



City of Cambridge

6.

COUNCILLOR D. SULLIVAN

IN CITY COUNCIL
September 8, 1986

- WHEREAS: Hanna Vasylivna Mykhaylenko, school librarian for public school #1 in the city of Odessa in the Ukraine, encouraged all children to learn to read, speak and write their native language of Ukrainian; and
- WHEREAS: Hanna Mykhaylenko was for many years a human rights activist in Odessa and an ardent supporter of the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group (a Soviet human rights watchdog group); and
- WHEREAS: Hanna's unending efforts were for freedom of expression for all citizens of the Soviet Union; and
- WHEREAS: Hanna Mykhaylenko was arrested in February 1980 and later sent for indefinite treatment to various psychiatric hospitals in the USSR for her nonviolent actions on behalf of human rights causes; and
- WHEREAS: The Soviet government has unjustly treated Hanna Mykhaylenko and many like her by labelling dissent as insanity, by abusing psychiatry through the confinement of individuals considered healthy by international psychiatric standards, and by denying these individuals any recourse or impartial appeal; and
- WHEREAS: Hanna Mykhaylenko has been adopted by Amnesty International USA Group 24 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as a Prisoner of Conscience since her confinement is believed to be for political rather than medical reasons; and
- WHEREAS: Hanna Mykhaylenko is only one of more than 4500 Prisoners of Conscience adopted or under investigation by the 3430 Amnesty International groups in 55 countries; and
- WHEREAS: The Soviet Union is only one of many countries who systematically imprison political dissenters, among which are South Africa, South Korea, Chile, Cuba, Pakistan, Colombia and Ethiopia; and
- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Library is a forum for the free exchange of ideas and symbolic of the freedom of expression which we enjoy and which has been denied to Hanna Mykhaylenko and many others; therefore, be it

HANNA MYKHAYLENKO

Hanna Mykhalenko is a 51 year old woman from Odessa in the Ukrainian Republic of the USSR. Hanna is a human rights advocate, having worked with the Helsinki Monitoring Group in Odessa, and a Ukrainian nationalist, having tried to preserve the Ukrainian language and culture.

By profession, Hanna is a school teacher and librarian. She actively promoted the use of the Ukrainian language, using her position as a public school librarian to encourage children to read, speak and write in Ukrainian by giving them books to read in that language. As a result of these efforts and her constant support of other well-known human rights activists in Odessa, she was arrested in February, 1980, and charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." At her trial in November, 1980, she was declared "nonaccountable" for her actions and was assigned to compulsory treatment in a regular type psychiatric hospital. About a year later, Hanna was transferred to the notorious Kazan Special Psychiatric where, according to former inmates, powerful doses of neuroleptic (mind altering) drugs are routinely given to patients to disorient them and to destroy their psychological well-being.

In Hanna's case, this treatment is especially cruel because of her poor physical health. While in pre-trial detention, Hanna underwent a mastectomy and she also suffers from heart disease and asthma.

Hanna Mykhalenko has neither used nor advocated violence, nor is she a threat to herself or others. She is being confined, therefore, solely because of her beliefs and human rights activities, which are themselves guaranteed by the USSR in their adherence to the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and on Social Economic and Cultural Rights.

Confinement to psychiatric hospitals is a tool used frequently by the Soviet Union to try and silence dissidents. Nearly 20% of all known political prisoners in the USSR are being held in psychiatric hospitals. Of these, half are currently held in special type hospitals, "prison hospitals" according to a recently released dissident, where treatment is harsh and unrelenting. Hanna Mykhalenko is one of 13 political prisoners at the Kazan Special Psychiatric Hospital, the oldest and one of the most severe.

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council declare October 23, 1986
Hanna Mykhaylenko Day; and be it further

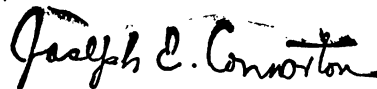
RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council give approval to AIUSA
Group 24 to dedicate a tree on the grounds of the
Cambridge Public Library with a plaque to Hanna
Mykhaylenko and all Prisoners of Conscience around the
world.

In City Council September 8, 1986.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, Acting City Clerk.

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, Acting City Clerk.

Order # 6

S-482

C.D. Sullivan re: resolutions declaring
October 23, 1986 as Hanna Mykhaylenko Day,
Soviet human rights activist & giving ap-
proval to AIUSA Group 24 to dedicate a tree
on the grounds of the Cambridge Library with
a plaque to her & all prisoners of conscience
around the world.

In City Council,

September 8, 1986

C. D. Sullivan
✓/✓
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