

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



## MISSIONS

Portugal: Mr van Andel, a Dutch lawyer who has represented Amnesty twice before at Portuguese trials, attended that of 12 people, accused of belonging to the Communist Party, in Lisbon on May 2. They were arrested, among many other trade unionists, last summer. When Mr van Andel's presence was officially announced, the defendants' families demonstrated their appreciation. The 12 stated that their confessions (the only evidence against them) had been signed under torture, but the judge dismissed such allegations as irrelevant. The sole prosecution witness (a member of the Security Police) asserted he had been present when the 12 signed, and that they had done so voluntarily. The defence lawyers did not believe he had witnessed each signing, and found during cross-examination that he was unable - or unwilling - to describe the room where it occurred. The judge would not let the defence lawyers question the interrogating officers, nor were they allowed to know the latter's names. The trial was due to end on May 12, but as yet we do not know the outcome.

Spain: Dr Kurt Madkeber, on behalf of the German Section, observed the trial of Barcelona lawyer, Jose Sole Barbera and four others in Madrid on April 20. They were charged with organising a meeting of some 400 people in a church school in 1970, in order to draft a petition for the amnesty of political prisoners. No further details are as yet known.

## ORGANISATION

International Secretariat: The forthcoming move to new premises and recruitment of fresh staff has led the International Executive Committee to consider long range development and administrative structure. McKinsey's, internationally known business consultants, have been invited to present a report and recommendations on administrative procedure. Meanwhile, the Long Range Planning Committee has nearly finished its report, which will be discussed at the next Executive meeting.

Annual Report: The text must reach the printer in mid-June if it is to be circulated before the next International Council meeting. Many national sections have not yet submitted anything - but, as the aim of the report is to give an overall picture of the organisation, contributions from the sections are essential.

International Executive Committee: The IEC meets in London from June 16-18. The agenda (the draft has been circulated) will include administrative and long range planning questions, also 1973-4 budget proposals. Turkey, Greece, Iran, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Bangladesh and Syria will be among the countries discussed; also, resolutions will be drafted for submission to the International Council. It would be helpful if national sections soon sent in their resolutions, particularly proposed statute amendments, so that the IEC can discuss them.

The German Section's Annual General Meeting: The Secretary General, Executive Secretary and researchers were invited to the German Section's AGM in Stuttgart on May 29 and 30. Researchers attended working group sessions on their respective countries, and much lively, useful discussion ensued.

Visits to International Secretariat: The Secretariat would be grateful if potential visitors would note the Handbook paragraph which points out that the time researchers can spend with visitors is limited, and that it is helpful if the latter communicate in advance, indicating which area they want to discuss.

Dutch Section: The Dutch Secretariat now have a new, bigger office at: Roetersstraat 34-36, Amsterdam 1004, Holland.

**International Secretariat, Turnagain Lane, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4. Telephone 01-236 0111/3**

( Secretary General: Martin Ennals - Director of Research: Zbynek Zeman - Executive Secretary: Martin Enthoven )

## COUNTRIES

Taiwan: On March 23, The Times reported the imminent execution of three political prisoners: Mr Hsieh Ts'ung-min, Mr Li Chen-yi and Mr Wei T'ing-ch'ao. One of Mr Hsieh's charges was that he had translated and circulated a critical report by a US Congressman on the treatment of political prisoners on Taiwan. The three were condemned to death on August 28, 1971. In April, Amnesty initiated action on their behalf: cables were sent to the Taiwan government from the International Secretariat, and several national sections were asked to make representations to Taiwan officials in their countries. On April 26, a reliable non-government source informed us that the death sentences had been commuted to 15, 12 and 10 year prison sentences. We await official confirmation.

Indonesia: All groups with Indonesian prisoners have been informed that a New Zealand group has received permission to correspond with its adopted prisoners on Buru Island. In April, the Indonesian Ambassador in Canberra at his own request met Australian Amnesty members.

Spain: Jehovah's Witness, Francisco Diaz Morencio, after almost 12 years in prison and five military trials, was pardoned by Franco on April 11, and released from Santa Catalina Prison, Cadiz. This was his second pardon by Franco. After the first, he was re-drafted, again refused military service and got a six year sentence. By the time of his fifth trial, he was past call-up age, so the military authorities suggested annulling his sentence.

Rhodesia: Released detainees are prevented from returning to their previous jobs or getting work from white employers. Christian Care (a Rhodesia-based relief agency run by the church) has evolved rehabilitation schemes to help ex-prisoners become self-supporting. They are given job training or a loan to buy farm equipment etc. Such schemes have been hampered by lack of funds, hence an Amnesty financial appeal, which has now raised £1,140. Three ex-detainees are already benefiting.

