

Concern Expressed Over Condition Of Three Soviet Jewish Activists

NEW YORK (WNS) — The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) has expressed "grave concern" over the conditions of Aleksandr Kholmiansky, Yuli Edelstein and Yakov Mesh, Soviet Jewish activists and Hebrew teachers currently awaiting trial.

Kholmiansky, arrested in July for allegedly "possessing weapons and ammunition," is currently in the third month of a hunger strike to protest the beatings he received when he arrived in prison. Although a medical commission which recently examined him at the request of Soviet authorities determined his condition was "not life threatening," medical experts have noted in the past that such a lengthy fast can produce irreversible physical damage. Authorities are now force-feeding Kholmiansky, the NCSJ reported.

Edelstein, detained on charges of "drug possession" since Septem-

ber, has recently completed seven days in solitary confinement. He is also on a hunger strike following the confiscation of religious articles he had with him in prison. Although the investigation of Edelman's case is now complete and he is expected to be tried shortly, the lawyer retained for Mesh, who is charged with allegedly "resisting arrest" and "refusing to give testimony," is diagnosed as suffering from hepatitis, the NCSJ reported. No trial date has been set for Mesh, who is charged with allegedly "resisting arrest" and "refusing to give testimony."

NEW YORK (WNS) — A documentary film illustrating the contribution of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and its graduates to Israel's Science-based industries, won a bronze medal in the 1984 International Film and TV Festival at New York. Theodore Bikel, the actor-entertainer, is the narrator.

Countenances Of Concern



Ilana Kholmiansky (L), sister-in-law of Aleksandr Kholmiansky, and Tatyana Edelstein (R), wife of Yuli Edelstein, both imprisoned Moscow unofficial Jewish teachers, gaze with worry and weariness under a Hebrew-Russian *alef-bet* chart. According to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, which obtained the photo from *Noah's Ark* publisher Debbie Dubin, the pair had just returned from a demonstration on behalf of their loved ones, still wearing the heavy clothing they took with them in case of arrest and imprisonment. The KGB is in the midst of a severe crackdown on many unofficial Jewish educators in the USSR.



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