

Prisoner of Conscience Week17 - 23 November 1968INFORMATION IBritish Section

Sunday, November 17th. A gathering ceremony will be held in London of 21 British men and women who, if not British, would be liable to persecution as potential threats to state security. Following a brief ceremony and oration by a well-known figure, the 21 representatives will disperse to separate embassies to deliver letters calling for an amnesty of political prisoners.

Monday, November 18th. 'Potential threats to state security' - exhibition of books, pamphlets, newspapers. (open all week)
 'Potential threats to personal security' - exhibition of unrepealed laws for suppression of freedom of expression: and exhibition about Amnesty. (open all week)
 Week of films on Freedom of Expression.

Tuesday, November 19th. Deputation to the Foreign Office concerning the setting up of an international court for Human Rights and a High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Thursday, November 21st. 'A Speech to astonish the World' - presentation in Guildhall recalling the speech defending Tom Paine.

Friday, November 22nd. Competition for students of film schools for best synopsis of film on Freedom of Expression.

Saturday, November 23rd. Prisoner of Conscience services in places of worship of different faiths and denominations in London.

British Groups

BELFAST Public Meetings with UNA - Stephanie Sachs visiting Ireland for Prisoner of Conscience Week and will be taking part.

ELTHAN Public Meeting - Tuesday 15th October at 7.45. Bishop Ambrose Reeves and Alan Brooks, released S.A. prisoner will address the meeting.

SOUTHAMPTON Open Forum on "CONSCIENCE" Friday 22nd November at 7.30. at the University of Southampton.

EDINBURGH Day Conference, Saturday 16th November.
 St. Marks.

- TEESIDE Day School at Leeds University Adult Education Centre in Middlesbrough on Saturday, followed by a concert of folk songs, poetry readings etc. Sunday.
- DONCASTER Folk Concert in conjunction with UNA and U.K.H.R. Year Committee, November 22nd and 23rd in the Doncaster Museum.
- CUMBERNAULD Exhibition in Town Centre as part of a week of activities focusing on Human Rights Year in conjunction with UNA.
- MANCHESTER Exhibition in the centre of Manchester during the week.
- FARNHAM Exhibition in local theatre during the week to be joined by the Guildford Group.
- NEWPORT I. of W. Flag Day - 7th September.
Distribution of leaflets. Article in local press.
Shop window display, Book markers in library during the week.
- YORK Planning to show Amnesty films in local cinema in York.
- WARLEY Services at Warley Inst. Church. 10th November.
23 November - speaker on 'Freedom'.
- EXETER Exhibition of Amnesty work in Exeter Central Library 18 -23 November. Public meeting in the Rowe Memorial Hall, The Mint, Exeter with Lord Donald Soper as speaker on Friday 22nd November.
- BRISTOL Flag Day
Dramatic Production
Inter Schools Project
- BRISTOL Art Exhibition
Clifton College A number of meetings arranged during the week.
- OXFORD Univ. Flag Day - 16th November (in co-operation with Oxford Town Group)
Concert - 16th November with Benjamin Britten Forum - 19th November 'Freedom of Conscience and the State.'
Advertising campaign throughout the university.
- SOUTHAMPTON Celebration in Guildhall 7.30. - 6th December.
- REDBOURN Concert Sunday, 8th December at 3 p.m. in Watford Town Hall.
St. Albans and Oakwood Orchestra.
Dorothy Tutin to read the litany and light the candle.
- EXETER Special production of 'Antigone' on Tuesday and Wednesday 10th and 11th December by White House Workshop Dramatic Group.

Australia - New South Wales

- Sunday, November 17th. Special services in the two cathedrals for prisoners of conscience and special prayers during Morning Prayer. A special programme on Prisoners of Conscience in the Lyceum Theatre in the afternoon.
- Monday, November 18th. 8 p.m. Anzac Hall - Public Meeting.
- Tuesday, November 19th. Seminar at the Law School, Sydney University
Wednesday, November 20th. on the establishment of legal rights for political detainees in international law conducted by the International Commission of Jurists and the N.S.W. Committee for Human Rights Year.
- Thursday, November 20st. St. James Hall. A panel of speakers will answer questions on the work of Amnesty International.
- Friday, November 22nd. A concert given by well-known artists. Proceeds for the aid of Prisoners of Conscience.
- Saturday, November 23rd. Grand finale of the week at a rally. The findings of the seminars will be presented and resolutions passed concerning the continued co-operation and co-ordination in Prisoner of Conscience Week.

