



'I Am Your Spy'

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. CAMPAIGN
TO FREE MORDECHAI VANUNU

WINTER, 2005

A Message from Mordechai:

It is almost a year since my release, and the end of very hard isolation in an Israeli prison. It is very wonderful to come back to life, and to exercise freedom as much as I can in this large prison state.

I want to thank each one of you for your support and for continuing to follow my struggle for freedom. I look forward to meeting all my supporters when I can come to the U.S. Each one is welcome to see me here in Jerusalem until I am allowed to leave. That could be a good answer for the inhumane restrictions.

The struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons in Israel will continue, until we will see Israel - and all the world - become a nuclear weapons free zone.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU VERY SOON
IN THE U.S.

After a September court hearing in Tel Aviv about his libel suit against Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot, Mordechai Vanunu makes a brief stop at the sea before returning to Jerusalem.

PHOTO BY ATTA AWISAT



Police Raid, Arrests, and Court Fail to Silence Vanunu

The sham of Mordechai Vanunu's forced residence in Israel and other oppressive legal restraints on his liberty since his release from prison continues. Last July 26,

the Israeli High Court of Justice rejected his appeal of the restrictions on the grounds that he "might be in possession of additional secrets he had not yet revealed." The appeal was filed on Vanunu's behalf by attorneys Oded Feller and Dan Yakir of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. At a mandated six-month review last October, the restrictions were renewed until the next review in April.

On November 11, in the shadow of the intense media coverage that followed the death of Yasser Arafat, more than two dozen armed Israeli police stormed the grounds of St. George's Cathedral in East Jerusalem, where Vanunu has lived in sanctuary since leaving prison. His room was searched and many items were seized, including computers and cell phones. Vanunu offered no resistance as he was taken into custody. Police questioned him for hours about the many broadcast, print, and internet interviews he has freely given to foreign press since last summer, in open defiance of the restrictions.

Before police released Vanunu late that night, he let them know that he refused to agree to any new conditions of release, so police simply told him he was under house

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INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION TO GO TO ISRAEL, APRIL 2005 - TO SUPPORT VANUNU'S DEMAND FOR FULL FREEDOM AND HIS CALL FOR NUCLEAR ABOLITION

The restrictions on Mordechai Vanunu's freedom will be reviewed by the Israeli government on April 21, the first anniversary of his release from prison. The U.S. and U.K. Campaigns to Free Mordechai Vanunu are again organizing an international delegation to be present in Israel for several days at that time. There are already about 30 people signed up from 8 countries. Mordechai Vanunu is looking forward to having us there.

Delegation activities from April 18 - 22 will include vigils and demonstrations at sites related to the restrictions and to Vanunu's continued call for the abolition of nuclear weapons (such as Dimona and government ministry offices). On April 22, if the restrictions are lifted as they should be, the delegation will be there to

celebrate with Mordechai and support his next steps to leave Israel. If they are renewed the delegation will be prepared to engage in nonviolent protest.

If you would like more information about the delegation to Israel, please contact the U.K. or U.S. Campaign.

U.S.: (520)323-8697,
<freevanunu@mindspring.com>

U.K.: 44-20-7378-9324
<campaign@vanunu.freeseerve.co.uk>

If the restrictions aren't lifted, there will also be peaceful demonstrations at Israeli embassies, consulates and other locations in cities around the world, either on April 21 or shortly thereafter. Please contact the campaigns if you would plan one in your city.

Police Raid...

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arrest for a week and shouldn't talk about nuclear weapons. Vanunu wrote to supporters: "[In] my view they want to frighten me, and to let me see the church ... can not give me sanctuary. The police love to show they can put me back in prison. But it seems they can not prove that I am revealing any new secrets, only that I am speaking to foreigners ... So if they will not charge me then they should set me free next April. Anyway, this event proves I can not live free here."

On Christmas Eve, Vanunu, a convert to Christianity in 1986, was again arrested when he attempted to enter the off-limits West Bank city of Bethlehem for worship at the Church of the Nativity. He was released a few hours later and told to spend five days under house arrest. No new charges have been filed, and although Vanunu's computers are still in police custody, he tells supporters, "They may take my computers, but they cannot take my email address."

Days before the November police raid, Vanunu told the Guardian (UK) newspaper, "I decided [the best way to overcome this restriction] was by speaking. If I speak, they can see I have no more secrets, all I am doing is expressing my views and also I am teaching them that they cannot silence anyone ... If they take away your right to speak, you are not a human being any more."

