

BULLETIN OF THE RELIEF FUND

of the International Working Men's Association

for Anarchists and Anarcho-Syndicalists Imprisoned or Exiled
in Russia

No. 1

PARIS-BERLIN

December, 1926

RESOLUTION OF THE I.W.M.A.

In view of the renewal of wholesale political persecution in Russia, and because of the increased need of aid, the INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEN'S ASSOCIATION has resolved to organise a RELIEF FUND for the benefit of Anarchists and Anarcho-Syndicalists in Russian prisons and exile. For this purpose the Secretariat of the I.W.M.A. has nominated Comrades ALEXANDER BERKMAN and MARK MRATCHNY as the Secretariat of the Relief Fund.

It shall be the duty of the Relief Fund Secretariat to keep the international press informed of the situation in Russia, particularly in relation to political persecution, and to collect funds and distribute them among our imprisoned and exiled comrades in Russia.

The Secretariat of the I.W.M.A. hereby calls upon all its National Sections, as well as upon all comrades and sympathisers in general, to aid the work of the Relief Fund, morally and financially, to the utmost of their ability. All contributions should be addressed Secretariat Relief Fund, Warschauer str. 62, Berlin 0.34.

Secretariat I.W.M.A. { B. LANSINK, JR.
R. ROCKER,
A. SOUCHY.

STATEMENT

We welcome the resolution of the International Working Men's Association (Syndicalist International) which gives our work of aid the moral and financial support of that important international labor body. We consider that the action of the I.W.M.A. in creating the Relief Fund, constituted as mentioned above, expresses the appreciation of that body of the work carried on by us in behalf of our imprisoned and exiled comrades in Russia. At the same time and for obvious reasons the Anarchists terminate their representation in the Joint Committee for the Defense of Imprisoned Revolutionists in Russia, which — as such — hereby ceases to exist (*).

The Secretaries of the Relief Fund, anxious to have the work of the Fund widely developed, have asked Comrades Mollie Steimer, S. Fleshin, and Volin, who have for years cooperated with us by carrying on an intensive propaganda in favor of our imprisoned comrades in Russia, to aid in the work of the Relief Fund of the I. W. M. A. These have accepted. The signatories below form, therefore, the Working Committee of the I. W. M. A. Relief Fund.

Secretaries I. W. M. A. Relief Fund { Alexander BERKMAN.
Mark MRATCHNY
Members of Working Committee { Mollie STEIMER.
S. FLESHIN.
VOLIN.

*) These circumstances making our withdrawal from the Joint Committee necessary, we take this occasion to express our appreciation of the comradely and solidaric spirit in which Dr. I. Steinberg cooperated with us in the work of the Joint Committee.

Alexander BERKMAN
Mark MRATCHNY

RUSSIAN POLITICALS APPEAL FROM PRISON

(Letter of the politicals of the Kharkov Prison No. 1, originally addressed to the Central Executive of All-Ukrainian Soviets)

On the occasion of the recent visits to Russia by various European labor delegations, the official Soviet press has repeatedly asserted that the Government "offers every possible opportunity to investigate, freely and unhindered, life and conditions in Russia". We emphatically protest against this lie and against the infamous misrepresentation and falsification of the prison situation by the organs of the Tcheka. Are you aware that on the night of the 14-15 of August, on the eve of the visit of two German labor delegations to our prison (the Central Prison of Kharkov), the imprisoned Socialists and Anarchists were subjected to a terrible outrage? At 9 in the evening there appeared in our prison Krajni, the General Public Prosecutor, who is the supreme authority of the entire Tcheka (GPU) of

the Ukraina. He was accompanied by the Chief of the GPU, the Governor of the prison, and a large body of keepers. At the order of the Prosecutor the keepers attacked the political prisoners, because the latter refused to follow them to the GPU. They knew that it was intended to hide them in the GPU dungeons, so that the expected delegations should not find them in the Kharkov prison. They protested against such a disgraceful and brutal procedure, as well as against the attempt to deceive the delegates. Are you aware that for this the prisoners were insulted, beaten, threatened with revolvers, and kicked into submission? The politicals, finally finding themselves in the GPU prison, declared a HUNGER STRIKE, in protest against the official outrage. Following this, the Labor Youth Delegation of Holland visited the Kharkov

prison, and when they inquired whether there were any political's there, the Prison Governor replied emphatically: "There are no political prisoners here".

Similar "information" also received the American student delegation, when they visited the Kharkov prison, some time before the Holland delegates. Again, when the German working women delegation visited the prison, on September 14, the political's were taken into the prison yard for a walk, so that the delegates could not see them. When, however, the prisoners learned of the presence of the delegation, they demanded an interview with the latter. The prison authorities assured them that it was not a foreign delegation that was visiting the prison. "It is merely an excursion of Communist women from the German colonies of the USSR", the Governor asserted. He promised to bring the visitors to the political wing of the prison, but of course he did not keep his promise. As we later learned from the papers, the delegation was really that of the labor unions of Germany.

