

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 15/15/93

Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 26 November 1993

MEDICAL CONCERN

**Avraham Marcus KLINGBERG
ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**

Amnesty International is concerned about the health and well-being of Avraham Marcus Klingberg, aged 75, who has been held in Ashkelon Prison in Israel since 1983 following conviction on charges of espionage. Most of this time has been spent in solitary confinement. According to reports he has been in extremely poor health, with hypertension and heart problems. On 16 November 1993 he is reported to have suffered a stroke, after which he was hospitalized for about 24 hours before being returned to his prison cell which he now apparently shares with one other security prisoner. No details of the severity or effects of the stroke are currently available to Amnesty International.

Amnesty International is also concerned about Avraham Klingberg's conditions of detention. His access to other prisoners has been severely limited during the 10 years of his detention. He was apparently held for almost eight years in complete isolation, under a false name. About two years ago, conditions were relaxed somewhat and he has since been held in a cell with one other person. He is allowed visitors once a week, but anyone wishing to see him must obtain security clearance before visits are permitted. Amnesty International considers that such long-term solitary confinement constitutes cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Background

Avraham Klingberg, born in Poland in 1918, emigrated to Israel in 1948. He was a physician who worked in the field of bacteriology at Tel Aviv University and became deputy head of a government-run biological institute. In January 1983 he "disappeared" after travelling to Switzerland to attend a scientific conference. Nothing was known of his whereabouts for several years until it emerged that he had in fact been arrested in 1983, charged with spying for the Soviet Union and sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment. Because of the nature of the charges and the secrecy of the trial, Amnesty International does not have details of the offenses on which Avraham Klingberg was convicted. Between the time of his arrest and August 1993, Israeli censors forbade any publication of details of his arrest and trial.

Amnesty International is seeking detailed information about his current conditions of detention and state of health. The organization is also seeking information about his trial and pre-trial detention which may have fallen short of international standards.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Middle East
Date: 26 November 1993

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Avraham Marcus KLINGBERG
ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**

Keywords

Theme: Ill-health/solitary confinement

Profession/association: Bacteriologist

Summary

Avraham Marcus Klingberg is a 75-year-old prisoner who has been in very poor health for some time and who recently suffered a stroke. He was arrested in 1983 and charged with espionage. His detention and trial remained officially secret until recently and for much of his time in prison he has been held in solitary confinement. Please see the details attached.

Recommended action

Urgent appeals are requested by fax, telegram or express letter to one or more of the addresses given below:

- expressing concern at the reports of Avraham Klingberg's very poor health and recent stroke
- seeking information on the effects of the stroke and the medical care which is being provided to him; seeking assurances that adequate provision will be made for proper rehabilitative care and urging that, if this is not possible in Ashkelon prison, arrangements be made to allow his treatment in a proper facility
- seeking information about his current conditions of detention, including his access to other prisoners, and his visiting rights. Express concern at reports that he was held for some eight years in total isolation and suggest that such prolonged solitary confinement must be considered to amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment
- seeking information about his pre-trial detention and trial, specifically the reasons for the secrecy surrounding these. State that you are concerned that they may have fallen short of international standards.

Addresses

Moshe Shahal
Minister of Police
Ministry of Police
5 Hahistadrut
Jerusalem 91209
Israel

Fax: 972-2-249-804

Telegrams: Moshe Shahl, Ministry of Police, Jerusalem, Israel

David Liba'i
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
29 Salah al-Din Street
Jerusalem 91010
Israel

Fax: 972-2-708590

Telegrams: David Liba'i, Ministry of Justice, Jerusalem, Israel

Aryeh Bibi
Director
National Prison Authority
5 Hahistadrut Street
Jerusalem 94230
Israel

Fax: 972-2-249804

Telegrams: Aryeh Bibi, 5 Hahistadrut Street. Jerusalem, Israel

Dr Ziegelbaum
Medical Adviser to the National Prison Authority
National Prison Authority
5 Hahistadrut Street
Jerusalem 94230
Israel

Fax: 972-8-226-559

Dr Ziegelbaum, Medical Adviser, 5 Hahistadrut Street, Jerusalem, Israel