



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WEEK

14 - 22 NOVEMBER 1970

a world - wide campaign for the  
release of trade unionists in prison

## *Why trade unionists ?*



There are countries where trade unions  
are banned.

In others they are not free to decide  
their own policy.

A free trade union movement is a vital  
part of any form of democracy to  
guarantee workers their right to organise,  
to demonstrate, to elect their own leaders  
and express their opinions.

Thousands of trade unionists all over the  
world are in prison simply because they  
have claimed their fundamental rights.

This is why Amnesty is dedicating  
Prisoner of Conscience week to  
imprisoned trade unionists.

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# THIS IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty was started in 1961. Today it is a focal point for international action against political and religious persecution.

There are Amnesty Sections in 24 countries, some 900 voluntary Groups and thousands of members all over the world.

Amnesty's first concern is to obtain the release of prisoners of conscience. It also campaigns for humane prison conditions, raises money for prisoners' families and informs public opinion. About 2,500 out of about 5,000 adopted prisoners of conscience have been released. There is no doubt that this has been due in many cases to the intervention of Amnesty International.

Amnesty is an impartial movement with no political or religious affiliation. It has consultative status with the United Nations, Unesco and the Council of Europe.

## OBJECTS

The objects of Amnesty International are :

- ( 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.

### 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, 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.

**For further information or material about Prisoner of Conscience Week write to**

**Amnesty International, Turnagain Lane, Farringdon Street,  
London, E C 4, England**



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WEEK  
1970

....a worldwide campaign for the release of  
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The impressive growth of the trade union movement over the past century has gone hand in hand with the growth of industries and the increase in the numbers of the industrial working class. It shows important regional variations and has not always resulted in the formation of independent associations by their members for the purposes of collective bargaining and the promotion of their other interests.

In Russia, for instance, trade unions started forming after 1905 but were quickly absorbed into the Bolshevik party organization after the revolution in 1917. At present, though trade unions in the Soviet Union and allied communist countries exist as separate organizations, they are integrated to a high extent with the apparatus of the party and the state. They are, in communist terminology, used as "transmission belts" for the decisions of the party. They do not represent interest and pressure groups in the same way as they do, say, in western Europe, and for that reason do not come into conflict with other organisations or the organs of the state. To the best of our knowledge, no Soviet or other East European trade unionists are imprisoned because of their union activities.

There are, however, other parts of the world where trade unionists suffer imprisonment and hardship because they have staked out their claims. Following the fiftieth anniversary in 1969 of the foundation of the International Labour Organisation, Amnesty International has this year made trade unionists, imprisoned for their union activities, the focus of the Prisoner of Conscience Week. It will take place from 14 to 22 November 1970

In 1968, the International Labour Conference in Geneva adopted a resolution inviting the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation "to make an appeal to all member States to announce and effectively grant before the end of 1968, the International Year for Human Rights, a general amnesty, pardon or their effective equivalent to all trade unionists under arrest or sentence because of trade union activities in accordance with the principles and standards of the I.L.O. and to inform the Director-General of the International Labour Office thereof." The resolution was recalled at the conference in 1970 when the connection between trade union rights and civil liberties was noted.

Mr. Bengt Liljenroth, a journalist and former chairman of the Swedish Social Democratic Students' Union, has worked at Amnesty's London Secretariat, preparing the material we are putting before you. In the course of that work he visited three international organisations of trade unions, the ICFTU\* and WCL\* in Brussels and the WFTU\* in Prague. They were extremely helpful and promised to supply Amnesty with further information.

The difficulties in collecting such information have been considerable and much more work remains to be done in that regard. We have lists of names of some five hundred imprisoned trade unionists, but no details of their cases; in some countries, even the names of the men in prison are impossible to establish. We put before you those cases which illustrate the position of trade unions in their respective countries, and which clearly belong to the category of Prisoners of Conscience.

