

amnesty international

International Secretariat



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Telegrams: Amnesty London

A MOVEMENT TO FIGHT PERSECUTION AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

September, 1968

Alan Paton, Esq.,
c/o Jonathan Cape Limited,
30 Bedford Square,
London W.C.1.

Dear Mr. Paton,

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.

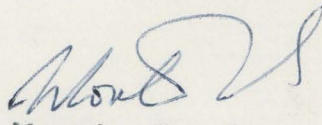
Not everyone will agree with the views of those imprisoned but most will unite in supporting the right to hold and express views that are unorthodox. Human Rights are essential for the protection of minorities and further, for the safeguarding of liberty even for the majorities.

Amnesty International does not support or endorse any form of government: it exists solely for the protection of Human Rights everywhere.

During Prisoner of Conscience Week it is intended to publish messages of support for Human Rights from leaders of opinion in many countries regardless of political systems and we are writing to ask if you would be good enough to let us have a message of support for the work we are engaged in on behalf of prisoners and their families.

Your influence in the campaign would be considerable.

Yours sincerely,


Martin Ennals
Secretary General

Enclosed: objects of Amnesty International as approved by the International Assembly in Stockholm, August 1968.

Chairman of the International Executive: SEAN MACBRIDE, S.C.

PATRONS OF 'FUND FOR THE PERSECUTED': The Archbishop of Canterbury, Great Britain . Roger Baldwin, President of the International League for the Rights of Man, U.S.A. . Pablos Casals, Puerto Rico . Danilo Dolci, Sicily . Professor Erich Fromm, New York and Mexico . Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, Great Britain . J-F. Lalive, Switzerland . Professor Salvador de Madariaga, Spain . Yehudi Menuhin, Great Britain . Professor Gunnar Myrdal, Sweden . Pablo Neruda, Chile . Alan Paton, South Africa . Abbe Dominique Pire, Nobel Prize winner . Mr. Walter Reuther, International President of the United Automobile Workers, U.S.A. . Sean MacBride, S.C., Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists . Professor Z. K. Matthews, South Africa . Philip Noel-Baker, M.P., Nobel Prize winner, Great Britain . Professor Giorgio La Pira, Mayor of Florence, Italy . Professor Julius Stone, Australia.

AMNESTY HAS CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (ECOSOC) AND WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

425
23 Lynton Road,
Kloof,
Natal.

October 25th. 1968

Mr. Martin Ennals,
Secretary General,
Amnesty International,
London.

Dear Mr. Ennals,

I have received your letter dated September 1968,
which has been forwarded to me by Messrs. Jonathan Cape.
Here is my message:

I am thinking today of those whose freedom
has been restricted by the State because of their
beliefs, in whatever country they may be. Some
of these are my friends, men and women of courage
and principle, whose country punishes them when
it should be honouring them. Human rights are
essential not only for the safeguarding of our
liberties, but so that we can lead good and purposeful
and human lives. May Prisoner of Conscience Week
stir the consciences of rulers and people, and make
us all more merciful.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Paton.

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