

POLITICAL MURDERS AND REPRESSION IN PORTUGAL

Recent news from Portugal reveals that Jose Dias Coelho, the well-known sculptor, was shot dead in the street by the Portuguese Secret Police (PIDE), on December 19, 1961. The PIDE took away his body, and his family was not informed of his death until four days later, when an official notice appeared in the Portuguese press.

Coelho, who was 39 years old, had been a strong opponent of the fascist regime of Dr. Salazar ever since his early student days. The PIDE recently arrested his brother-in-law Jose Tengarrina, a journalist on the Lisbon evening newspaper Diario Ilustrado, and another of his brothers-in-law is also in the hands of the secret police.

Coelho's political murder reflects the wave of terror which has arisen in Portugal since the recent "elections" and the rising hysteria of the authorities since the loss of Goa in India. It is feared that in the coming weeks many more opponents of Salazar's regime may become victims of this new wave of repression.

Among those arrested recently are well-known leaders of the opposition, including Pires Jorge, Octavio Pato, Carlos Costa and Julio Martina. Jorge has been leading the resistance for more than twenty years and Pato for over fifteen. They are feared and hated by the fascist rulers and their lives are in serious danger. Many political opponents have been murdered by the PIDE in recent years.

The Beja revolt on January 1, 1962 was also an expression of the deep discontent against Salazar's regime. The lives of the arrested participants - especially Captain Varela Gomes (an opposition candidate in the November "Elections",) and Manuel Serra (a Catholic leader) - are also in great peril.

YOU CAN HELP TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THESE COURAGEOUS LEADERS by: sending in your protests NOW to the Portuguese Embassy, 11 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1. and writing LETTERS OF PROTEST to the British newspapers. SUPPORT the demand for an amnesty for ALL Portuguese political prisoners and exiles. Please express your support by writing to:

THE GROUP OF PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATS IN BRITAIN
4 Sherwood Gardens, Barking,
ESSEX.

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