

ALERT

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

CHERNOVTSY REFUSENIK FRAMED

Mosei Zats was given a three year sentence at his recent trial. Sentenced according to Article 84/1 of the Ukrainian Code, Zats was also punished with confiscation of his property. As indicated in previous ALERTS, Zats' case was reopened after his application for emigration was processed. Despite the fact that a 9-month long investigation had already completely cleared him, a new investigation was initiated and he was found guilty.

Zats' case follows a pattern used by the Soviet s to cover up persecution of refuseniks. By trying him on criminal charges, they avoid the appearance of violating guarantees of religious and political freedom sanctioned by international law.

JEWISH CEMETERY DEMOLISHED

The Soviet authorities have completely destroyed the Jewish cemetery in Daugavpils (formerly Dvinsk) in the Latvian Republic. A market and high-rise apartment buildings will be built on the site.

Most of the cemetery had already been converted to a public park and an industrial center some time ago. Three graves in particular had been tended and preserved - those of Rabbi Meir Simcha HaCohen, Rabbi Yosef Rozen and Rabbi Nachman Borochevich, all brilliant commentators of the Talmud. The Soviets have transferred these graves to the general cemetery.

PILNIKOV GOES ON TRIAL

Soviet authorities announced that Valery Pilnikov will be brought to trial on June 20th. Pilnikov was arrested on May 16th and charged with "malicious hooliganism." Pilnikov had returned from Moscow five days earlier, where he and other Kiev refuseniks had delivered a formal complaint to the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

The 39 signatories of the complaint, dated February 17th, asked for a clear interpretation of the Soviet law relating to emigration from the USSR. The complaint specifically stated that when "issuing refusals to applications for emigration, the Kiev OVIR does not supply a juridical motivation of its decision, thus violating Article 58 of the Soviet Constitution and of the Decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of June 19,1958, and of April 12, 1968."

"The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukr. SSR," said the signatories, "has to explain to the executive bodies and, in particular, to the OVIR office of the Ministry of the Interior, that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is a law and should be observed without fail in accordance with the Constitution of the USSR."

Among the signatories to the complaint were: M.E. Kigel, L.Kh. Elbert, A.E. Chernyak, Ya. V. Rovinsky, I.L. Tsitverblit.

KOSCHAROVSKY REFUSAL SHOCKS ACTIVISTS

A ruling by Moscow OVIR officials concerning radio engineer Yuli Koscharovsky has shocked activist circles and filled many long term refuseniks with considerable anger and apprehension.

Koscharovsky has for 8 years been refused on the grounds that work he did 12 years ago categorized him as a "security risk", a classification he has strenuously opposed. Recently Koscharovsky was first officially informed that his "security" classification had been lifted; he was then told that he was being "refused" once again, this time on the grounds that his invitation from Israel was not from a relative of the "first degree."

"Not only did this fresh blow leave the Koscharovskys totally stunned", a friend reported later that day, "but his wife Inna simply collapsed in tears". The implication of the OVIR decision was not lost on Koscharovsky's friends. Many have been waiting for "security clearances" for even longer than he. Several of them do not have "first-degree" relatives in Israel.



Although the "close kinship" rule has been extensively applied in the Ukraine and in many towns outside Moscow, this is the first time that it has been used against a long-term refusenik.

Experienced activists had previously thought that the framing of the new regulation was a device to stem the flood of new applications for exit visas, particularly in the southern towns. The fact that it is being applied retroactively to families whose applications were made as early as 1970 has shocked them deeply.

Another refusenik sadly observed, "The Kosharovsky case proves as clearly as possible, that so-called 'security classifications' are nothing more than an obstructionist tactic to punish selected Jews. When that piece of formalism is thrown out, they swiftly bring in something else. We have learned from bitter experience that the powers that be will do anything and everything that they can get away with."

THIRTY PLEAD FOR DYING BOY

More than thirty Moscow refuseniks have appealed to President Leonid Brezhnev on behalf of Alexander Landsman, a sixteen year old boy dying from Leukemia. In their appeal, the refuseniks ask that the boy be allowed to leave to have treatment in the West on humanitarian grounds.

