

Timetable Of Terror

In recent months, the KGB has moved dramatically against the unofficial teachers of Hebrew, Jewish tradition and culture in the USSR. This latest repression was signalled months before in October 1983 with the 12-year sentence imposed against Dr. Joseph Begun, and now appears to be focused on throttling Jewish religious observance. Following are some of the latest incidents; the names listed are almost all of unofficial Jewish teachers --

July 25, 1984 - ALEXANDER KHOLMYANSKY of Moscow is jailed for "hooliganism." On August 29th, while imprisoned, his home is raided by the KGB, and a gun and bullets planted by them is "discovered." The charge becomes more serious.

July 27th - Pravda Vostoka further attacks young RABBI MOSHE ABRAMOV of Samarkand, who was sentenced in January to three years for "malicious hooliganism."

August 10th - A week before his scheduled marriage to fellow educator Judith Nepomnischy, YAKOV LEVIN of Odessa is arrested for "anti-Soviet slander," after his house is raided and Jewish books and materials seized. He had refused to testify against another Odessa teacher, Yakov Mesh. A package with religious items for Levin is later brought to the prison. Officials refuse to pass it on saying, "this is not a synagogue." Citing a connection with Levin, the KGB raid on October 17th the homes of ARON MUNBLIT in Kishinev, MOISEY LIEBERMAN in Bendery, and POLINA GRIM in Tiraspol, all cities in Moldavia.

August 21st - The home of ALEXANDER KOGAN of Kishinev is searched; police seize a bible. An official of the prosecutor's office tells Kogan the book is "anti-Soviet literature."

August 23rd - Inna Begun, wife of DR. JOSEPH BEGUN, writes to Chernenko that her husband

was put in solitary in the Perm Labor camp for six months for discussing the Holocaust with other inmates. His request for a prayerbook denied, Dr. Begun hunger strikes for 60 days and is forced, then hospitalized.

August 28th - YAKOV GORODETSKY of Leningrad is sentenced to 60 days of "corrective labor."

September 4th - The KGB arrests YULI EDELSTEIN of Moscow and searches his apartment. They "discover" what they term "drugs" in a matchbox planted in his children's room. Three days later, they return to confiscate more Jewish items. His wife Tatyana is told by officials, "good Jews smell perfume; bad Jews sniff drugs."

September 5th - Police seize Jewish books and tape recordings and Israeli postcards from the homes of Odessa activists YAKOV MESH, VALERY PEVZNER and ALEXANDER KUSHNIR, even stripping Kushnir of the Star of David he wore around his neck sent to him from Israel by his mother.

September 19th - Over 10 women from Vilnius, including violinist CARMELA RAIZ, ask that the city's mikva (ritual bath), shut since World War II, be reopened because of the growing number of newly-observant Jews. Their appeal is denied.

September 20th - Secret police raid both the homes of DAN SHAPIRO and INNA BRUCINA of Moscow to "search for drugs." When Shapiro's mother asks to see a search warrant she is beaten. KGB men rip the mezuzah from his doorpost, and demand he pry open his tefilin (phylacteries) to look for "drugs." Agents do not even wait for Bruchina to open her door and break it down. No "drugs" are found, but bibles and many Jewish books are taken from each. Jews are told by officials that "foreigners come to the USSR to corrupt Jewish youth with medieval

drug rituals."

September 27th - Prisoner of Conscience ZACHAR ZUNSHEIN arrives in a labor camp near Irkutsk. "Upon my arrival," he writes his wife Tatyana in Riga, "I was beaten and kicked with their boots all over my body -- in my kidneys, the chest and face." He asks his wife for a Jewish calendar. When his mother learns of his condition, she dies of a heart attack.

October 6th - When MARK and ZHENYA MIKHLIN of Kiev sit down to break their Yom Kippur fast, several men force their way into their home, ordering Mark to remove his skullcap and hand over their Hebrew books. Given 10 volumes, they leave.

October 12th - The official "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public" holds a Moscow press conference, charging that the Israeli secret service Mossad "supports the Red Brigades," the Italian terrorist group, and that Zionists collaborated with the Nazis in exterminating Jews.

October 12th - In Moscow to plead for Yakov Levin, his daughter's fiance, MARK NEPOMNIASCHY is arrested for "anti-Soviet slander." At the same time, his Odessa home is searched by police and Jewish material seized.

October 16th - YAKOV (YAN) MESH of Odessa is beaten by 10 policemen, then arrested for "resisting the police" and "refusing to testify against Yakov Levin." 8 co-workers witness the attack and sign a letter in his defense; they are visited by the KGB to retract.

October 20th - As the Sabbath ends, 42 Moscow Jews begin a rotating hunger strike for KHOLMYANSKY, EDELSTEIN and other jailed unofficial Jewish educators. The protest fast spreads to 170 Jews in 10 cities, with urgent requests for sympathy strikes and actions in the

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