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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT CONFIRMS CHARGES THAT JEWISH PRISONERS ARE OFTEN SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ABUSE By Mark Segal

LONDON, Nov. 17 (JTA)--A damning report by Amnesty International on conditions in Soviet prisons and forced labor camps where at least 10,000 political and religious dissenters, including Jewish "prisoners of conscience" are currently incarcerated, confirms charges that "Jewish prisoners are frequently singled out for special abuse" and that prison authorities deliberately provoke anti-Semitic acts against them by non-Jewish inmates.

The 154-page illustrated report titled "Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR," was released here today and was published simultaneously in Dutch, German, French and Swedish. Amnesty International is a London-based nonsectarian organization that monitors the condition of political prisoners all over the world.

The report said that conditions in Soviet penal institutions "not only violate international standards for the treatment of prisoners, but fail to achieve the standards established in parts of domestic (Soviet) corrective labor legislation and theory." The report urges the Soviet authorities to undertake a program of penal reform and warns that as long as the day-to-day working of the Soviet penal system is treated as a state secret, it will continue to "generate suspicion and mistrust, certainly abroad and to some extent within the Soviet Union itself."

The study of Soviet penal conditions by Amnesty International does not single out the plight of Jewish prisoners or that of any other minority group. But the names of many well-known Jewish activists imprisoned because of their persistent quest for exit visas appear throughout the report. These include Eduard Kuznetsov, Alexander Feldman, Alexander Fainberg, Semyon Gluzman, Yona Kolchinsky, Vladimir Bukovsky and Vladimir Gershuni. Feldman is the subject of one of the "profiles" of five typical Soviet political or religious prisoners. He was sentenced to a 3-1/2 year term in a strict regime labor camp after applying for a visa.

Anti-Jewish Incidents Provoked

The report quotes extensively from a statement by a group of Jewish prisoners in Perm. They charged that "The camp authorities inculcate nationalistic conflicts and agitate other inmates against Jews, KGB (secret police) officers stress in their conversations with non-Jewish inmates that all nationalities of the USSR must take a stand against Jews, particularly in labor camps," the Amnesty International report said.

It quoted the Jewish prisoners' charge that "The (camp) administration provoked anti-Jewish incidents, utilized informers and spies, used false witnesses in order to be able to impose additional punishment on Jews, inmates who have had contact with Jews are summoned for discussions during which anti-Semitic sentiments are expressed and they are told that protests against the arbitrariness in camp rules are only profitable to the Zionists. . . The Jews are

forbidden to practice their religious traditions, forbidden to congregate even for a few minutes.

Continuing, the report said: "Hebrew or Yiddish conversation is subject to punishment because these languages are not understood by the guards and therefore their content cannot be checked. The study of Hebrew is prohibited. Internal letters in Hebrew or Yiddish are banned and confiscated."

The report contains chapters on "Articles of Soviet Criminal Law which restrict the exercise of fundamental human rights"; "maintenance of prisoners" which contains details of rationing, hunger regimes and medical care; "relationship between prisoners and administration"; and "compulsory detention in psychiatric hospitals."

SILNITSKY SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS

NEW YORK, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Aleksandr Silnitsky of Krasnodar, has been sentenced to three years on "draft evasion" charges after months of harassment by Soviet authorities. It was reported today by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. The GNYCSJ said it received a telegram from Aleksandr's father, Teivel, calling for his immediate release.

Aleksandr Silnitsky, 23, is the latest victim of Soviet repression which is part of a pattern to intimidate those seeking to emigrate to Israel, the GNYCSJ said. The Silnitskys first applied for exit visas September, 1974. Aleksandr was subsequently expelled from the Krasnodar Institute and his father was dismissed from his position as a lecturer at the Polytechnical Institute.

Last July 24, Aleksandr was told that neither he nor his family would ever receive exit permits. He was twice summoned to register at military headquarters but refused to comply with the orders claiming that he was an Israeli citizen. He was arrested on Sept. 10 for draft evasion and tried six weeks later.

