

EXTERNAL

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To: Health professionals
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Further information on
MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION
Avraham Marcus KLINGBERG
ISRAEL
(See MDE 15/14/97, 6 June 1997)

Keywords

Theme: ill-health / isolation
Profession/association: bacteriologist/doctor

The Beersheba District Court in Israel has ordered the restricted release of Professor Avraham Marcus Klingberg following a hearing on 3 September 1998. Prof. Klingberg, aged 79, was arrested secretly in 1983 and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for espionage. For a period of almost ten years after arrest, Prof. Klingberg was held in solitary confinement. Various appeals for his release or reduction of sentence on grounds of ill-health had previously been rejected by the Supreme Court and by the Prison Service parole board. The release has been delayed for 15 days to allow the prosecution time to appeal.

The release is very restrictive: Prof. Klingberg would be required to remain in his house for all but two hours per day; he will require live-in attendants who must be approved by the Israeli General Security Service [GSS, also known as Shin Bet]. His phone will be tapped by the GSS, and he will only be able to see and communicate with people on a GSS-approved list.

No further action is required for the moment by network members. Many thanks to all those who have appealed over the past five years.