

# monthly newsletter from amnesty international



## postcards for prisoners campaign

AIP

NOVEMBER 1970

### This month's prisoners:-

#### Balaki KIRYA - UGANDA

Balaki Kirya was formerly Minister of Water and Mineral Resources in Uganda. He was born about forty years ago in the southwestern area of the country, and became a member of the cabinet soon after Uganda became independent in 1962.

In the years immediately following independence, serious internal strains began to develop in Ugandan politics. On the one hand the citizens of the ancient kingdom of Buganda were unwilling to be submerged in the larger unit represented by the country as a whole, and came into conflict with the central government; on the other, there was growing tension between the southerners (including the Baganda), who are predominantly Bantu, and the mainly Nilotic northerners. Dr. Milton Obote, the President, was a northerner, and there was a growing feeling amongst southerners that they were being discriminated against in the competition for key civil service posts. This discontent came to a head early in 1966, when allegations were made that President Obote, along with named northern ministers and senior army officers, was using money from arms sales to Congolese rebels to finance a planned military takeover in Uganda. Motions were passed in the National Assembly demanding an official investigation into these charges. It was assumed that this enquiry would force President Obote's resignation. Soon, however, troops and police began to move into Kampala and the rest of Buganda, and on 22nd February 1966, at a cabinet meeting in Entebbe, five leading ministers, all from the south, were dragged out of the discussions by armed police, beaten up in public view, and taken to a remote northern area. Mr. Kirya was one of them. Dr. Obote announced shortly afterwards that he was taking over 'all the powers of government of Uganda.'

The five ministers were held in the north until June 1966, when they were all sent to different parts of the country, where they were restricted to a radius of 400 yards from their residences. In July 1966 they were released by the High Court of Uganda, which ruled that the old colonial law under which they had been detained was no longer operative. The Government, anticipating this decision, had suggested to the Court that the ministers should be brought to Kampala to be released; if this were done, they would be in Buganda, and could be detained again at once under the Emergency Regulations in force there. The judge rejected this suggestion, but, nevertheless, they were in fact flown into Buganda and then detained. They have now been in detention without trial for over four and a half years.

All five ministers have been adopted by Amnesty since the time of their original detention. In reply to enquiries, the Uganda government has entirely failed to provide any evidence which would justify their detention.

Please send your cards to:-

EITHER

The President,  
Dr. Milton Obote,  
State House,  
Box 11,  
Entebbe,  
Uganda.

OR

Mr. Lameck Lubowa,  
Attorney General,  
Attorney General's Chambers,  
Parliamentary Building Box 7183,  
Kampala,  
Uganda.

Dr. Revolt Ivanovich PIMENOV - U.S.S.R.

Dr. Pimenov is an eminent mathematician, employed until his arrest last July at the Steklov Mathematics Institute in Leningrad. On October 22nd he was brought to trial in Kaluga near Moscow and found guilty of "spreading clearly false fabrications discrediting the Soviet State". The sentence was five years' exile.

Three months before his arrest his flat was searched by the Security Police and according to the same report a quantity of "samizdat" or unofficial literature, probably dealing with civil rights and political imprisonment, was taken away. The events of recent years have shown that the content of such material is considered to be anti-Soviet by the authorities and its distribution is a punishable offence. Whatever the political interpretation, Amnesty International has found "samizdat" to be a reliable and accurate source of information about prisoners of conscience in the USSR.

There is evidence of growing opposition to the policies of the Soviet Government from within the country's scientific community, many of whom are active in the new civil rights movement. In particular the opposition is directed towards the restriction on the free flow of scientific information but also against the arbitrary and cruel measures taken against political dissenters. Holding, as they do, strategic jobs, they are clearly in a position to exert influence. Out of five prominent scientists who demanded access to the Pimenov trial, one -- academician Sakharov -- was allowed in. His presence may have helped to bring about the sentence of exile, more lenient than a labour camp sentence.

It is not yet known where Dr. Pimenov will be sent, but it will probably be a remote region in Northern Russia or Siberia. It is unlikely that he will find, or indeed that he would be allowed to take, work where he could use his mathematical knowledge. Instead he will probably have to do manual work, live on an inadequate, unaccustomed diet and isolated from friends and like-minded people.

In 1949 Pimenov was detained for a time in a mental hospital, after resigning from the youth organisation, the Komsomol. He was in prison from 1957 until 1963, serving a six-year sentence on similar charges to those mentioned in the Kaluga court; among other activities he had written an essay "The Hungarian Revolution". He has written a book, "Spaces of the Kinematic Type", published in the USA as well as the USSR, and some historical plays.

Please send your cards to:-

EITHER

SSSR,  
g. Moskva,  
Kreml,  
Predsedatelyu Sovieta Ministrov,  
SSSR,  
Kosyginu, Alekseyu,  
USSR.

OR

SSSR,  
g. Moskva,  
prezidentu Akademii Nauk,  
Keldyshu, Mstislavu  
USSR

(The Soviet Academy of Sciences).

Bob EATON - U.S.A.

Bob Eaton is a pacifist and a recognised leader in anti-war and humanitarian causes. He was captain of the Phoenix which sailed to both North and South Vietnam with medical supplies for the civilian wounded and he was arrested in Budapest, Hungary, for demonstrating against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

He is now one of many thousands of young Americans who are in prison, or have been imprisoned, because they refuse to be inducted into the U.S. Army. Although he was recognised as a conscientious objector by his draft board, he felt that for him to co-operate with the Selective Service System by accepting alternative service would be to deny all that he stands for. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment in August 1969. He is serving his sentence at Allenwood Federal Prison, Pa. 17810, U.S.A. Cards of good wishes should be sent to him there and appeals for his release to:-

EITHER

The Attorney General,  
Washington D.C.

OR

The Prison Governor,  
Allenwood Federal Prison,  
Pa.17810,  
U.S.A.

Some news about prisoners who have been on this campaign:-

Rudolf Battek - Czechoslovakia - (May 1970). Rudolf Battek was released recently after the trial, at which he was to have been one of the defendants, was called off at the last moment. According to the same report, the investigation against him has not been closed and it is still possible that he may be re-imprisoned. The reason given for the cancellation of the trial was the health of Ludek Pachman (Card Scheme October 1969), who was also due to go on trial. The report stated that he had been taken from prison to a mental hospital but there was no reliable information available as to his true state of health.

Mrs. Maria Tworkowska-Papee - Poland - (March 1970). Mrs. Tworkowska-Papee was released from prison in August. According to reports, she has applied for a passport to rejoin her daughter in Paris, but this has been refused.

Manuel Medes COLHE - Portugal -- (October 1970), has been released.

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