

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

POSTCARDS FOR
PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

June 1969

First some news about prisoners who have been on the Campaign previously:

Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, South Africa (June 1965) is now living with his wife and children at 6 Naledi Street, Galeshewe African Township in Kimberley. He may not leave the Kimberley municipal area and is confined to his home between the hours on 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Hardwick Kachaje, Malawi (December 1967) On May 12th to celebrate President Banda's birthday, an amnesty was announced for over 1,500 detainees. It is hoped that Harwick Kachaje was among those released, but we have not yet been able to obtain confirmation of this.

Don Baty, U.S.A. (February 1969). A member sent in a letter he received from Don Baty's mother. She says that Don is 'doing quite well', but that he can't correspond directly with anyone apart from his family because of the prison regulations. If anyone would care to write to Don Baty, they may address their letters to his mother - Mrs Wilton E. Baty, 24 Penataquit Place, Huntington, New York 11 743, U.S.A.

Yury Galanskov, U.S.S.R. (August 1967). It is reported that prisoners in the Mordavian camps, including Yury Galanskov, have sent an appeal to the Supreme Soviet, complaining of ill-treatment, inadequate diet, exposure to cold and political indoctrination.

Ilya Gabai, U.S.S.R. (August 1967). There is a report that Ilya Gabai, who had been released, has been rearrested. Following the arrest of Major-General Grigorenko, the champion of the Crimean Tatar cause, in Tashkent, many of his friends in Moscow had their flats searched by the Security Police: Ilya Gabai was taken into custody.

The following are this month's prisoners:

Professor Darcy Robiero, Brazil.

Professor Ribiero, the eminent Brazilian anthropologist and former Minister for Education and Culture, was arrested in December 1968 on charges of "attempting to overthrow constitutional order". He has not yet been tried and is being held in the fortress of Santa Cruz, Rio de Janiero.

Professor Ribiero has led an active public life. In 1959 President Kubitschek appointed him to supervise the building of the university at the new capital, Brazilia. He was first Principal of the new university, a position he held until he took office as Minister for Education and Culture when Joao Goulart became President. While Minister he drew up a plan for reforming higher education in Brazil. Later he became 'Chief of the Civil

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Household'. In this position his duties included co-ordinating the activities of government departments. Rubiero, who was one of Goulart's closest men, has been described as a communist.

When Goulart was overthrown in the coup of April 1964 Rubiero, like many of Goulart's supporters, went into exile in Uruguay. He returned to Brazil in September last year after the charges against him had been annulled by the Federal Supreme Tribunal.

On Friday, December 13th 1968 a new Institutional Act (No. 5) gave the President, Costa e Silva, power to suspend 'habeas corpus' for activities "endangering national security", suspend the political rights of individuals, intervene in the states and municipalities, cancel parliamentary mandates, decree a state of emergency and suspend Congress. Strict censorship was imposed on foreign correspondents and Congress was dissolved. There were widespread arrests, mainly of Catholics and alleged members of the banned Communist Party.

Rubiero was arrested with eleven others and charged with "attempting to overthrow constitutional order". The charges against him were accepted by the Military Justice Court in March 1969 : his appeal for a suspension of his preventive detention has been turned down. So far as we know he has not been tried, nor has any date been set for his trial.

Card should ask that Professor Ribiero either be brought to trial without delay, or released. Send your cards to:

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| EITHER | OR |
| The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Magelhaes Pinto, Avenida Marechal Floriano 196, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. | The Brazilian Embassy in your own country. |

Abdourahman Mohamed Mkoufounzi, Comoro Islands.

The Comoro Islands, four neglected tropical islands (population $\frac{1}{4}$ million), lie off the East African coast between Mozambique and Madagascar. They now have a strictly limited form of internal self-government with a local Government Council, and send two Deputies and a Senator to the French Parliament in Paris. Laws, however, are promulgated by decree by the resident ^{French} High Commissioner and the islands are economically dependent on France. Nationalist movements exist, working for complete independence from France.

During February and March 1968 six men, said to be leaders of an independence movement "Mouvemente Liberation National des Comores" were arrested, including M. Abdourahman Mohamed Mkoufounzi. They were tried 9 months later, accused of "atteinte à l'intégrité d'état" i.e. subversion. They were alleged to have created an association for the independence of the islands and to have held meetings. The specific charge against them was that they broke a law of 1901 requiring all associations to be registered. The prosecution tried unsuccessfully to relate a students' strike to their activities. Violence was not alleged.

All six men are imprisoned in the capital, Moroni, and are reported to be badly fed, housed in one cell with no light and to sleep on the floor. The heaviest sentence was imposed on Mkoufounzi - four years imprisonment and 10 years banishment. The others had shorter prison terms, but all were

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sentenced to 10 years banishment. A local appeal failed, but it is hoped that the case may come before the Appeal Court in Paris and that the sentences may be either quashed or reduced, as was the case in 1966 when islanders from Guadeloupe sentenced on similar grounds were released with suspended sentences.

Send your cards to:

EITHER

Le President de la Republique,
Palais de l'Elysée,
Paris,
France.

OR

M. Michel Inchauspé,
Secrétaire d'Etat chargé des departe-
ments et territoires d'outre mer,
27 rue Oudinot,
Paris VIIe, France.

Dr Volodymir Horbovy, U.S.S.R.- Ukraine.

Dr Horbovy was born in 1899 in the Western Ukraine when that province formed part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. By the time he qualified as a lawyer in the 1920's it was part of Poland, but clearly his sympathies were with the Ukrainian nationalist movement for he defended many of its leaders at political trials held under the Polish regime. Following the German invasion of the Ukraine, Dr Horbovy went to Poland and he is mentioned in "Ukraine, A Concise Encyclopaedia" as having presided over the Ukrainian National Committee in 1941. In 1945 he was in Prague, Czechoslovakia and it is believed he was arrested there and taken to the U.S.S.R., presumably because he was regarded as being a dangerous Ukrainian nationalist.

It is known that he is now detained in a labour camp near Lепlei in the Mordovian Autonomous Region about 500 km south-east of Moscow. According to Ivan Kandyba, another Ukrainian Prisoner of Conscience, writing from the Mordovian camps in 1967, Dr Horbovy is a Czechoslovak citizen and was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment by a special court soon after the War. The charge was that he had acted as defence lawyer for Stepan Bandera, a Ukrainian nationalist who, in the 1930's, had been charged with the assassination of the Polish Minister of the Interior.

Although many Ukrainian nationalists in the 1930's and 1940's were undoubtedly prepared to use violence in their campaign for an independent Ukraine, we know of no evidence that Dr Horbovy was himself involved in violence. It is difficult to understand why a man of seventy who had already spent over 20 years in a labour camp should not have been released under the de-Stalinisation policy. However the issue of Ukrainian separation is taken very seriously by the Soviet regime and it is known that considerable pressure has been brought on Ukrainian political prisoners to renounce their nationalist views, freedom being promised as an inducement to co-operation. Dr Horbovy is believed to have refused to sign any statement revoking his opinions.

Cards appealing for clemency on ground of age should be sent to:

EITHER

Mr P. Shelest, First Secretary of the
Central Committee of the Ukrainian
Communist Party,
SSSR, Ukrainskaya SSR, /g. Kiev,
ul. Ordzhonikidze 11/Pervomu sekre-
taryu TSK, /KPU, P.Yu. Shelestu, USSR.

OR

Mr Aleksei Kosygin, Chairman of the
Council of Ministers of the USSR,
SSSR, g. Moskva, /Kreml,
Predsedatelyu Sovieta Ministrov SSSR,
Kosyginu, Alekseyu,
USSR.