Alexander's parents, Emma and Boris Landsman, had their application for exit visas turned down on the grounds that Emma's work made her a security risk. For the sake of the boy's health the parents are prepared to split the family; they have asked whether Boris would be allowed to leave with their son. But the answer was "no".

"It is surely understandable that we would like to try every available means to help our son", Emma told a friend this week. "We believe that there is a cure in the West which could possibly help our Sasha. However small the chances of recovery might be, we still feel that we must do everything to save his life".

Among the signatories to the appeal were: B. Bogomolny, V. and I. Brailovsky, L. Blitshtein, G. Vigdarov, A. Gurevich, V. Yelistratov, Zaslovsky, P. Krivonos, O. Mendelev, A. Lukatsky, A. Teplitsky, P. and M. Abramovich, A. and Y. Lerner, I. and V. Tufeld, V. and E. Prestin, H. Yelinson, E. Dubianskaya, A. Drugova, B. Chernobilsky and G. and N. Khasin.

NINE KISHINEV ACTIVISTS SLANDERED IN PRESS

Confirmed reports from the Soviet Union indicate that the official Moldavian newspaper Sovietskaya Moldavia carried in its May 31st column "Zionism Without Veil" an article accusing Jewish activists of assisting foreign tourists in espionage and other illegal activities in the USSR. Those accused, all from Kishinev, include Alexander Khozin, Leonid Vainshtein, Vladimar Tsukerman, Gregory Leiderman, Yakov Shvartsman, David Vodovoz, Aaron Moonblit, and two others named Totshtein and Leizerovich.

Two American tourists were also named as allegedly breaking into private homes. The appearance of this article may prove to be a portent of further disturbing developments, particularly in areas concerning Soviet Jewish activists. For example, prior to the 1977 arrest and subsequent sentencing of Anatoly Shcharansky, the official Soviet newspaper, Izvestia, carried an article villifying him.

The Moldavian article apparently follows a letter written by activists to the International Olympic Committee. In the letter, they claim that the Olympics should not be held in a country which violates human rights. They asked the Committee for help in reuniting them with their families in Israel.

All of the signers have since been interrogated by the KGB and warned of grave consequences. Leonid Vainshtein and Grigory Leiderman, for instance, were told that they could face charges with three year sentences; Vladimar Tsukerman was warned that he could face up to 7 years imprisonment. The clincher was that Vainshtein's and Tsukerman's homes were broken into while they were being interrogated.

SPOTLIGHT ON A REFUSENIK: LEV GENDIN

An appeal has recently been received from a friend of Lev Gendin. Gendin has been a refusenik for over nine years and has been separated from his wife Aviva (who resides in Israel) since 1972. He has spent over 160 days in jail, and has been homeless since May of 1979.

An electronics engineer, Lev has been subjected to innumerable persecutions by the KGB, both in Kishinev and in Moscow. He has been physically abused, both in public and within KGB prisons. He and his wife were separated after only 3 months of marriage, but the authorities refuse to recognize his wife as of "sufficient kinship." They were married in a religious ceremony, but were not permitted a civil ceremony. (Aviva's papers had been handed in as she had been given permission to emigrate).

The text of the friend's appeal follows:

Lev Gendin. . . had been subjected to numerous repressions by the KGB and the militia: preliminary arrests, beatings, etc. He was beaten severely in the Noginsk prison, for example, and his hands were put into ratchet-type handcuffs. (He had no feeling in his hands for weeks afterwards and said that they were as stiff as artificial ones.)

In September 1979, Gendin and I went to the Novgorodskaya Oblast in order to try to avoid the continuous provocations of the KGB. An attempt was made to arrest us. Trying to escape from the KGB, we ran for hours in the cold rain and spent the night in the swamps and forests. We walked 16-17 hours per day in order to reach Moscow. All these hardships had a poor effect on Lev's health; his injured back is giving him trouble and the psoriasis he has been suffering from has become aggravated by the nervous tension.

