

CARD SCHEME NEWSLETTER
JULY 1966

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

We are happy to report the release of 2 prisoners selected for the Kit Card Scheme.

CHARLES CASSATO, Guyana (ex British Guiana) (April 1966 Newsletter) was released on June 29th, 1966, together with another prisoner. By the end of June 1966 all remaining Prisoners of Conscience in British Guiana adopted by Amnesty Groups were released. Mary Nunes, wife of the most notable of the released prisoners, CEDRIC VERNON NUNES, former Minister of Education, writes in a circular letter, dated July 13th, 1966, "...I would like to thank all those wonderful people and organisations who have helped us in a million ways, on behalf of my husband, myself and all the detainees..."

WILLI PAASCH, West Germany (March 1966 Newsletter) was released on 26th May, 1966, and wrote to us on 13th June, thanking Amnesty for all that we had done on his behalf. He especially singled out as giving him most pleasure the many cards from many different parts of the world that he had received in prison. Kit members may already have received a card of thanks from him.

PEDRO VEIRA DE ALMEIDA, Portugal (February 1966 Newsletter) is on trial at the moment. A London barrister has been sent by Amnesty to attend the trial as an impartial observer. We regret that his return coincides with the publication of this Newsletter and we cannot give you any news until next month.

We have not heard of there being any reaction from the authorities concerning the 3 prisoners for last month (June 1966 Newsletter). The Investigation Department would be most grateful if you could inform us as soon as possible if you do receive any answers to your appeals.

Here are this month's prisoners:

ALI SAIED MOHAMED SALIH - Iraq

He is one of more than 200 teachers imprisoned during 1962 - 63 for their political sympathies. He is 25 years old and unmarried, the eldest son of a family of 11. Less than 1 year after his graduation as a teacher in 1962, Ali Saied was arrested for "illegal associations", and on 4th March, 1964, he was sentenced by Court Martial to 8½ years imprisonment. After 1½ years in a desert prison, he was transferred to: Amara Prison, Amara, Republic of Iraq.

Although we know that the condition of his detention is poor - particularly the food and medical services are poor - he can be written to at the above address.

You should send your cards of appeal to either:

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| a) His Excellency, Dr. Abdel Rahman Bazzaz,
Premier of the Republic of Iraq,
Baghdad, Iraq. | or b) His Excellency, Abdul Rahman
Aref,
President of the Republic of
Iraq,
Baghdad, Iraq. |
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Letters or cards of encouragement can of course be sent to the prisoner himself.

Professor TRAN HUU KHUE - South Vietnam

Professor Tran Huu Khue was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment on 4th August, 1965, by the Saigon Military Tribunal on a charge of "destroying the morale of the Army and population". He is serving his sentence at Che Hoa Prison, Saigon. The Professor, a 51 year old married man with 9 children (2 adopted), had been Scout Commissioner for the Saigon District since 1953. He taught languages in several private schools. In February, 1964, Professor Tran was Assistant General-Secretary of the "Movement for the free choice of the people", whose political objective was to campaign for peace and the right of the people to choose their own system of Government. The Movement attempted to hold a joint press conference in association with the "Committee for Peace" and various groups of intellectuals, womens' liberal groups, workers and students. The object of the conference was to put forward a petition in favour of peace, addressed both to the Government of South Vietnam and to the National Liberation Front (the Vietcong). It was also proposed to circulate a petition to the same effect for signature by prominent Vietnamese. All the organisers of the movement were arrested, although the Movement, in accordance with South Vietnamese law, had submitted its statutes and list of office-holders to the authorities, and had operated openly for several months.

The above facts are derived from the Act of Accusation prepared by the Government Prosecutor. There is no suggestion that Professor Tran supported any kind of violence, while the appeal for peace was addressed not only to the South Vietnamese Government, but also the Vietcong. A Bhuddist newspaper recently emphasized the extremely moderate nature of the Movement's resolution for peace and asked for the release of those sentenced.

Your appeals, emphasizing the severity of the sentence imposed for entirely pacific activities, should go to:

Maitre Lu-Van-Vi,
Minister of Justice,
Saigon, South Vietnam.

You are also strongly encouraged to write to:

Mr. Dean Rusk,
State Department,
Washington, U.S.A.

Letters of encouragement can be sent to the prisoner's wife as follows:

Madame Tpuong Thi Hai,
171B, rue Nguyen Thong prolongee,
3e arrondissement,
Saigon, S. Vietnam.

Dr. FERENC MATHEOVICS - Hungary

Dr. Matheovics is one of the best-known non-Communist politicians in Hungary. He is 60 years old and a lawyer, and is at present serving his 2nd prison sentence. He was first detained in 1949 after the Communist takeover with many other non-Communist parliamentarians after they had approached Cardinal Mindszenty in their efforts to determine how best they should fit into a Communist society.

He was first released in 1956 during the Uprising, but then re-arrested and detained for a short while. He was however released after it was established that he had no connection with the Uprising. But after this, he was not allowed to resume his former profession and was forced to work both as a labourer and in a factory.

He was finally re-arrested in 1964, together with 4 other friends on charges of "wishing to re-establish Capitalism and trying to re-organise illegal parties". This refers to alleged discussions he had held with his friends when they are said to have planned to reform the Peoples Democratic Party and the Liberal Party of Hungary - both of which parties are today illegal.

According to a former prisoner who knew him personally, Dr. Matheovics was severely tortured and contracted tuberculosis during his 1st period of imprisonment. It is regrettable that this elderly man should still be detained for the simple reason that he has not been able to fit into a Communist society.

You should send your cards of appeal to:

a) Dr. Andras Bankei,
Minister of the Interior,
V. Kossuth Lajos ter,
Budapest, Hungary.

A letter of support can also be sent to:

b) Dr. Ferenc Matheovics,
c/o Dr. Karoly Benedek,
Magyar Ugyvedszöbvetseg (Ministry of Justice),
V. Szemere utca 10,
Budapest.

STOP PRESS

Just before going to press we have been notified that:

- i) SABAHATTIN EYUBOGLU, Turkey (June 1966 Newsletter) was recently "acquitted of the charges levelled against him by the Public Prosecutor", (letter from Consulate General of Turkey, San Francisco, U.S.A.)
- ii) the observer sent to the trial of PEDRO VEIRA DE ALMEIDA, Portugal, (February 1966 Newsletter), - see also Newsletters of April, 1966, June, 1966, and overleaf of this Newsletter - reports that as a result of the trial which has just finished, he has been released.