These are the means used by the authorities to "inform" visiting delegates about conditions in Russia! And that in spite of the solemn promise given us by Chief Prosecutor Krajni that he would permit visiting labor delegations to see the political's, even in their cells. But of course Krajni, as well as the prison authorities, know very well that if the delegates were permitted to see us they would easily convince themselves that revolutionary Socialists are kept

in prison, that they are doomed by administrative process (without trial) to long years of imprisonment and exile in out-of-the-way places, that the Tcheka tries to compel them to sign statements for the press announcing their resignation from the parties of opposition, and that the political's are persecuted for refusing to comply with such demands.

We protest most emphatically against this vile deceit practiced upon the delegates from foreign countries! We denounce the arbitrary and brutal treatment of the political prisoners!

We consider it our social and political duty to call to this the attention of the Presidium of the All-Ukrainian Central Executive of the Soviets. In the hearing of the workers of the world we demand to know: do you approve of these barbaric methods to demonstrate to the labor delegations of Western Europe "the success of socialistic constructiveness"? Do you sanction these means, or will you admit that they are the methods of despicable climbers of the GPU and of zealous prison keepers? Yes or No?

September 15, 1926.

Signed by 17 political's,
among them 7 Anarchists,
1 Left Social-Revolutionist,
5 Zionist-Socialists,
and 4 members of the
Socialist Youth.

IN PRISON AND EXILE

During the past summer the prison terms of a number of political's were completed. Instead of being liberated, however, they were either sent into exile—generally for 3 years—or their original sentences were increased. This method is now practiced by the Bolsheviks systematically, a political prisoner virtually never regaining liberty. We hereby publish a *partial* list of such cases. *All of them* are victims of the "administrative process", involving imprisonment or exile without trial.

MARIA WEGER, a well-known Anarchist, who since 1923 has been continuously in prison, including the Solovetsky and Upper Uralsk, where she has contracted the fearful tsinga (scorbut), has now, upon the completion of her original sentence, been sent into exile to Archangel, for 3 years. Similar is the fate of TATYANA POLOSOVA, formerly a worker in the Anarchist publishing house (Golos Truda). Together with her little child she was exiled to Tver, also for 3 years. DORA STEPNAJA and child, for years an exile (lately in Tula) has been transferred to the cold region of Archangel. Very ill.

M. SAMOKHVALOV, S. PANOV, E. FILATOV. (Left S.R.) Previously transferred from the Solovki to the Tobolsk prison, have now—at the expiration of their sentence—been sent into exile to the North of Tobolsk District, for 3 years. I. IVANOV was ordered to the Tobolsk "isolator". Together with him VERSHININ and SOLOMON SEMYATITSKI, transferred from the Yaroslavl prison. A. GUSSEV, having escaped and remained at liberty for about 9 months, has again been arrested and sent to Upper Uralsk. V. VOLSKY—exile in Semipalatinsk. BRULOVA-SHASKOLSKAYA, in Polotoratsk. P. TUGARIN and U. PANEBRATSEV, Ustsisolsk. Also A. GROSHEV and A. TREBELEV. I. ZHUKOVSKY, recently arrested in Moscow, and LYDIA GOLOVINA are in Upper Uralsk for 3 years. At the same place are also G. NESTROJEV and S. TSPIN. LYDIA SURKOVA is transferred from Petchora to Archangel.

B. KAMKOV, whose term has expired September 15, is still in Tcheliabinsk, awaiting further action of the authorities. MARIA SPIRIDONOVA and A. IZMAILOVICH, having now finished their sentences, have been offered the choice of some place to live in, but only in Central Asia. Returning to Russia is forbidden them. For the present they remain in Samarkand; it is not known for how long.

GOLIZHENKOV-GERASIMOV, who had slapped the face of the Warden of the Suzdal polit-isolator, was ordered for 3 years to the Perm prison. I. SHABALIN and V. PEROV are in Krasnoyarsk. G. UROV, since 1923 an exile in Tcherdin, sent for 3 years to Tobolsk prison. POGORSKY, to Viatka for 2 years. ZHELESNOV, though suffering from consumption, to Novo-Nikolayevsk for a similar term. ARKADY PETROV and L. DROBERT, arrested last year in Nizhni-Novgorod and sent for 3 years to the Tcheliabinsk prison, have now been transferred to the Tobolsk "isolator".

From a revolutionist who recently escaped from prison we learn that several similar successful attempts took place during 1925. One Left S.R. and one Anarchist escaped in the summer

of that year from Ust-Kulom. On June 21 the Anarchist MALOV escaped from Odessa prison, together with a L.S.R. On September 8. the Zionist-Socialist VILETCHUK and the L.S.R. SOLOMON SEMYATITSKY also escaped. Unfortunately, the latter was again arrested in Kharkov.