As a close friend of Lev, I have to declare: everything possible should be done in order to save him while there is still time! A ridiculous charge of participation in burglaries of apartments, speculation with stolen goods, etc., based on the testimony of a KGB provocateur, Mark Morozov, is being prepared against him.

Lev told me many times that if nothing will change, if these terrible years will continue, he would commit suicide. He said: "If my life does not work out - and I cannot think of myself as living outside Israel, without Aviva - at least my death will attract attention and might help other refuseniks."

Immediate actions such as reports of his fate transmitted on the radio, inquiries about him by official organizations and responsible individuals, etc., will prevent the KGB from conducting reprisals against Lev, if they will not come too late!

Please write to Lev Gendin at: Malysheva 19, apt. 16, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR.

PREPARATIONS AFOOT FOR HELSINKI REVIEW IN MADRID

American officials expect to have specific names and cases put on the agenda at the Helsinki Review meeting in November at Madrid. According to Mark Hopkins of the Voice of America, allegations of Soviet violations of human rights will be discussed despite the fact that this particular approach is expected to anger the Soviet delegation.

Union of Councils groups, in addition to other groups world-wide, are collecting information on various cases. This material will be presented to the Helsinki Commission in the US and other government watch-groups in their own countries.

The Madrid meetings are not expected to be open to the press, with the exception of the opening speeches during the first week. No verbatim transcripts will be available, although the US delegation will probably hold regular press briefings as it did at Belgrade.

NEWS BRIEFS

* Lev Blitshtein and Isai Goldshtein have returned from a visit to Ida Nudel. They helped her with repairs on her house.

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 21, 1980

● Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to favorably consider House Joint Resolution 474, to authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating April 21 through April 28, 1980, as "Jewish Heritage Week." The month of April includes many dates of major significance to the Jewish people—Passover, the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, Israeli Independence Day, Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry, and Jerusalem Day.

The resolution is a positive action to set aside this week in April to educate us to the struggle that the Jews have undergone for centuries. And this struggle is not over. Still, Jews in the Soviet Union are being punished and harassed. The Soviet Union will not allow Jewish refuseniks to practice their religion and will not grant them exit visas to Israel.

I have "adopted" a Soviet refusenik, Vladimir Kislik, who has been denied permission to leave the Soviet Union since 1973. North Shore Congregation Israel, a synagogue in my district, began writing to Mr. Kislik in 1976, and I began writing to Mr. Kislik, and on behalf of Mr. Kislik to Soviet dignitaries, shortly after my election to the Congress.

One of my constituents met Mr. Kislik in 1976, and was impressed with the feeling that he was not running away from something, but to something. She was deeply moved by his sincere desire to rejoin the nation of Israel, the spiritual haven of the Jewish people. He must have hope, we must have hope, and he must not be forgotten.

In the last 9 years, 5,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated to the Chicagoland area. Many organizations have established volunteer programs to contribute funds, to host refugees, to introduce refugees to Jewish family customs, and to tutor refugees. The Jewish community in my district has cared for its own and for many others, and the humanitarianism in these times and in other times must be commemorated. The compassion of the Jewish people, amidst struggle and oppression, should be recognized nationally in Jewish Heritage Week. ♫

JTA Daily News Bulletin

June 6, 1980

GINZBURG URGES NEED TO WIN RELEASE OF LENINGRAD 'HIJACKING' PRISONERS

By Rochelle Sidel Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., June 5 (JTA) -- Former Soviet dissident Alexander Ginzburg came here this week to remind the New York State legislators that 10 years after the Leningrad hijacking trials in the Soviet Union, there are still three men imprisoned for the "crime."

"Today, the only hope for their release lies on your behalf," Ginzburg, speaking in Russian through an interpreter, told about 150 people, including some 30 legislators. He spoke at the invitation of Sen. Manfred Ohrenstein (D-Manhattan), to encourage the passage of a resolution urging Gov. Hugh Carey "to designate June 1980 'A Month of Conscience' to remember Soviet citizens denied the right to emigrate and urge our fellow citizens and legislators to call upon our President to intercede on their behalf."

