

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

AUGUST, 1969.

First some news about prisoners who have been on this Campaign:

Aecio Matos, Brazil (June, 1966). We have now been informed that he was released in September 1967 and a group is now directly in touch with him. At the time of the Postcards for Prisoners Campaign, Aecio Matos received letters from AMNESTY members all over the world and he is convinced that the letters contributed to his release, especially as one of them was published in Brazil.

Howard Levy, U.S.A. (July, 1967). The Bremen Group which has co-adopted Howard Levy has received a letter from his parents, saying: "We too wish to thank you for your efforts and sympathy on our son's behalf. Men of conscience are rare indeed and still rarer are those who stand fast and pay the price of loss of liberty rather than to permit the debasement of their sensibilities and the dignity of man by what they feel is immoral and wrong." Captain Levy has been denied parole by the Army but it is expected that he will be released on August 14th.

Edouard Chapuis, Malagasy Republic (March, 1969). A member has received a reply from the President of the "Tribunal de Premiere Instance" i.e. the County Court, in Tananarive dated July 11, 1969 in which he states that Chapuis' case is being taken to the Appeal Court. This is the first reference to any appeal. In previous letters from the Malagache authorities the official line has been that he was not a political prisoner since he was "convicted through ordinary law." Members are asked to renew their appeals on his behalf, addressing their letters or cards to: M. le Premier President de la Cour d'Appel, Tananarive, Republique Malagache.

Don Baty, U.S.A. (February, 1969) In response to our letter to the U.S. Pardon Attorney raising the issue of the U.S. Government's detention of individuals who, on grounds of conscience, refuse to participate in a war they feel is immoral, we have received a reply denying that Mr. Baty could, in any way, be considered a "political" prisoner. We are awaiting a reply from Don Baty's mother about his current situation.

Crimean Tatar Representatives, U.S.S.R. (April, 1969) The trial of the Crimean Tatar representatives, Rollan Kadyiev, Izzet Khairov, Svetlana Ametova and others, is reported to have begun on July 1st. No verdict has yet been announced but the trial may have continued all the month of July as the Prosecution's case was reported to run into several volumes.

Abdourahman Mohamed Mkoufounzi, Comoro Islands (June, 1969). Abdourahman Mohamed Mkoufounzi and the other Comoro Islanders sentenced to imprisonment and exile for their participation in a movement for independence are reported to have been released under the French amnesty passed in July.

Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzelewski, Poland (March, 1967). An amnesty took place in Poland on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Polish People's Republic. According to reports, political prisoners have benefited under this amnesty although they will not be released until September. The amnesty will not, however, affect Kuron and Modzelewski, who are serving prison sentences of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years each. The reason for this is, apparently, that they are considered recidivists.

Sviatoslav Yosypovych Karavansky, U.S.S.R. (Ukraine) (February, 1968). Some news has reached us about this prisoner. According to the latest issue of the Moscow clandestine newspaper "Chronicle of Current Events," Karavansky was transferred from the Mordovian labour camp to a prison in Vladimir, east of Moscow, in 1967. The reason for the move was the fact that he had prepared and sent complaints to the Soviet authorities together with other Ukrainian prisoners. The conditions in the Vladimir prison are reported to be more severe than those in the labour camp and there are greater restrictions on, for example, post and visits from relatives. Prisoners are only allowed to see their relatives twice a year for half an hour.

At the end of October, 1968 Karavansky went on hunger strike, demanding the resignation of the Government for incorrect policy on home and foreign affairs. The hunger strike lasted for 28 days and he was punished for it with 15 days in the punishment cell.

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THIS MONTH'S PRISONERS.

Dr. Abdul Rahman al-Bazzaz - IRAQ

Dr. BAZZAZ is an internationally known and respected Iraqi diplomat and statesman, and a leading ideologist of Arab Nationalism. In the early 1960's he served as Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo and London.

One of Iraq's most serious problems in recent years, which successive governments have failed to solve, has been the war with the Kurds of Northern Iraq, who in 1961 took up arms against the Government in response to continued refusal to consider their demands for regional autonomy. In 1966, as Iraq's only civilian Prime Minister since the overthrow of the monarch in 1958, Dr. BAZZAZ successfully negotiated an agreement with the Kurds. Largely because of this, Dr. BAZZAZ was dismissed shortly afterwards, and because of the Government's failure to implement the terms of the agreement the Kurdish war has continued intermittently ever since.

After his dismissal, Dr. BAZZAZ and his family went to live in London. In Autumn 1968, following the Baath Party coup which ousted President Aref II, they returned to Iraq against the advice of friends. In mid December, 1968, Dr. BAZZAZ was arrested with many other prominent politicians and military officers.

It appears that the Government feared they might join together to form a popular opposition group. At first Dr. BAZZAZ was charged with spying for Israel. This was so obviously absurd that it was later changed to spying for the American Central Intelligence Agency and plotting to overthrow the Government. A third charge of "abuse of powers" has been mentioned. The only evidence so far presented has been the television confessions of alleged spies, but they have referred only to apparently legitimate contacts which he had with an American businessman when he was Prime Minister.