Suggestions for Prisoner of Conscience Week

1. Torchlight procession with a ceremonial lighting of the Amnesty Candle.
2. Public demonstration for the collecting of funds - prisoner in a cage with assistants to collect funds.
3. Appeal to live on a prisoner's diet. Diet sheets will be available from Amnesty International, Turnagain Lane, Farringdon Street, London.
4. Letters to ambassadors. Why not write to ambassadors along the lines suggested by the British Section. Further details will gladly be given by the officers of this section.
5. Each group to start an additional group during the week.
6. Are there artists in your area who would make a contribution of drawings for sale during the week.
7. Dramatic evening when prisoners' letters are read by actors.

LET US HAVE YOUR PLANS. OTHER
GROUPS WILL BE INTERESTED.

Amnesty International,
Turnagain Lane,
Farringdon Street,
London, E.C.4.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

© PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WEEK:
17th - 23rd November 1968

Here is a list of 12 people. They are prisoners of conscience from different parts of the world. Amnesty International works for the release of these people. Help us to write to the respective authorities and plead their cases during Prisoner of Conscience Week 17th - 23rd November, which is sponsored by Amnesty and is a contribution to Human Rights Year. Refer to Articles 5, 9, 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which you will find quoted below). Do also point out the objects of Amnesty International as they are presented in the Statute:-

The objects of Amnesty International shall be:

- (a) To ensure for every person the right freely to hold and express his convictions, and the obligation on every person to extend a like freedom to others: and in pursuance of that object to secure throughout the world the observance of the provisions of articles 5, 9, 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see below).
- (b) Irrespective of political considerations, to work for the release of and provide assistance to persons who in violation of the aforesaid provisions are imprisoned, detained, restricted or otherwise subjected to physical coercion or restraint by reason of their political, religious or other conscientiously held belief or by reason of their ethnic origin, colour or language, provided that they have not used or advocated violence (hereinafter referred to as "Prisoners of Conscience").

Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 5 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 18 Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom either alone or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

This material can also be used in whatever way you like, for articles, speeches, lectures, etc. Photographs of the following are available:-

Karol Modzelewski	Jacek Kuron
Tibor Pakh	Demetrio Vallejo Martinez
Anna Solomou	Mangaliso Robert Sobukwe
Pramudya Ananta Tur	

The photographs are available in two sizes:-

Postcard size	2s 6d per copy
8 x 10	7s 6d per copy

Amnesty International,
Turnagain Lane,
Farringdon Street,
London E.C.4.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WEEK
17th - 23rd November 1968

Prisoners to write to:

1. & 2. Karol MODZELEWSKI and Jacek KURON - Poland

Karol Modzelewski is a Communist, aged 30, who comes from a traditionally Communist family; his father was Polish Foreign Minister in the early fifties and his mother is a member of the Polish Writers Union. He was a history lecturer at Warsaw University until the spring of 1964 when he was suspended from his post due to his active participation in a club for political discussion.

Jacek Kuron is aged 34 and was also a lecturer at Warsaw University. Less is known about his background, but it is reported that he had been awarded the Polish Silver Medal for his political work with young people, and that he was about to start work on his doctorate in the field of pedagogy. On March 19th, 1965, both he and Modzelewski were arrested. The following July both were tried on charges of preparing material containing false information about the social, political and judicial system in the country. This refers to their joint authorship of an "Open Letter to the Party". The Defence maintained that they had expressed opinions and that they had not given any information. However, the Court rejected the evidence of the Defence. Kuron was sentenced to 3 years and Modzelewski to 3 years and 5 months imprisonment. In passing this sentence the Court invoked the so-called Small Penal Code which was created during the Stalinist era and intended to be a temporary measure to deal with the reconstruction period (1945-1948).