RABIN DUE TO RESHUFFLE CABINET; LABOR MINISTRY MAY BE ABOLISHED, EXPANDED SOCIAL BENEFIT MINISTRY WOULD TAKE OVER MANY OF ITS FUNCTIONS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin is about to undertake a major reshuffling of his government and Cabinet ministers likely to be affected are raising objections. Although rumors have been flying for weeks, the public got its first official indication that changes were on the way from yesterday's Cabinet communique that said the ministers did not have time at this week's session to discuss the "reorganization of government."

The reorganization is expected to include changes recommended by the special ministerial committee on government efficiency, headed by Independent Liberal Party leader Gideon Hausner. The committee's proposals for streamlining the government in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War was shelved for almost a year. It has been revived of late, mainly because Rabin believes the time has come to set up a new team of his own men and for internal coalition reasons.

According to unconfirmed reports, the Labor Ministry will be abolished, and many of its functions, including national insurance, would be absorbed by an expanded Ministry of Social Benefit that would replace the present Welfare Ministry. Other Labor Ministry functions would be assigned to the Housing and Education ministries.

Labor Minister Moshe Baran of the Labor Alignment has objected vigorously, especially since he would be shunted to the less prestigious Communications Ministry, regarded as a junior portfolio, which is presently held on a temporary basis by Minister of Agriculture Aharon Uzan.

New Ministry May Go To Shemtov

Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party who is currently Minister of Welfare, said he had no objections to the expansion of his ministry provided that it remains an NRP fiefdom. But Rabin reportedly plans to assign the new Ministry of Social Benefit to Mapam's Victor Shemtov, the current Minister of Health. Hammer would get the Health portfolio in exchange.

Political pundits believe Rabin wants to mollify Mapam with the new welfare post because he intends to abolish the Ministry of Absorption, currently held by Mapam. That ministry was established after the Six-Day War when immigration increased dramatically. But Yosef Almogi, the Labor Party's candidate for chairmanship of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, has demanded abolition of the Absorption Ministry and restoration of its functions to the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department.

Rabinowitz May Go, Too

Meanwhile, according to persistent rumors, Rabin wants to remove Yehoshua Rabinowitz as Finance Minister and replace him with Yaacov Levinson, head of the Bank Hapoalim. Rabinowitz has come under mounting criticism for not taking sufficiently decisive measures to alleviate Israel's economic crisis, especially the country's declining foreign currency reserves and lag in exports. Rabinowitz has argued that more severe measures would lead to widespread unemployment.

In an unrelated development, Menachem Porush a veteran MK of the ultra-Orthodox Aguda Israel faction, announced yesterday that he would relinquish his Knesset seat in favor of another Aguda politician, Rabbi Shlomo Gross. Porush was acting in obedience to the Aguda's "Council of Sages" which ordered him to step down in favor of Gross.

KNESSET MEMBERS HELP LAUNCH CASH DRIVE FOR ISRAEL BONDS; \$1.5M IN SALES DURING FIRST DAY OF DRIVE

NEW YORK, Nov. 17 (JTA)--An intensive Israel Bonds telephone cash campaign to aid the economy of Israel was launched yesterday by Israel's Knesset delegation to the U.S., headed by Knesset Speaker Yisrael Yeshayahu, in the Grace Building in the Times Square area. The opening day of the three-day campaign resulted in the sale of \$1.5 million in Israel Bonds.

Each member of the Knesset delegation, which is in this country at the invitation of the United States Congress, addressed the 500 volunteers who turned out for the opening of the "Dial-for-Israel" program on behalf of the Israel Bond campaign in New York. Yeshayahu and Knesset members Ari Ankorton, Yitzhak Ben Aharon,

Chaika Grossman, Yosef Tamir, Zerah Warhaftig and Menachem Beigin addressed the group in English and in Hebrew. Michael Arnon, president and chief executive officer of the Israel Bond Organization, emphasized the strategic role of economic aid in preserving Israel's freedom.