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\*ICFTU = International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

\*WCL = World Confederation of Labour

\*WFTU = World Federation of Trade Unions



Manuel Mendes COLHE

SPAIN

Manuel Mendes Colhe died in 1970, married, and the father of two teenage children. He is a leader of the long-term illegal trade union movement, Comisiones Obreras, which he helped to found in 1954. Mr. Colhe worked in the Republica Sider District in Madrid and has been imprisoned continuously since the last March 1967, first serving a one-year sentence for taking part in an illegal manifestation, subsequently being sentenced to four years' imprisonment for contempt of court.

On the 27th January 1967, the workers of several factories in Madrid staged a peaceful public protest against low statutory wages and spiralling prices. They had planned to walk safely home from work or use their own transport rather than the factory-run buses. This form of protest was chosen not only because it was peaceful but also because it was thought that it would not be interpreted as constituting the breach of the law termed "illegal demonstration" and because it had been used previously without incident. Nevertheless, a clash between the workers and the police took place.

Although Manuel Mendes Colhe stayed at home throughout these events he was detained the following day when he went to make enquiries about detained workers in order to gather information for a petition officially authorized and commissioned by the Jurado y Salario (an official body of the union). Though well-known to the police, Colhe was arrested for identification, apparently no mention being made at the time of his arrest of the events of the previous day.

Provisionally released, Colhe was fined 50,000 pesetas for his supposed part in the 27th January events. In February he was ordered to stand trial, charged with "illegal demonstration" and accused of leading a group of workers on the 27th January. On the 1st March he was committed to Carabanchel Prison. On the 2nd April 1968, Colhe was tried in the Public Order Tribunal in Madrid and, in one of the most dramatic sessions in the history of that court, he was asked to leave his own trial. During the trial, questions asked by Colhe's two defense lawyers were repeatedly ruled irrelevant by the presiding judge and, if not their questions, then frequently Colhe's answers. Constant railings against his lawyers and himself prevented Colhe from making clear either his role or that of the Comisiones Obreras on the 27th January 1967. In addition, Colhe was limited by the presiding judge to answering only "yes" or "no", and was therefore in danger of condemning himself if he complied with this ruling.

He made a strong plea to be tried for something he had committed, and was expelled from the court. While being led off, he shouted: "Down with Special Courts, this is a Dictatorship that is standing - long live liberty". The public streamed into the courtroom spontaneously joined in shouts of "libertad". The judge ordered the court to be cleared, except of the press, and declared a recess. At the resumption of the trial, with both the public and press barred, Colhe was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for his alleged part in the events of the 27th January. It was not taken into consideration that he had already served 14 months awaiting trial.

For his outbursts in court, Colhe was later charged with contempt of court and was tried and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. The trial took place in February 1970, behind closed doors, and he is serving the sentence now in the prison of Carabanchel in Madrid.

Manuel Mendes COLHE

PORTUGAL

Born in 1935, Mr. Colhe was an agricultural worker in Ribatejo, a fertile province where, however, low wages and an uneven distribution of land create economic and political discontent. He was arrested in October 1965 and charged with "subversive activities" among marble workers in a neighbouring district and membership of the Portuguese Communist Party - illegal as are all other political parties in Portugal except for the ruling party, National Popular Action. In February 1966, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, plus Security Measures.



action or to demonstrate is sufficient for execution - or deportation for a foreigner. The these cases is sometimes a reference to Communist Party has little appeal in the variation can be interpreted as a political

In Portugal, strikes are forbidden by law, and matters related to workers and employers are dealt with by so-called "corporations". These are state-run agencies used by the Government as a substitute for independent trade unions. They are run by the Ministry that also embraces Health and Social Welfare.