Kuron was released in April 1967 before his sentence was due to expire and Modzelewski was free by the following October. However, they did not stay free very long. In March 1968 there were widespread student disturbances in Poland following the banning of what was considered to be an anti-Russian play. On March 11th Kuron and Modzelewski were again arrested with about 10 other people on vague charges of "Zionism" and "Trotskyism". They are reported to be still in prison awaiting trial and it is not known for sure when this will take place. Amnesty International hopes to send an observer to it.

Letters of appeal can be sent to:

Wladyslaw Gomulka,
First Secretary,
Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party,
ul. Nowy Swiat,
Warsaw,
Poland.

AND to the Polish Embassy or any Polish representative in your country.

3. Demetrio VALLEJO Martinez - Mexico

Demetrio Vallejo was the General Secretary of the Union of Railway Workers of Mexico. He was one of many prisoners who were arrested on the 28th March 1959, following a labour conflict. This came as a result of his having organised a strike in protest against the Mexican practice of forcing labour unions to be mere branches of the Revolutionary Institutional Party (P.R.I.). The strike was in fact promoted by the National Union of Railroad Workers and agreed upon by

the workers' assemblies. Although the Mexican Constitution states that in this type of case the interval between indictment and trial can be no longer than 12 months, Vallejo was not tried until March 1962, and it seems he was not notified of the sentence till the 10th August 1963. He was condemned to 16 years imprisonment and a fine of 34,000,00 pesos. He is still in prison in the Carcel Preventiva.

You should address your appeals to:

Julia Sanchez Vargas,
Procurador General,
Mexico City,
Mexico.

AND to the Mexican Embassy, or any other Mexican representative, in your country.

4. Dr. Tibor PAKH - Hungary

In 1960 Dr. Pakh was sentenced to death in Budapest for alleged high treason. His crime was to send a memorandum to the United Nations asking for their intervention on behalf of those Hungarians who were either imprisoned or deported to Siberia after the uprising in 1956. The death sentence was commuted to one of fifteen years imprisonment and Dr. Pakh is still alive in a prison cell in Budapest Central Prison today.

What kind of man is Tibor Pakh? Born in 1924 he is married and graduated as a doctor of law at Budapest University in 1950. He speaks several languages, including English, and was working on a book at the time of his arrest. Instead of pursuing the useful creative life which his qualifications make possible this man was on a hunger strike in prison in protest against his unjust sentence. His willpower is evidently strong, but one fears for his health and sanity in view of the deprivation and the long periods of solitary confinement which he has suffered.

Appeals should be sent to:

Mr. Mihaly Korm,
The Minister of Justice,
Igazsagugy Miniszterium,
Budapest V.,
Szalay utca 16,
Hungary.

AND to the Hungarian Embassy, or any representative of Hungary, in your country.

5. Mrs Anna Solomou - Greece

On 21st April 1967, a coup d'etat took place in Greece, power was seized by a group of army officers, freedom of expression and political activity were indefinitely suspended and ten thousand people believed to have been politically of the left at any time during the last 25 years were arrested. In the nineteen months since then, many have been released, but some two thousand men and women remain in indefinite detention; they have been neither charged nor tried, the conditions in which they are held have been widely criticised and the Government offers release only to those who will formally renounce and denounce all left wing activity and beliefs.

Mrs Anna Solomou was arrested on the night of the coup, leaving a daughter, Diamantine, aged 12 and a son, Gerassimos, aged 6, to be cared for by relatives. No reason for her detention has been given, but it was almost certainly due to the fact that her husband - who managed to escape arrest - was a member of the Central Committee of EDA - the sizeable party of the left, proscribed after the coup. Mrs Solomou's brother was shot by the German forces of occupation in 1943. She herself spent four years in prison from 1949 to 1953, after the Civil War. As a young woman, she had TB and her husband - who is now in Paris - very naturally fears that this may recur in the unhealthy conditions of prison.