Ginzburg, a human rights activist in the USSR for 20 years, was released from a Soviet labor camp on April 27, 1979, along with four other political prisoners, in exchange for two convicted Russian spies held in an American prison. He devoted most of his speaking time to the plight of other dissidents still in Soviet prisons.

Yuri Federov and Alexei Murzhenko, two of the three men still being held for the alleged attempt to hijack a plane to Israel 10 years ago, were Ginzburg's bunkmates in a Mordovian prison camp, he said. Federov, a practicing Russian Orthodox Christian, has been punished for insisting on wearing a cross in the camp. Murzhenko, also a Christian, has been in and out of prison for his political activities which culminated with the alleged hijacking effort.

The third prisoner, Iosif Mendelovich, a Jew, has persisted in strict observance of Jewish law at the camp, despite additional hardship and suffering imposed on him, according to reports.

Ginzburg also discussed human rights activist Ida Nudel, now in exile in Siberia, and imprisoned Anatoly Shcharansky and Vladimir Slepak, members of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, a citizens' organization committed to monitoring the Soviet Union's adherence to the humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki Accords.

"I cannot rest until my friends are at liberty," he said. "I myself was torn out of prison by American public opinion. Today the only hope for my friends' liberation lies in your support of their behalf."

AS THE SOVIETS TELL THE STORY

Soviet Weekly, May 24, 1980

Page five

YOU ASK

Emigration — two-way

Mr R. Murphy of Oxford expresses concern that a person who had previously applied to emigrate from the Soviet Union on religious grounds was subsequently convicted and received a "harsh sentence" for embezzlement of state funds.

WELL, Mr Murphy, the two aspects you mention bear no relation to one another. A person can, and people do, "emigrate on religious grounds" and the Soviet authorities put no obstacles in their way.

Every Soviet citizen is guaranteed freedom of religious or other beliefs by the constitution, and any expression of racial or religious intolerance is strictly punishable under the law.

The Soviet Union has done a great deal to simplify the formalities of entry and exit since the Helsinki agreements were

ing applications for entry or exit has been halved.

A short while ago the western press claimed that 120,000 Soviet Jews were waiting for visas to leave the USSR. That is untrue.

On January 1 this year the Soviet authorities had 11,845 applications from Jewish people and these were being processed as quickly as possible.

A relatively negligible number of people are temporarily denied exit visas.

It takes only ten days to get a visa to visit the USSR and 15-30 days for a visa for Soviet

SPECIAL REPORT
EXPERT ON SOVIET AFFAIRS CHARGES
RED ARMY BEING USED TO INDOCTRINATE
PEOPLE IN ANTI-SEMITISM

PARIS, June 9 (JTA) -- Using its vast armed forces as a captive student body, the Soviet Union is systematically indoctrinating its people in anti-Semitism, Dr. William Korey, director of foreign policy research for B'nai B'rith International, declared in a new study just released here.

Addressing the annual meeting of the B'nai B'rith International Council, Korey, an expert on Soviet affairs, outlined the ideological training of the Soviet military and warned that this training which emphasizes an anti-Zionist, anti-Jewish theme, is laying the groundwork for a new "warrant for genocide." The linkage between the stress on ideology and the use of Zionism as its focal point "merits the world's deepest concern," Korey declared. He said that some of the books and publications used by the Soviets echo the infamous forgery, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," but others are even more virulent, he added.

Zionism Is 'Principal Target' For Hatred

Korey reported that the indoctrination is pervasive and conducted at all levels, from the 161 officer-training schools analogous to West Point and Annapolis to high school teenagers -- as well as the army, navy and air forces which induct two million youth every year. Korey said that Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev stressed at the 24th Communist Party Congress the importance of the military in shaping the public's mind. Korey added that "commanders in the military are called upon to see that not a single serviceman is outside continuous political influence." The focus of the indoctrination is "hatred for the enemies of the Socialist Motherland," Korey said and quoted a Soviet journal declaring that such hatred is "the most important component part of the perseverance and heroism of the Soviet troops." The principal target for this hatred is Zionism, Korey said.