At the trial, Manuel Mendes Colhe and eight marble workers were accused of involvement in a strike among the workers in the stone industry of Pero Pinheiro, not far from Lisbon. The public prosecutor claimed that the nine defendants took part in secret meetings, paid money into a common strike fund, received and distributed pamphlets among the workers which incited to strikes, and that they belonged to the Portuguese Communist Party. It was alleged at the trial that Manuel Mendes Colhe joined the Communist Party in 1958. As an official of that party, he directed the stone-cutters' strike of the 19th May 1965, aiming at a pay rise of 10 escudos per day (less than three shillings). On the first day of the strike, a meeting was held in front of the office of the Lisbon branch of the official National Trade Union of Workers in the Marble Industry and the Quarries. According to the prosecution, Manuel Mendes Colhe distributed money among the workers to enable them to continue the strike as long as possible. The strike lasted for 12 days.

Manuel Mendes Colhe was sentenced to three years' imprisonment plus Security Measures. "Security Measures" are a legal provision which was imposed 20 years ago by Decree Law 37 447 and are applied to the majority of the political prisoners. As they enable the sentence to be prolonged by decision of the political police (DGS) for six months to three years for an unlimited number of times, the length of imprisonment has no limit. Most prisoners, however, serve only one period of Security Measures. The Security measures have been strongly criticised by Portuguese lawyers and even in Portuguese government circles.

Artemis KALAFATIS

GREECE

Artemis Kalafatis is one of the many trade unionists in Greece who were arrested immediately after the military coup in April 1967 and who have been detained without trial ever since.

He is at present in Partheni camp on the island of Leros, where he was transferred after having spent considerable time on the island of Yaros, the island where all detainees were sent after the mass arrests in April 1967.

Artemis Kalafatis fought with the resistance during the Second World War and has been an active trade unionist all his life. As such, he has spent quite some time in prison as the different governments came and went in Greece. At the time of his last arrest, he was the chairman of the Piraeus Woodworkers' Union. He is 50 years old and has a wife and three children. As with most of the prisoners who have been detained since 1967, his health is deteriorating, and there have recently been alarming reports of a stomach complaint.

Artemis Kalafatis is the adopted prisoner of Amnesty Group 184 in Sweden, and his case has also been taken up by the Swedish Woodworkers' Union in an open letter to the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. George Papadopoulos. In this letter, it is pointed out that Artemis Kalafatis' continued imprisonment is contrary to Article 23 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, to which Greece is a signatory.

There was a concentrated effort in Greece after the second World War to create the beginnings of a democratic trade union movement. This effort was supported and encouraged by the international trade union movements, but the Greek Trade Union movement's dependence on the government in power for financial support prevented the emergence of a truly independent organisation. Progress towards the achievement of a democratic trade union movement was halted when the military junta overthrew the government in April 1967. Some 150 trade unions were disbanded, trade union officials were dismissed or arrested, meetings were forbidden and funds were appropriated. Later on, some of the arrested trade union officials were released, but many are still

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detained as they allegedly represent "a danger to the regime". It should be noted that the first telegram of congratulations to arrive at the office of Mr. Papadopoulos after the coup came from the then Secretary-General of the Federation of the Greek Trade Unions, Mr. Makris. The present trade unions are very much under government control, many of their officials are appointed by the government, and the unions are financially dependent on the government.

Ochola Ogayo MAK'ANYENGO

KENYA

Mak'Anyengo is one of Kenya's foremost trade unionists and, until his arrest in October 1969, was Secretary-General of the Kenya Petroleum Oil Workers' Union. This is his second term of detention: his earlier imprisonment was from August 1966 until July 1968. On neither occasion have any formal charges been brought against him, nor has he appeared in a court. He is a popular as well as prominent figure in the Kenya trade union movement; in 1968, on his release, he was unanimously re-elected to the General Secretaryship of the Oil Workers' Union.

In June 1970, Mak'Anyengo announced his intention of hunger-striking as a protest against his detention. In a statement written in prison, he categorically denied that he had acted illegally against the Government - an official allegation made at the time of his arrest, but for which no evidence has been brought.