Yaroslavl. (Polit-isolator). By the middle of April, 1926, 99 political's were imprisoned in the "polit-isolator". Among them were: 24 Social-Democrats; 22 members of the S.R. Party; 22 Left S.R.; 15 Anarchists; 7 Socialists-Zionists; 5 Zionists of the Right, and 4 non-partisan workmen. Its is significant that the political Red Cross (Mime Peshkova, Moscow) has information of only about 60 of that number.

On May 1, 1926, the political's were compelled to resort to protests and tactics of obstruction—for reasons still unknown to us. Some of them were thereupon transferred to Tobolsk and Moscow.

Orenburg. AGAPOV and two other members of the Central Committee of the S.R. Party (one of them probably HENDELMAN) who were in exile in Orenburg, were suddenly informed that they were to be imprisoned in the "polit-isolator". Thereupon all three declared a hunger strike, which lasted 24 days. On the 18. day AGAPOV was fed forcibly. On the 24. day the authorities gave in and permitted him to remain in Orenburg. The other two, who had already been transferred to the "polit-isolator", were taken back to Orenburg.

Turkestan. In Poltoratsk was recently arrested I. A. KUTCHINA, wife of the Social-Democrat G. D. Kutchin, and P. ELMAN. Both were transferred to a place still unknown.

Kolpashevo. (Narim District). The S.R. exile VALENTIN S. BUKAREV, formerly for 3 years in Pertominsk, Solovki and other prisons, recently ended his life by suicide. We are also informed (the report not yet verified) that in Kargasok (Narim) the local S.D. exile colony (S. Zetlin, B. Spivak, B. Berman, I. Rosen, A. Levin, L. Blokh) were subjected to a week's arrest.

L. GURVITCH and M. RAPPOPORT, arrested in 1923 in connection with the case of the S.D. Youth and sent to Solovki and later to Siberia, have now been transferred because of illness. Gurvitch, from the Upper Uralsk prison to the Butyrki prison hospital; Rappoport, from the Tobolsk to the Yaroslavl prison.

Vologda. The old S.D. V. KOROBKOV (a working printer) at one time Chairman of the Labor Unions Soviet in Odessa, went through an 8-day hunger strike and was thereupon sent into exile. Korobkov had been in *katorga* (hard labor prison) under the Romanov regime and has spent 4 years in prison under the Bolsheviks.

The following political's, who have finished their 3 years' sentence (and who had been through the Solovki and the Siberian prisons) have now been exiled: S. OISLANDER (S.D. Youth) to the North-Tobolsk District; V. RUBINSTEIN (S.D. Youth) to Narim; M. GERSHEVITCH (S.D.) and Y. BERNSTEIN (Bundist S.D.) to Petchora; S. KORELITS to Usolye, Province of Perm.

ANARCHIST COMMITTEE FINANCIAL ACCOUNT

(April, 1926 to December 1, 1926)

RECEIPTS

	Pounds	Dollars	Marks	Francs	Austr. Kr.
BALANCE on hand, April 1926.....		110.			
✓ An. Aid Com., N. Y. (former Red Cross).....		250.			
» » for Anna S.....		25.			
An. Red Cross, London, per Rubelchinsky.....	8.—				
» » for Stakh. Poland.....	3.—				
Dr. MAC., Brooklyn, N. Y.....		150.			
Karin, Denmark, for Nestor M.....		46.		14.75	
Student Rachil, Paris, for N. M.....		10.			40
P. Ramus, Austria, for N. M.....				60.	
M. R. Schiavina, for Bulgarian prisoners.....				500.	
Paris Polit. Red Cross, per S. F.....					
Per Markus, N. Y.....		52.25			
✓ Group Free Society, Chicago, per Yelensky.....		100.			
N. Y., sender unknown.....		25.			
Telat, Montreal (4.50 d.).....			18.75		
✓ J. Desser, Toronto, Can., per R. R.....		20.			
S. G., Omaha.....		10.			
✓ An. Group San Francisco, per Nathan.....		100.			
G. D., Cap d'Antibes.....				1,000.	
Per S. F., from Gdalia, Mexico (incl. 3.....					
for Delo Truda.....		40.			
Berlin Hilfskomité.....			150.		
C. F. Becker, F. A. U. D. Berlin.....			5.		
Ratbor, F. A. U. D.....			56.		
Dresden, F. A. U. D., per O. Kohl.....			25.		
✓ Com. Libert. pro Vittime Polit., Philadelph.....			205.		
S. Linder, N. Y., per R. R.....		10.			
Yetta London-Weinberg, Philadelphia.....		120.			
» » German postal order (52 d.).....			218.14		
» » French postal order (15 d.).....				400.	
Minna Lovensohn, and A. Fisher, N. Y.....		10.			
Anarchist share, Joint Comm., Nov. 1926.....	0-3-8		5.83	13.67 1/2	
Total.....	11-3-8	1,078.25	683.72	1,988.42 1/2	40

