

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



N.B. FROM OCTOBER 1 OUR NEW ADDRESS WILL BE: 53 THEOBALD'S ROAD, LONDON WC1X 8SP.
Telephone: 01-404 5831/7

MISSION

Tunisia: On September 16, Lennart Aspegren (Swedish Section) was Amnesty observer at the trial of 41 Tunisian intellectuals charged in connection with last February's student demonstrations. The trial was soon adjourned, but Mr Aspegren stayed on to contact lawyers and relatives of the accused and try to visit political prisoners.

GENERAL

International Federation of Journalists: The 11th World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, which met last month, passed a resolution on behalf of over 70,000 journalists from 25 countries expressing grave concern over increasing attacks on freedom of the press and actions against individual journalists. The resolution included the following paragraph:

"Evidence of this deteriorating situation is furnished in..." (inter alia)... "the Amnesty International press statement dated August 1, 1972. This listed writers and journalists in prison in different countries through the violation of Article 19 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, which establishes the right to 'receive and impart information and ideas through any media' as an integral part of the right to freedom of expression. Indonesia, the Soviet Union and Taiwan are the countries with the largest number of names on this list; other countries, states Amnesty, are Czechoslovakia, Greece, Spain, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan, Portugal, Rhodesia, Singapore and S. Africa."

ORGANISATION

International Council: The Council met from September 8 - 10 near Utrecht. 21 Sections were represented by 41 delegates - eight from non-European Sections. There were also observers from seven international organisations as well as from National Sections.

It was agreed to amend the objects as defined in the Statute as follows:

1. "CONSIDERING that every person has the right freely to hold and to express his convictions and the obligation to extend a like freedom to others, the objects of Amnesty International shall be to secure throughout the world the observance of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by:
 - (a) irrespective of political considerations, working towards the release of and providing assistance to persons who, in violation of the aforesaid provisions, are imprisoned, detained, restricted or otherwise subjected to physical coercion or restriction by reason of their political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs, or by reason of their ethnic origin, colour or language, provided that they have not used or advocated violence (hereinafter referred to as "Prisoners of Conscience");
 - (b) opposing, by all appropriate means, the imposition and execution of death penalties and torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading penalties or treatment of prisoners and others detained or restricted in violation of the above provisions."

Another very important Council decision was to organise, in 1973, an anti-torture campaign to culminate in Paris on or near Human Rights Day (December 10).

Council decisions have been circulated to National Sections and all delegates. The 1973 Council meeting will be held in Vienna.

International Executive Committee: The Committee met several times before, during and after the Council - a report will go to National Sections. Sean MacBride was re-elected Chairman. Kari Poppe was re-elected on to the Committee, Marie-Jose (French Section) was newly elected, and Dirk Börner (German Section Chairman) co-opted on to the new Committee at its first meeting after the elections.

Treasurers' Meeting: On September 9, the Treasurers recommended £165,000 as the budget figure for 1973 - 4, with a possible addition of £23,900, if funds are available. The lower figure represents the cost of maintaining the International Secretariat at its present level of activity and provides for no expansion during the 12 month period. These figures were approved by the International Executive and Council. The next Treasurers' meeting will be in London on March 18, to recommend National Section contributions for 1973 - 4.

Staff Appointments: Mark Grantham, a professional, experienced journalist, has been appointed Information Officer, and will start work on October 1 when the Secretariat moves to its new address. Applications from the Sections are invited for the following post in the Research Department: Executive Assistant for Western Europe. English shorthand-typing desirable, also ability to conduct correspondence in English. Knowledge of area and other languages advantageous. Salary scale: £1,560 to £1,674. Applications to: the Administrative Manager, Amnesty International.

COUNTRIES

S. Vietnam: Groups with S. Vietnamese prisoners should note that the official address of the German Specialist Group on Vietnam is: Dr Hans Christian Reinecke, Group Secretary, 53 Bonn-Holzlar, Rodeweg 1, Germany.

Uganda: Amnesty sent a telegram of protest about the summary arrest on September 21 of Benedicto Kiwanuka, Ugandan Chief Justice. We have also written to the Ugandan government deploring the threat to intern Asians if they have not left the country by November 7.

Rhodesia: M.A., a young journalist (single), has been detained in Salisbury Prison since 1965, although not, apparently, very interested in politics. He claimed Zambian citizenship, and a Salisbury legal firm was prepared to handle his case if the fees were guaranteed. After a long legal battle, he was released on September 19 and deported to Zambia. The group that adopted him, and friends in Britain are covering his expenses.

