused of maintaining contacts with Frelimo (the Mozambique independence movement) and of being responsible for the psychological subversion in the South of Mozambique. He was tried on 6 July, 1967, by the Mozambique Military Court, having then spent over two years in prison - only one of which was later deducted from his sentence. Without any proof against him the court sentenced him to four years and security measures, plus 15 years loss of political rights. (Security Measures is a form of preventive detention, the time imposed varying from six months to three years). There seems to be no doubt that Dr. Arouca is committed to an independent Mozambique, but there is no evidence of his association with Frelimo. In any case Frelimo is not merely a guerilla movement but is involved in health service and education. It is nowhere suggested that Dr. Arouca was involved in any acts of violence or that he incited violence. In a letter to the Portuguese Minister of Justice, Dr. Arouca -- now in the Peniche Prison in Portugal -- has stated that he is a victim of racial discrimination and that appeals for his release have been refused because he is an African.

Please send cards to: Exmo. Sr. Dr. Marcelo Caetano, Presidente do Conselho, Lisbon, Portugal.
Or to Prof. Mario Julio Brito de Almeida Costa, Ministro da Justica, Praca do Comercio,
Lisbon 2.