Mrs Solomou has refused, as a matter of conscience, to sign a Declaration of Loyalty renouncing all left-wing political beliefs. For this reason alone she remains in detention.

Appeals should be sent to the Greek Minister of the Interior;

Brigadier-General Stylianos Pattakos,
Minister of the Interior,
Stadiou and Dragatsanious Streets,
ATHENS.

and to the Greek Embassy in your country.

6. Charu Chaudhury - East Pakistan

Charu Chaudhury is the secretary and director of the Noakhali Gandhi Ashram which is a settlement devoted to keeping alive the Gandian ideals. He has been a follower of Mahatma Gandhi since 1922 and he joined Gandhi's Peace Mission at Noakhali in 1946 where he was engaged in peace work and the development of cottage industries. He was arrested on the 1st of November 1963 under the Security of the Pakistan Act, probably in Noakhali. He is now detained under the Defence of Pakistan Rule, under which prisoners can be detained indefinitely.

He has not been brought to trial.

He is in the Dacca Central Jailand where he is detained under C Class conditions. This means he has no bed, only some old blankets on the floor and no pillows or mosquito net. The equivalent of one shilling and sixpence a day for meals, no personal cash allowed. The educated prisoners long for books and periodicals (IN ENGLISH) which they are allowed to receive from outside. (Should be sent by registered mail) Mr. Chaudhury is not in good health. He is 65 years old.

Appeals should be sent to; The President Ayub Khan,
Government Buildings, Rawalpindi,
Pakistan.
and to the Pakistan Embassy on any Pakistani authorities in
your own country.

7. Mangaliso Robert SOBUKWE - South Africa

In South Africa, every African over 16 years of age has to carry a pass. It is a criminal offence not to produce his or her pass, on demand, to any policeman.

In 1967, nearly half a million Africans were prosecuted under the pass laws.

For 50 years the African National Congress has fought against the pass laws.

In 1959, a group of Africans broke away from the African National Congress and formed the Pan Africanist Congress.

Its first President was Mangaliso Robert Sobukwe, a lecturer in Bantu languages at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

He has been described as 'young, fluent, sophisticated, well-educated, restrained and passionate.'

In March, 1960, Mr. Sobukwe, in the name of the Pan Africanist Congress called on Africans to leave their passes at home and present themselves peacefully at police stations for arrest.

Many did: those outside Sharpeville police station, Vereeniging, were fired on by the police and 67 were killed. Mr. Sobukwe and others were arrested.

Chief Albert Luthuli, President of the African National Congress called for a Day of Mourning - a stay at home. Thousands of Africans, Coloured and Indians responded. The Government declared a State of Emergency. Banned the ANC and the PAC. About 20,000 of all races were arrested and detained.

Subsequently, in May 1960, Mr. Sobukwe was convicted of inciting others to support a campaign against the pass laws, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

In May 1963, two days before Sobukwe's sentence was due to expire and he was entitled to his freedom, the Government rushed through Parliament the General Laws Amendment Act, 1963, which gave the Minister of Justice powers to detain persons convicted of political offences after the expiry of their sentences. The Minister said that it was aimed at Sobukwe.

The Minister can detain such persons for twelve months, subject to the endorsement of Parliament.

Every year since 1963, Parliament has agreed to the extension of Mr. Sobukwe's detention. He has now been detained for longer than his prison sentence.

He sits alone on Robben Island, separated from all other prisoners. He is allowed newspapers, and he is not compelled to work. Last year his family were allowed to stay with him for a few days - under surveillance.

This year, in spite of world wide protests, including Swedish university organisations, Parliament again extended his detention. His isolation is complete, his imprisonment endless.

He is detained because, as the Minister says, he will not change his ideas. He is a symbol of opposition to 'apartheid'.

Send your letters of appeal to:

The Hon. P.C. Pelser, M.P.,
Minister of Justice and of Prisons,
Pretoria,
Republic of South Africa.

AND to the South African Embassy or any South African representative in your country.

