



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Information About the Current Struggle For National Independence and Human Rights

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Artist Alla Horska Murdered; KGB Suspected

On November 28, 1970, Ukrainian artist and community leader, Alla Olexandrivna Horska, was found murdered in the home of her father-in-law near Kiev. Her father-in-law's body was found next day on the railroad tracks, about 20 miles from the scene of Alla's death. His head had been cut off. The underground Ukrainian Herald in the 4th issue to reach the West reported on Alla Horska's mysterious death and gave her background.

ART WORK DESTROYED

Alla Horska was born on September 18, 1929, into a russified Ukrainian family in Kiev. She graduated from the Kiev Arts Institute and became actively involved in the national renaissance that swept over the Ukrainian intelligentsia at the beginning of the 60's. She began to speak Ukrainian and became active in cultural work, organizing literary readings and art shows and circulating underground materials. In 1964, in honor of the 100th-anniversary of the death of Ukraine's greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko, Alla Horska and a few other artists prepared a stained glass window which was to have been installed in Kiev University. The window showed an angry Shevchenko embracing Ukraine and holding a book aloft in his hand. Underneath the scene was a revolutionary inscription from one of Shevchenko's poems. For her part in this work, Alla Horska was expelled from the Artists' Union of Ukraine, and the window was destroyed by the KGB.

PROTESTS ILLEGALITIES

Alla Horska was also active in protesting the wave of repressions against Ukrainian writers and intellectuals who spoke out against the russification policies and illegalities in Ukraine. In 1967 she wrote a protest against the illegal trial of journalist Vyacheslav Chornovil, who had collected case histories of persecuted Ukrainian intellectuals (published by McGraw-Hill in 1968 as *The Chornovil Papers*). In 1968, she and a group of Kievan residents circulated a protest against violations of the principles of socialist democracy and of the norms of socialist legality. For this she was expelled from the Artists Union a second time. Beginning in 1969, Alla Horska took part in the Valentyn Moroz case (See last three issues of *News*). Summoned by the KGB to testify against Moroz, she refused to give testimony and ridiculed the presiding KGB officer. She wrote a letter to the Supreme Court of the USSR, protesting the closed trial of Moroz and the severity of his 14-year sentence.

POLITICAL ASSASSINATION?

Three versions of Alla Horska's death are current in the Ukrainian community. Many think that her father-in-law, unbalanced by the recent death of his wife, committed the crime in a senseless fit of dejection and then killed himself when he realized what he had done. Others, however, note that Alla was strong and certainly capable of defending herself against an almost 70-year-old man. They also point out how carefully traces of the crime were covered up: the body was dragged into a pit, bloodstains were removed or covered up by rugs, the windows were fastened. Those sceptical of the official version of the death also recall that the militia was supposedly unable to identify the father-in-law's body for a whole week, even though his passport was reportedly found on him. When friends of Alla, disturbed by her long absence, asked the militia to investigate the house, the militia did so unwillingly and superficially. The pit where the body was found was opened by the militia only at the persistent urging of one of Alla's friends. Thus, considering these and a number of other suspicious facts, some people conclude that Alla Horska, as an active community worker and dissenter, was deliberately murdered by the KGB in order to strike fear into other Ukrainian protesters. The current repressions in Ukraine are also cited to support this version of the death.

INTERROGATIONS AND DISMISSALS

Many friends and sympathizers attended the funeral, even though the funeral date was unexpectedly changed by the authorities. A permit to bury the body in Baykovy Cemetery was annulled, and it was buried in a new cemetery in a vacant plot outside the city. No relatives or friends were allowed to see the body. The coffin remained closed and could not even be brought into the house of the deceased. A short time after the funeral someone began to spread rumors that "nationalists" (a term previously applied to Alla Horska herself) were responsible for her death, and on this pretext several community workers and friends of Alla's were questioned by the KGB.

Some time later, Oleksander Serhienko, a drafting instructor in Kiev, was dismissed from his work for making a speech at the funeral. Ivan Hel, a historian and one time political prisoner, received a reprimand at work for reading a poem at the funeral dedicated to the deceased.