DISBURSEMENTS

	Pounds	Dollars	Marks	Francs	Austr. Kr.
To Anarchists (of various groups) in prison and exile in Russia, forwarded by Paris and Berlin.....	15.—	619.	1,872.70	400.50	
To Tch. and Max, Poland.....	2.—	40.			
To Max per Eva.....				400.	
To Tch.....		20.			
To Rose Tch.....		15.			
To Nestor M.....		76.		14.75	40
To Anna S.....		25.			
To "Delo Truda" Paris.....		3.			
To Bulgarian Committee, Paris.....				200.	
» » per Yani.....				60.	
Newspapers and magazines for prisoners.....				93.	
To Volod.....				100.	
Bank forwarding charges, Paris and Berlin.....		10.75	54 2/1	1090.65	
Postal expenses and incidentals.....			65.95	29.52	
Total.....	17,—	778.75	1,692.85	1,980.	40
Converting 20.10 dollars into pounds 6; 243 dollars into Marks 1,013.31					
TOTAL Receipts equal to.....	17-3-8	806.15	1,697.03	1,988.42 1/2	40
» Disbursements.....	17.—	778.75	1,692.85	1,980.	40
BALANCE ON HAND, Dec. 1, 1926.....	0-3-8	27.40	4.18	8.42 1/2	—

* As a necessary protection for the recipients in Russia, their names and whereabouts are here withheld. They are preserved in our archives. — EDITOR.

This Balance of the Anarchist Committee is hereby turned over the Relief Fund

Secretariat Relief Fund

JOINT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

(Final Account)

RECEIPTS

	Pounds	Dollars	Francs	Germ. Marks
BALANCE (as per account Bulletin, April 1926).....				222.70
W. J. Rogers, Bristol, per E. G.....	1-6-2			
Dr G. P. Beck and Ch. Lewis, Bristol, per E. G.....	2-1-2			
British Comm., per T. Svedlove.....	2.—			
» » » (for Ital. fund).....	1.—			
Total.....	6-7-4			222.70
Converting M. 60 into pounds 3; M. 35.28 into 8.50 dollars; M. 97 into 700 francs, the total receipts equal to.....	0-7-4	8.50	700	30.42

DISBURSEMENTS

	Pounds	Dollars	Francs	Germ. Marks
To Anarchists in prison and exile in Russia.....	0-3-8		13.67 1/2	5.83 1/2
To Dr I. Steinberg, for L. S. R.....	0-3-8		13.67 1/2	5.83 1/2
To printer, Engl. Bulletin April, 8300 copies.....	8.—	8.50		
Translating and copying French Bulletin.....			250	
Cable to London re prisoners and Womens' Convention.....			87.75	
To Borghi for Italian Pris. Fund.....	1.—			18.75
Expend. per M. M.....			343.90	
Expend mailing Bulletin, postage, etc.....				
Total.....	9-7-4	8 50	709	30.42
TOTAL Receipts.....	0-7-4	8 50	709	30.42
» Disbursements.....	9-7-4	8.50	709	30.42
BALANCE, Dec., 1926.....	—	—	—	—

By special request we publish the following accounts :

ACCOUNT of the Defense Comm. Persecuted Anarchists in Bulgaria

RECEIPTS

	Francs	Bulg. lev.
BALANCE, Feb. 1, 1926.....	743.30	
M. T. P. (J. A. A.).....		1,000
Jewish Group, Paris.....	396.50	
Golos Truda, Sub. List.....	1,227	
Berlin Comm.....	875	
Dr M. A. C. per A. Berkman.....	200	
French Group (Norde).....	25	
K. Schiavina per Berkman.....	60	
Aid Society Polit. Prisoners, New-York.....	750	
G. Z.....	50	
Bulgar. comrades in Serbia.....	100	
P. Madel.....	40	
Ital. comrades. San Francisco, per "Monito".....	1,204.50	
Sub. List.....	30	
Total.....	5,696.30	1,000
Transformed by { ± 1,157.80 fr. 132 dollars 1,600 Bulg. lev. exchange into { — 690 Sw. kr.		

EXPENSES

	Francs	Dollars	Sw. kr.	Bulg. lev.
To arrested and persec. comrades in Bulgaria.....	2,273	38.	10	600
To Bulg. emigrants in Serbia.....	510	91.	200	
To com. Pus.....	200	3.		
To com. Man.....	220			
To As. and Ker.....	106			
To Ker.....	250			
To As.....	180			
To T. Tch.....	60			
To Stch. and others.....	650			
Arrested comrade in P.....	100			
N., arrival from Serbia.....	200			
To H.....	400			
Total.....	5,604.05	132.	210	600
BALANCE, Nov., 1926.....	1,759.75	—	100	1,000

FINANCIAL REPORT

Group "Free Society," Chicago

For the period of Nov. 25, 1924 to June 30 1926

RECEIPTS

	\$
Net income, various undertakings.....	529.62
Sale of flowers.....	114.77
Subscription Lists.....	133.95
Donations.....	17.85
Sale of literature and postcards.....	58.70
Total.....	854.89