8. Georgi P. VINS - U.S.S.R. (Ukraine)

Georgi P. Vins is a pastor in the section of the Russian Baptist Church which broke away from the official All-Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists in 1961, in protest at the increasing state control over its religious life. In 1963 his congregation in Kiev elected him as its representative on the dissident "Council of Churches of Evangelical Christian Baptists". After this Pastor Vins began to experience difficulties of all kinds - vicious attacks on him in the Soviet press, threats of arrest, his wife even lost her job.

On May 17th 1966, about 500 dissident Baptists called on the Central Committee of the Communist Party to present a petition asking for a halt to the persecution of Russian Christians by the State. The petition was accepted, but a request for an interview with Mr. Brezhnev was refused. The gathered Baptists resolved to wait, hoping that the interview might after all be granted. After more than 24 hours the gathering was broken up forcefully by the police and many people were arrested. Two days later Pastor Vins went back to ask for their release and was himself arrested. The following November he was tried in secret in Moscow and sentenced to 3 years corrective labour, according to Article 142 of the Penal Code. The precise charges are not known, but among other things he was probably accused of having given religious instruction to children.

In February 1968 the same Kiev congregation composed a letter which was sent to official Soviet governmental bodies and to the press. The papers did not print the letter, but copies of it reached the West in June 1968. It appears that Vins was sent to a labour camp in the Ural Mountains in February 1967. Although a qualified electrician and engineer, he was not allowed to do this type of work and was instead set to dragging logs from the forest for the construction of railway buildings. Each day he had to walk 9 km under guard through the mountains from the camp to the work site. According to reports, the daily diet of the prisoners consists of poor quality food with a nutrition value of between 1900 and 2400 calories. By the end of the first year Vins was suffering from exhaustion, heart disease and hernia trouble, while his body was covered with boils. In spite of his poor state of health, he was refused exemption from work. This news dates from February. In the meantime Vins' condition may have improved, he may still be struggling along as best as he can or he may have died. There is great concern about him because there have been cases where imprisoned Baptists have died during their imprisonment in unknown circumstances.

Send your letters of appeal to:

Mr. Alexei Kosygin,
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR,
The Kremlin,
Moscow,
U.S.S.R.

AND to the Soviet Embassy or any Soviet representative in your country.

9. Gregorio BEZERRA - Brazil

Gregorio Bezerra was born in 1901. He was a leader of the abortive communist rising in 1935 and served a 9-year sentence in prison for his part in it. On his release in 1945 he was elected Federal Deputy for the Communist Party in Recife. During the three years that he served in the Congress before communist party members were deprived of their seats, he campaigned for the economic development of the backward North-Eastern region of Brazil. He then moved to the countryside and organised peasant leagues pressing for agrarian reform. There he remained until 1957, when he returned to politics to campaign for the radical Governor of Pernambuco, Miguel Arraes, who was deposed at the time of the military coup d'etat and forced to live in exile. Within hours of the coup in 1964 Gregorio Bezerra was arrested. He was taken to the Motor Mechanics Park in Casa Forte and beaten and tortured by army officers. He was then dragged with a rope around his neck through the streets of Recife. He was taken to prison where he was further tortured and where he remained for two years.

The Supreme Court refused to issue a writ of habeas corpus on his behalf. He was tried before a military tribunal in February 1967 for subversive activities - against a government that had only existed for a few hours at the time of his arrest - and his lawyers protested that were prevented from exercising their rights in his defence during the trial. He was sentenced to 19 years imprisonment.

In a letter to an Amnesty group Bezerra wrote in June 1967: "I am not worried by my sentence. The only thing I want is freedom for my people, freedom from want, hunger and underdevelopment; my people who are denied the right to a life of dignity, peace and prosperity.

Send your letters of appeal to:

The Minister of Justice,
Sr. Luis Viana Filho,
B-10, 4th Floor,
Brazilia.

AND to the Brazilian Embassy, or any Brazilian representative, in your country.

