

X: Jack, M-A, Joe, Gus ✓

OCT 5 1978

September 28, 1978

From: United Secretariat Bureau
To: Political Bureaus of the sections and comrades responsible
for women's liberation work
Concerning: International campaign on abortion

I. Agenda for meeting of representatives of European Political Bureaus (Nov. 3-4, 1978)

An information point concerning the international campaign on abortion will be added to the two points already proposed for the agenda (elections to the European Parliament; draft of the European resolution).

II. International coordination meeting for the abortion campaign held in Brussels Sept. 23, 1978

1. We will not attempt here to give a detailed account of this meeting, since this will be done by the British National Abortion Campaign (NAC), which is coordinating this campaign between international meetings. We note only that it was a successful meeting which showed that this campaign has won an audience on an international level, thanks to the contacts that were made over the summer. Authoritative national abortion rights organizations in Canada and Quebec, the USA, and Mexico have declared their support to the proposal for an international day of action for the right to abortion and contraception and against forced sterilization, the date of which has been definitively set for March 31, 1979. A major part of the European movement for abortion rights was represented, either by delegates of national coordinating committees (Great Britain, Holland, and Belgium) or by representatives of local groups. From France, Family Planning and the SGEN-CFDT (the teachers union linked to the CFDT) sent official representatives.

It was decided at this meeting to print and distribute as quickly as possible an appeal for the day of action that addresses itself to feminist organizations political parties, trade unions, and individuals who are ready to join in this struggle, asking them to support the campaign both politically and materially.

The meeting also discussed a proposal for a poster that would be printed in various countries. The design of the poster can then also be used to produce buttons and stickers.

Informative materials on the situation concerning abortion and support for the campaign in each country will be distributed by the British group that is coordinating the international campaign, the International Campaign for Abortion Rights (ICAR), which has constituted itself as an organization distinct from NAC.

An international calendar on the themes of the campaign will be put out by the Dutch or Belgian coordinating groups by December.

The next international coordination meeting was set for December 9, 1978 in Paris, in order to leave enough time for national coordination coalitions to get going on their work between now and then. Already, actions for the right to abortion and contraception are planned on a national level in Great Britain, Belgium, Holland, and Canada-Quebec.

2. All sections that have not already done so should make direct contact with NAC-ICAR, whose new address is:

374 Grays Inn Road
London WC 1
tel: (01) 278-0153

If you are not already receiving it, you should request to receive all material concerning the campaign, as a political organization wishing to actively support this mobilization.

3. A number of comrades attending the Brussels meeting had not seen the information material or the letters sent by the United Secretariat Bureau to the section leaderships at the beginning of July and the end of August. Please be sure that the comrades responsible for this work see the past and future correspondence relating to this campaign and to the work of our fraction. We decided in June to end the international women's commission in the form in had functioned up to then in order to avoid problems of parallel functioning and to assure a better liaison with section leaderships regarding our women's liberation work. But this should not lead to a decrease in information that is available to the comrades leading the work.

4. It is important for us to schedule enough time for fraction meetings prior to each international coordination meeting in order to discuss the political questions that are posed. The fraction meeting the evening prior to the last international coordination meeting was very useful in preparing the participation of our current in the meeting the following day. To assure the best preparation of our work, we propose to hold a fraction meeting on Friday, December 8 at 2 p.m. in Paris at the headquarters of the LCR, 10 impasse Guéméné (metro Bastille). We need more than one evening for the fraction discussion. Thus all comrades who plan to attend the next international meeting should try to arrange things so that are free on Friday.

5. Finally, there is a discussion taking place inside the international coalition concerning the presence of male supporters at these planning meetings. We think that wherever possible it is best to encourage groups and committees to send female representatives to these international meetings; this conforms with our position on the need for women to take the lead in the fight for their liberation. However, we are opposed to the exclusion of men who might be sent by an organization that does not have many women members (such as certain trade unions) or in cases where it was impossible for a women to come. But we think that at the present stage, since this discussion has not yet taken place in the international coalition in a thorough way, the sections and sympathizing organizations of the Fourth International should send women comrades to these meetings.

