

CARD SCHEME NEWSLETTER

January, 1967.

News about previous prisoners:

ATO. BELATCHEW SABOURE, Ethiopia (August 1966 Newsletter). More Kit Members have sent us in the stereotyped reply to their appeals produced by the Ethiopian Minister of Justice. We would be very grateful if any members who has received a reply and who has not sent us a copy could make sure to do so.

Italian Conscientious Objectors, Italy (December 1966 Newsletter). much that a typing error was made in the spelling of the Italian President. This should read On. Guiseppe Saragat and not On. Guiseppe Sargst.

DEMETRIO VALLEJO MARTINEZ, Mexico (December 1966 Newsletter). Many Kit Scheme members have received a reply from Demetrio Vallejo Martinez thanking them for their good wishes. He says "it fortifies my spirit that in the world there are people who know of the injustice from which I have suffered for more than 7 years". He has sent a printed card issued from the prison condemning the "vindictiveness and cowardice" of the authorities who have held him in prison for leading a strike against the provisions of the constitution. He sends his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Some of these replies have come to us at the Amnesty offices instead of being sent direct to the Kit Members, presumably because the individual member's addresses had not been clearly written on the appeal. Please make sure that your name and address is printed in BLOCK CAPITALS.

B.P. KOIRALA, Nepal, (October 1966 Newsletter). B.P. Koirala was the Former Prime Minister of Nepal. Since October we have heard absolutely no further news of this prisoner. Koirala is suffering very badly with cancer of the throat and has not been allowed medical treatment. We are, therefore, asking all Kit Members to continue writing on his behalf as he has already been imprisoned for over 6 years.

Your letters should be sent to:

Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev  
Crown Prince of Nepal,  
The Royal Palace,  
Katmandu, NEPAL.

KON SOOK SIONG, Malaysia (November 1966 Newsletter). We have heard that Inche Ahmad Boestaman, was released this month. A former journalist he was instrumental in forming the Socialist Front in Malaya, combining the Labour Party of which Kon Sook Siong was a member, and Partai Rakyat. He was elected to Parliament as a Socialist and had been detained under various security acts since 1948. During his imprisonments he received a lot of publicity. He was alleged to have been a communist. His release is a possible indication of future leniency to declared opposition to the Alliance government.

Here are this month's prisoners:

SADI ALKILIC - Turkey.

Sadi Alkilic is a civil servant who was arrested in 1962 for having published in the newspaper CUMHURIYET an article advocating socialism. The article was submitted as part of an essay competition and was one of a hundred or so published on the subject: "Socialism or Liberalism for Turkey?". Alkilic was arrested, acquitted by two Penal Courts but finally sentenced (after a decision by the General Assembly of the Turkish High Court) to 6 years two months imprisonment to be followed by two years of forced exile. Alkilic was sentenced under Article 142/1 of the Penal Code which makes it an offence to:

"seek to establish the domination of one social class over other social classes, to eliminate a social class or to overthrow the social and economic order established in the country in any of its particulars."

This Article has been used to harry writers and journalists though seldom with such severity as in the Alkilic case. Sadi Alkilic's final appeal is to be heard by the Supreme Court on February 3rd. Therefore members are encouraged to send pleas for

Continued.....

clemency to the Supreme Court before that date.

Send your appeals to: Head of the Supreme Court,  
Yargitay Baskanligi,  
ANKARA, Turkey.

FATHER ELEMER ROZSA S.J. Hungary.

Father Elemer Rozsa was arrested together with many other Jesuits on the night of December 12th-13th 1964. At the same time the police searched both their homes and several Catholic presbyteries, where they confiscated Bibles and other material. The charges were not made known at the time of arrest and the trial in June 1965 was not open to the public, but it is believed that Father Rozsa and the other Jesuits were accused of illegally exercising their religious ministry. Although there are Catholic priests still carrying out their religious duties normally, several priests have been deprived of the right to do so, probably for having criticized the regime in some minor way, and have been obliged to take up secular employment. In practice many of these banned priests continued to say Mass and to hear confessions in secret, thereby laying themselves open to prosecution. Father Rozsa was also accused of having given religious instruction to young people, and of thereby undermining the regime ideologically. He received the heaviest sentence of all the Jesuits - 8 years imprisonment.

Send your appeals to:

Dr. Gyula Kallai,  
Prime Minister,  
Miniszterelnökség,  
Budapest,  
Hungary.

Additional cards to be sent to:

Dr. Karoly Benedek,  
Ministry of Justice,  
Igazságügy Minisztérium,  
Budapest V,  
Szalay utca 10,  
Hungary.

MRS. CAROLINE OKELLO ODONGO Kenya.

Mrs. Caroline Okello Odongo is the wife of the National organising secretary of the new Kenyan opposition party, the Kenyan Peoples Union led by Mr. Oginga Odinga, many of whose members are now in prison. She is an American negro in her early thirties who became a Kenyan citizen shortly after her marriage. Her husband, who comes from the same area as Mr. Odinga and has always been a close associate of his, resigned his parliamentary seat as well as his junior Ministerial post to stand for election as a member of Odinga's splinter group in April 1966.

Mrs. Okello Odongo was made Private Secretary to Mr. Odinga when he became Vice-President of Kenya in 1964. She was dismissed from her government post when Odinga resigned as Vice-President but continued to work as secretary to him in his capacity as leader of the KPU.

In August 1966 she was arrested under the Preservation of Public Security Act passed in June that year which gave the government wide "emergency" powers and has been held in detention ever since without trial and without any charges being preferred against her. Since her arrest neither the general public nor her family have been informed of her whereabouts and so far as is known she has not been allowed access to a lawyer or any form of communication with the outside world. It is now believed that the Kenyan authorities intend to deprive her of her Kenyan citizenship as a preliminary to deportation. Mrs. Okello Odongo was never a political figure and was certainly at no time involved in violence or any criminal activities.

Send your appeals to: H.E. The Hon. Jomo Kenyatta,  
President of the Republic of Kenya,  
Office of the President,  
P.O. Box 30510, NAIROBI, Kenya.

and further letters to: H.E. Daniel arap Moi,  
Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya  
and Minister of Home Affairs,  
Office of the President, P.O. Box 30510, NAIROBI, Kenya.