

President of Brasil
His Excellency Garrastazu Medici
Brasilia, D. F., Brasil

New York, August 16, 1971

Excellency,

The arrest of the Living Theatre in Brazil has aroused indignation in all the countries where that company has come to be known for its productions of a high cultural level. Around the world, the friends of the Living Theatre have undertaken measures of all kinds to work for their release. Petitions are circulating, appeals have appeared in the press, and telegrams have been sent to high Brazilian authorities and to diplomatic representatives.

Contradictory information has come to us as to the condition of the detention of the fifteen actors. Our objective, however, is not scandal: it is simply to achieve the release of a group of artist with an international reputation, whose imprisonment deprives the world of a fount of high art.

Vast signature campaigns have been undertaken. These measures will increase. The signatures which accompany the appeal indicate the esteem in which the Living Theatre is held by several of the most important personalities in the arts, letters and contemporary thought.

Here is the text:

"Julian Beck, Judith Malina and thirteen members of their group (from Brazil, Peru, Canada, United States, Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Portugal, Australia) are in prison in Belo Horizonte where they have been detained since July 1, 1971. The Living Theatre is one of the most celebrated and important theatrical companies in the world. We demand of the Brazilian government the immediate release of all of the members of the troupe."

Mary Lee Abbot - painter
Mark Amitin - President, Universal Movement Theatre
Allan Aronowitz - journalist, New York Post
Richard Avedon - photographer
Bernard Barrow - Chairman of Drama Department, Brooklyn College
Harry Belafonte - singer
Eric Bentley - theatre critic
Peter Bergman - actor
Luciano Berio - composer
Leonard Bernstein - composer
Marlon Brando - actor
Kenneth Brown - playwright
Tally Brown - performer
Robert Brustein - Chairman of Drama Department, Yale University
Michael Butler - producer

John Cage - Composer
Reverend Allan Carmines
Joe Chaikin - director
Paddy Chayefsky - Pulitzer Prize-winning Playwright
Bill Coco - director
Benjamin Danenberg - Federal Attorney
Ossie Davis - director
Diane di Prima - writer
Donovan - singer
Allen Douglass - President, Douglass Records
Bob Dylan - singer
Barry Farrell - journalist, Life Magazine
Bob Fass - actor
Jules Feiffer - cartoonist, playwright
Arthur Feiner - Ph.D.
Lawrence Ferlinghetti - poet
Ellie Fisher - journalist, Canadian Broadcasting Company
Warren Finerty - actor
Jane Fonda - actress
Peter Fonda - actor
Betty Friedan - writer
Allen Ginsberg - poet
Dan Goldberg - writer
Paul Goodman - writer
Percival Goodman - architect
Gary Goodrow - actor
Barbara Grumet - actress
George Harrison - composer
Nat Hentoff - writer, Village Voice
Lilian Hellman - Pulitzer Prize-winning Playwright
Joseph Heller - writer
Yascha Heifetz - designer
Jack Holtzman - Electra Records
Robert Hughes - journalist, Time Magazine
Jill Iles - writer
Mick Jagger - singer
Phillip Johnson - architect
Jasper Johns - painter
Allan Katzman - editor
Stanley Kaufmann - film and theatre critic
Arthur Kinoy - attorney
Peter Kinoy - cineaste
Arthur Kopit - playwright
Paul Krassner - humorist
Hermann Krawitz - Metropolitan Opera Company, N. Y.
Stanley Kubrick - cineaste
Tony Lemire - actor
John Lennon - composer
Elanore Lester - journalist, N. Y. Times
Harvey Lichtenstein - Director, Brooklyn Academy of Music
Roy Lichtenstein - painter
Hon. John V. Lindsay - Mayor of New York City
Dwight Mac Donald - writer
Shirley Maclaine - actress
Jackson Maclow - poet

Norman Mailer - Pulitzer Prize-winning Writer
Hyde Manhattan - poet
Gainfranco Mantegna - photographer
Jonas Mekas - cineaste
James Merrill - artist
Arthur Miller - Pulitzer Prize-winning Playwright
Mitch Miller - musician
Reverend James Moody
Robert Motherwell - painter
Rudolph Nureyev - balletomane
Mike Nichols - cineaste
Jack Nicholson - actor
Tom O'Horrigan - director, Hair and Jesus Christ Superstar
Yoko Ono - artist
Robert Osborne - cartoonist
Rosalyn Payne - journalist
Arthur Penn - cineaste
Robert Projansky - attorney
Robert Rauschenberg - painter
Kenneth Rexroth - playwright
Keith Richards - guitarist
Carl Ritchie - aid to Governor Tom McCall of Oregon
Larry Rivers - painter
Jerome Robbins - choreographer
Abbey Rockefeller
Gordon Rogoff - editor, The New Republic
Dr. Phillip Rosenshield - psychologist
Phillip Roth - writer
Rae Ann Rubenstein - editor, Crawdaddy
Muriel Rukeyser - poet
Frederick Rzewski - composer
Arthur Sainer - journalist
Richard Schechner - theatre critic and director
Robert Silver - editor, New York Review of Books
John Simon - editor, Random House
Tom Smothers - humorist
Maureen Stapleton - actress
Don Sutherland - actor
Jerry Tallmer - journalist, New York Post
Virgil Thompson - organist
Rip Torn - actor
Kenneth Tynan - critic
Ultra Violet - actress
Amos Vogd - journalist
Dr. Roy Walford - professor, University of California
Andy Warhol - artist
James Waring - choreographer
Tennessee Williams - Pulitzer Prize-winning Playwright
Peter Yarrow - singer
Lamont Young - composer

American Committee for the Defense of the Living Theatre

Steve Ben Israel Mary Krapf Andrew Nadelson
c/o Mrs. I Beck / 800 West End Avenue / New York 10025 / 212-222-3183