

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER (JULY)

I hope that no major problems have cropped up during the last month in connection with the three prisoners for June. One thing I would impress upon you is that you should not expect startling results. Your work is to gradually improve the lot of individual Prisoners of Conscience.

I received one query from a member in South Carolina, U.S.A. who asked why some obvious countries had been omitted from the initial Kit. The Kit will be added to whenever necessary, and obviously some countries need much more research and study than others the Kit itself took a full-time worker a full month of hard work to research and draft. If we are to keep up to date and be accurate the ground work must be thorough.

If in the light of experience you discovered a "loose link" in our system last month, please do tell us and we will do our best to improve as we go on.

The three prisoners this month are from countries covered in the Kit: Hungary, India and Southern Rhodesia. One is a particularly well-known figure about whom a good deal of information is available. The other two are ordinary people from opposite corners of the world who have found themselves sharing a common fate.

Many of you will be going on vacation shortly, or may even be away when this letter arrives. May I ask you most sincerely, not to let the bustle and activity of this time of year put these three men, or the thousands like them, out of your minds remember they will not be going on vacation this year - in fact the every day lives you lead during the rest of the year would be a vacation for them.

One suggestion that we have received is that we should give examples of letters of gratitude from released prisoners. Some are already quoted in your Kit, but it is always encouraging to know that the work of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL does meet with some success and that our work is not always in vain.

COPY OF A LETTER RECEIVED FROM A GREEK PRISONER, SPYROS TOGIAS, BY A SCOTTISH MEMBER

I know that it will be a surprise to you when my letter will reach you. A letter from Spyros who spent 18 years in prison and for whom you so kindly have done a lot. Yes, Mrs. Sybil, I am free! I was released last Easter. Now I live with my family and my relatives.

I feel obliged to thank you very much for all you have done for me. You were the "good Samaritan" of the gospel to me and to my family. I don't know if I'll be in a position to do a little favour to you.

I stay in Athens and I am trying to find a job in order to earn the necessary money for living, but unfortunately, for the time being, I can't find a job. That's why I am unhappy.

In your picture which Takis gave to me, I realised your kindness and generosity. In all my life I will remember you and I'll be happy if sometimes in the future you come here and stay with us.

My kind regards to your sons, your grand-children and to your friends. etc.

SPYROS TOGIAS.

JAMES P. BASSOPPO MOYO: SOUTHERN RHODESIA:

James Moyo has been restricted at Wha Wha Camp for the last 7 months - he has another three months to serve, and even at the end of this 12 month term, he is quite open to re-restriction. He is one of 2,000 such restrictees in Southern Rhodesia. We are, of course, very concerned that he is in restriction at present, but would particularly welcome the news that his restriction period is not to be extended.

He has a wife called Stella and five children - Stella Moyo, as a restrictees wife receives no allowance for five, or even one child. When James Moyo returns home - when he is allowed - he will probably have no work to return to. People, for fear that they will be penalised in their turn, will not employ him, and any possessions he once had in the way of livestock, etc, will most likely have been sold to feed his family. Should he do anything which the government considers "out of line" he will be restricted for another year, or even more. Little, if any, provision is made for his children with regard to government supplies of fresh vegetables, fats, fuel, salt or any other foods (except possibly powdered milk) necessary for good health.

Boredom is one of the worst aspects of restriction, and where possible restrictees clamour for outside help with educational books, journals and magazines. They receive two blankets and a felt mat to sleep on. They do not receive any money for notepaper, stamps, toilet requisites, clothing replacements, or reading material.

James Moyo is in Wha Wha restriction camp, which is used to keep members of one of the Nationalist Parties, ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) Both Nationalist Parties are now suppressed.

Addresses:

Principal recipient:

Mrs. Stella Moyo,
Room No. 2,
Nlambo Road,
Beatrice Cottages,
P.O. Box Harari,
Salisbury,
S. Rhodesia.

If you wish cards could also be written to:-

Mr. Lardner Burke,
Minister of Law and Order,
P.B. 8440,
Causeway,
Salisbury,
S. Rhodesia.

Particularly requesting that the restriction period should not be extended.

SHEIKH MOHAMMED ABDULLAH: INDIA:

Grave concern is felt over the re-arrest of Sheikh Abdullah, former Prime Minister of Kashmir, in May, 1965.

After eleven years' detention and a trial which dragged on and on, he was finally released in April, 1964. He is much the most influential man in Kashmir and occupies a position of affection in the hearts of Kashmiris, not so different from that of Nehru in India. In the Spring of 1965 he travelled to Europe and North Africa to seek support for his long standing policy of an independent Kashmir, neutral between India and Pakistan. He made no secret of his views during his travels, being received generally by heads of government and leading statesmen. In a speech in Algiers he hinted that if the Indians refused to grant independence to Kashmir, he might travel on to Peking. His independent expression of views gave grave offence to the Indian Government and he was re-arrested on his return to India in May, 1965.

Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah was born in 1905 at Soura, a village not far from Srinagar, India. He had a keen interest in politics and economics, especially as these subjects affected the people of Kashmir. He gained a M.Sc. Degree at Aligarh University and began work as a teacher of Science at a Government school. He was a good debater and arguer and formed a movement called the Muslim Conference which campaigned for better government and from 1931 was engaged in a constant battle for the rights of the Kashmiri people. He was first arrested with some colleagues in 1931 but was released after 21 days. This had the effect of strengthening the Muslim Conference movement. The Muslim Conference became the National Conference in 1938 under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah.

However, in 1938 he was arrested once again and this time remained imprisoned for a year. After his release the National Conference was responsible for many changes in the government set-up and after the British withdrawal from India, Sheikh Abdullah campaigned for a decision over Kashmir. After the departure of the British, hordes of tribesmen invaded Kashmir and the old machinery of government crumbled and Sheikh Abdullah and his administration took over control. He was made Head of the Administration in October, 1947, and an interim government was set up in March, 1948 with Abdullah as Prime Minister. A new era began.

He was deposed, however, by a descendant of the old Maharajah in 1952 and was arrested once more in 1953. He remained in prison without trial for 9 years until 1962, except for a period of release from January, 1958 to April the same year. He was finally released in April, 1964.

Following the most recent arrest (May, 1965) he was sent to an out-of-the-way place 2,000 miles from his home called Ootacamund. He was arrested as he stepped off the aeroplane at Palam Airport, Delhi, and charged with "treasonable conduct in associating with China for a solution to the Kashmir dispute". He has since been moved to Kodaikanal, South India, where he remains under restriction.

Addresses:

The Prime Minister,
Mr. Shastri.

(address in Kit)

A further card may be sent to:

Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah,
Kodaikanal,
South India.

LASZLO NYUGATI: HUNGARY:

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL have only been aware of this case since June of this year and because of the fact that his trial was probably held in secret too little information is known about the case to send it out to an Adoption Group.

We have news from a very reliable contact that he is a most courageous man, who is extremely popular among the intellectual circles in Hungary. He was arrested in very mysterious circumstances and no one seems to know exactly how long he has been imprisoned. It is said that he is in prison for his activity as a member of the revolutionary councils during the 1956 uprising. Laszlo Nyugati is a Jew. He is considered a "recidivist" on account of a poem which he is supposed to have written whilst in prison.

Cards should be sent asking for information about Laszlo's whereabouts to the Foreign Minister, Dr. Janos Peter, Budapest, Hungary. If it is desired, a letter on the same lines may be addressed to the Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party, Budapest (Janos Kadar, former Prime Minister).

Addresses:

Janos Peter
Foreign Minister,
BUDAPEST,
Hungary.

Janos Kadar.
(address in Kit)