



amnesty international

International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England
Telephone: 01-836 7788 Telegrams: Amnesty London Telex: 28502



Mr Pieter Bakker Schut
Konigslaan 10
UTRECHT
Netherlands

27 June 1978

Dear Mr Bakker Schut

Ronald Augustin

As you may know, AI is presently undertaking a study of solitary confinement and social isolation in the Federal Republic of Germany in relation to article 1c) of the AI Statute concerning cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. This involves the (urgent) gathering of precise and accurate information on the cases of individual prisoners, as well as on the prisons in which they are being held. As the lawyer acting for the above prisoner, we should be most grateful if you could help us in this project by providing the Research Department here in London with the most up-to-date information on his prison conditions. (This would, for example, involve details as to whether he is now integrated into the 'normal' regime of the prison; whether, if not, he has any possibility of 'Umschluss' and if so, with how many prisoners and for how long; a description, if possible, of the physical surroundings, facilities and so on).

AI does already have a considerable amount of information on the case of Roland Augustin, but you will appreciate that this project will greatly benefit from the most recent information.

We hope you are able to help

Yours sincerely

Gillian Fleming
Research Department (Europe)

cc. AI, Dutch Section, Amsterdam.

Ties & Pieter H. d'Oliveira Prakken & Bakker Schut

advokaten

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
10 Southampton Street
London WC2E 7HF
England

koningslaan 10,
utrecht.
tel: 030 - 51 22 41

ons dossier:

uw kenmerk:

utrecht: 26 May, 1979

Dear Mrs Flemming,

Concerning: Ronald Augustin

In answer to your request from 27 June 1978 for information on the case of my client Ronald Augustin. The reasons for this delay are manifold, but I prefer to confine myself in this letter to the following remarks:

1. As you wrote me A.I. does already have a considerable amount of information on Augustin. I know the same is true as to many prisoners out of urban guerilla groups in the Federal Republic of Germany. Since 1972 A.I. has received thousands of documents about the treatment of such prisoners, including medical reports. In spite of all this abundant and convincing material A.I. has so far refused to consider this treatment, which diverges as to the individual prisoners only in details and can be typified as a refined combination of longterm social isolation, sensory deprivation and stress situations, publicly, as a definite form of torture. I do not think it is necessary to remind you of the cases of, for example: Proll, Baader c.s., Hoppe and Sonnenberg. In spite of the appeal of the so called Rüter-Commission in 1974 in the case of Augustin, A.I. has not even undertaken an official investigation into the detention situation of these prisoners in Western Germany. In view of this apparent inactivity (apart from some incidental interventions) it seems justified to doubt the effectiveness of any additional information.
2. In connection with one of the few interventions, A.I. sent Paul Oestreicher (then chairman of the British section of A.I.) on a mission to Mr Bender, Minister of the Interior in Baden-Württemberg. The extreme prejudices from Mr Oestreicher against prisoners of the RAF ("these sick gangsters") can be taken from the enclosed copy of an article by Mr Oestreicher in The Times from September 12th 1977. His statements (for example: "my sympathies are firmly with the politicians in Bonn...") made during the so called Kontaktsperre, have moreover undoubtedly contributed to the legitimation of the curious death of Baader c.s., who were in my firm opinion victims of a secret service action. What about the credibility of an organisation such as A.I., which makes use of the services of a man with such bias?
3. One cannot rule out the possibility however, that A.I. some time will change her policy; one can only hope that at that time there are still prisoners left in Western Germany to profit from such a change. At this moment about thirty prisoners (maybe more, my information is not

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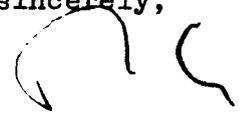
-2-

up to date) from the RAF and the Movement of the Second June have been on a hunger strike again for several weeks, against the murderous conditions of their detention situation. They demand mainly the bringing together in "interaktionsfähige Gruppen" of 15-20 prisoners.

For your information on the case of Ronald Augustin I herewith enclose the following documents:

1. Überblick über die Haftbedingungen.
2. Bericht über die Kontaktsperre - Sept/Okt 1977.
3. A selection (!) of documents about letter censorship and visit prohibitions after the official Kontaktsperre.
A = JVA Hannover, 8 November 1977 (Schwab).
B-J = Besuch und Briefverkehr Roos.
K-L = Besuch und Briefverkehr Lukassen.
M = Aktennotiz 13.3.78 Besuch Caspari.
N = Briefverkehr Alexa.
4. Statement Augustin 7 August 1978.
5. Letter 21 September 1978 from Augustin to Bakker Schut.
6. Hungerstreikerklärung Augustin.

Yours sincerely,



Pieter H. Bakker Schut

cc.: A.I. - International Executive Committee, London.
A.I. - Dutch section, Amsterdam.



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dk/vn
frg

13 July 1979

Mr. Pieter H. Bakker Schut
Koningslaan 10
Utrecht
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Bakker Schut,

Thank you for your letter of 26 May 1979 to my assistant, Miss Fleming, and my apologies for the delay in replying. You seem to be unaware of certain facts : -

You wrote that "AI has not even undertaken an official investigation into the detention situation of these prisoners in Western Germany". The 1978 Annual Report of Amnesty International states:

"the question of the extent to which the conditions of imprisonment of politically motivated prisoners are within the scope of Amnesty International in terms of the provisions in its Statute regarding 'cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment' is a complex one and towards the end of 1977 Amnesty International's International Executive Committee commissioned a study of this matter".

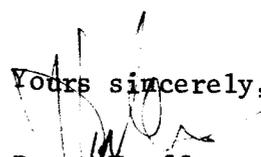
Earlier, reference was made to prison conditions of persons suspected or convicted of politically motivated crimes in the FRG in our Annual Report 1977. As you do not seem to be in possession of our annual ... reports, I enclose copies of the sections on the FRG from the last ... two annual reports, as well as a copy of our Statute.

I am now in a position to tell you that, on the basis of AI's study, a Memorandum was sent to the FRG Government on the issues involved, and on isolation of prisoners in particular. AI is presently in contact with the FRG Government about the issues involved.

AI is independent in its assessment of these issues; its position is unaffected by the particular demands made by prisoners, whether they are on hungerstrike or not.

As to AI's credibility, everyone is free to form his own opinion, preferably on the basis of our entire work as reflected in our annual reports.

Yours sincerely,


Douwe Korff
Europe Section

Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience: men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin, sex, religion or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture and the death penalty in all cases without reservation and advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds. It is financed by its membership and by subscriptions from all parts of the world. Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees).