

14th January 1983

I have been following with deep concern, the press reports about the health of your husband, Mr Anatoli Shcharansky, who is presently on hunger strike in a Soviet labour camp.

As I told you when you came to see me in May 1981, I warmly support you in your efforts to secure the release of your husband from imprisonment. Your husband's case has caught the imagination of people of many faiths and nationalities, symbolising as it does the right of every citizen to the basic freedoms of movement and non-violent dissent.

Her Majesty's Government has on several occasions raised your husband's case with the Soviet authorities, pointing out the effect on British public opinion of his continued imprisonment.

A decision by the new Soviet leadership to release your husband and allow him to join you in Israel would be not only a humanitarian gesture, but also a step towards better East-West relations. I earnestly hope that they will now take this step.

I welcome you to London and send you my best wishes for 1983, which I hope will be a year of happiness for you and your family.

Mrs Anatoli Shcharansky



S.C.

A.J.C. 18/1

10 DOWNING STREET

Letter from the Prime Minister to Mrs Anatoli Shcharansky

With the compliments of

IAN GOW

Mr. Flaxler

Ian Gow

A.J.C. 17/1

Do we need do more than acknowledge Mrs Scharanskys letter (attached) and say that she will by now have received the PMS of 14/1?

Quite Agree

Tim

17/1

Sweet union *HL*

19 January 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your recent letter. By now I hope you will have received the Prime Minister's letter to you of 14 January but if you have not I enclose a copy.

Tim Flesher

Mrs. Anatoli Shcharansky

January 10, 1983 ^{22/17}

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, England

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

My husband's life is in great danger. According to latest reports from his Mother and Brother who traveled to Chistopol Prison last week after being denied contact with Anatoly for an entire year, they were told by Prison officials that Anatoly is being force-fed only every three days. This news is indeed very alarming and we are deeply concerned about his survival after being on hunger strike for four months in unbearable circumstances with such limited food-intake. Therefore, I am appealing to you urgently to take all measures and actions at this critical time to save my husband's life!

As always, your assistance is deeply appreciated. My Mother-in-law has remained at Chistopol Prison, persisting in her request to see her son so that she can then urge him to stop his hunger strike. Because he is pursuing this hunger strike, he is being denied his very last human right of visitation and correspondence with his family, which is the very reason for his protest. Ida Milgram, Anatoly's Mother needs your immediate support, and for Anatoly it is a matter of life or death.

Respectfully,

Avital Shcharansky / *1/10/83*
Avital Shcharansky

My address:

Avital Shcharansky

telephone-

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