Mak'Anyengo is a Luo by tribal origin. Like many trade unionists, he sympathised with Oginga Odinga's left-wing parliamentary opposition party, the Kenya People's Union. In the summer of 1969, tensions increased between the major tribal groupings, of which the Luo and the Kikuyu are the most influential, following the assassination of Tom Mboya, the Minister of Economic Planning, who was a Luo. In October, the KPU, which drew much of its support from the Luo, was banned after an incident in Kisumu in which a visit by President Kenyatta was marked by violent demonstrations. Eleven people lost their lives, possibly at the hands of the police. The Government arrested all KPU members of parliament and also a number of its prominent supporters. It was at this time that Mak'Anyengo was detained. No evidence has ever been brought to connect him with planning or any involvement in tribal disturbances.

In August 1970, several of those then detained were released, including five of the KPU Ministers. Mak'Anyengo, however, remains in prison.

Daniel KAI-NODJI

Julien ISSAKA

Barthelemy KARETOUM

Andre NDIGUIDJIM

Gabriel DOMBAL

Charles OUSMAN

Brahim BAKAS

CHAD

Seven officials and national leaders of the Union National des Travailleurs du Tchad (UNATRAT), arrested on the 21st February 1968 on charges of plotting against the security of the State. At least four of them, probably all seven, are still detained without trial.

In January 1968, the ICFTU-affiliated UNTT and the WCL-affiliated CTDT amalgamated to form the UNATRAT. Some weeks later, seven national trade union leaders were arrested for having allegedly distributed anti-government pamphlets.

When the arrests were announced on the 25th February, President Tombalbaye said that the pamphlets attacked him personally as President, as well as his government's policies. He blamed what he called "hidden forces" for trying to discredit the national leaders at a time when Chad was fighting to maintain its independence and working to increase its prestige abroad.



The pamphlets were reported to have been printed outside Chad and distributed in Chad with the aim of using labour movement to "create confusion".

In December 1968, the ICFTU and the WCL jointly appealed to the ILO to obtain the release of these seven arrested trade unionists. The ILO has several times requested the Government of Chad to indicate the precise reasons for the arrest of the persons in question and to describe the documents which the government regards as vital evidence against the trade unionists. It has also drawn the attention of the government to the principle that it should be its policy to take care and ensure the observance of human rights and especially the right of all detained persons to be tried promptly by an impartial and independent judicial authority.

The only reply received states that three of the seven trade unionists were released already at the beginning of 1969 and that in regard to the other four, "only Chadian institutions are competent to give valid rulings as to the manner in which they should be dealt with". According to information from the WCL, all seven trade unionists are still in prison and no trial has even been prepared after almost three years of detention.

### Stephen DHLAMINI

### SOUTH AFRICA

Employed as a clerk in a textile factory in Durban, Mr. Stephen Dhlamini, aged 55, became an outstanding trade union leader. He was elected Secretary of the African Textile Workers' Industrial Union (SA) and Chairman of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU).

He was banned in 1953 and forced to resign from his trade union posts. He was tried in 1958, with 150 others, for treason. The trial lasted until 1961 when all were acquitted.

Mr. Dhlamini helped Nelson Mandela to organise the three-day stay-at-home strike in 1961. He was arrested and kept in solitary confinement for many weeks. Finally charged, tried and sentenced to six years' imprisonment in 1964. He served his sentence on Robben Island, breaking rocks. On 31st July 1970, his release was announced in the Government Gazette. Although released, he is still banned.

There is no possibility of separating trade union questions from purely political questions in countries like South Africa, South West Africa and Rhodesia. For instance, the Suppression of Communism Act, 1950, which the Nationalist Government enacted two years after it came to power, was aimed as much at breaking the militant trade unions as it was aimed at outlawing the Communist Party.

The South African Minister of Justice was given powers to ban any person who, in his opinion, was furthering the aims of communism. He used his powers to ban the officials of trade unions which had members of all races. This was the reason why Mr. Stephen Dhlamini was banned, and by 1956 he had banned 75 trade union leaders. The aim of the government was to introduce full apartheid into the unions.

