

LL
8 November 1951
VI/1271RUMANIAPERSECUTIONThe Case Of An Ex-Prisoner.

We quote:

"I was arrested one night, at the beginning of March 1949 together with three persons from my district, and was taken to the underground quarters of Secret Police at TARGU JIU. Next morning we were visited by two policemen unrecognizable in the half-darkness, who insulted us, threatened us with death punching and kicking us. Later we were brought before the head of security police, MIHAILESCU (fnu), who questioned us. We were accused of having written and distributed pamphlets against the regime, and when I tried to deny these charges, I was beaten so that I ended up by admitting everything they wanted.

"I was taken in a pitiful state back into a narrow underground cell, about 1.50 meters long and 0.50 meter wide, and was locked up in that tomb alone. Later on they brought me 200 grams of black bread and a tasteless potato soup. I did not hear anything else about my companions under arrest. Next morning I was taken by train to the CRAIOVA prison where I met some other unfortunate people waiting to be tried. The treatment here was very harsh and the food very poor. I was informed that I would be tried, because I was "an enemy of the people" and "in the pay of the Anglo-American imperialists."

"In fact, I was tried after ten days and defended by a lawyer appointed by the court, who only confirmed my guilt so that the court condemned me to four years imprisonment. Two days later I was taken in a prison van together with other prisoners, to the infamous prison of JILAVA, where the major part of the 3,000 inmates were political prisoners.

"One day we found out that those who worked on the Danube canal would have their sentences reduced, so that I immediately asked to be sent there in order to escape the inferno of JILAVA.

"They took me together with other prisoners to the Canal on 8 May 1949. We were lodged in wooden barracks surrounded by a double barbed wire fence and guarded by armed sentinels. An enquiry as to what special work we could do was made, and as I had a good knowledge of mechanics, especially as I had been driving trucks during the war, I was employed as a driver. I worked all day long transporting building material, always accompanied by a guard. The yard where hundreds of political prisoners worked, was surrounded by a 1.50 meters high barbed wire fence and between the two lines of wire, one and a half meters apart, the ground was dug up and smoothed out. The wire was charged with electric current. Guards were in position every fifty yards, with strict orders to fire at anybody approaching the wire. Shooting down persons who attempted to escape was not unusual.

"The prisoners who would not humbly submit to the hardest of work and who argued or protested against the inhuman treatment were singled out as incorrigibles. One morning in June as I was

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VI/1271

RUMANIA
(cont'd)

going out to work, I saw three bodies lying on the ground between the two rows of barbed wire. Later I found out that the victims were young politechnic students. I was freed toward the end of March 1951.

"I cannot believe it is true, as I am still living under the nightmare of the past. One question keeps whirling round and round in my brain. Am I really free?"

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Observed 1949 - 1951.

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : reliable;
Information: highly probable (name withheld)