EXPENSES

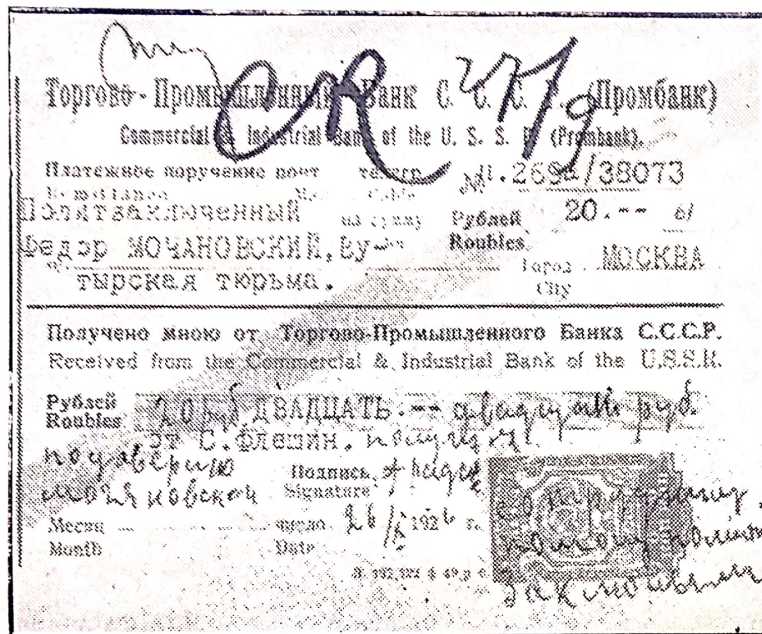
To Solovki.....	76.10
To Siberia.....	126.45
To other prisons and places of exile.....	286.45
Per Berlin.....	227.75
For literature and postcards.....	46.15
Printing.....	8.25
Incidentals.....	6.77
To Paris for Bulgaria.....	46.25
Total.....	833.17
BALANCE on hand, June 30, 1926.....	31.72

Auditing Committee { Dan Tal.
Y. Kaplan.
Yelensky. Fin. Sec'y

HOW FOREIGN DELEGATES ARE DUPED IN RUSSIA

Recently a French Labor delegation visited Russia. The Bolsheviks "showed them everything". The delegates asked to see the political prisoners in Moscow, but they were solemnly assured by the authorities that "there are no political prisoners here".

signed in the Butyrki prison by A. Radsko—authorized by Mochanovsky—as the "collaborator, aid to political prisoners". The receipt is dated October 26, 1926, and is duly stamped. We hereby reproduce a facsimile of the document.



Some of the delegates were apparently not convinced. Upon their return to France, one of the delegates applied to us, demanding proof that there were political prisoners in Moscow during the time of the French delegation's visit there; namely, between the dates of October 20 and 30, 1926.

Fortunately we were in possession of the most indisputable and official proof of the presence of political prisoners in the Moscow prison (Butyrki) during the very time when the Bolsheviks assured the French delegates that there were no political prisoners in Moscow. This proof we have since submitted to the inquiring delegate.

The proof consists of the official receipt signed in the Butyrki prison, Moscow, acknowledging the receipt of \$ 10. (20 roubles) sent by us to Fedor Mochanovsky, a political prisoner in the Butyrki. The money was forwarded by the Commercial and Industrial Bank of the U.S.S.R., the remitter being S. Fleshin, a member of our Group, his name appearing on the receipt. The latter was

TRANSLATION

(of the Russian wording of the document)

Commercial & Industrial Bank of the U.S.S.R. (Prombank)
 Remittance Mail... Cable N° p. 269 a/38073
 Political prisoner Roubles 20. - - 6/
 Fedor Mochanovsky
 Butyrkaia prison City Moscow

Received from the Commercial & Industrial Bank of the U.S.S.R.

Roubles 20 roub. - twenty roub. received from S. Fleshin

Authorized by Mochanovsky

Signature : A. Radsko
 Collaborator
 Aid political prisoners

Month..... Date.. 26/X 1926.

LIFE IN EXILE

Information from a reliable source has recently reached us concerning the visit of the notorious Tchekist Drozdov to the political exiles in Izhm, a small village in Eastern Siberia, almost one thousand miles distant from any railroad. Our correspondent writes : During his stay of two weeks Drozdov created no end of trouble, particularly because of his brutal and arbitrary demeanor. He distributed governmental aid in a most unjust manner : some received 10 rubles for the past month (about 5 dollars), while others were left without any support. The older revolutionists were allowed a very small share, while some of the younger element got very little, and in some cases practically nothing. A protest was sent to Moscow, which was signed by all the exiles. Drozdov was furious. In consequence, the exiles were deprived of their work and means of support... Seven Zionists were ordered transferred to the most isolated and wretched places, such as Ukhta and Ussa, populated almost exclusively by non-Russian, nomadic tribes. Life there virtually means death. Naturally, the exiles refused to go, and the other political prisoners supported them. They all barricaded themselves in a house, about 18