Revolutionary greetings,
Allio, for the United Secretariat

OCT 5 1978

Paris,

September 22nd, 1978

Subject: repression in Syria.

Dear comrades,

We enclose a statement about repression in Syria which came into our possession shortly before the August vacation period.

We ask you to make the information in this statement known as widely as possible in the workers and socialist movement. In particular we suggest that you bring this information to the attention of human rights and solidarity organisations. It will be important to draw this statement to the attention of Arab organisations..

Any protests should be directed to the Syrian Embassy in your country. If your country does not have a Syrian Embassy, the protests should go directly to the Syrian President, Damascus, Syria.

Please inform us of any protests on this question.

Comradely Greetings,

Dave Windsor

(For Bureau)

HALT REPRESSION IN SYRIA

No one is ignorant of the fact that the most elementary human rights are practically non-existent in military police dictatorships in various Third World countries. In such countries, the usual fate of any political opponent of the regime is prison and torture.

This is the case in Syria, where about one thousand Syrian political prisoners fill the regime's jails. Many have been there for a number of years, most notably the partisans of the previous regime, or those of the Baath party in power in Iraq (where repression is no less severe), not counting Palestinian militants arrested in Syria, and Palestinian and Lebanese militants arrested in Lebanon by Syrian troops and transferred to Syria in the most arbitrary fashion.

To the above-mentioned, can be added since the beginning of 1977 around 150 men and women, students and workers, accused of membership of marxist organisations. None of these can be charged with anything that is not in fact a simple exercise of the elementary democratic rights: i.e., no act of "terrorism". no possession of arms...nothing but membership of the "League of Communist Action"; the "Workers League" or other groups whose only crime is to have dared to oppose the established dictatorship and called for a democratic resistance of the masses against this oppression.

For the past 18 months, dozens of arrests have taken place daily in Syria. Most of those detained were released after this routine practice of terrorism, while others are still imprisoned without any form of trial other than the interrogations carried out by the "security" services, often accompanied by mal-treatment.

There has been no official accusation, no trial and lawyer until this day, in spite of the fact that the regime has announced the annulment of emergency laws. If there was any such annulment, it only benefited the speculators and monopolists. As for political militants, arbitrariness still reigns.

Several cases of torture were reported, the most common forms being: beatings with rods, electric shock treatment, electric charges applied to the genitals and sodomisation. An innovation in this field - which was inflicted on two female militants - is hanging heavy weights from the breasts in front of their fiance and brother respectively. The fact that the torture of women is being practiced for the first time in Syria reflects an aggravation of the repression.

There is an urgent need for action to demand a halt to torture and the liberation of political detainees. It is imperative that an international delegation visit Syria to investigate the conditions of prisoners. To this end, we address our call to all democratic organisations and democrats.

June 20th, 1978

Committee for the Defence of
Political Detainees in the Middle
East.

FIRST LIST OF DETAINEES IN SYRIA ACCUSED OF MEMBERSHIP OF MARXIST ORGANISATIONS.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Profession</u>	<u>Date of arrest</u>
Hussein Amara	Teacher	January 1977
Yussef al-Benni	Worker	March 1977
Badr Shammout	"	"
Muhammed Zaghati	"	"
Muhammad Maamar	Employee	"

Georges Dib	Pharmacist (working in industry)	March 1977
Muhammad al-Mahmoud	Agricultural worker	"
Izzat Mahmoud	Employee	"
Taj al-Din Risha	"	"
Ghassan Sbeih	"	"
Dahowan Honsi	Teacher	"
Hassan Zahra	"	"
Munzer Abbas	Student	"
Nasr Dayoub	"	"
Ibrahim Ghanem	"	"
Rizkallah Jamous	"	"
Amjad Kallas	"	"
Muhammad Mellisho	"	"
Hassan Renjous	"	"
Jihad Roumieh	"	"
Ibrahim Samuel	"	"
Khodr Jaber	Army officer	June 1977
Muhammad Maatouk	"	"
Salah al-Din Suleiman	"	"
Hussein Samra	Worker	December 1977
Fouad Hejjo	"	March 1978
Fayez Sara	Employee	"
Ismael Hamadeh	Teacher	"
Khaled Abdel Wahab	Student	"
Njoud al-Yussef	Worker	May 1978
Sana Kurdi	"	"
Khuloud al-Abdallah	Pharmacist (employed in industry)	"
Leyla Nahhal	Teacher	"
Sabah Abdel Kay	Student	"