Brazil: On September 5, Amnesty published a report on "Allegations of Torture in Brazil", which was reviewed in many countries, including Brazil. We urge groups with Brazilian prisoners to try to discuss it with Brazilian Embassy officials in their countries. The Report costs 50p (£1 for non-members). We congratulate the many groups who organised successful actions to mark Brazil's 150th Anniversary of Independence. Please send the Secretariat any press cuttings (and pictures) about the Report and Amnesty actions, also accounts of any discussions with Brazilian officials. A second appendix to the Report, listing names of 472 people said to be torturers, has been separately compiled and submitted to Brazilian officials and international organisations. The decision whether to publish this appendix will be taken by the International Executive Committee. We have just heard that a press code issued by the Brazilian Minister of Justice forbids any news media references to Amnesty as regards Brazil. Furthermore, a military communique reported by Reuters on September 22 accuses Amnesty of a concentrated attack on the Brazilian regime. This means that groups should now be even more careful in all their correspondence with Brazil and should stress that the initiative came from them. In every letter, Amnesty's non-aligned, purely human rights and humanitarian aims should be emphasised.

Greece: Chrysoula Gogoglou, a Greek Prisoner of Conscience now released, who was on the lists published by the American and British Sections to mark Amnesty's 10th anniversary, wishes to express her thanks to all members who wrote to her while she was in exile in Sparta. Her present address is: Zenofanous Street 13, Pagkrati, Athens, Greece. (She speaks French and has a relative who can translate from English).

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

News of Prisoners who have been on the Campaign

Oto FILIP - Czechoslovakia (October 1970): We have received confirmation that Oto Filip, reported to have been arrested in June, is now free. It is not clear whether in fact he was imprisoned at that time.

Andrei AMALRIK - USSR (August 1972): According to a report in Le Monde on September 18, Amalrik has been transferred from the prison camp in Siberia to Lefortovo Prison in Moscow.

This Month's Prisoners

Ernesto de la FE Perez - Cuba

Journalist and editor, he was Minister of Information under Fulgencio Batista from 1952 to 1954, but resigned after two years. By 1956, he was actively opposed to the dictatorial regime. Arrested in his office on January 4 1959, only days before Fidel Castro's Revolution, he was accused of 'collaborating with the Batista Government' and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. He could now be free, according to the Cuban practice of releasing prisoners who have served three-quarters of their sentence and are over 50 (he is 56), but this requires a pledge to adhere to the doctrines of the Revolution - which Sr. de la Fe refuses to do because he cannot accept Communism. His wife and four children live in Havana. He is held, in very poor health, in Guanajay Prison. Please send your appeals to:

Sr. Fidel Castro,
Primer Ministro,
Havana, Cuba.

Sr. Alfredo Yabur Maluf,
Ministro de Justicia,
Havana, Cuba.

Ibrahim BASH-TAQI - Sierra Leone

(The following is background information - as presented re. Dr Forna in the April 1972 Newsletter): After a disputed election in 1967, a military coup overthrew the post-independence civilian regime in Sierra Leone. Military rule lasted just over a year and ended when another coup resulted in the return to power of Siaka Stevens, whose All People's Congress (APC) had in fact won the 1967 election. In 1968 and 1969, tension mounted between the APC and Opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), which had ruled the country from 1961 - 67. During 1970, a number of APC members became dissatisfied with the government, and a new party, the National Democratic Party (NDP), was formed, which stirred up opposition to the APC with news-sheets and meetings. A crisis came in September when two cabinet ministers resigned from the government. Another new party was formed, called the United Democratic Party (UDP). It included most former NDP members as well as the new dissidents within the government ranks. There were violent clashes between APC and UDP supporters in various parts of the country. This crisis culminated in the banning of the UDP by the government, the declaration of a State of Emergency, and the arrest of most of the UDP leaders. Writs of habeas corpus were refused, and those detained were held without trial.

Ibrahim Bash-Taqi is the brother of one of the above-mentioned two cabinet ministers who resigned in 1970. Now aged 39, he originally studied medicine in Nigeria and Germany, before becoming a journalist in Sierra Leone. He strongly supported the APC, and was detained in the autumn of 1970 when he returned to Sierra Leone after visiting his wife, who was studying law in London. He has now been held for over two years without charge or trial. In April, Amnesty was informed by a confidential source that he and the other detainees in Pademba Road Prison, Freetown were in good spirits despite their confinement in shared cells from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m., poor food and minimal contact with the outside world. Please send appeals for his immediate release to:

His Excellency President S.P. Stevens,
State House,
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The Honourable S.I. Koroma,
Vice-President and Prime Minister of the
Republic of Sierra Leone,
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Sevgi SOYSAL - Turkey

Sevgi Soysal is the wife of Professor Mûmtaz Soysal, who used to be Dean of the Political Sciences Faculty at Ankara University - until he was arrested in 1971, and, in December of that year, sentenced to six years eight months imprisonment plus loss of civil rights. Last March, however, the Military Appeals Tribunal annulled his sentence and ordered his release. Subsequent reports indicated that his case was due to come up again on September 3 (we have not yet heard the result of the hearing). Mrs Soysal, a novelist

using her maiden name, Sevgi Sabuncu, married Professor Soysal while he was in Ankara military prison in 1971.

Soon after their marriage, Mrs Soysal was sued for "a breach of the anti-obscenity laws" with regard to one of her novels (a previous prize winner in a Turkish Radio and Television contest). The case is still pending in a civilian court.

In August 1971, she spent 3 weeks in prison, and was tried by a Martial Law Tribunal for "resistance to the police when involved in a minor traffic accident", but she was acquitted. A few days later, she was dismissed from her job in Turkish Radio and Television. The reason given was that, having been in prison, she could no longer be employed by a national organisation.

In December 1971, a week after the end of her husband's trial, her house was searched and she was interrogated by the police over "being in the possession of unauthorised books". However, she was not charged or tried. On March 11 1972, two days after her husband's release, she was tried in a civil court on the charge of "incitement to rebellion in a speech" - made at a regular Turkish Radio and Television staff meeting, held in October 1969. She was acquitted.

The incident that led to her latest arrest and subsequent trial and sentence occurred during a dinner party in a restaurant (celebrating her first day at work after months of unemployment). It was stated during the trial that Mrs Soysal was arrested because of information received by two unnamed warrant officers, who, in their report, alleged she had used "derogatory language against the army". The Military Tribunal found her guilty of insulting the Turkish Army and sentenced her to a year's imprisonment followed by four months exile in Nevelin (Anatolia) under police surveillance. We have now just learnt that she is due to be transferred to a civilian prison in October. Please appeal for her release to:

His Excellency Mr Alparslan,
Minister of Justice,
The Ministry of Justice,
Adalet Bakanligi,
Ankara, Turkey.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

LITVINOV, Pavel: "The Trial of the Four". Edited by Peter Reddaway. London. Longmans. 1972. £6.25. A massive, meticulous collection of documents relating to the trial of Galanskov, Ginzburg, Dobrovolsky and Lashkova in Moscow in 1968. Compiled by Pavel Litvinov, well known Soviet dissident, himself now in exile for taking part in a Red Square demonstration. All four defendants were adopted by Amnesty. Three have been released, but Galanskov still has over a year to serve. The book includes the report of an Amnesty observer who attended the trial in Moscow.

"South Africa: Apartheid Quiz". Obtainable from International Defence and Aid Fund, 2 Amen Court, London EC4M 7BX. 20p. A pocket-size handbook on how apartheid affects the lives of black people throughout their lives, dealing with legislation, education, prisons, 'resettlement' camps, wages, 'Bantustans'.

FRIENDLEY, Alfred: "Israel's Oriental Immigrants and Druzes". Report No. 12 by the Minority Rights Group, 36 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NG. 45p. 1972.

"The Chinese in Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia". Report No. 10 by the Minority Rights Group. 45p. 1972. An account of the present and future problems of racial and political assimilation.

BAILEY, Sydney D.: "Prohibitions and Restraints in War". London. Oxford University Press. 1972. 45p.

"The Right to Refuse to Kill, a New Guide to Conscientious Objection". (introduction by SEAN MACBRIDE). Published by the International Peace Bureau, 41 Rue de Zurich, Geneva. 1971. Sw. Fr. 2.00; 20p sterling; \$0.60

"Textes Internationaux Relatifs a la Discrimination Raciale". La Documentation Francaise, 31 Quai Voltaire, Paris. 1972.