persons. Drozdov sent against them a detachment of unarmed soldiers, militia and peasants. No shots were fired, but extreme brutality was applied, and one by one the victims were dragged out, thrown into sleighs, bound and gagged... It was a terrible sight : men laid flat in sleighs, most of them bleeding, and tied hand and foot. No hats, some with just their shirts on, and outside a frost of 40 degrees. Drozdov himself was the "hero" of the occasion, personally dragging the politicals out and pulling them down the stairs by the hair. "When you'll be in power", he kept shouting, "you'll drag me by the hair!"... His purpose in issuing governmental aid to the Anarchists and other revolutionists, while refusing the same to the Zionists, was to create enmity in the exile colony and set it against itself. But he figured wrong, because the entire political population demonstrated its solidarity. Now the greater number are threatened with transfer to unknown places. It was the greatest outrage ever perpetrated in the region of Izhm. . . It is feared that similar scenes may repeat themselves in the near future, because much bad feeling has been created..

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THE CASE OF LAZAREVITCH

NIKOLAY BELYAEV and VANYA KABAS-TARASIUK, Archangel exiles previously mentioned in our Bulletins, were recently arrested with 9 other comrades for receiving financial aid from their friends abroad, and were transferred to various places in the furthest North of Russia. These arrests were accompanied with great violence on the part of the local authorities, who exploited the occasion to vent their spite against the Anarchist prisoners. Subsequently Belyaev and Tarasiuk were transferred to Moscow and thence sent to the extremely hot climate of Kasakstan, somewhere in Turkestan.

VERA KEVRIK, a splendid type of Russian revolutionist, for several years in prison and exile, recently took very ill in Biysk, Siberia. Inquiries have brought to light that she was removed from Biysk, the financial aid sent her being returned by the forwarding bank on the ground of "unknown whereabouts". No trace of her has since been found, and there is reason to fear that the young Anarchist woman has since died.—RACHEL SHAPIRO, not long ago arrested in Moscow, was temporarily released only because of the poor physical condition of her child, but on condition of weekly registration at the headquarters of the GPU. Yet the very first time that she called to report, she was informed that she would not be permitted to remain in Moscow or vicinity. Her place of exile is now Kasakostan, Turkestan. Another Anarchist woman, KASHEVA, has at the same time been exiled to Tcherdin.

VANYA TCHARIN, an Anarchist held by the Bolsheviks in prison since 1920, has been very seriously ill for a considerable time. Recently he was transferred to a sanatorium in Moscow. The information has reached us that treatment in a good sanatorium costs about 160 roubles a month (\$80.) This case is very special because of the urgency of aid.

MARIA POLIAKOVA, together with her little child, was transferred to some place in the Uralsk region that contains only 4 huts, and where mail reaches but once a year.

VICTOR SERGEYEV, for a considerable time an exile in Archangel, was recently arrested there for alleged correspondence with friends abroad and transferred to Tiumen in Siberia. On a similar charge Anton Shliakhovoy, a Tula exile, was returned to Moscow and thence ordered to the political-isolator in Upper Uralsk. His wife Basya, with a 2-months old baby is an exile in Tula.

ALEXANDER LEVANDOVSKY, arrested in 1924 in Saratov, has been sent to the uppermost North, for an unknown period. There is also exiled the woman revolutionist S. RAKHEMANKULOVA.

In Archangel were arrested "temporarily" the well-known Anarchists IVAN TARASIUK and A. SINITSIN. Other local exiles were transferred as follows: ELISCEV, ZHERONKOV and LAVRENEV, to Shenkursk; POLIKALOV, LOPATIN and two peasants in sympathy with the Anarchists were taken to Onega; BRONZEV and a Social-Democrat (name undecipherable) were sent to Mesen.—NIKOLAY ZELINGER (S.D.), an Upper Uralsk exile, formerly in the Solovki, was transferred to Tchikment, while HIMELFARB was sent to Petropavlsk.

EFIM DOLENSKY, BORIS KLUTCHEVSKY, RAYA SHULMAN and a number of other exiles in Tashkent were suddenly transferred from that hot climate to the extreme cold of Upper Uralsk. MARK NEKHAMIN was ordered from Saratov to the Khirgisia for 3 years. GAIDOVSKY and his wife, exiles in Gambetta (Ural District) well-known in circles of revolutionary Esperantists, were again arrested and kept in prison without any known cause for over two weeks. Mme GAIDOVSKY was placed in a cell occupied by ordinary, non-political prisoners, all of them men.—MIKHEEV, a S. D. workman, an exile in the village of Turgai, repeatedly petitioned the authorities for permission to visit the nearest city (Aktubinsk) for medical aid, the prisoner suffering from cancer of the stomach. Permission was refused, and now—just a few weeks before the expiration of his sentence—Mikheev died.

