

monthly newsletter from amnesty international

postcards for prisoners campaign

February 1968

Here is some news about previous prisoners:

Madame Vasso Katraki, Greece (January 1968 Newsletter). Madame Katraki was released in late January.

Mihijlo Mihajlov, Yugoslavia (November 1966 Newsletter). Mr. Mihajlov has been submitted as candidate for Prisoner of the Year.

Mr. B.P. Koirala, Nepal (October 1966 Newsletter). The Nepalese Ambassador to the United States has given a 'personal assurance' to one of our members that Mr. Koirala is in good health, and not, as had been reported, suffering from cancer.

Demetrio Vallejo Martinez, Mexico (December 1966 Newsletter). A letter has been received from Demetrio Vallejo addressed to the President of the Republic of Mexico, Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, in which he threatens to begin a hunger strike on March 28th, 1968, being the ninth anniversary of the day he was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment.

Yury Galanskov, Alexei Dobrovolsky, U.S.S.R. (August 1967 Newsletter) and Alexander Ginsburg (February 1967 Newsletter). The sentences in the Moscow trial in January 1968 were as follows: Yury Galanskov - seven years, Alexander Ginsburg - five years, Alexei Dobrovolsky - two years and Vera Lamshkova - one year. So far as is known (the trial was closed throughout and an Amnesty observer was refused admission to the courtroom) all were convicted of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. Vera Lashkova has been released but the other sentenced people are believed to be already in labour camps. There are reports from the U.S.S.R. that many of the intelligentsia have protested against the sentences and are calling for a retrial on the grounds that the January trial was illegal according to Soviet law. We feel that we should wait for a few months before taking further action.

Ilya Gabai, U.S.S.R. (August 1967 Newsletter). He was last heard of as being forcibly detained in a mental asylum for participating in a public demonstration in January 1967, but now appears to be free. According to 'The Times' of February 14th he has signed a document at present circulating in Moscow which warns that Stalinism is being restored in the Soviet Union.

Here are this month's prisoners:

Jose Rafael Tenerio Nunez, Venezuela.

As a result of an outbreak of guerilla activity in December 1965 in Caracas, President Leoni announced the suspension of constitutional guarantees; giving the military the right to enter private property, to arrest without warrant and to hold suspects for an indefinite period without bail. A variety of repressive measures were taken, masked by press censorship and culminating in the invasion and closure of the

Central University of Caracas. Until this time the University had enjoyed extra-territorial privileges, which it then lost as the result of the discovery that it was being used as a centre for communist guerilla activity. Over a thousand students and professors suspected of belonging to the 'hard-line' communist party were arrested.

Among them was Professor Tenerio Nunez, a philosophy lecturer aged 32. He was arrested on January 8th, 1966 and taken to the headquarters of the secret police (DIGEPOL), where he was alleged to have been interrogated under torture. He has also complained that his wife and family have been subjected to intimidation and persecution. He was then moved to a camp in the interior, La Pica, which is reserved mainly for guerillas and is notorious for its extremely harsh conditions, but he has since been moved back to the main prison in Caracas, Cuartel San Carlos. It is now two years since he was arrested and although he has been threatened with trial by military tribunal, there has been no further attempt to bring a case against him. No evidence has been produced by the Government at any time to show that this prisoner has had any connection with the guerilla movement. His wife and two children, aged 7 and 3, are allowed to visit him once a week.

Protests demanding his release, or at least a civilian trial under the Constitution of the Republic of Venezuela, should be addressed to either:

The President, Dr. Raul Leoni, Palacio de Miraflores, Caracas. Venezuela.	or	Minister of Justice, Camara de Diputados, Caracas. Venezuela.
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Sviatoslav Yosypovych KARAVANSKY, U.S.S.R. (Ukraine).