Hala al-Abdallah	Student	May 1978
Rosette Issa	"	"
Farouz Khouri	"	"
Rana Sayour	"	"
Kamal al-Sayed	Worker	"
Samih Ibrahim	"	"
Ghazi Kheirbek	"	"
Khalil Mroue	"	"
Mouafak Semsendya	"	"
Abu Issa Tel Sikkin	Agricultural worker	"
Morhej Tel Sikkin	"	"
Abbas Abbas*	Employee	"
Racan al-Mahmoud	"	"
Daigham Homsy	"	"
Kamal Satik	"	"
Abdel Malek Assaf	Teacher	"
Akram Kasir	"	"
Munzer Khallouf	"	"
Abdel Jabbour Nassif	Maquettist	"
Yussef Abdel Kay**	Drawer	"
Riad al-Jundi	Student	"
Muhammad al-Mahmoud	"	"
Ibrahim al-Benni	"	"
Fadi Homsy	"	"
Bassel Hourani	"	"
Munkez Hourani	"	"
Bassel Kasrin	"	"
Salim Kasrin	"	"
Nazih Nahhas	"	"
Imad Sabbagh	"	"
Walid Serhan	"	"

* critical situation

28 de setiembre de 1978

Exp. Buró del SU
Dest. Buros políticos de las secciones

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Aqui una carta de la dirección del PST de Argentina (Exterior) agradeciendo a todos los que han ayudado en la campaña por la liberación de los dirigentes del PST, Moreno y Strasberg, los cuales han recientemente salido del cárcel en Brasil. El texto puede ser reproducido o utilizado en la forma que Uds estiman la más conveniente.

- - - - - Madrid, 22 de setiembre de 1978

El día 18 del corriente mes, las autoridades brasileñas, pusieron en libertad y expulsaron del país a Hugo Miguel Bressano (Nahuel Moreno) y Rita Strasberg, dirigentes del Partido socialista de los Trabajadores de la Argentina, quienes habían sido detenidos el día 22 de agosto, en Sao Paulo, junto con un grupo de 19 dirigentes del Movimiento Convergencia Socialista.

La liberación de los dirigentes argentinos, ha sido el resultado no sólo de la falta de cargos sustanciales en su contra, no sólo del poderoso movimiento interno de protesta, sino también y en importante medida, de la gran cantidad de exigencias en tal sentido efectuadas por instituciones y personalidades políticas, parlamentarias y sindicales de los EEUU, México, Panamá, Venezuela, Perú, Portugal, España, Bélgica, Francia, Italia, Grecia, Inglaterra, Suecia, Austria, Suiza y Alemania Occidental.

Asimismo ha sido un factor de gran peso la decidida intervención de las Naciones Unidas, a través de su Alto Comisionado en Brasil y de la organización Amnesty International.

Por medio de la presente, la dirección en el exterior del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores de la Argentina hace llegar a ustedes, con cuyo inestimable aporte y solidaridad hemos contado en esta campaña por la libertad de nuestros dirigentes, su más caluroso agradecimiento.

Junto con éste, reiteramos nuestra solicitud de seguir adelante con la campaña emprendida hasta lograr la liberación de los miembros de Convergencia Socialista que aún se encuentran detenidos, cuyo único delito ha sido intentar la construcción en Brasil de un partido socialista dentro de los marcos legales.

Reiteramos nuestro agradecimiento por la solidaridad que nos han demostrado, los saludamos atentamente :

Firmado/ Eugenio Greco,

Por la dirección en el exterior del
Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores de
la Argentina.