SACTU was created in order to establish a body to which African, Coloured, Indian and White trade unions could affiliate. In 1961, there were 46 unions affiliated to SACTU. Within two years, the Minister had banned 27 of its officials. As soon as an African, Coloured or Asian worker takes on the position of trade union official, he is served with a banning order and has to give up his job.

Although banning gives the persons concerned some independence, it is still a form of imprisonment. This is especially the case for Africans, as no banned African can work in, or even enter, a factory, and most Africans, being denied the opportunity to do skilled work, are accustomed only to factory work. Stephen Dhlamini is a "prisoner" in his own home, and needs help as do prisoners in goal.

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Auguste WALKER-ANGUILLET

GABON

In his early forties and married, with many children, Mr. Auguste Walker-Anguillet has been working in the services of the Chamber of Commerce of Libreville. For twenty years, he was the national leader of the Confederation Africaine des Travailleurs Croyants (CATC) of which he had become General Secretary. He had also for several years been the official delegate from Gabon to the International Labour Conference. He was arrested on 13 September 1967 and tried by a Special Tribunal on 8 December 1968. Found guilty of distributing pamphlets critical of the Government, he was sentenced to life imprisonment. The sentence was later commuted to ten years with hard labour.

There are two representative trade union centres in Gabon, the WCL-affiliated CATC, and the Confederation nationale des travailleurs gabonais, affiliated to the ICFTU.

Gabon is becoming one of the most industrialized countries in Central Africa and there is a steadily growing number of organisable wage-earning workers.

This has led to a conflict between the Government and the trade union movement, a situation not infrequent in one-party, newly formed States where the Government attempts to control trade union action and to subordinate trade union policies to party politics. In Gabon, friction between the Government and the independent trade unions arose after a strike which took place towards the end of 1967.

In September 1967, a number of trade union leaders were arrested, among them the two outstanding personalities of the Gabonese trade union movement, Mr. Auguste Walker-Anguillet, and Mr. L.T. Essone N'dong, General Secretary of the ICFTU-affiliated CNIG. They were charged with "endangering the internal security of the State and of propaganda to incite public disturbances". They both denied the charges and during the trial Essone N'dong's brother gave evidence that he was the author of the pamphlets concerned. In August 1969, Essone N'dong was released.

Arrested in September and charged in February 1968, Mr. Walker-Anguillet was not tried until the 8th December 1968 - more than one year after his arrest. He was tried by a Special Tribunal, comprising no professional judges but only high ministers and high civil servants of the Government of Gabon. He was sentenced to life imprisonment though no other evidence was presented apart from a duplicated pamphlet. The defendants denied the production and distribution of the pamphlet.

Protests were made to the Gabonese Government by both the ICFTU and the WCL; and a formal complaint was submitted to the ILO in Geneva. On the 30th December 1968, on the occasion of President Albert Bongo's 33rd birthday, the sentence was commuted to ten years with hard labour.

Rafael JACOBO Garcia

MEXICO

Rafael Jacobo Garcia, an officer of the Independent Peasant Union (Central Campesina Independiente - CCI), was arrested in August 1969 by 20 police and military guards as he was leaving a meeting of the CCI Second Regional Congress, convened to discuss problems of agriculture, rural labour, land distribution and bureaucratic corruption. He was first held incommunicado and interrogated for three days at a military detention camp in Mexico City before being taken to Lecumberri Prison, where he again remained incommunicado for a week. The Mexican authorities charged him with a series of criminal offences - from possession of arms to homicide - but have only brought forward evidence to the effect that he participated in several world peace congresses (one called by the World Federation of Trade Unions in Moscow), which is true but not against Mexican law. He is further accused of involvement with the student movement of summer-autumn 1968, although he was detained and charged a year later. What is clear is that his efforts to organize independent unions for and among the peasants made him a "dangerous" figure in official eyes.



