

## 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 five prisoners, three in Paraguay, one in the German Democratic Republic, and one in Israeli Occupied Territory. For further information on what can be done to help these, and other, prisoners, contact A.I., 2112 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

### **Dr. Virgilio Bareiro Riveros, Anastasia Idolina Gaona, and Severo Acosta Aranda, Paraguay**

Dr. Virgilio Bareiro Riveros, Anastasia Idolina Gaona and Severo Acosta Aranda, three long-term political prisoners in Paraguay, have been detained without charge or trial for twelve to thirteen years. They did not benefit from the amnesty on March 30 in which seven other long-term political prisoners were released, including Ananias Maidana Palacios, who had been detained for nineteen years.

Dr. Virgilio Bareiro Riveros, a fifty-two-year-old engineer, is married, with children. He was educated at the University of Asuncion and later won a scholarship from the State Telephone Company (ANTEL) to study in Buenos Aires. He returned to Paraguay and subsequently became head of the Radio Communication Department of ANTEL and was largely responsible for setting up Paraguay's telecommunications system. He was accused of being a Communist and of tapping government telephones and sending confidential information to Moscow. He admits to being a Communist but denies the other accusations.

Dr. Bareiro was arrested in August, 1964, on his way home from the United States Cultural Center, where he taught English. He was taken to the Police Investigations Department (*Investigaciones*), where he was reportedly tortured by immersion in an "electric swimming bath." During his thirteen years in detention he has been held in a number of police stations and prisons. In March, 1976, he is known to have gone on hunger strike for four weeks in protest against prison conditions and the "disappearance" of detained members of the Communist party. His state of health is not known, but several of those who participated in the hunger strike were transferred to a military hospital.

Anastasia Idolina Gaona de Acosta is about fifty-five years old. She is married, with one son who was born in prison. She was arrested on July 4, 1965, for her alleged membership in the Communist party and "involvement in a terrorist incident." There is considerable doubt as to the validity of these allegations in view of the fact that she has never been charged.

Severo Acosta Aranda was arrested on June 7, 1964, for his alleged membership in the Communist party. He participated in the March, 1976, hunger strike, and in January, 1977, he is known to have been transferred to Emboscada prison.

### **Heinz Reinecke, German Democratic Republic**

Heinz Reinecke, thirty-seven years old and married, with one son, is imprisoned in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for "incitement hostile to the state," a charge based on statements made by him in exercise of his right to freedom of expression. A sculptor by profession, he was last employed by a building concern in Leipzig. In 1969 he joined the *Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands* (SED—Socialist Unity Party of Germany), the ruling Communist party in the GDR, because, he said, he wished to take an active part in the development of a new society. He appears subsequently to have become increasingly disillusioned by the SED, complaining that the only function of ordinary members was to approve and

carry out decisions taken at a higher level.

In January, 1976, Heinz Reinecke applied for official permission to emigrate with his family, citing his disillusionment with the SED and the fact that he had come to regard communism as an unrealistic utopia. His application was rejected, along with several subsequent ones. Both Heinz Reinecke and his wife were dismissed from their jobs and, it is alleged, were unable to claim unemployment benefits.

On February 17, 1977, Erich Honecker, head of state of the GDR, was interviewed by the *Saarbrücker Zeitung* in the Federal Republic of Germany. The full text of the interview was also published in the GDR press. Shortly afterwards, Heinz Reinecke wrote an open letter to Erich Honecker taking issue with much of what Mr. Honecker had said. In his letter he accused the GDR Government of failure to observe the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Heinz Reinecke was arrested in February, 1977, and sentenced on September 15 to four years' imprisonment under article 106 of the GDR penal code. He is currently held in Brandenburg prison.

### **Maher Al-Khayyat, Israel (Occupied Territories)**

Maher al-Khayyat, a twenty-nine-year-old pharmaceutical salesman from Nablus, Israel, is detained under article 111 of the Defense (Emergency) Regulations of 1945 used by the Israeli military administration to rule the Occupied Territories. Under this article the military commander is empowered to arrest and detain any person whom he considers as a threat to "state security" without having to give reasons or produce evidence of punishable activities.

Maher al-Khayyat was first arrested in 1968 on suspicion of inciting students to demonstrate. After interrogation he was released and spent four years in Jordan. On his return to the Occupied Territories he was again arrested and interrogated for two weeks before being released.

On June 16, 1977, he was summoned to the military governor's office in Nablus and allegedly questioned about inciting students to demonstrate against the military occupation. There he was shown two anonymous letters stating that he was a prominent member of *al-Fatah* (a Palestinian liberation movement) and that he was engaged in agitating students. He was summoned before a military court in Nablus on July 5, where his detention was extended by sixty days. After he reportedly denied these allegations, his lawyer, Attorney Tsemel, made an appeal for his release on bail and was refused, and on September 2 Khayyat was placed under administrative detention.

The position of administrative detainees is usually reviewed every six months. The Review Board, appointed by the military commander, has only consultative status, the final decision resting with the commander. On December 1 Maher al-Khayyat appeared before the Review Board in Nablus prison, when he was apparently asked to state his case without being informed of any charges against him. On December 18 the board decided not to end his detention order and Maher al-Khayyat remains in detention in Nablus prison.