

CARD SCHEME NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1966

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

Those Kit members who received a personal letter from Edgar Brechi (one of the February prisoners), will surely have been delighted to have heard directly from the prisoner himself, rather than from the authorities or the prisoner's relatives as they have sometimes in the past. The Head Office of Amnesty is very grateful to those members who informed us that they had heard from Captain Brechi, and in some cases have sent us copies of his letters. In one of his letters, he wrote: "Joyfully I receive with great surprise your written post card, containing a wonderful message of union in mankind....."

.....My lawyer told me, it might be possible, that in this year I could get my freedom -; I'd hope so'.-

Grace be with all of you that love mankind in sincerity."

In view of Captain Brechi's possible release this year, Kit members are encouraged to continue sending letters on his behalf to Dr. Raimundo Emiliani Roman, Ministro de Justicia, Gabinete del Ministro, Calle 11 No. 9-24 - Oficina 1001, BOGOTA # 1, COLOMBIA,.

Most Kit members will also have received a courteous reply from the Office of President Nyerere, President of Tanzania, in answer to their appeals on behalf of Mohamed Shante Hamadi (one of the prisoners of January 1966). There does not seem to be much hope at present of Mohamed Shante Hamadi's immediate release. Members who wish to do so can send cards of good wishes c/o The Officer-in-Charge, Remand Prison Keke, P.O. Box 9190, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

The prisoners for March, 1966 are:

Phillipovic Miligojaj YUGOSLAVIA

Phillipovic Miligojaj is a young Yugoslav of 21 who is serving a ten year sentence for refusing to carry arms after he had been conscripted into the Yugoslav army for military service. His trial was in May 1964, and he is at the present time in the prison at Goli Otok, a penal island in the Adriatic which is reputed to have particularly bad living conditions.

Miligojaj is a Nazarene. This is a completely non-political religious sect which forbids its members to handle any object which could be used for killing; in recent years Nazarenes have therefore refused all combattant duties in the army and for this have received lengthy terms of imprisonment. These people are Prisoners of Conscience in the fullest sense of the term, and their objection is to combattant activities rather than to military service as such. There is no risk that any Nazarene might have been involved in any way with violence, and this makes them the most deserving group of people in Yugoslavia for Amnesty's concern. These points should be stressed when writing to the authorities.

Send your appeals to: The Federal Minister of Justice,
Arnold Rajh,
Savzani Sekretarijat za Pravosude,
Savska 35,
Belgrade,
Yugoslavia.

You can also send letter of encouragement to Miligojaj himself at:

Poshtanski Fach,
391 Goli Otok,
Yugoslavia.

Willi Paasch WEST GERMANY

Willi Paasch is a 38 year old West German Communist who began a 12 month prison sentence in February of this year. His crime was "endangering the state". In 1960 he said in a newspaper article that while in East Germany there was no possibility of a return to German militarism and imperialism, there was every possibility of this in West Germany and that West Germany was threatening to cause a third world war. He was immediately arrested, and his wife lost her job at the German Bank. Since his trial in 1964 they have been involved in high legal costs and have been under great strain.

Willi Paasch is a convinced Communist and has never denied it. He is dedicated to the cause of resisting a return to Fascism in Germany, particularly after his own experiences in a Nazi concentration camp at the age of 14.

You send your cards to him in prison, and you may write to the Hamburg public prosecutor and to the City Senate, pointing out the violation of human rights, and asking for his release.

His address in prison is: Herr Willi Paasch,
Männergefängnis Glasmoor,
B/Glashütte,
West Germany.

The address of the public prosecutor is:

Leitenden Oberstaatsanwalt bei dem,
Landgericht Hamburg,
2000 Hamburg 36,
Sievekingplatz 3,
West Germany.

The address of the City Senate is:

Senat der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg,
Landesjustizverwaltung,
2000 Hamburg 36,
Drehbahn 36,
West Germany.

Dr. M.K.Rajakumar FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA

Dr. Rajakumar is chairman of the Selangor Division of the Labour Party of Malaya and one of the associate General Secretaries of the National Executive Council of the Labour Party. Although he is not a Member of Parliament, he is one of the leading theoreticians of the Socialist Front. It should be stressed that he is not a Communist, but simply is opposed, as a Socialist, to the present administration of the Federation. He is also a practising physician.

He was arrested on June 11th, 1965, at his clinic. He was on the point of leaving for Algiers to attend, as an observer of the Socialist Front, the Conference of Afro-Asian Nations at Algiers of the Summer of 1965. At the time of his arrest, it was thought in the press and by persons close to him that he was arrested in order to prevent him attending this Conference.

He has been in prison ever since, and there seems little likelihood of his release, unless international pressure is brought to bear on the Federal Administration on his behalf.

He is officially detained under the Internal Security Act, which does not oblige the authorities to charge prisoners detained or bring them to trial. On the other hand, the Act does insist that formal accusations against the prisoner are established and publicised. Initially, Dr. Rajakumar was accused on 6 counts, but when his case came up before the Review Board on the 26th October, 1965, he was accused on 15 counts. Generally however, he is being detained for "engaging in activities prejudicial to the security of the country since 1953". In most democratic countries, this would not justify the continued detention of a prisoner.

He is imprisoned in Batu Gajah Detention Camp, Malaysia, but, you should send your appeal on behalf of Dr. Rajakumar to: Dato Dr. Ismail bin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman,
Minister of Home Affairs & Justice,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Kuala Lumpur,
Federation of Malaysia.