

Albert Boadella, director of the Catalan Theatre Group "Els Joglars" was sent to prison by the Spanish Military Authorities in Barcelona, in 15th December, 1977. Since then, the other members of the Company have been summoned to declare before the Military Authorities. The charges are insults to the Army in the theme of their current production "La torna", which is based in the trial and execution of a common delinquent in the latter years of Franco's regime. The programme alluded to the trial of M an alleged terrorist who was executed the same day as another common delinquent. The trial of the one had been used to obscure the political implications of the other. The play had been sent to the Spanish Censor who had given all the necessary legal permits for the performance under the existing Spanish Theatre Law. After a few performances of this production in different places of the country, Albert Boadella received a telephone call by an anonymous Military figure, who summoned him to stop the play. With all legal requirements in hand, he could see no reason to do so. No explanation has been given by the Government for the reasons that enabled the Military Authorities to send him to prison two weeks later and to threaten him with a military trial which could send him to prison for 15 or 20 years, in a country which has recently legalised the freedom of expression.

The Spanish Theatre Profession is organising a General Strike in the Entertainment and Cultural World, and has been asking well known artists throughout the world to send telegrams to the Ministry of Culture asking for the immediate release of Albert Boadella. The address is:

Excelentísimo Señor Pío Cabanillas
Ministerio de Cultura
Madrid

Amnesty International is already trying to organise messages from political figures in European Countries to be sent to Madrid. Please give this information to your city newspapers and to your cultural and entertainment world.