Rafael Jacobo is from one of the most politically significant regions of Mexico - the Laguna area in the states of Coahuila and Durango - where the CCI has been particularly active. It was here that President Cardenas in 1934 began the first actual implementation of the radical agrarian reform programme for which the Mexican Revolution of 1910 was fought. The great haciendas (estates) were expropriated; the ejidos, the particularly Mexican form of communal farms, were laid out; credit banks were established and peasant unions organized and integrated into the national political network. Successive administrations after 1940, however, have been increasingly concerned with the country's industrial development and have concentrated their attention on large-scale commercial enterprises in both rural and urban areas, at the expense of the small farmer - the campesino.

At the same time, the flexible structures set up by Cardenas through which all sectors of the population would have a voice at all political levels in the decisions affecting them, have gradually hardened into instruments of government control (i.e. PRI - the Partido Revolucionario Institucional, in practice the single political party to run in national elections). The principal peasant union, the National Peasant Confederation or CNC, is through its leadership now completely dominated by the PRI and caters to the interests of medium and large agricultural units, as do many of the facilities originally intended to serve the landless or land-poor rural labourers. Thus the CCI was formed in the early 1960's to answer the needs of the peasant who, in spite of official revolutionary rhetoric about agrarian reform, has been consistently denied access to credit, markets and even land itself. But any attempt to create bodies which might rival the State-sponsored organizations - however ineffectual or unresponsive to the majority of the population the latter may be - can be seen by Mexico's rulers as potential forms of subversion.

As with most of the other Mexican political prisoners, Rafael Jacobo's rights have been seriously violated by the judicial authorities handling his case. Neither his request for an appeal nor for freedom on parole has received an answer, and at no time since his arrest has he been taken to appear in the court room. Although trial proceedings have been extremely irregular, many of the prisoners, like Jacobo, believe that their sentences will be pronounced soon - and they are expected to be heavy ones.

Clodsmit RIANI

BRAZIL

Clodsmit Riani, electrical worker and organiser of the electrical workers' union, later became president of the National Confederation of Industrial Workers in Brazil and Brazilian representative on the Administrative Council of the ILO. He was a leader of the main workers' party, Partido Trabalhista Brasileiro, and member of the State Parliament of Minas Gerais during the presidency of Joao Goulart. A strong supporter of President Goulart's programme for social reform, he became one of the targets of the Army's discontent with President Goulart's Government and was arrested on the day of the military coup d'etat on the 1st April 1964. He was released on a writ of habeas corpus to the Supreme Court but was immediately re-arrested by order of the military authorities. It is alleged that he was tortured in the military prison where he was first held.

The ILO protested to the Brazilian Government about his detention in February 1965, demanding a statement of the charges. No justification of his detention was produced beyond a vague charge of "subversion".

In December 1965 he was finally brought to trial, together with seven other trade union leaders, and was sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment by a military tribunal in the state of Minas Gerais.

The charges of "subversion" were based on Riani's trade union activities as president of the Workers Union Council and as an organiser of strikes.

The prosecution claimed that these strikes aimed at paralysing the public services and disturbing the political and social order of the country. The accused were also alleged to have received help from foreign powers to overthrow prevailing

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Brazilian trade union leaders  
At an appeal trial  
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(he has ten children)  
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institutions. The only evidence of this was, however, correspondence between Brazilian trade unions and the corresponding international Federations and these trade union leaders' participation in international trade union conferences.

At an appeal trial in July 1966 Clodsmit Riani's sentence was reduced to seven years by the Superior Military Tribunal (some members of this tribunal voted for further reduction of his sentence). Riani was described as an exemplary father (he has ten children) and a practising Catholic.

A large number of trade unionists were given heavy sentences after the military takeover in 1964, but most of these are reported to have been released before completing their sentences. This was also the case with Clodsmit Riani. He was, however, arrested again and is at present serving a two-year sentence.

#### Miguel Angel AQUINO

#### PARAGUAY

Dr. Miguel Angel Aquino, about 30 years old, is an idealistic young lawyer, active in the liberal and democratic opposition to the dictatorial regime of General Stroessner. For many years he was the President of the students' centre, which embraces secondary school as well as university students.

