

Turnagain Lane, Farringdon Street, London EC4.

NEWSLETTER FOR GROUPS (No 3)

Prisoner of Conscience Week - This year Prisoner of Conscience Week will be held from November 15th - 22nd, though some Sections will be celebrating the Week over a different period. Sections have been invited to make their own arrangements and most Sections have organised special events for the Week. The Secretariat has provided each Section with a dossier on the following 15 prisoners of conscience. Among them are a number of trade unionists, as the Council decided that Amnesty should draw special attention to imprisoned trade unionists during the Week.

Marcelino Camacho Abad	- Spain	Abdul Rahman Al-Bazzaz	- Iraq
Patrick Peter Ooko	- Kenya	Vasilii Ivanovich Frizen	- USSR
Gerardo Bonfin	- Brazil	Demetrio Vallejo Martinez	- Mexico
Leonidas Loissios	- Greece	Filipovic Miljivoje	- Yugoslavia
August Walker-Anguilet	- Gabon	Jacek Kuron and	
Sadi Alkilic	- Turkey	Karol Madzelewski	- Poland
David Miller	- USA	Mrs Solveig Körner	- East Germany
Chen Yu Hsi	- Formosa		

To all groups with prisoners in the following countries:

Spain (Conscientious Objectors) - As the Decree promised for Conscientious Objectors has still not been published, we would like all groups to renew their appeals on behalf of their Spanish Conscientious Objectors. Write, pleading for the publication of the Decree and the abolition of recurring sentences, to General Franco as Supreme Commander of the Spanish Armed Forces, to the Minister of the Interior, as the responsible Minister, and to the Minister of the Army. Sr Azcarriaga, who raised the matter of the publication of the Decree in the Cortes in March of this year, should also be approached and asked if he would again raise in the Cortes the question of the Decree. Groups might also contact the Spanish Consulates and Embassies in their countries.

Addresses: General Franco
Palacio del Prado
Madrid

General Jose Camilo ALONSO Vega
Minister of the Interior
Madrid

Sr Don Camillo MENENDEZ Tolosa
Minister of the Army
Madrid

Sr Don Jose Luis de Azcarraga y
Bustamente
Calle Serrano 209
Madrid 16

Please let us have copies of any replies you receive from the authorities. We can make photocopies if necessary.

Pakistan - Germany 29 have suggested that groups with Pakistani prisoners, who have been finding it difficult to establish whether or not they are still in detention following the change of government, may like to write to The Commonwealth Press Union, Pakistan Section, c/o Daily Jang, PO Box 52, Karachi.

Singapore - Would groups who have adopted prisoners in Singapore, and have written to the families of the detainees without getting any reply, please persevere in their efforts to establish contact.

Rhodesia - On April 17th, 1969, the Rhodesian Parliament renewed the Emergency Regulations under which people can be detained without trial for another year. The Minister of Justice, Mr D Lardner-Burke stated that the number in restriction had dropped to 211, while there were 140 in detention. All groups should renew their representations to the authorities for the release of their adopted restrictee or detainee and might refer to this statement in their letters. Many restrictees are released when their term - usually 5 years - has expired. There is no reason why they should not be released before time. Detainees are being held until sufficient evidence can be obtained against them for a court prosecution. Some have been detained for 9 years. Each case should be reviewed immediately with a view to release.

Clothing for restrictees and their families is still urgently needed.

South Africa - Many South African prisoners convicted for 'political' offences

would now be due for release if they were granted the one-third remission of sentence for good behavior which is granted to ordinary prisoners in South African jails. Groups should make representations to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice to remove this discrimination against all 'political' prisoners.

As regards practical assistance, what would be appreciated most would be for groups to raise the money for the fare of the wife (or mother) to visit the prisoner on Robben Island. Prisoners there are now allowed visits more often than previously, but most families cannot afford the long journey of approximately 600 miles to the Island.

Letters to the South African authorities - We have in the past given conflicting instructions about the advisability of writing to the South African authorities about individual prisoners. We can now confirm that we would like groups to write to the following Ministers about their prisoners but not to the governors of the prisons.

Prime Minister
The Hon B J Vorster
Department of the Prime Minister
PRETORIA

The Minister of Justice and of Prisons
The Hon P C Pelser MP
Department of Justice
PRETORIA

The State President
The Hon J J Fouche
PRETORIA

Greece - In the past the League for Democracy in Greece has helped groups by translating letters. The League has asked us to say that due to pressure of work, they are unfortunately no longer able to do this. Would all groups please try and arrange their own translations from now on. In some cases your Sections may be able to help.

Translation help required - The European Section of the Research Department is anxious to hear from Amnesty members who would be prepared to read through material in the Czech, Slovak, Polish, Rumanian and Bulgarian languages, picking out passages which appear to be of interest for Amnesty's work, and translating them either into English or French or German (English preferred).

Investigation cases - Some groups have asked about the difference between adoptions and investigation cases. Individuals are given out to groups as investigation cases when there is a strong likelihood that they are prisoners of conscience but where more information is required before we can be satisfied about their status as prisoners of conscience.

Group correspondence and reports - Please include your group number and the name and country of your prisoner in all letters and reports. It would help us if your report on each prisoner were on a separate sheet. It can then be passed immediately to the Research worker concerned.

Replacements - When you notify us of the release of one of your prisoners would you please let us know if you wish to adopt a new prisoner. We do not send out replacements automatically as some groups do not want to take on a new case immediately.

Multiple adoptions - The idea of several groups working on behalf of the same prisoner was put forward at the Council Meeting in Geneva as a means of coping with the increasing demand for case sheets. It was agreed that multiple adoptions could be used in countries where there was virtually no chance of negotiation with the authorities and where there is not doubt of the prisoner's status as a prisoner of conscience. The group's main task would be to send appeals to the authorities, to approach people in their own country who might have influence with the government concerned and, where advisable, to give as wide publicity as possible to the case. Contact with the family, with lawyers etc. would remain the responsibility of one or two groups, as in the past.

Initially multiple adoptions will be used for prisoners in the Communist countries as it is here that we have the greatest difficulty in obtaining information on a sufficient number of cases. It is very rare for groups to receive any response from the authorities in Communist countries so a campaign by a number of groups could be more effective.