The campaign apparently began in 1968, when tension between the liberal regime of Alexander Dubcek in Czechoslovakia and the Kremlin was growing, Korey explained. The Soviet depicted world Zionism as the capitalists' spearhead to subvert Communist states. The Soviet propagandists began to write about mysterious saboteurs, several of whom were Jewish associates of Dubcek, Korey said. "They became scapegoats, thereby providing legitimization for a military invasion," he added.

During the next dozen years, the military became the center of Soviet anti-Zionism. Book after book, article after article, attacked Zionists and Jews for a variety of "crimes." Frequently the notorious "Protocols" were the basis of the propagandists' charges. Sometimes the writers went further.

Following President Carter's early initiatives on behalf of human rights in 1977, Lev Korneyev, the Kremlin's most prolific anti-Zionist writer, charged that "international Zionism" was attempting "to get into its hands the military-industrial complex as the most profitable sphere of business." He accused American Zionists of manipulating anti-Soviet and anti-detente policies in Washington. Later, Korneyev claimed that Zionists tried "to create an underground in the USSR and conduct military and industrial espionage."

One writer accused the Mafia and organized crime in America of providing funding for Israel's secret service. A documentary contended

that a Jewish woman had tried to kill Lenin and, in a sequence showing Hitler's tanks invading the Soviet Union, said "Jewish capital helped Hitler to power."

Korneyev contended in later articles that of the 165 largest military industrial complexes in the West -- he called them "death concerns" -- 156 were controlled or owned by "pro-Zionist bourgeoisie of Jewish origin." This charge, Korey added, "was a bald and wild attempt to depict Zionism as an enormous and almost unchallenged power with the capacity to incinerate the globe." The B'nai B'rith executive told the International Council that "the significance of military publications as a conscious instrument for promotion of anti-Semitism became especially clear in 1979 'with publication in a new Armed Forces Journal of an article entitled 'Zionism -- The Poisoned Weapon of Imperialism.'"

'Protocols' Provide Themes For Anti-Semitic Books

The article said its intention was "to help our officers and all fighters to recognize ... the perfidious aims and methods of the subversive organs of imperialism and to foil their plans." It recommended four books, all written by known anti-Semites and taking their themes from the "Protocols." One book attempted to justify the Czarist pogroms as a legitimate expression of the class struggle in Russia; another declared that the ideological sources of "Zionist gangsterism originated in the scrolls of the Torah" which is "a textbook unsurpassed for blood-thirstiness, hypocrisy, betrayal, perfidy and moral dissoluteness."

The third book equated Zionism with Nazism and called Zionism man's worst enemy today while the fourth book, published by the prestigious Academy of Sciences, charged Zionism with aspiring to dominate the world by controlling its banking system.

"Almost a half century after the ridiculous Protocols, they have become the centerpieces of the hate campaign in the Soviet armed forces," Korey told the B'nai B'rith meeting. "Jewry is presented as the embodiment of Satanic evil, equated with racism, imperialism, colonialism, militarism, crime, murder, espionage, prostitution, even Hitlerism. It threatens the Soviet Union and is the enemy of the contemporary world." The campaign, he added, is foreboding for the future. "If the enemy is as vile and insidious as he is depicted, is not his total suppression, if not excision, the remedy?" Korey asked. "The Protocols ultimately became Hitler's warrant for genocide. Today, a new warrant is being shaped from the very same themes and images."

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JTA Daily News Bulletin

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ACCUSES SOVIET
UNION OF INCREASED ANTI-SEMITISM

PARIS, June 8 (JTA) -- The Parliament of Europe charged that anti-Semitism is increasing in the Soviet Union and blamed the Soviet authorities. The accusation was made at a special conference last week on the treatment of Jews in the USSR.

