

# monthly newsletter from amnesty international

## postcards for prisoners campaign

NOVEMBER 1967

Here is some news about previous prisoners:

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Satya Sen, Ranesh Das Gupta and Aga Shorish Kashmiri, East Pakistan (April 1967 Newsletter). Aga Shorish Kashmiri has been released. Satya Sen and Ranesh Das Gupta are still detained. Das Gupta's health is now affected by conditions in prison. Please renew your appeals for their release.

Sheikh Guyo Jahtani, Kenya (October 1967 Newsletter). The Kenyan and Somali Governments have succeeded for the first time in finding a basis for a consultation over the problem of the North East Region of Kenya, and as a result announced an agreement earlier this month. By the terms of the agreement Somalia withdraws all territorial claims to the area and Kenya has agreed to lift the emergency regulations in stages. As a result it is hoped that all the imprisoned Somalis may in due course be released. You are asked to renew your appeals for the immediate release of Sheikh Jahtani.

Grace Ibingira, Uganda (September 1967 Newsletter). A report from Uganda received today states that prison conditions are now being improved and that the families are definitely allowed to visit them. However, in September this year the five Ministers, who had retained their Parliamentary seats, although in prison, were still in receipt of their parliamentary salaries, were officially expelled from the Party. As a result their families will no longer receive this income and it is believed that they will face serious financial difficulties.

Caroline Okello Odongo, Kenya (January 1967 Newsletter). Caroline is still in detention. The American Section managed to arrange for the publication of an article on her case in the 'Washington Post' October 13th 1967, which members may like to read for themselves.

Spyros Kotsakis, Greece (November 1965 Newsletter). Spyros was released in April 1966 and was rearrested after the coup. He is detained at Partheni Camp on the Island of Leros. Please renew your appeals to :  
Brigadier Stylianos Pattakos,  
Minister of the Interior,  
Stadiou and Dragatsanious Streets,  
Athens, Greece.

Here are this month's prisoners:

Mrs. Helen Joseph, South Africa.

Helen Joseph, aged 62, was recently given a second five-year house arrest order. When she was banned and placed under house arrest in 1962, she was the first person to be restricted in this way - under a new amendment to the Suppression of Communism Act. Her original order was due to end on 31st October 1967, but it has now been extended until 31st October 1972.

For the next five years Mrs Joseph must report to the police every day; she may not leave her house on any evening or during the weekends, although living alone she can have no visitors except her doctor. Nothing she writes can appear in print and she cannot be quoted in the newspapers. If she breaks any of these bans she can receive a prison sentence: in 1964 she was jailed for forgetting to report to the police on a single

occasion.

Before her house arrest in 1962, Mrs. Joseph visited the camps where the banished Africans live in the remote rural areas of South Africa. It is thought that the Government's original reason for placing her under house arrest was to stop this welfare work. In many ways, Mrs. Joseph is a classic example of the prisoner of conscience.

Send your card (courteously phrased) to

The Minister of Justice  
Pretoria  
S.A.

or

the South African Ambassador  
in your country.

Greetings which should contain no political comment of any sort, can be sent to Mrs. Joseph herself at 35 Fanny Avenue, Johannesburg, S.A.

Helmut Peter Künzelmann, East Germany.

Helmut Künzelmann was tried in Dresden District Court in March of this year on a charge of "defamation of the state". The Prosecution evoked paragraph 20 of the East German Supplementary Penal Code which says "anyone who publicly slanders or distorts the measures or activities of state institutions or social organisations ... shall be punished by two years imprisonment". It appears that Künzelmann who was an engineer at an engineering works had tried to repeatedly to obtain permission to travel to West Germany to join his fiancée who had emigrated there illegally some years before. When all his applications for a passport both to local authorities and to the State Council in East Berlin had been refused and his appeals against this decision were rejected Künzelmann wrote a detailed letter giving the precise reasons why he wished to leave East Germany. Apart from personal considerations i.e. wishing to see his fiancée, he declared himself to be dissatisfied with his conditions of work and with the degree of freedom enjoyed by East German citizens.

At the trial a serious view was taken of the fact that he had distributed copies of this letter to a large number of people and it was no doubt this fact that provoked the charge of "defamation of the state". He was also severely criticised for wishing to leave the country which had not only educated him but also given him extensive medical care (he suffered from heart trouble in adolescence). Künzelmann is imprisoned in Bautzen prison, the address is Haftanstalt Bautzen - (86) Postschliessfach 100/1: the exact length of his prison sentence is not known.

Send your card to:

Herr Walter Ulbricht,  
Vorsitzender des Staatsrats der DDR  
Berlin N.54, Lothringer Str.1  
German Democratic Republic

or

Der Minister der Justiz der DDR,  
Kurt Wünsche,  
Berlin W.8.  
Clara-Zetkin-Str.93.  
German Democratic Republic

Wole Soyinka, Nigeria.

One of the best known writers in Nigeria, the author of several plays which have been performed in England and at international festivals, Wole Soyinka is also a poet and has written one major novel "The Interpreters". He is a senior English lecturer at Lagos University and had just been appointed Director of the School of Drama in Ibadan; where he would have taken up his post in the autumn. He is a Yoruba from the Western



Region and was a supporter of the Action Group led by Chief Awolowo, which was banned during the Western Region crisis in 1965. In October 1965 he was arrested and charged with occupying the radio station and at gunpoint forcing the broadcasting staff to replace a tape-recorded speech by the Premier of the Region with his own broadcast "Voice of the Free Western Nigeria", which played for one minute before the substitution was noticed. The speech was a protest against the rigging of the elections. He was acquitted through lack of evidence.

In August 1967 he was arrested by the Federal authorities immediately after publishing an article critical of the regime which called for a truce with Biafra. On 3rd October his release was reported, but this proved to be unfounded and on 28th October Chief Enahoro, the Nigerian Information Commissioner, confirmed that he was detained and accused him of spying for Biafra and taking part in plots to overthrow the Western and Federal Nigerian Governments. He denied that Soyinka had been arrested because of his plea for an end to the fighting in Nigeria and alleged that he arranged with the Biafran leader, Colonel Ojukwu, to buy jet aircraft for the rebel forces.

Since then Soyinka has managed to send a letter out of prison denying the charges. He stated that he had been to Enugu to see Ojukwu but said that this was a normal thing to do if one hoped to mediate between the two sides. His wife and sister in a statement recently circulated claim that the Federal Government knew of his journey to Enugu and in fact gave him a safe-conduct in the areas under their control. For the first two months after his arrest he was not allowed to communicate with his family and was allowed to do so for the first time the day before Enahoro's press conference. There were rumours that he had been ill-treated during this period but he had since been visited by his doctor.

Nigeria is in a state of war, the country is full of fear and confusion and many people have been arrested on suspicion without real cause. The situation is highly volatile and it is impossible to forecast how long an individual prisoner may remain inside. No formal charges have been made against Wole Soyinka.

Send your card to:

Major General Gowan,  
Head of the Nigerian Federal Government and  
Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of  
Nigeria,

State House  
Lagos  
Nigeria.

or

The Nigerian Ambassador or High Commissioner  
in your own country.