He is soon to face a secret trial before the Revolutionary Court. Under recent legislation, those accused of espionage in time of war may be sentenced to death. Iraq is still officially at war with Israel. At least 36 "spies" have already been executed this year. It is virtually certain that the charges against Dr. BAZZAZ have no basis whatsoever.

Dr. BAZZAZ has been moved several times since his arrest and the authorities have refused to tell his wife where he is being held. There have been rumours of torture and many people fear that he is dead. According to the mildest reports he is suffering from rheumatism and a painful eye ailment and has been denied medical attention.

Address your cards appealing for his release to:

EITHER

The President of the Republic of Iraq,
Maj. Gen. Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr,
Presidential Palace,
BAGHDAD, Iraq

OR

The Minister of the Interior,
Mr. Salih Mahdi Ammash,
Ministry of the Interior,
BAGHDAD, Iraq

Father Jean TALPE

Father Jean Talpe, a Belgian by birth, was arrested in Brazil on February 18, 1969. He is a Catholic priest and was a University Professor in Sao Paulo (in 1966 he represented Brazil at the West German Congress of Physics). The charges brought against him are unknown since the Brazilian authorities have refused to issue any statement. According to "Le Monde" of July 24, 1969, he is now imprisoned in Sao Paulo, and, as far as we know, he is still uncharged and untried.

The arrest of another foreign Catholic priest, Father JULIS VITTE, a Frenchman, was reported at the same time. Formerly chaplain to the Young Christian Workers at Sao Paulo, at the time of his arrest he was working as a priest in the region of Acre. He was first held under house arrest but has since been transferred to Manaus, where he is free but subject to restrictions.

The persecution of clergy in Brazil is growing, as in some other Latin American countries, e.g. Colombia and Paraguay. In March this year the Brazilian Government took measures which empowered them to expel unmarried persons coming under their jurisdiction and compelling foreign residents to renew their residence permit every 6 months. These measures are aimed directly at the foreign priests, who comprise nearly half of the Catholic clergy in Brazil. The cases of the three French priests who were arrested in Belo Horizonte at the end of November last year attracted international comment and publicity. They were accused of "subversive activities" including the setting up of guerrilla bands. The three priests deny any participation in guerrilla activities and one of them particularly stressed his belief in non-violence. After being held for two months

without trial they were released. The Catholic movement "Young Christian Workers" which exists in 82 countries, reports on frequent arrests and intimidation of its members in Brazil.

All this must be seen in the context of the developing radicalism within the Catholic Church in Latin America. Younger priests in particular have shown a growing concern with the social problems and inequalities in these countries. The Papal Encyclical "Populorum Progressio" has been interpreted by them as a text for social reform and a direct encouragement to the clergy to champion the cause of the underprivileged. In Brazil, the radical Catholic reformist line is personified by the courageous Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Recife*, who has already been subjected to intimidation. In May 1969, one young reformist priest was brutally murdered by Right-Wing terrorists.

Send letters asking for the reasons for Father TALPE's arrest to

EITHER

Prof. Luis Antonio da Gama e Silva,
Ministerio da Justica,
Rua Mexico 128,
RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil

OR

The Brazilian Embassy
in your own country.

Major-General PYOTR GRIGOREVICH GRIGORENKO - USSR

Major-General GRIGORENKO became well known to the foreign press at the time of the Galanskov-Ginsburg trial in Moscow in January 1968. He stood outside the courtroom on each day of the trial, together with other people who had been refused entry, and was arrested and interrogated after collecting signatures on a protest against the exclusion of the public from the proceedings. Later that year his signature appeared on protests against Soviet policy in Czechoslovakia. At the same time GRIGORENKO took a close interest in the Crimean Tatars, a racial minority group deported from the Crimea in 1944 and still refused the right to return from exile, and spoke out publicly about the injustice to which, in his view, they had been subjected.

In May 1969 the trial of some Crimean Tatar representatives (Card Scheme JUNE 1969) was believed to be imminent and GRIGORENKO was asked to fly to Tashkent to give evidence for the defence. Although warned by the Security Police that he would be arrested if he did so, GRIGORENKO ignored the warning and went. On May 7th he was arrested in the home of a Crimean Tatar friend and he is reported to have been held in solitary confinement ever since. It is not known whether he will be brought to trial for "anti-Soviet slander" as the charge would probably be or whether, like other political prisoners, he will be detained indefinitely in a mental institution. In 1964 he spent a year in mental institutions following criticism of Soviet policy although his wife, a Communist Party member, protested there was nothing wrong with him. His physical health and his age (62) are, however, now causing some concern to his friends and relatives.

SEND YOUR CARDS to R.Rudenko,
Attorney-General of the USSR.

ADDITIONAL CARDS can be sent to The Union
of Soviet Societies for Friendship and
Cultural Contact with Foreign Countries.

- address -

- address -

SSSR,
Moskva,
Pushkinskaya ul. 15a,
Prokuratura SSSR,
Generalnomu Prokuroru R.Rudenko.

SSSR,
Moskva,
K-9,
Prospekt Kalinina 14-16,
Soyuz Sovietskikh Obshchestv Druzhybi i
Kulturnoi Svyazi s Zarubezhnimi Stranami.

AMNESTY International,
LONDON, E.C.4.

* (Dom Helder Camara is Archbishop of
OLINDA and Recife.)