Deep feelings were expressed by individual members of the Knesset, all of whom underscored their appreciation of the U.S. Congress for its "show of friendliness." They also thanked the people of America, who gave them a "sense of being partners." The Israel Bond volunteers present, the members stated, allowed them to feel "they were not alone in the world."

The "Dial-for-Israel" program is the New York City phase of a nationwide Israel Bond effort to provide \$100 million in cash to relieve Israel's critical financial position and to help expand industrial and agricultural production. Sidney Cooperman, national cash collection chairman for Israel Bonds, presented a sterling silver coin, marking the 25th anniversary year of the Israel Bond campaign, to Yeshayahu.

25 HOUSE MEMBERS FILE SUIT AGAINST MORTON, KLEPPE CHARGING FAILURE TO ENFORCE U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT POLICY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Twenty-five members of the House filed suit today in Federal District Court here charging Secretary of Commerce Rogers Morton and Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe with having acted to "hinder, impair or frustrate" the anti-boycott policy of the United States.

At a news conference in the Rayburn Building following the filing of the suit, Rep.-Robert F. Drinan (D.Mass.)--one of the 25 complainants--said the two Cabinet officers had "failed, neglected and refused to implement the 1965 Export Administration Act, which states in part: 'It is the policy of the United States to oppose restrictive trade practices fostered or imposed by foreign countries against other countries friendly to the United States. . .'"

Drinan charged that Morton and Kleppe had disregarded the law by "failing actively to oppose the restrictive trade practices and boycotts carried out by 14 countries in the Near East and North Africa against Israel and against American companies that trade with Israel."

Basis of Lawsuit

Leo Pfeffer of New York, a constitutional lawyer who is also special counsel of the American Jewish Congress, is serving as attorney for the 25 House members. He explained that the complaint charges Morton and Kleppe with violating the Constitution by neglecting to meet their responsibility under Article II "that the laws be faithfully executed."

Pfeffer told reporters the suit seeks an injunction against the two government officials barring them "from promoting or encouraging trade" between the U.S. and the 14 Near Eastern and North African states so long as those countries continue to boycott Israel and U.S. companies that trade with Israel. The complaint also asks for a writ of mandamus directing Morton and Kleppe to "implement and effectuate the national policy of the United States as set forth in Section 3 of the Export Administration Act."

Charges Against Morton

In charging Morton with "actions tending to hinder, impair and frustrate the anti-boycott policy of the United States," the suit cites Commerce Department export regulations (Sec. 369.1) stating that exporters "are not legally prohibited from taking

any action... that has the effective of furthering or supporting such restrictive trade practices or boycotts."

Charges Against Kleppe

Kleppe was charged with "tending to hinder, impair or frustrate the anti-boycott policy of the United States" by requiring American vendors of materials for use by its Geological Survey Bureau in Near East and North African countries "to submit... certifications that neither the steamship on which the materials are to be sent nor the company insuring the materials is on the boycott list of the particular Near East or North African country involved."

The Near East and North African countries referred to in the complaint as participating in restrictive trade practices or boycotts against Israel or companies that trade with Israel are: Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates.

Sponsors of Suit Listed

All 25 of the House members listed as complainants in the suit are Democrats. The original sponsors of the lawsuit are Drinan, Edward I. Koch (NY), Benjamin S. Rosenthal (NY), James H. Scheuer (NY), and Henry A. Waxman (Cal.).

They were joined by Bella S. Abzug (NY); James J., Blanchard (Mich.); William S. Brodhead (Mich.); Joshua Eilberg (Pa.); Elizabeth Holtzman (NY); William Lehman (Fla.); Clarence D. Long (Md.); Matthew F. McHugh (NY); Robert N.C. Nix (Pa.); James L. Oberstar (Minn.); Richard L. Ottinger (NY); Frederick W. Richmond (NY); Paul M. Simon (Ill.); Stephen J. Solarz (NY); Morris K. Udall (Ariz.); Charles Wilson (Texas); Lester L. Wolff (NY); and Sidney R. Yates (Ill.).