USSR: Representatives of the seven biggest Dutch political parties have sent a telegram to Andrej Amalrik, Amnesty-adopted prisoner in the USSR, congratulating him on his recent 33rd birthday.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

ROBERTSON, A.H. (Head of Directorate of Human Rights at the Council of Europe): "Human Rights in the World". Manchester University Press. 1972. £3.60. "The Far East and Australasia 1972". Europa Year Book. Europa Publications Ltd. £9.50. HINDLEY, DONALD: "The Communist Party of Indonesia. 1951-1963". University of California Press. 1966. BELLOWS, THOMAS J.: "The People's Action Party of Singapore: Emergence of a Dominant Party System". Yale University Southeast Asia Studies. 1970. Distributed by The Cellar Book Shop, 18090 Wyoming, Detroit, Michigan 48221, U.S.A. BERNSTEIN, HILDA: "South Africa: The Terrorism of Torture". A pamphlet published for the International Defence and Aid Fund by Christian Action Publications Ltd., 2 Amen Court, London E.C.4. April 1972. 30p. ALEX LA GUMA (EDITOR): "Apartheid. A Collection of Writings on South African Racism". International Publishers, New York. 1971. \$1.65.

BOOK REVIEW: MIGUEL GARCIA: "Franco's Prisoner". Rupert Hart-Davis. 1972. £2.25. This book is not only a personal record of 20 years spent behind bars, it is also a vivid account of what dictatorship means for Spain. As he is shuttled from one prison to another, Miguel Garcia reveals the sordid, corrupt world to which the regime's "justice" has condemned its opponents. Intermittant glimpses beyond the borders of imprisonment show how very thin that border is: the determination of the political prisoners to resist a penal system which punishes men for the beliefs they hold is supported by the courage of those still free, who, clandestinely, begin to re-organise the opposition to Franco's government. Miguel Garcia opens wide the prisons which the Spanish government has long tried to hide from international attention.



# FRANCO'S PRISONER MIGUEL GARCIA



# FRANCO'S PRISONER

Twenty years in a Spanish jail  
**MIGUEL GARCIA**

On 21 October 1949, Miguel Garcia, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War and member of the anarcho-syndicalist trade union, was arrested, tried and sentenced to death together with eight companions. He spent thirty-eight days in the condemned cell until his sentence was commuted to thirty years' imprisonment. Four of his companions were executed. Now, at last, over twenty years later, he has been released, a man old before his time, sick and without his family, but his spirit still unbroken.

Miguel Garcia has fought for nearly forty years for the freedoms we take for granted—the freedom of open elections, of a free press, of a free trade union organisation. Even in Franco's jails he never gave up the struggle—he took part in numerous escape attempts and regularly passed information about the situation in the prisons to friends abroad. Since his release, Miguel Garcia has continued his campaign on behalf of Spain's political prisoners, speaking at universities throughout the country and, through Amnesty International, alerting the world to their plight.

FRANCO'S PRISONER is not only a blistering indictment of a police state, it is also a great human story of integrity, courage and survival.

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POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

(N.B. Prisoners are chosen for this campaign because of the urgency of their case: they may be sentenced to death or seriously ill. In some cases there is a hope of their early release; or they may have been arrested under new, untried laws. They may be chosen because the government does not respond to other pressures. If the prisoner's address is given, it is safe to write to him.)

News of Prisoners who have been on the Campaign

Revolt Ivanovich PIMENOV - USSR (November 1970): Several of the groups working on the case of Mr Pimenov have received replies from him. Although still in exile in Syktyvkar, he has now, he says, been allowed to work in his own field as a research scientist.

Mohammed Maqbool DAMNOO - KASHMIR (September 1971): He was released on parole on April 1, 1972. He had been detained in India/Kashmir.

Badria MUSSA and Fawzia MUSSA - TANZANIA (November 1971): The two sisters (forced marriage cases) were, for the first time, allowed to spend three days and nights at their parents' home at the end of April. This may indicate a significant change in their state of "house arrest".

General George IORDANIDIS - GREECE (December 1970): In November 1971, his eight year sentence was suspended for six months for health reasons (he is 71 and suffers from angina pectoris); but on May 4, he was sent back to prison to serve the rest of his sentence.

Huynh Tan MAM - S. VIETNAM (May 1972): He is being held at the National Police Command in Saigon. His mother may visit him.