10. Pramudya Ananta TUR - Indonesia

In Indonesia there was a long standing feud between the Communist Party and the army. In October 1965 communist sympathetic elements in the army staged a coup in Djakarta, in which six generals were murdered. The loyalist forces under Major General (now President) Suharto and General Nasution quickly defeated this rebellion and the rebellions within the army that occurred in other parts of the country. Once they had regained control they accused the communist party of masterminding the coup and determined to destroy it. In the months that followed, the army, with the help of fanatical Muslim youth groups, killed about half a million communists and supposed communist wymphathisers. Over 200,000 others put into prison camps.

Pramudya Ananta Tur, one of the leading Indonesian writers, was born in 1925. At the end of October 1965 he was arrested in Djakarta and taken to prison. His house was burnt by anti-Communist mobs in October 1965. It was thought that the reason for his arrest is his active membership of Lehra, the Communist-affiliated cultural

association. Up till now there has been no trial and no formal charges have been made. He was first detained in the notorious Tangerang jail and later transferred to Salemba, where conditions are not so bad. He is not permitted to write in jail.

Several oversea critics rate his work higher than that of any other Indonesian author, past or present. He has written some 10 novels and several volumes of short stories. He is also the author of a number of critical essays and one highly controversial book of popular history, "The Chinese question in Indonesia", 1960, which was banned for the sharpness of its criticism of army leaders for encouraging anti-Chinese sentiment.

Pramudya Ananta Tur has been in prison before: he was in a Dutch jail for some time during the period of revolution (1945-50) and in an Indonesian prison after the publication in 1960 of the "Chinese question in Indonesia".

Send your letters of appeal to:

The Attorney General,
Maj. Gen. Sugiharto,
Attorney General's Chambers,
Djakarta,
Indonesia.

AND to the Indonesian Embassy or any other Indonesian representative in your country.

11. Dale E. NOYD - U.S.A.

At the International Assembly at Copenhagen in December 1966 Amnesty International passed a resolution that any person who refused on grounds of conscience to fight or train for all wars or for any particular war and was imprisoned as a result should be considered a "prisoner of conscience".

On this ground Captain Dale E. Noyd was adopted by Amnesty International. He had been a career Air Force Officer for 12 years and had been assistant professor in psychology at the Air Force Academy. After completing his own re-training so as to be able to fly F 100-jet fighters, Captain Noyd on December 4th, 1967, refused an order to fly a training mission with a student. He was tried in March 1968 before a ten-member general court martial at the Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, New Mexico, U.S.A.

The defence maintained that Noyd in 1966 had reached the conviction on religious grounds that he could not in any way assist to the Vietnam War. The court martial ruled out admission of expert witness by professors of theology that religious convictions against a particular war, although not to all wars, could constitute legal conscientious objection.

During the year and a half prior to his refusal, Noyd had repeatedly attempted to resign his commission or to be assigned to duties that did not conflict with his stated beliefs as a conscientious objector. Noyd had based his application for C.O. status on his beliefs as a humanist. He denied that he was a pacifist. He said that he would fly for NATO, as he had done before, and would defend the United States if he believed it had been attacked. But he would not, he said,

serve in Vietnam or train others to fight there, contending that the War in Vietnam is "criminal, unnecessary and unjust."

The Air Force turned down all Noyd's applications, although the most recent had the approval of his Commanding Officer. During questioning at the trial, Defence Attorney Karpatkin found that none of the ten officers of the Court had known that the Air Force had procedures for "processing evaluation and determination" of conscientious objectors or for re-assigning them to duties within the service that did not offend their beliefs.

Early in 1967 Noyd had filed a civil suit to prevent the Air Force ordering him to combat duty. That suit, in which the American Civil Liberties Union also represented him, was unsuccessful, the civil federal court saying the question should be raised in a military court ~~because he had refused~~ a military order. The refusal of 4th December 1967 was the outcome.

Of the 10 officers in the court martial, 8 had just returned from Vietnam. They turned down the demand from the Defence that Noyd should be regarded as a conscientious objector, stating that conscientious objection cannot be limited to one particular war. Defence Attorney Karpatkin built the defence on the fact that the order to fly a training mission was not to be considered lawful as the military authorities had behaved wrongly in turning down all Noyd's applications for other duties.

