

Dear Mr. Senator,

I appeal to you as a friend and confidant of Anatoly Marchenko and his family.

Anatoly Marchenko is a noble and courageous man, the author of *My Testimony*, a book that was published in 1967 (of course, abroad), which provided the first glimpse of Soviet political camps built in the post-Lenin era. He is a fighter for civil rights, and especially for the rights of political prisoners in the Soviet Union.

The government has made it its mission to force Marchenko to leave his homeland. Consequently, his and his family's lives have become unbearable due to the onslaught of big and small accusations and constant pressure.

Out of duty to his family, Marchenko resigned himself to the idea of emigration. The authorities were willing to let him go – but only to Israel, ostensibly to be reunited with his family (though he does not have any family there). But Marchenko is a person whose whole life could serve as an example of “living truthfully,” as Solzhenitsyn calls the people of his country to do. For Marchenko, in making the decision to emigrate, it was impossible to deviate from the principles which he strictly followed his entire life. It was the adherence to these principles that turned his life into a continuous chain of ordeals. This is the latest of these trials: Marchenko did not want to present his departure as a family affair, so he renounced his Soviet citizenship and declared himself to be a political émigré, appealing to U.S. citizens and civic organizations to invite him to the U.S. Because of this, he was tried (as before, he was charged with unrelated, fabricated “violations”) and sent into four years of exile in Eastern Siberia. By doing this, the authorities found a way to set aside the question of his emigration for a long time.

In the meanwhile, Marchenko is a guest of the United States: he received invitations from the American PEN Club, the Association of American Publishers, the leader of the teachers' union, the head of the publishing house Dutton & Co., and from the publisher of Edward Klein and others.

I, like Marchenko, understand that the problem of political emigration from the Soviet Union is not only unresolved, but has not really been raised yet. All the efforts of U.S. political and public figures who deal with the issues of emigration from the Soviet Union have been directed at creating bearable conditions for emigration to Israel, which only recently became possible. It seems that it will take just as much time and perseverance to reach an agreement for openly political emigration from the country as it did for emigration to Israel. That is why I ask that Marchenko's fate be separated from the fate of this issue, and the resolution of his situation

not be delayed until all obstacles are overcome in principle. It is necessary to persist in requesting permission for him to leave immediately, because otherwise he may not survive to see this happen. In exile, Marchenko [illegible words] work as a loader, while his health is undermined by his eleven-year term in Soviet camps and prisons. Also, his health has sharply deteriorated recently due to the 50-day hunger strike he endured to protest the unjust trial. He may not live to see the end of his exile; this is an accurate reflection of the situation.

Respectfully,

Lyudmila Alexeyeva

[signed]

Moscow, July 4, 1975

[Translated by Anna Melyakova for the National Security Archive]