

Can you be their voice?

THE IMPRISONED AND PERSECUTED IN UKRAINE NEED YOUR HELP



Yuriy Shukhevych with son

Forty six year old, **Yuriy SHUKHEVYCH** was first arrested by Russian security police in 1948 at the age of 15. Without any proper trial or a chance of a defence, Yuriy Shukhevych was put behind bars for 20 years. After his release in 1968 Shukhevych was not allowed to return to Ukraine. He settled in Nalchyk in the Caucasus region, where he married and became the father of two children. The KGB, however would not leave him in peace. He was constantly watched and persecuted. After three and a half years of freedom, he was rearrested and sentenced to another 15 years of hard labour and exile. Shukhevych has already spent 27 years in prisons and concentration camps and has another 8 to serve.

Shukhevych did not commit any offence against the state. His only 'guilt': being the son of General Roman Shukhevych, leader of the Ukrainian liberation movement, who fought against Hitler and Stalin alike, during the Second World War.

Lev LUKYANENKO, a lawyer, was sentenced in 1961 to death, the sentence was later commuted to 15 years imprisonment. He was accused of organizing the Ukrainian Workers and Peasants Union and expressing the view that Ukraine should be independent from Russia. After serving 15 years, Lukyanenko was released, but the persecution by the KGB continued. Consequently, he was arrested again and sentenced to another 15 years of imprisonment and hard labour. This time the charge against him was, "anti-Soviet agitation". Lukyanenko in reality has never violated any laws as far as the



Lev Lukyanenko with his wife Nadia

Soviet constitution is concerned, but the Russian imperialists whether Tsarist or Bolshevik always had two laws, one for themselves and one for the nations they enslaved.

Oksana POPOVYCH, imprisoned in 1974 and sentenced to 13 years of hard labour and exile. She was accused of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. This is her second imprisonment. She was first sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment in 1945, during which time she became an invalid. Oksana Popovych is now serving her sentence at Mordovian concentration camp and is very ill.



Oksana Popovych

Mykola RUDENKO, founder and leader of the UKRAINIAN PUBLIC GROUP TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS, was arrested and sentenced on 1st July, 1977 to a total of 12 years. The charge against him was that the GROUP expressed dangerous and hostile ideas, undermining the security of the Soviet Government. In fact the objectives of the Group were to monitor the implementation of the Helsinki Accords and to inform



Mykola Rudenko

the Ukrainian public about their lawful rights. This could be defined as follows:

1. To acquaint the Ukrainian public with the declaration of Human Rights, which has not been published in Ukrainian yet (The KGB regards it as anti-Soviet).
2. To promote contacts and a free exchange of information between peoples.
3. To strive to have Ukraine (a founder member of United Nations) represented by its own delegation at all international conferences dealing with the Helsinki Accords.
4. To strive for accreditation in Ukraine of foreign press correspondents and the formation of independent news agencies, etc.

The above named political prisoners are only an example, there are many others like: Sviatoslav Karavansky, Oleksa Tykhy, Mykola Matuskevych, Myroslav Marynovych, Ivan Svitlychny, Ihor & Iryna Kalynets . . . An endless list. Anyone who dares to speak in defence of Ukrainian National rights, the Ukrainian language, Ukrainian culture or parents who try to educate their children in the spirit of their national identity can find themselves imprisoned for many years.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP.

Ask your M.P. to raise (or support) their case in the House of Commons, or if you are an active Trade Unionist, raise your voice in their defence from the Trade Union Platform. Organize a petition on behalf of those unfortunate people, or write directly to the Russian Embassy to protest (13, Kensington Gardens, London, W8 4QR). Write a letter to a newspaper . . . More and more people, including prominent politicians and even some Trade Unions lately, are beginning to speak up, but they need to be encouraged, write to show them that they are not alone.

By helping the people of Eastern Europe to safeguard their freedom, you will be safeguarding your own. A just peace can only be achieved through the freedom of all nations and of the individual.

COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE UKRAINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE USSR.
49 Linden Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, London W2, 4HG.