Dr. Aquino became active in trade union life and, as a result of a strike in August 1958, he was arrested. Together with other union leaders of the CPT - Confederacion Paraguaya de Trabajadores de Trabajadores (Paraguayan Workers' Confederation) he was confined to restricted residence.

On 23 December 1969, the Paraguayan political police broke into the study where Dr. Aquino has his legal practice, arrested him without any legal authorisation and took him to a police station. For several months his family and friends were unable to get in touch with him or even obtain information on his whereabouts. Dr. Aquino is at present detained in a remote little village "Colonia 25 de Diciembre", consisting of a few farms. The village is difficult to reach except by light aeroplane, and sickness is said to be rife there.

The trade union situation in Paraguay is unstable because of the Stroessner dictatorship. The CPT, affiliated to the ICFTU, held its first congress in Asuncion in March 1967. There it reconstituted itself after years in exile. This led to the suspension from the ICFTU of the affiliation of the CPT in exile in October 1967. But, due to the tense and unclear situation in Paraguay, CPT was not accepted as an ICFTU affiliate until November 1968, when it was clear to the organisation that CPT was allowed to function on a free and independent basis.

#### Mohamad MUNIR

#### INDONESIA

Mohamad Munir is a leading trade unionist, both within Indonesia as Chairman of the national trade union federation, SOBSI (the All-Indonesia Organisation of Trade Unions) and abroad as a member of the WFTU General Council. Now aged 45, his working life has been devoted to the establishment and development of the Indonesian trade union movement.

Munir comes from an Islamic family which had close connections with the early Indonesian nationalist movement. He is from Madura, but was educated in Jogjakarta in Central Java and in 1945, straight from school, joined the independence struggle, first against the Japanese and later, in the peasant militia, against the Dutch attempt to restore colonial control after the end of the 1939/45 war. In 1947 he was sent to Djakarta by the Republican movement to work in the Ministry of Youth Affairs (still in Dutch hands), and here he began the task of organising unions for an independent Republic. In 1947 he was elected deputy general chairman of the Drivers' and Mechanics' Union and later General Chairman of the Dockers' and Sailors' Union. In 1950 he became head of the Djakarta branch of SOBSI - the national trade union federation. For the next fifteen years, until the proscription of the communist party and its affiliated unions and organisations, he worked in SOBSI at home, and abroad was Indonesian delegate to a number of international congresses.



21. OKT. 1970

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WEEK, 14-22 NOVEMBER 1970

Union. In 1950 he became head of the Djakarta branch of SOBSI - the national trade union federation. For the next fifteen years, until the proscription of the communist party and its affiliated unions and organisations, he worked in SOBSI at home, and abroad was Indonesian delegate to a number of international congresses.

Politically a supporter of the Indonesian Communist Party, Munir was elected to the Constituent Assembly in 1955 as a PKI representative. For the next ten years, he represented labour and union interests in the National Council - a government advisory body - and later in the Supreme Advisory Council. In 1964 he was elected Chairman of SOBSI, at that time a body with well over three million members and about 200 local organisations.

The political background to Munir's arrest is this. In September 1965 a group of communist party supporters attempted a coup d'etat. This was crushed by the army, who carried out a violent purge of PKI officials and formed a predominantly military government under President Suharto. The PKI, SOBSI and affiliated organisations were proscribed and their leaders arrested. The official figure for political prisoners is 58,000 still in detention without charge or trial.

SOBSI was founded in November 1946 as an all-embracing trade union federation, communists and non-communists evenly divided in its leadership.

After the Dutch attack on the Republic in 1948 all trade union activity temporarily stopped. Again functioning by the end of 1949, SOBSI worked closely with the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), an alliance that remained unchallenged until 1965.

As SOBSI increasingly reflected PKI policies competing trade unions arose in Indonesia, SOBSI however remaining the most important organisation with more than 60 per cent of the organised workers.