Recent information is to the effect that ARON BARON has again been transferred from his last place of exile in Eniseisk to some obscure spot in the far Turukhan Krai, where mail reaches but 2—3 times a year. The Bolsheviks are evidently doing their very best to torture our old comrade. Since 1920 BARON has been continuously in prison and subjected to petty persecution and frequent changes of climate, that have transformed the once strong man into a physical wreck.—ALEXEI OLONETSKY, arrested in November, 1920, together with A. BARON, I. Tarasiuk, M. Birulin, Lea Gootman, and a number of other Anarchists, is still held in the "polit-isolator" of Tobolsk. The long years of imprisonment have entirely broken his health. Now our comrade is suffering from acute rheumatism and heart trouble.

In previous issues we referred to the arrest and imprisonment of the well-known Anarcho-Syndicalist Lazarevitch. The Communist press at first denied that the man was arrested; later it admitted the fact, but claimed that he was particularly well treated in prison. The charges of his mistreatment were emphatically denied by the official Communist papers (for instance *L'Humanité*, No. 10. 148).

In the course of time some prominent literary persons in France made sharp protests against the imprisonment of Lazarevitch, which led to a copious correspondence with Rakovsky and finally resulted in the release of the prisoner. Thereupon Lazarevitch was deported from Russia and has at last reached France. We had the opportunity of meeting the man and getting the facts of the case, which follow:

Lazarevitch was arrested in Moscow, on the street, on October 8, 1924. Almost the entire time since he was kept in prison without any trial or hearing whatever, without even any charge, except for the fact that it was known that he held certain opinions, not even political, but rather economical and syndicalist.

The entire time he was incarcerated in solitary and subjected to extremely severe treatment. The prison regime was cruel, and upon one occasion he was brutally beaten by the keepers and put into a strait-jacket.

Lazarevitch declares that his case was by no means exceptional. It was not "a sad misunderstanding". Hundreds of politicals are in a similar position—arrested without charges and persecuted systematically. Incidentally, Lazarevitch inform us that at one time his prison neighbor in the Butyrki (Moscow) was our well-known comrade Motchanovsky, frequently mentioned in the Bulletin. It is now 5 years since Motchanovsky was first imprisoned; he is kept in strictest solitary, though a very ill man.

The present regime in the Butyrki prison—Lazarevitch relates—is one of utmost severity. The politicals are kept in isolation. It is not permitted to leave one's cell, nor to stand at the window or to communicate with fellow prisoners. Exercise, for each political separately, is allowed for one hour daily. Loud talking, singing, or tapping is punished by the dungeon, as in the days of the Tsar. Correspondence and visits are very limited. The food is insufficient in all the prisons. Lazarevitch himself, in his physical appearance, bears witness to it: he looks exhausted and ill from underrishment.

THE DEATH OF VERA MARTSINKEVITCH

Most tragic is the story of Vera Alexandrovna Martsinkevitch, a well-known member of the Left Social Revolutionists, arrested in 1921 and administratively sent away for 3 years to a concentration prison. Vera was one of the earliest victims of this procedure, since become a system. Her place of imprisonment proved to be an ancient monastery on the shores of the White Sea, in northernmost Russia—the notorious Pertominsk "camp". Life in the latter was a continuous torture—systematic underfeeding, brutality, an atmosphere of eternal expectation of something to happen, extreme nervous tension, and the absence of medical aid. Two members of the first party of politicals could not long support such conditions: V. Trophimova and Krukov went insane. Soon Martsinkevitch also took ill. There being no physician in Pertominsk, she was taken to Archangel for treatment. There she was kept in a hospital for about 6 weeks and then returned to Pertominsk. She fell ill again, but notwithstanding she was transferred with a number of other politicals to the Solovetski Islands. Her condition becoming very critical, the other politicals succeeded in having Vera ordered to Moscow for treatment. After having undergone an operation there, she was again returned to the Solovetski, to serve the remaining two years of her sentence.

She reached Kem, on her way to Solovki, at a time when navigation further north was closed. The city of Kem is situated on the Popov Island, and its prison camp serves as a distributing point. Vera had to spend the winter there. It

is a barren country, extremely cold and frequently visited by fearful wind-storms. The thin wooden walls of the barracks offer almost no protection. Often the water within is frozen—heating helps little. The snow blows in through the openings in the walls and ceiling. The food is of the poorest quality and not sufficient. The "dispensary" is just a filthy hole. Drinking water even is difficult to procure. No medicine. The only physician is Lvova, a woman counter-revolutionist of mean and petty nature, an abject tool of the authorities, she herself being a prisoner. Physical violence and beatings of the common criminals are a daily occurrence. Such was life in Kem. The Tcheka did everything in its power to make things even more miserable for Martsinkevitch. At first she was placed among the politicals. It was impossible to give her a separate cell, which was necessary in view of her physical condition. She grew worse. Then suddenly came an order from Moscow to put Vera on a "common criminal" regime and to isolate her from her comrades, the politicals, the only ones among whom there were persons that could give her medical advice and aid.