Hunger Strike At Vladimir Prison

During the week of December 5, 1970, several Ukrainian political prisoners in Vladimir participated in a hunger strike timed to coincide with Constitution Day and Human Rights Day and protesting prison conditions and restrictions. The following Ukrainians took part in the strike:

SVIATOSLAV KARAVANSKY. Famous throughout Ukraine as a staunch defender of human rights and outspoken critic of Soviet russification and denationalization policies, Karavansky had already spent 16-years in Soviet camps before his re-arrest six years ago. During his prison years he occupied himself with poetry, translations, and literary criticism, managing also to compile a 1000-page *Dictionary of Rhymes*, a major achievement in Ukrainian lexicography. An inveterate writer of protests, he continued to speak out on Soviet injustices even after his release. In 1965 he demanded the trial of Y. M. Dadenkov, Minister of Secondary and Higher education in Ukraine, for russifying the educational system of Ukraine. He wrote letters to various ministers and institutions in Ukraine protesting violations of "Leninist norms" in national policies. He also vigorously protested against the mass arrests of Ukrainian intellectuals in 1965. His activity led to his re-arrest in 1965, his case being handled by no other than Prosecutor General of the USSR, Rudenko (of Nuremberg fame). Without any valid reasons, Karavansky was sentenced to 8-years of severe regime. It is reported that at one time, Karavansky's wife (recently fired from her job because she refused to denounce her husband) petitioned the government to put her husband to death rather than go on making him suffer. In prison Karavansky continues to write petitions, protests, and poetry. Amnesty International in London has put him on its list of politically persecuted prisoners and has compiled an extensive case sheet.

DMYTRO KHVETSKO. Born in 1953, a graduate of Lviv University and a teacher of history, Khvetsko was the leader, publicist, and theoretician of the Ukrainian National Front, which started its activities in 1965 and considered itself to be the successor of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), the underground political organization active in Ukraine during World War II and after. The aim of the UNF was the liberation of Ukraine. It distributed pamphlets and protests and published a journal, *Fatherland and Freedom*. In 1967 the KGB broke up the organization, and Khvetsko received 15-years of prison and exile.

ZYNOVY KRASIVSKY. Philologist and writer, author of *Baida*, a historical novel about Dmytro Vyshnyvtsky, the founder of the Zaporozhkaya Sich in the 16th-century. The novel was prepared for publication, but did not appear because of Krasivsky's arrest. He was sentenced to 15-years for membership in the UNF.

YAROSLAV LESIV. Schoolteacher in the Kirovograd region in southern Ukraine. Sentenced to 6-years of hard labor and five years of exile for membership in the UNF.

ROMAN SEMENYUK. Sentenced to 25-years for membership in the OUN. In 1965 he was given an additional 3-years for attempting to escape. His companion, Antin Olynyk, was shot to death in the attempt.

YOSYF TEREZA. Sentenced to 8-years for "Ukrainian nationalist propaganda."

Mykhailo Soroka Dies In Mordovia

On June 16, 1971, Mykhailo Soroka died of a heart attack in camp 17a in Mordovia. He had been confined as a political prisoner for a total of 38-years.

Born in 1911 in Western Ukraine, Soroka was educated in Prague as an architectural engineer. He joined the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and participated in the underground movement for the independence of Western Ukraine from Poland, for which he spent several years in Polish prisons. In 1940, with the advent of Soviet forces, he and his wife were arrested for belonging to the OUN, and Soroka was sentenced to 8-years imprisonment in Vorkuta, the notorious forced labor camp in the Komi ASSR. Freed in 1948, Soroka was not allowed to return to Lviv and settled in the Krasnoyarsk region. In 1953, he was arrested once again on charges of participating in a prisoners' underground organization while in Vorkuta. He was sentenced to death, but the sentence was later commuted to 25-years, the term he was serving when he died.

Soroka was buried in the camp cemetery, the cross on his grave bearing only his prisoner's number, according to camp custom. His wife, Kateryna Zarytska, who is also serving a 25-year sentence, was not allowed to attend the funeral, even though she is confined in a near-by camp. Soroka's son, Bohdan, as well as other members of the family, was not informed of his father's death until two weeks later. All efforts to have Soroka's body buried by his family in Lviv were in vain.

For the past two years, a literary sketch titled *Cataract* has been secretly circulating in Ukraine. Written by former political prisoner, Mykhailo Osadchy (See page 3), it describes the author's impressions of several Ukrainian political prisoners that he met during his 2-year confinement in Mordovia. The author describes Soroka as a man of forceful personality and great moral and physical endurance.

Dissident Put Into Psychiatric Ward

The underground Ukrainian Herald reports that in September 1969, nurse Lyuba Nastusenko was arrested in Ivano-Frankivsk on charges of spreading "nationalist propaganda." She was reportedly sent for compulsory treatment to a special psychiatric hospital. The Herald considers that the judging of Nastusenko to be of unsound mind because of her political activity is the first case of its kind in Ukraine. For some time underground documents coming out of the USSR have told of political dissidents locked away in special mental institutions and subjected to mind-distorting drugs and torture. Early this year the Canadian Psychiatric Association formally condemned Soviet misuse of mental hospitals, calling such practices "medically criminal acts" and comparing them to those of the Nazis. On October 23rd, *Izvestia* denied such charges, stating that only people who committed socially dangerous acts while "not responsible for their actions" were put into mental institutions. Such people are released when "sufficient improvement" is found in their mental health, said *Izvestia*.

