

monthly newsletter from amnesty international

postcards for prisoners campaign

October 1967

Here is some news about previous prisoners:

Sheikh Abdullah, India (July 1965 Newsletter). Sheikh Abdullah was recently treated for diabetes at the All India Institute of Medical Science in New Delhi. On leaving the hospital he was not returned to South India and is now held under house arrest in a Government bungalow in New Delhi, allowed visits only from close relatives. There have been rumours in India that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, hopes to release him next month but may be prevented from doing so by strong pressure from the state Government of Kashmir. Please renew your appeals on his behalf.

Mirza Afzal Beg, India (April 1966 Newsletter). Mr. Beg was last reported in Delhi for a medical check-up in April. Although released from detention, he is still subject to restrictions of various kinds.

Eleni Voulgari, Greece (February 1967 Newsletter). Money sent to Miss Voulgari in prison through the League for Democracy in Greece has reached her safely and replies have been received from her.

Mihajlo Mihajlov, Yugoslavia (November 1966 Newsletter). The Yugoslav Government has announced that Mihajlov's sentence is to be reduced by a year.

Captain Howard Levy, U.S.A. (July 1967 Newsletter). An article on Captain Levy written by a member of the Amnesty staff was published by Medical News in the issue for last week October 13th 1967.

Here are this months prisoners:

Sheikh Guyo Jahtani: Kenya

Mr. Jahtani, who is over sixty years old, was Chief of Sakuye in the Garbatulla area of the Northern Frontier District of Kenya. He was arrested together with 21 other political leaders on the 11th December 1963, the day before Kenya became independent. The British Administration, which had failed to implement the results of the referendum held in order to determine what the future of the district should be, arrested these men - most of whom are Somalis - by arrangement with the incoming Kenya Government. They were immediately moved out of the NFD and scattered in isolated parts of Kenya where they were held under restriction. At the end of 1966, when the new Emergency Legislation was passed for the area (now called the North Eastern Region) they were released and then re-arrested and are now held in the former Mau Mau detention camp of Manyani in the Coastal Province near Mombasa.

The NFD, a semi-desert area, is predominately Somali in population and linked by ethnic, religious and political ties to Somalia. At the referendum more than 80% voted for secession from Kenya. Since independence hostility between the Somalis and the Kenyan Government has intensified and at the present moment the area is in a state of war. Guerillas are active and the Kenya Government has closed the area and imposed martial law.

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Sheikh Guyo Jahtani continued

The 22 arrested by the British Administration were not in a position to be associated with the violence which later ensued and have all been all been adopted. Mr. Jahtani has four wives and twenty children, none of whom are receiving any education because of the families' financial difficulties.

Send your cards to either:

H. E. The Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Mr. James Nyamweya, M.P.
P.O. 30551
Nairobi

or:

The Kenyan Ambassador in your own country.

Angel Martinez - Spain

Angel Martinez has now served ²⁴four out of the last twenty six years in prison. He is nearly sixty years old and was first arrested on September 1st 1942 on a charge of "belonging to a clandestine organization". It seems that he is a Communist. He was arrested with three friends, one of whom later became his wife.

Originally condemned to death, his sentence was later commuted to a 30 year prison sentence. He served 19 years and 4 months in Burgos prison before being released in 1962. He then became a laboratory worker. In December 1962 he was again arrested, this time on a charge of conspiring , in the words of a former Spanish prisoner, "d'organiser syndicalement les ouvriers de Madrid" and was sentenced by a military court to a further 14 years in prison. His wife Manolita was not rearrested. She has a small son and although her eyesight is poor, has to take in sewing in order to keep them both.

In 1966 the Spanish Minister for Information and Tourism, in reply to a letter from Amnesty, stated that Martinez could expect to be released in October 1966, spending the last quarter of his sentence on conditional parole at home. He was not, however, released. The following month proposed amnesties for Spanish political prisoners were widely reported in the press throughout Europe. The amnesty proved, however, to apply only to political prisoners arrested during or immediately after t the civil war and not released since. In other words, they did not apply to Martinez or to the majority of Spanish political prisoners. The Ministry of Information now states, exactly as it did in 1966, that Martinez "could be set at liberty on 3rd December". It is feared, however, that further "formalities" will prevent his release.

Martinez is undoubtably a prisoner of conscience who has never been convicted of any crime involving the use of violence. His one desire is to be reunited with his wife and son.

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Send your cards to either:

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

or:

The Spanish Ambassador in your country.

Shawkat El Touny - United Arab Republic

An Egyptian barrister in his late fifty's who was arrested in September 1966 after acting as Defence Counsel in a Muslim Brothers case which was concluded one month previously. He has never had a trial and no charges have been made against him. It is clear he was arrested only because he took this case.

Mr. El Touny is an intellectual who has translated Dostoevsky into Arabic. He has a reputation for courage and independence and has taken unpopular political cases before. Although he has published academic books on the Koran, he is a conventional Muslim, not in any sense a fanatic, and has never at any time been a member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

He was at first held in Barrage prison just outside Cairo. Conditions there were reported as reasonably good and his family were allowed to visit him once a month and to bring him parcels. After the outbreak of the Arab/Israeli war in June 1967 he was moved to Tourah prison, the largest in Egypt, where conditions are described as appalling. Since he has been there all visits from his family have been stopped.

At the present moment a large number, 5,000 or more, political prisoners of miscellaneous allegiances and backgrounds are held in Egyptian prisons. Mr. El Touny would probably fall in the category of a social non-conformist. He comes from a well known land owning family in Upper Nile which was among those whose lands were confiscated in the early 1960's. He was from the early days a supporter of the Wafd party and was imprisoned many times during King Fuads reign. Several Wafdists and former Wafdists are at present held in Egyptian gaols.

Send your cards to either:

H. E. The President of Egypt
President Gamel Abdul Nasser
Government Buildings
Cairo,
U. A. R.

or:

The Egyptian Ambassador in your country or the country nearest to you.