

Prisoner of the month

18 SEP 1963

From Our Correspondent

LONDON, Wednesday.—Robert Sobukwe, now detained in South Africa, has been chosen by Amnesty International as its "Prisoner of the Month." He will also be eligible later for selection as "Prisoner of the Year."

But the "naming" process does not confer any privilege except that of a profile in the organization's monthly bulletin, though last year's "Prisoner of the Year"

received a plaque commemorating the event.

In its profile article, Amnesty describes Sobukwe as "a man of intellectual vigour and great determination," and says he is known to his followers as "Mangaliso the Magnificent."

A spokesman for the organization told me that the selection was "a bit haphazard." It was normally done by the Amnesty Library Committee on the basis of reports and topicality. The idea was simply to "highlight"

the case of a particular political prisoner for the benefit of the organization's members.

The spokesman said that in the case of some "prisoners of the month," members of the organization were encouraged to write to him in jail, or to send letters of protest to the Government concerned. This has been done in Sobukwe's case.

Amnesty sends Christmas cards each year to political prisoners in many different countries.

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