

PEOPLE IN TROUBLE

Deborah Esther Benshoam, Argentine Jew, aged 18. In August of 1977, security agents entered her brother's apartment, killed him and kidnapped her. She is being held in Villa De Voto prison. There are no formal charges against her. She is in very bad health.

Isaac Ortiz Rudnik, Argentine Jew, aged 27. On August 20, 1975, he was arrested in Cordoba, charged with complicity in a terrorist attack on a police station. He was tried and acquitted, but authorities have continued to hold him at Carcel de Encuasados Caseros Capital Federal. He is also in bad health and in urgent need of surgery.

Letters should be written to the Argentine Embassy in Washington D.C., asking that these two people be released. Copies should go to your Congressmen.

Igor Guberman, Soviet Jew. On August 13, 1979, he was arrested for refusing to collaborate with the KGB. Jewish activists in the Soviet Union have expressed their fear that Guberman's trial, scheduled to start this past week, may become the first step in a new crackdown on Jewish activities.

Anatoly Shcharansky, Soviet Jew. March 15, 1980, marked the third anniversary of the arrest of Anatoly Shcharansky, a hero and symbol of the Soviet Jewry movement. He has been suffering in prison from ill health and malnutrition.

Letters should be written to the Soviet ambassador, Anatoly Dobrinin in Washington D.C., urging the release of both Guberman and Shcharansky. Copies should go to your Congressmen.

Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomat. On July 9, 1944, Raoul Wallenberg arrived in Nazi-occupied Budapest, Hungary. At constant personal risk, he gave direct protection to about 20 thousand Jews through special passports. And the lives of another 100 thousand Jews in Budapest were saved through desperate efforts in which he was centrally involved.

Having barely escaped the wrath of the Nazis, Wallenberg was in Budapest when the Soviet troops entered in January, 1945. They promptly arrested him, shipped him to a Soviet prison, and he has not been directly heard from since.

Later in 1945, Wallenberg's mother was told by a Soviet official that her son was in Russia. In 1947, the Swedish government was told by Soviet Foreign Minister Vyshinsky that Wallenberg had not been in the Soviet Union and was unknown to the Soviet authorities. In 1957, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko told the Swedish government that Wallenberg *had* been in a Soviet prison and had died in his cell in 1947.

However, dozens of witnesses reported seeing Wallenberg alive after that date. Two Swedish Supreme Court justices examined all the evidence in 1960, and reported their belief that Wallenberg was alive at least into the 1950s, in Vladmir prison. Other evidence suggested that Wallenberg was still alive into the 1960s. And in 1975 a Russian Jew met a Swede in the Butyrika prison who had been imprisoned for 30 years. In short: there is little doubt that Wallenberg was alive after the Soviet authorities said he was dead; and there is no credible evidence that he is not still alive.

An international effort for Wallenberg has been launched, with the leadership of Tom Lantos of San Mateo, California -- one of the country's most effective workers in many Jewish vineyards -- and his wife, Annette. Lantos, himself a victim of Nazism in

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Hungary, has spent much of his life in political activity on behalf of Israel, but believes that we have a sacred debt to join in the demand that the Soviet authorities reveal what has happened to Raoul Wallenberg; and, of course, to release him if he is still alive.

There will be a public hearing in Stockholm on May 2. Meanwhile, people are urged to write Anatoly Dobrinin, Soviet Embassy, 1125 16th Street N.W., Washington D.C. 20037, asking information about Wallenberg, with copies to your Congressmen.

A concern for the world is hollow unless it starts with an active concern for one person in trouble.

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