This Month's Prisoners:-

Karel SUPIT - INDONESIA

Karel Supit was arrested in 1965, and has been detained since then without charge or trial. He belongs to the Indonesian Communist Party, which he represented in Parliament from 1955 till his arrest 10 years later. He was head of the Party's International Department, and, in 1963, was a member of the Indonesian Delegation to the United Nations.

At the time of Supit's arrest, the Indonesian Communist Party was a legal, political organisation with a large membership, holding 25% of the seats in Parliament. But in September 1965, a group of army officers tried to replace the existing coalition government under President Sukarno with a pro-Communist administration. The coup failed. Large numbers of Communist Party members and supporters were killed or arrested, and, in March 1966, the Party was proscribed.

Karel Supit is held on the Moluccan island of Buru, well over 1,000 miles from his home on Java. His wife is also in prison, on Java. He is one of 15,000 prisoners scheduled for indefinite detention on the grounds that, although there is no evidence on which to base a trial, they would constitute a "security risk" if released.

Courteously worded cards appealing for a review of Supit's case, and stressing the fact that the Communist Party was a legal organisation at the time of his arrest, should go to:- President Suharto, Sekretariat Negara, Djalan Veteran 17, Djakarta, Indonesia; also to the Indonesian Embassy in your own country.

Amos Sifuka MKWANANZI - RHODESIA

Amos Mkwanzani was among the 2,400 members of ZAPU and ZANU who were detained or restricted in 1964, when the Rhodesian government declared a state of emergency in several African townships and banned both these parties. He is one of the 77 who



are still detained, albeit never tried or charged during eight years in prison. At first, he was detained in Gonakudzingwa, a heavily guarded camp on the Mozambique border. Then he was transferred to Gwelo Prison (P.O. Box 1, Gwelo), where he still is.

In 1968, he asked Amnesty to help his large family: wife, six children, aged mother and younger brother and sister. His wife had not been able to visit him for over a year as she could not afford the fare. A New Zealand Amnesty group adopted him and has worked hard for his release, so far unsuccessfully. They have also helped his dependents.

Mkwanzani is studying commerce in prison, but is handicapped by deteriorating eyesight. Since 1969, he has complained of this, and the group have now heard from the Rhodesian authorities that he has glaucoma, but is getting treatment.

Many Gwelo prisoners complain of eye trouble. It may be due to lack of vitamins in the food, and lack of sunlight - for they are locked up much of the day, and even when let out are only in an enclosed yard.

Mkwanzani is deeply religious. It is hard to believe his release would constitute any threat to the state.

Postcards requesting his release should go to:- The Hon. D. Lardner Burke, Minister of Justice, Private Bag 704, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia; and to:- The Hon. Clifford du Pont, Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

#### Pyotr Grigorevich GRIGORENKO - USSR

Major-General Grigorenko, arrested in May 1969, and an Amnesty Postcard Campaign prisoner in August of that year, is still held in a psychiatric hospital in Chernyakhovsk (address:- SSR, RSFSR, Kaliningradskaya oblast', g. Chernyakhovsk, uchrezhdenie 216/ST/2.). As far as we know, this is one of the longest continuous periods of confinement in a psychiatric hospital that a dissident in the USSR has ever undergone.

Grigorenko is a particularly outspoken critic of the Soviet regime, and has been an active champion of human rights in the USSR since 1961. He was first detained in a psychiatric hospital in 1964, charged with making anti-Soviet speeches. In the course of his 14 months incarceration, he was expelled from the army and from the Communist Party. When released, he was forced to earn his living doing manual work. Nevertheless, he continued to campaign for human rights in the USSR, becoming one of the most prominent of those who conducted vigils outside courtrooms during fellow-dissidents' trials (e.g. the Galanskov-Ginsburg trial of 1968).

Grigorenko was re-arrested in 1969 because of his attempt to give evidence for the defence at the May 1969 trial of Crimean Tartars. A medical report stated that he was of unsound mind, therefore not responsible for his anti-Soviet activities. He was sentenced to an indefinite period of detention in a psychiatric institution.

An Amnesty staff member managed recently to telephone Mrs Grigorenko. Apparently, she last visited her husband in hospital on April 27 this year. He seems to be in reasonably good health, having had some treatment for stomach trouble. In the past, his health has given much cause for concern. He is now 66 and is slightly disabled through war wounds.

A new commission to decide Grigorenko's fate will be held in June. In view of this, we are particularly urging you to renew your appeals for his release, by sending postcards to:- SSSR, g. Moskva, Kreml, Predsedatelun Soveta Ministrov SSSR, A. Kosyginu; or to:- SSSR, g. Moskva, Rakhmanovsky Pereulok 3, Ministerstvo Zdravookhraneniya SSSR.