

Jewish Women In U.S. And Israel Join Refusenik Hunger Strike

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish women refuseniks are being joined by American and Israeli women in a hunger strike to mark the annual celebration of International Women's Day.

Na'amat USA and Na'amat Israel have claimed their solidarity with Soviet women in the second annual fast organized by Jewish Women against Refusal, which is taking place in Moscow, Leningrad, Chernovitsky (Chernovitz), Kharkov,

Vilnius (Vilna) and Tallinn.

The aim of the hunger strike is to remind the international community that refuseniks are being denied the right to emigrate as stipulated by the 1975 Helsinki human rights accords, according to Action for Soviet

Jewry in Waltham, Mass., the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and Na'amat.

Several Boston-area women, who recently visited Moscow and Leningrad also are participating in a solidarity fast.

Soviet women have asked their American counterparts to contact American and Soviet officials on their plight by telegram and phone call.

The Moscow vigil was to include 150 women assembled in

seven locations. Coordinators in the Soviet capital include Inna Ioffe-Uspensky, Judith Lurie and Natasha Cherniak.

In Leningrad, more than 50 women were to gather in three locations under the leadership of Elena Keys, a 14-year refusenik who recently completed a two-week personal hunger strike.

The Soviet hunger strikers released a statement to Soviet Jewry organizations in the West that said: "We

appeal to the Soviet authorities to bring an end to this illegality and tyranny. Give us and our families an exit visa. We appeal to all people of good will, demand that the Soviet Union cease their policies of refusal and halt the suffering of human beings.

Participants in the fast also remarked: "During this past year, many of the participants of the last hunger strike at last were able to

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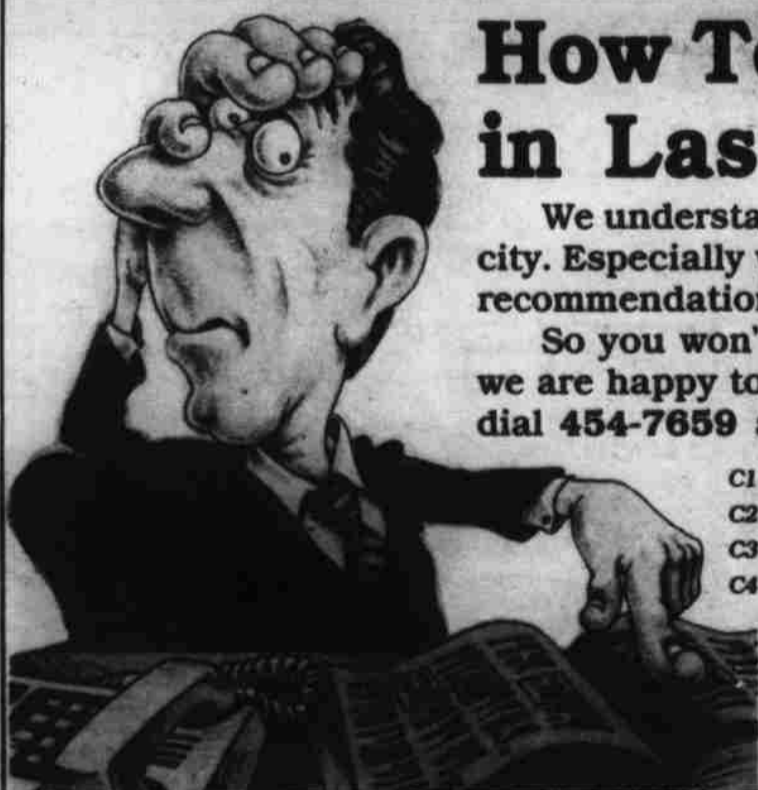
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