The conference noted that Soviet authorities deny Jews the right to a separate cultural identity and have made few concessions to Jewish demands for the right to learn Hebrew, Yiddish and Jewish history. The conference also observed that Jewish emigration has fallen sharply.

Letter from Israel

By CARL ALPERT

Jewish Review Correspondent in Israel

US Jew
hostage in
Moscow —
who cares?

HAIFA — In a world where dozens and scores of innocent people are held hostage by terrorist individuals or terrorist governments, perhaps the story of still another hostage may no longer cause any great excitement. Thus does the conscience of mankind appear to be anesthetized by sheer repetition of brutalities and injustices.

Yet we dare not be silent, and I raise my voice to tell the story of still another hostage, an American citizen who has for some years been held in Moscow against his will. The case is known to the U.S. State Department, but after all, what's another American citizen more or less?

The White House has been informed, but Mr. Carter seems to find the subject of American hostages an embarrassing one.

This is the story of Abraham Stolar, age 69, born in Chicago in 1911. His parents took him and his sister to Russia in 1931, a tragic and fatal move. Their American passports were taken away. The father was arrested and disappeared in 1937. The mother died in 1949. The sister was arrested in 1951, held for five years, and went to Israel in 1973.

Abe Stolar never gave up hope of getting out of the Soviet Union. For some twenty years he worked as a Russian-English translator; his wife is a chemist. Finally in 1975 he, his wife and son received the precious visas which would permit them to leave. They severed all their ties, shipped their personal belongings, including furniture and clothing ahead to Israel, and only just as they were about to board the plane out

of Moscow, they were turned back and their exit visas cancelled.

Since then the Stolars have been in limbo. None of them are Soviet citizens. The reasons offered for their continued detention changed from time to time. Once it was said that Abe's translation work had given him access to delicate information. Another time it was alleged his wife, who retired in 1973, had done secret work. In recent years the Russian authorities don't bother to give any reasons at all.

At first the Soviets assured the Stolars everything would eventually be straightened out. They were asked to afford no publicity to their case. They were given opportunity to be reabsorbed into the Soviet economy, but Abe Stolar refused. He insisted on his right to go to Israel. But everything led to a dead end, and he could keep silent no longer.

Abe Stolar is not another refusenik like Russian born Jews over whom the Soviet officials claim legal jurisdiction. He is an American born citizen, being held hostage either because of the vagaries of Russian bureaucracy, or for some nefarious reason that has not yet been explained.

Somewhere in an Israel warehouse the family belongings wait for them, while the Stolars eke out a marginal existence in Moscow, never knowing what the morrow will bring, hoping against hope that the same illogical, unreasonable policy that holds them against their will might for similar unexplained and inconsistent reason

suddenly decide to let them leave — on short notice. As yet, the hoped-for permission has not been received.

Abe Stolar has not been forgotten by the Soviets. He is a marked man. Registered letters which he has sent to me have mysteriously vanished en route. His courage still holds out.

If you, dear reader, were being held hostage, would you not want to feel that someone, somewhere, was doing something to help get you released? President Carter, or the State Department, or your U.S. Senator, ought to know how you feel about this spreading habit of holding Americans hostage. Do you have the few moments to write a letter or two? It could help a great deal.

Abe Stolar is wondering if anybody out there knows about him, hears him, cares at all!

Buffalo Jewish Review

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June 16, 1980

INSIDE TODAY'S ALERT

- Moise Zats was given a sentence of three years for a crime of which he had previously been cleared. See page 1.
- "Spotlight on a Refusenik" this week focuses on Lev Gendin who has been refused for nine years. See page 3.
- The Soviet Supreme Court confirmed death sentences for two convicted of economic crimes in Donetsk. In Sheffield, England, the sister city of Donetsk, there was a public outcry. In Congress, six senators appealed for clemency. See page 7.
- A JTA special report on Soviet anti-Semitic indoctrination in the army is reprinted on page 9.

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