

To His Excellency, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia

Your Excellency:

During the past several months I have twice appealed to you concerning the treatment of my son, Dimiter Tchkatroff, candidate-engineer, now confined in the prison of Sremska Mitrovitsa. Unfortunately, nothing has been done in this respect, despite the oral promises by the functionaries of the local Yugo-Slav legation to do everything possible that "justice and humanity call for." Since the existing situation of my son has not yet been altered, I am compelled once more to recall my son's misfortune to you, and to express my deep hope that you above all will satisfy the petition of a mother who pleads for a son subjected to such terrible sufferings, because he is, and wishes to remain, Bulgarian.

Your Excellency, permit me, in my anxiety, to recount the afflictions and state of health of my son, in the hope that you may not be misinformed by those officials who, I am certain, seek his death. If you appoint an investigating commission, undoubtedly it would furnish an account of the true state of his health and, I am sure, of this great injustice.

Dimiter Tchkatroff is my dear son. He is one of the twenty Macedonian students tried by a Skopie court in 1927. Among the nine sentenced--two for twenty years, one for fifteen, and the others for five years each--my son was sentenced for ten years. Of all these imprisoned men, he is the only one remaining in prison. The others were pardoned nearly four years ago. While they were confined in the prisons of Skopie and Nish all of them were treated as political prisoners. So was my son. It was quite natural to treat them as such because none of these students ever committed a vulgar crime. Recently my son was singled out for ferocious maltreatment and finally was put with seventy criminal prisoners in the Sremska Mitrovitsa prison. Let me tell you of some of the cruelties inflicted upon my son in prison.

One. While still in the Skopie prison, an attempt was made, by an especially hired Albanian, to assassinate my son. The attempt was unsuccessful only because of the timely intervention of other prisoners, and the quick removal of Dimiter, who, however, was wounded.

Two. At both Skopie and Nish prisons, Dimiter was visited by high administrative and military officials, such as: General Tomitch, reserve member of the present regency, military commandant of Belgrade, and former chief of the gendarmerie in Macedonia; General Naoumovitch, former governor of Skopie; Zeka Lazitch, former minister of the Interior; Professor Shahonitch of the Belgrade University; Milan Nickolitch, former governor of Nish; Dragomir Savitch, director of the police department at Nish; Tsvetko Djordjevitch, former inspector in the Ministry of the Interior; and others, to demand from him a signed declaration to the effect that he is Serbian and that he is willing to be in the service of the Yugo-Slav regime; in other words, to agree to spy on his own brethren.

Three. After his self-inflicted wound, in the vicinity of Kourshoumlia, during his transfer to Nish, Dimiter was maltreated by Michailo Mickesh, head of the technological division of the Nish police department.

Four. On December 25, 1934, about ten o'clock in the morning, although he was dangerously ill from the wound in his chest, Dimiter was taken from the hospital and surrendered to the Nish police to be "removed" into the Sremska Mitrovitsa jail. When in the police station he was placed in a bare cell without even a bed-cover. Shortly after he was asleep, the sub-chief of the gendarmerie, Yantcha, entered his cell, handcuffed and