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THE REPRESSIONS CONTINUE . . .

Harass Former Political Prisoners

Having spent 5-years in Mordovia for "anti-Soviet propaganda and agitation," artist Panas Zalyvakhha has been under regular KGB surveillance ever since his return. Last December he went to the funeral of Alla Horska (See page 1) and, although he notified the militia in advance of his trip, he was nonetheless punished for going. He is now confined to his house from evening until morning, must register with the militia once a week, and can be "visited" by them at any time.

When poet and journalist Mykhailo Osadchy returned from two years of severe hard labor in Mordovia, he was not allowed to live in Lviv with his family and was arrested several times for supposed "passport violations." Recently he has been harassed for signing protests on behalf of Svyatoslav Karavansky and Valentyn Moroz. Osadchy's wife's sister was refused a job at the Lviv Polytechnic Institute, even though she was completely qualified. The reason, she was told, was that her sister was married to "such a man" as Osadchy . . .

Journalist Vyacheslav Chornovil has been unable to hold a job ever since his return from prison (he had spoken out against the persecution of Ukrainian intellectuals). After being dismissed from one job after another, he got a job at a railroad station in Lviv last fall. A KGB agent reportedly informed the stationmaster that Chornovil was an "enemy" who should have gotten a 25-year prison term. When the stationmaster expressed his readiness to fire Chornovil, the agent replied: "Do not hurry. We will tell you when this should be done."

Arrests and Trials

Last May, 18-year-old Petro Medvid was arrested for allegedly raising the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag (banned in Soviet Ukraine) on the city hall tower of Noviy Rozdil in the Lviv region. KGB agents are said to have beaten him severely during interrogation.

On May 28th, 37-year-old Anatoly Lupynis was arrested in Kiev for reading a poem of his during a demonstration at the monument of Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko. Lupynis has already spent 8-years in prisons and corrective labor camps for "anti-Soviet activity."

Last May the Kiev oblast court sentenced journalist Andriy Koroban to 6-years of severe regime for "anti-Soviet propaganda and agitation." He had been arrested in 1969 for writing articles that dealt with social reform in the USSR and the solution of the nationality problem. He was especially critical of the situation in Ukraine. Koroban had been arrested once before in 1950 while a student in Kiev and sentenced to 10-years in prison for writing an anti-Stalinist article.

University Students Expelled

Yaroslav Pavulyak, a philology student at Charnivtsy University, somehow got a hold of an uncensored copy of the Diary of Vasyl Symonenko (Died in 1963; symbol of the rebirth of Ukrainian poetry in the 60's) and read it to his fellow students. Then, on January 11th, an evening dedicated to Symonenko was held at the University, and when the guest lecturer expressed his indignation over the fact that excerpts from Symonenko's Diary were being used for propa-

ganda abroad, Pavulyak spoke up and suggested that the best way to counter such propaganda would be to publish the Diary in Ukraine without any cuts whatsoever. Pavulyak also said that he had read the Diary and then went on to speak about its contents. Interrogations began immediately. Students were asked whom Pavulyak had read the Diary to and where he had obtained the manuscript. All those who had been present at the reading were urged to report this fact immediately. As for Pavulyak, he was threatened with jail and expelled.

It seems that the KGB wanted Halyna Savron, poetess and student at Lviv University, to strike up an acquaintance with such "politically suspect" persons as M. Osadchy and V. Chornovil (See above). When she refused to collaborate, the KGB applied pressure on the parents who in turn applied pressure on Halyna. She held out, however, but found that at the end of the winter semester she had failed the course in the history of the Party. She was not allowed to take any further examinations and, finally, the dean expelled her from the University. Later, in a conversation with Miss Savron, the dean unequivocally stated that the real reason for her expulsion was her "views and acquaintances" . . .

Reprisals In Moroz Case

Accounts are being squared with the wife of Valentyn Moroz (sentenced to 14-years prison and exile for assailing injustices in Ukraine). For the past five years she has worked at the Ivano-Frankivsk Medical Institute, but, after her husband's trial, she was told that she would have to leave her job. She is also having troubles in the cooperative apartments where she lives. The KGB has turned her out of her three room apartment into a one room one. The head of the cooperative told her this was done because her husband had been convicted for "politics."

Atena Volytska, for ten years a chemical engineer at Lviv University, has finally been dismissed from her post after extensive interrogation by the KGB. Apparently the reason is that she was in Ivano-Frankivsk on the day of Moroz's trial and had signed a letter in defense of the young historian.

Oksana Meshko, who had actively protested against Moroz's arrest, noticed that she was being followed. She also noticed that her follower purposely tried to get himself seen by her. When it became apparent that she refused to be intimidated by such tactics, more direct actions were taken: She was interrogated by KGB and Party members and then expelled from the choir in which she sang.

