

## Amnesty International Prisoners of the Month

*Each month Amnesty International selects the cases of individual prisoners of conscience as its "political prisoners of the month." This month the worldwide human rights organization is working on behalf of three prisoners, in Egypt, Bulgaria, and Indonesia. For further information on what can be done to help these, and other, prisoners, contact Amnesty International, 2112 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.*

### **Ahmed Fu'ad Negm, Arab Republic of Egypt**

Ahmed Fu'ad Negm, a forty-eight-year-old poet, was arrested in January, 1977, following the countrywide food riots in Egypt. He was later released pending trial, but rearrested on November 16 after attending an illegal political meeting with several students at Ain Shams University in Cairo. On November 29 Negm and twenty-one other political detainees began a hunger strike in protest against their detention and unsatisfactory prison conditions.

Although no date has yet been set for Negm's trial, his case will appear before a military tribunal rather than a civil court.

Ahmed Fu'ad Negm had been arrested several times before, either for membership in an illegal political organization or because of his poetry, which has often been critical of the government.

He is detained at Tora prison, and AI is particularly concerned for his health. He is known to be suffering from a chronic stomach ulcer, which reportedly started to hemorrhage during his detention.

### **Stefan Vladimirov Guseenko, Bulgaria**

Stefan Vladimirov Guseenko, a fifty-year-old electrician, was arrested on September 18, 1976, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment for distributing "anti-Communist literature." Before his trial on December 28, 1976, Guseenko was kept in solitary confinement at the central prison in Sofia, Bulgaria, and his wife and two children, aged twelve and fifteen, were not allowed to see him.

According to AI information, Guseenko was tried, charged, and sentenced only for possessing and distributing Western literature to his friends. He was known at work and by his friends to have criticized working conditions and violations of human and civil rights by the Bulgarian authorities.

The two articles in the Bulgarian penal code under which Mr. Guseenko was reportedly sentenced proscribe nonviolent activities. Article 108 carries a term of up to eight years' imprisonment for individuals who "intend to weaken the power of the Bulgarian People's Republic, propagate fascist or antidemocratic ideologies, support acts against the People's Republic or publicly incite these acts, or if they disseminate derogatory statements that harm the social order, or disseminate literature that advocates any of these practices." Individuals who "disseminate untruthful statements that could incite mistrust amongst the Bulgarian people of the power of the state, or confusion in society" are liable to a term of up to two years' imprisonment under Article 273.

Vladimirov Guseenko's present place of detention is not known to AI. His wife and relatives are apparently under constant surveillance and reportedly have been harassed by members of the Bulgarian secret police.

### **Mrs. Nurtjahja Murad, Indonesia**

Nurtjahja Murad, aged forty-two, was born in West Sumatra, Indonesia. At an early age she moved to Jakarta and, after completing her studies, became a teacher of Indonesian. In 1959 Mrs. Murad obtained a scholarship to study Russian language and literature at the Lumumba University in Moscow. After graduating in mid-1965 she returned to Indonesia a few weeks before the abortive coup in October of that year. She is married to Murad Aidit, the younger brother of the late Communist party chairman D.N. Aidit.

Soon after the attempted coup Mr. Aidit was arrested and detained for two years. During this time Nurtjahja Murad taught in a secondary school and supplemented her income by part-time work as a dressmaker to support her four children. Her husband was released in 1967 but rearrested in September, 1968, along with Nurtjahja Murad, who took her fifth and newly born child into detention with her. The couple were arrested along with several other graduates of Soviet and Eastern European universities, who were regarded as security risks because of their academic training in Communist countries.

Nurtjahja Murad had not played a political role in the Soviet Union or in Indonesia after her return. The accusations against her probably relate to her status as wife of Murad Aidit, who was more politically active than she, and as sister-in-law of the chairman of the Indonesian Communist party (PKI).

After about nine months in detention camps in Jakarta, Mrs. Murad was transferred to Bukit Duri prison in May, 1969, and placed in solitary confinement. In 1970 she suffered a severe attack of gallstones and was in the hospital for forty days. On her return to Bukit Duri she was again placed in isolation, and her health deteriorated. Only in early 1971 was the isolation decree lifted.

In 1971 Mrs. Murad was moved to Plantungan Women's Detention Camp in Central Java and in November, 1976, transferred to Bulu prison in Semarang with forty-five other women from Plantungan. These women, none of whom has been formally charged or tried, are kept in isolation. They were not released in the December, 1977, amnesty in Indonesia, since the authorities allege they are political "diehards."

Murad Aidit, however, did benefit from the amnesty and has returned to Java after being imprisoned on the island of Buru.