Sviatoslav Y. Karavansky is a Ukrainian poet, linguist, journalist and translator aged 48. During the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 he served in the Red Army until his unit was trapped in enemy-held territory and he escaped back to Odessa. Here under the German occupation he was involved with a Ukrainian underground nationalist organisation. When the Soviet Union recaptured Odessa in 1944 Karavansky was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for "connections with the Ukrainian underground" and spent the following sixteen years in concentration camps, mostly in northern Siberia.

In 1960 Karavansky had the rest of his sentence remitted and he was allowed to return to Odessa. At first he trained as a car mechanic but eventually managed to get work as a journalist for various newspapers and also as a translator from English; he completed a translation of the novel "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte for a Ukrainian publishing house. Apparently he was very concerned about what he considered to be the official policy of Russification in the Ukraine and in February 1965 he petitioned the Attorney-General of the Ukraine to prosecute the Minister of Education, Mr. Dadenkov for illegal discrimination against the Ukrainian language in the field of education in favour of Russian. According to Karavansky the petition caused such a stir in high places (notably with a visiting Ukrainian Communist from Canada) that some of its suggestions were implemented. Nevertheless, Karavansky's flat was searched the following September. He sent further petitions to the consuls of Poland and Czechoslovakia in Kiev, condemning the Soviet "nationalities policy" and the arrests of several Ukrainian professional people who had protested against what they considered to be violations of Leninist principles in Moscow's attitude to the Ukraine. While it is partially true that the rights of linguistic minorities are guaranteed and respected in the USSR it can also be shown statistically that the little-publicized programme of "merging" the many nationalities under one culture is being steadily implemented. More and more Russians are moved into the Ukraine and the Ukrainian language is less

and less represented in publishing, education, public life etc.

Karavansky's arrest took place in November 1965 and without any trial he was sent to the Mordovian labour camps to serve the rest of the sentence passed on him in 1944. Here he has continued to send petitions to Soviet authorities and has suffered solitary confinement and loss of all concessions as a result.

Send your cards to either:

or:

Mr. Alexei Kosygin,
Chairman of the Council of Ministers in Moscow,
SSSR, Moskva,
Kreml.

The Minister of Justice for the
Ukraine,
SSSR, Ukrainskaya SSR,
Kiev, ui.
ul. Kotsyubinskogo 12,

Ministru Yustitsii Ukr. SSR.

Letters to Karavansky should be sent to: SSSR, Mordovskaya ASSR, stantsiya Pot'ma, poselok Yavas, p/ya 385/II, Karavanskomu, Sviatoslavu Iosifovichu, U.S.S.R.

Alberto Contijoch Berenguer, Spain.

Alberto Contijoch Berenguer, a cabinetmaker from Barcelona is a Jehovah's Witness who is just begining his tenth consecutive year in prison for refusing to bear arms.

He was first called up for military service in 1959. He refused to don the uniform, was court martialled and sent to prison. Since then he has been "released", immediately called up again, court martialled and returned to his cell for "wilfully disobeying an order" four times.

Two years ago, whilst serving his third sentence in the military prison of Santa Catarina, near Cadiz, Alberto Contijoch Berenguer was allowed to receive visits from some fellow Jehovah's Witnesses who lived locally. One of them, a 21 year old servant girl Manuela Millares, and she and Alberto Contijoch Berenguer fell in love, although they were allowed to meet only once a week, watched by guards in the prison exercise yard.

Alberto Contijoch Berenguer was removed from Cadiz in March last year, when his sentence expired and was transported to Aiun in the Spanish Sahara to await his fourth court martial. This took place on January 19th this year. He was sentenced to six years and one day further imprisonment.

This case illustrates the savage treatment meted out to Conscientious Objectors by the Spanish Government. Large numbers of Conscientious Objectors are at present in prison in Spain, the Jehovah's Witnesses appear to receive the harshest treatment.

Please send your cards to either:

or:

H.E. The Minister of Foreign Affairs,
The Hon. Mr. F.M. Castiella M.P.,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Madrid, Spain.

The Spanish Ambassador in your own
country.