Reactions From Legislators

Asked why no Republican members are among the "Washington 25" Drinan theorized that participation would be embarrassing since their own party members are being sued. Drinan said that Republicans were asked to join but they declined. He did not name them.

Drinan also said the factor of the Arab boycott would be a point in the confirmation proceedings of Elliot Richardson as Morton's successor as Commerce Secretary. "Richardson would see the light very quickly," he said, "but I can't predict what he will do. We went forward with the lawsuit even though we knew he was coming in" as Morton's successor.

At the news conference, McHugh charged that the basis for the Ford Administration's policy is "rooted in the dollar sign." Oberstar said that unless the Congressmen proceed with the lawsuit they are going to allow the Administration to support the Arab boycott. Scheuer said that there are three categories of companies doing business in the Middle East; those that deal with Israel but cannot trade with the Arab countries; those that knuckle under to the Arab countries and cannot deal with Israel, and some that do business both with Israel and the Arabs.

Charging that high U.S. officials must be prevented from violating American policy, Drinan declared "we cannot wait for new legislation when Cabinet members are violating the laws each day." Abzug said that it was "shocking that foreign powers are forcing us to violate our own laws" and that "the President is silent on the action or inaction by his own Cabinet officer."

LOCAL N.Y. SYNAGOGUE IN CHANGING ETHNIC NEIGHBORHOOD TO BE AIDED BY UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

KTAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 17 (JTA)--For the first time anywhere, a national congregational organization has undertaken to conduct the affairs of a synagogue no longer able to maintain itself because of the changing ethnic character of a big city neighborhood.

Arthur J. Levine, president of the United Synagogue of America, the national organization of Conservative congregations, revealed here today at the organization's biennial convention that the United Synagogue had assumed responsibility for Temple Anshe Chesed, 100th Street and West End Avenue, one of the oldest congregations in New York City and second oldest among the 830 affiliates of the United Synagogue.

He said, "It will be our experimental station for programs dealing with all age levels with a concentration both on youth and on the older generation. It will become the testing ground for our ideas and, we believe, a historic attempt to restore a major Jewish neighborhood and stabilize an important community which has been on the decline and now shows signs of resurgence."

Levine stressed that Anshe Chesed, which dates its origin almost to the beginning of our republic, will remain a house of prayer in the total sense of these words under the direction of the present board and rabbi. "It is an act of faith in the future of New York's West Side," he said, "and we will act this out in the most tangible ways."

To Become Viable Center

He pointed out that the temple will become the center of the United Synagogue's youth activities; both for pre-college youngsters in the United Synagogue Youth (USY) and for collegians through the Atid (Future) organization. There will also be facilities for adults, including recreational, educational and supportive programs for senior citizens.

Once the home of one of the city's finest religious schools, Anshe Chesed again will have a school which eventually is expected to become a day school from kindergarten through high school. Levine also pointed out that the temple will provide religious facilities for students at nearby Columbia University and Barnard College who do not have them now.

He explained that the leaders of Anshe Chesed came to the United Synagogue with the proposal "that we take over because they were getting on in years and were concerned about the synagogue's future." He said that this was becoming the norm rather than the exception in the big cities with changing neighborhoods, "where one ethnic group replaces another."

Anshe Chesed, which was incorporated in 1895, was founded in the early decades of the 19th century. Its present building, constructed in 1933, is considered one of the finest examples of synagogue architecture of the time. The United Synagogue of America's 5-day biennial convention began yesterday with some 2,000 delegates in attendance.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A group of Austrian Socialists' leaders emphasized their sympathy for Israel during a meeting with Premier Yitzhak Rabin here Sunday. Led by Austrian Parliament President and head of the country's trades union federation, they are here as guests of Histadrut. The group includes Vienna Mayor Leopold Gratz.