Noyd was sentenced to one year with hard labour, dismissal from service and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Noyd has appealed to the U.S. Military Courts of Appeal and he has also taken his appeal to a Federal Court which in May succeeded in preventing Noyd from being transferred to a prison, Fort Leavenworth. Just now Noyd's case is being heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Send your letters of appeal to:

The Secretary of Defence,
Mr. Clark Gifford,
The Pentagon,
Washington, D.C.,
U.S.A.

AND to the U.S. Embassy in your country.

12. Grace IBINGIRA - Uganda

Grace Ibingira is a brilliant British-trained barrister and a gifted painter, many of whose works are in British collections. He was formerly Minister of Justice in Uganda. He was married shortly before his arrest and has one child.

In February 1966 he was arrested, together with 4 other cabinet members, and restricted in a remote part of the northern district. On July 15th 1966 the East African Court of Appeal ruled that their arrest was illegal. However, before the judgement was announced, the 5 men were flown into Buganda, where a state of emergency exists, where they have been held ever since in Luzira Prison. None of them have been charged or brought to trial.

Mr. Ibingira originally supported the Democratic Party which was in power during the period of internal self-government. Later he joined the Uganda People's Congress. He rapidly became prominent in the Party

and founded the basis of the party organisation which enabled them to win the elections immediately after Independence in 1962. He was regarded as Obote's right-hand man and the second most powerful political figure in the party.

After Independence the conflict of interests and culture between the Northern tribes - strongly represented in a government headed by Dr. Obote, who is himself a Northerner, - and the Southern kingdoms and other tribal groups, became a major source of dissension within the Party. The five ministers who were later arrested formed a powerful group within the Party, openly hostile to Obote's leadership. The machinery which had been used to build up the Party was now used to ensure that Obote would be voted out at the next Party Conference. At this stage, however, the Prime Minister delayed Party elections. It appears that the dissidents within the UPC were prepared to ally themselves with the Kabaka of Buganda and the tiny opposition party in a plan to oust both Obote and some of his Northern and more leftwing supporters from power. In replying to Amnesty members the government referred to the "advocacy of violence by Mr. Ibingira and his associates in a plan to overthrow the government in October 1965 and February 1966". However, had the government been able to support these allegations with evidence, the ministers should have been brought to trial and not held without trial, as they have been, for 33 months.

Until December 1966, Grace Ibingira and the other ministers are reported to have been well treated. They were then put in solitary confinement, all communication with the outside world was stopped and no visits from their families allowed. They were held in unfurnished 'punishment' cells and allowed out for only one hour's exercise a day from Monday to Friday. Medical facilities were inadequate and their diet restricted. It is believed that by these means the government hoped so to reduce the prisoners that they would 'confess' imaginary crimes against the state. It is reported that recently there has been some improvement in conditions, but that they are still far from satisfactory.

Send your letters of appeal to:

Dr. Zake,
Attorney General,
Attorney General's Building,
Box 183,
Kampala.

AND to:

Mr. Sam Odaka,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
P.O. Box 122,
Entebbe.

Prisoner of Conscience Week

17 - 23 November 1968

The week of 17 - 23 November 1968 has been declared Prisoner of Conscience Week within the United Nations Human Rights Year Programme.

Throughout the world, in almost every country, there are people imprisoned because of their political or religious beliefs; people who are suffering because of the expression of their views.

It is hoped during the week to draw the attention of governments and peoples to the plight of these people, their dependents and their families and to plead with a united voice for their release.

WILL YOU HELP ?

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, through its British Section, will be most grateful for your moral and financial support. You can help in these ways :

- 1 Become a member or form an AMNESTY Group
- 2 Write to prisoners during Prisoner of Conscience Week - send 2/- for three cards and information about three prisoners.
- 3 Live on a prisoners diet for a day or a month and send the balance of your housekeeping to us to help prisoners.
- 4 Please send anything you can spare for the furtherance of the work in aiding prisoners of conscience.

Please write to :

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
British Section
Turnagain Lane
Farringdon Street
London, E.C.4.