No protests and appeals were of any avail. Martsinkevitch, who refused to comply with the new order, was taken by force. A large body of soldiers were commanded into the barracks occupied by Vera. What could the other 25 politicals do who were in the same barracks with her as against the armed hirelings? There were, moreover, women among them and children 6, 5, and 3 years old. They were helpless. Vera was taken away. True, her condition was such that the prison authorities did not dare to place her in the general "common prisoner" barracks. She was put in the hospital. But on a "common" regime, and in the general ward that was noisy and filthy. With great difficulty the "collectiv" (the politicals collectively) succeeded in keeping Vera supplied with food, because she absolutely refused to accept the "common" ration. She declared that she did so in protest against the brutality and degradation of stamping her a common criminal. Naturally her condition under such circumstances quickly grew worse, and an operation again became necessary. In fact, it was a question of life and death. But the operation ~~could be performed only in Moscow~~, yet the prison management refused to take action in the matter, without special instructions from the GPU. Repeatedly the "collectiv" wired to Moscow, pointing out that delay in the matter means the wilful murder of the prisoner. Nothing helped. Apparently the GPU did not mind adding another victim to the list. Within a short time, in April, 1925, Vera Martsinkevitch died.

Her comrades were not permitted to bury her. Secretly they had to steal over to the hospital to bid her good-by for the last time. Only in their barracks could the "collectiv" intone the funeral march, for their martyred comrade. "You have fallen a victim". Her body was removed by the prison authorities at night and buried secretly. She died at the age of 33, leaving a daughter 12 years old who lives somewhere in the Don District.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Friends: — We are glad to be able to send you the news just received. K. and S., about whom we worried so much, not having heard from them for such a long time, have at last given a sign of life. Both are in poor physical health. We had to scold them for having sent to others the \$ 20. they received from you. We know how badly they need it themselves and the friends with them. Most of them have no support whatever... It is particularly terrible there on account of the children, as you know. And the population is growing because of the new political arrivals. Among the latter is a student girl who came three weeks ago, with several others, most of them very ill. One suffers with his lungs, another from heart trouble... One of our friends was sent away to a worse place recently, because he refused the offer made him by the Assistant Chief of the G.U.P. to become a spy on his comrades. This method is often practiced. Especially the young prisoners are so approached by the G.U.P. Refusal means worse conditions and exile further on. Things are beginning to look very ominous. Politicals from the extreme South are sent to the coldest North. You can

imagine what suffering it involves, particularly in view of the fact that no warm clothing is supplied and often no time given to prepare for the long journey... M. is soon expected here—after having been in the Solovki, Uralsk and... L., N. and several others are already in... political isolator. R. is in Siberia, and others are to follow there, according to our information. We fear to think of who is to come next...

**

....Many thanks for the money you sent. I received..... roubles. I could not acknowledge it before. I did not feel well enough even to take a pen into my hand. Twenty roubles of the amount you sent was forwarded according to your instructions..... You know how glad they all were... A package was sent to the polit-isolator in... where a large number of our people are now in prison. They needed the things very badly...

**

...I can tell you that I am glad to be in this place, because it gives me the opportunity to be of some use.... The last \$ 35. was duly received and distributed according to greatest need, both in packages and in cash... I am with... and we succeed in keeping in touch with the necessary places... The weather has been very bad, but your aid helps a great deal. Else some would die of hunger and cold....

**

Your letter has made us very happy. We only wish mail would come more often. There is nothing very good we can write to you, except that B. has been slightly improving. For a while we feared that he was about to die. But fortunately he has passed the crisis and we hope that he may get well... Now everything depends on the help we can get. He needs special medical treatment. The physician holds out strong hope for his entire recovery, provided he follows the regime prescribed. But that means diet, rest and similar things not easily achieved. He should be sent to a warm climate, the doctor says. But that requires big means. Fortunately our good comrades in America have been quick to send help, and you also, which we all appreciate very much. The money would make it possible for B. to go South, but the great question is will he be permitted to?...

AN EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING

All the comrades imprisoned in Russia need our systematic aid, the prison rations they receive being entirely inadequate to sustain life. Those in exile also depend upon our support, the Government allowance — even when regularly issued — amounting to but three dollars a month. Aside of that there are a number of prisoners requiring *special help*, particularly in the cases of those who are very ill or of mothers that have small children with them in prison or exile.

Several labor organisations have initiated the plan of *monthly pledges* for such special cases. The Dresden, Ratibor and Hamburg Syndicalist labor unions, for instance, donate a stated sum monthly for the benefit of certain comrades in Siberia and other Russian prisons. Such *regular* aid is of the utmost need financially, and at the same time it affords the beneficiaries the moral strength that comes to a prisoner from the consciousness of being personally remembered.

We urge our friends to follow this splendid example.

AID THE MEN AND WOMEN MARTYRED FOR THEIR IDEALISM

ADDRESS : Secretariat Relief Fund, Warschauer Str. 62
b/Kater, Berlin O 34, Germany