Accused Of Idleness

Last October, critic and translator Ivan Svitlychny was summoned before the chief of the district militia department, accused of "idleness" and told to get a job or else. When later in the fall Valentyn Moroz was being tried at Ivano-Frankivsk, Svitlychny was summoned again (he had been active in protesting illegalities in Ukraine) and this time had to prove that he had publishing contracts, received remuneration and was not "idle." Then, for the time being, he was left in peace. The trouble is that Svitlychny was arrested in 1965 during the wave of arrests and reprisals directed against Ukrainian intellectuals and the growth of national consciousness and critical public opinion. Svitlychny was released as a result of active protest in Ukraine and abroad but since that time he has not been able to find a job in his profession. Lately he has been doing some literary work at home and has published some translations from the Spanish.

Cultural Harassment Spreads

FORBID UKRAINIAN CAROLS. Every year the number of New Year carolers in Kiev increases, but the custom, presumably because of its typically Ukrainian character, is seen as an attempt at "political intrigue." Last year a group of carolers near Kiev was ordered arrested by a drunken party official, while another group was stopped by a person in civilian clothes who led the young people to militia headquarters, checked their passports, and forbade them to sing any more carols in public.

AMATEUR CHOIR IN TROUBLE. The amateur choir Homyn, its repertoire consisting mostly of old Ukrainian ceremonial folk songs, has become very popular in Kiev. But from its beginning it has been subjected to harassment by the KGB which has restricted its rehearsal space and forbidden it to perform certain songs and make certain appearances. Failing, however, to disband the enterprise by such methods, the KGB has now begun to intimidate individual members, forcing some to report for long interviews at KGB headquarters. As a result, members who are afraid of losing their jobs or being thrown out of school have left the choir. A possible future victim of the KGB is the choir's director, Leopold Yashchenko, who was dismissed from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in 1968 for signing a protest against violations of legality in Ukraine.

DISBAND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. The KGB has disbanded a Kiev chamber orchestra which was supposed to have been directed by the young composer, Vadym Smohytel. It seems that in a conversation with one of the soloists, a KGB agent asked whether the orchestra had a "nationalistic" character and what exactly its purpose was. The agent also insinuated that Smohytel was a man of doubtful loyalty. The soloist told Smohytel of the conversation, whereupon Smohytel promptly complained to his superiors. The result: The orchestra was banned and Smohytel found himself jobless.

FOLKLORE RESEARCHER FOUND UNDESIRABLE. A research worker in the folklore department of the Institute of Arts, Folklore and Ethnography of the UkSSR wrote several works dealing with Ukrainian folklore and submitted them to his supervisor. The supervisor decided that the works were written from an ideologically hostile position and the author was transferred from research work to a low-paid bibliographer's post.

ART EXHIBITION CLOSED. Last December, on party orders, an exhibition of Ukrainian art was closed in Lviv just one day after opening. The exhibition was devoted to Ukrainian icons of the 14-18th centuries and drew large and enthusiastic crowds. The sudden ban of the exhibition was explained in several ways. Some, recalling the recent efforts to popularize Russian icons of the Middle Ages, felt that the exhibition was prohibited so that the Ukrainian achievements in this area would not overshadow those of the "older brother." Others said that party leaders were afraid that the enthusiasm of the viewers might take on a political character in view of the present situation in Ukraine. It was also noted that the exhibition showed only a small part of Ukrainian iconographic art, and that such masterpieces in any other country would have been proudly exhibited to the whole world. In Lviv in the Armenian Cathedral alone, hundreds of beautiful ancient icons languish under lock and key, unrestored, in unfavorable temperatures and without any kind of protection. In recent years there have been several attempts to steal the icons or set them on fire.

POETRY READING BANNED. Last November, an evening supposed to have been devoted to young Soviet Ukrainian poets was banned at the Polytechnic Institute of Kiev. The reading had been approved by authorities but, at the last minute, posters announcing the event were torn down, the reading hall was closed, and guards were posted at the entrance to record the names of all those attending. In a conversation with one of the organizers of the reading, a member of the Party Committee said that the program was "nationalistic" and that disturbances had been feared.

MUSICIAN LOSES JOB. Ukrainian folk orchestra musicians Vasyl and Mykola Lytvyn have stirred Ukrainian audiences with their performances on the bandura, the mandolin-like Ukrainian national instrument. The head of the UkSSR Council of Ministers, however, fearing patriotic outbursts at such concerts, prohibited the two brothers from performing in public. They were denied living quarters and a residence permit. Vasyl Lytvyn's wife was subsequently dismissed from her job, and at the end of last January, Lytvyn himself was fired.



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