'I Am Your Spy'

This newsletter takes its name from a poem written by Mordechai Vanunu from Ashkelon Prison, where he served an eighteen-year sentence (in solitary confinement until March 12, 1998) for revealing to the public via a British newspaper the truth about Israel's secret nuclear weapons program. The open hand signifies the means by which Vanunu informed the world of his subsequent kidnapping by Israeli agents on September 30, 1986: a message scribbled on his hand and captured on film as he pressed his palm against the window of a police van in Jerusalem.

Editors for this issue:

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE:

www.nonviolence.org/vanunu

www.vanunu.com

WHAT YOU CAN DO

◆ The U.S. Campaign has produced a **new campaign flyer you can distribute** at meetings, rallies, conferences, etc., updating the Vanunu case and including suggestions for how people can join the fight for his full freedom. It can be downloaded from our website at www.vanunu.com, or you can request a copy by contacting the Campaign.

◆ **Write to these officials** right away, demanding they drop Vanunu's restrictions and let him leave Israel immediately.

Ariel Sharon
Prime Minister
3 Kaplan St.
Hakiryia, Jerusalem 91007
ISRAEL
Fax: +972 2 566 4838
Email: rohman@pmo.gov.il

Ms. Tsippi Livni
Minister of Justice
29 Salah al-Din St.
Jerusalem 91010
ISRAEL
Fax: +972 2 628 5438
Email: sar@justice.gov.il

Gideon Ezra
Minister of
Internal Security
P.O.Box 18182
Jerusalem 91181 ISRAEL
Fax: +972 2 581 1832
Email: sar@mops.gov.il

International Call-In Days -

1st and 3rd Mondays, March & April

◆ Join in sending a **flurry of email, faxes and phone calls** to the Israeli Ambassador in your country on the following Mondays leading up to the one year review of Vanunu's restrictions: **March 7, March 21, April 4 and April 18** - to tell Israel not to renew the restrictions and to let Mordechai Vanunu go.

Ambassador of Israel
3514 International Drive NW
Washington, DC 20008 US

Phone: 202-364-5500
Fax: 202-364-5607
Email: ambassador_sec@israelemb.org

Visit mfa.gov.il/mfm or www.embassyworld.com/embassy/israel to find the contact information for Israeli Embassies in other countries.

◆ **Write a note of support to Mordechai Vanunu**, c/o Cathedral Church of St. George, 20 Nablus Road, PO Box 19122, Jerusalem 91191, Israel, or email vanunumvjc@hotmail.com

◆ **Nominate Vanunu for honors**, awards and honorary doctorates.

◆ **Make a donation to the campaign.** We need to continue our efforts until Mordechai Vanunu is truly free, and financial support is crucial. After he is allowed to leave Israel, the remainder of campaign funds will be given to him to help him rebuild his life. So please give as generously as you can!

◆ **Make a donation to help Vanunu** rebuild his life. He was locked away from the world for almost 18 years - a very large price to pay for his courageous act of whistleblowing. There is much that Vanunu needs as he readjusts to life outside of prison, and he will be very grateful for our support.

TO MAKE A DONATION: Checks and money orders can be made out to the U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu, and mailed to the address at lower left, this page. Please indicate on the check's memo line if this donation is meant for campaign expenses ("for campaign") or the Mordechai Vanunu post-release account ("for Mordechai"). You can also donate by credit card or direct withdrawal online via Pay-pal's secure service at our website. www.vanunu.com

Stay informed via the Internet!

For regular updates on the Vanunu case, please visit the U.S. Campaign website at www.vanunu.com (thanks to Gail Vaughn for all her hard work to keep it updated!).

You may also subscribe to receive regular e-mail alerts and updates by sending a blank e-mail to free_vanunu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. A reply e-mail will be automatically sent to you, asking you to confirm your membership on the list. Please be assured that we will not share your e-mail address nor use it for any other purpose than support for Mordechai Vanunu.

Vanunu Awarded LennonOno Grant for Peace

by Nick and Mary Eoloff

We flew from Minnesota to New York on October 6, with a great deal of excitement. The following day, Mordechai was to be the recipient of the second LennonOno Grant for Peace. Yoko Ono had striven in vain to persuade Israel to allow Mordechai to come to New York to personally accept the \$50,000 award. We were privileged to accept it for him.

Some 150 guests, including artists, musicians and U.N. dignitaries, gathered for a private dinner at the United Nations the evening of October 7. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and jubilation as we awaited the arrival of Yoko Ono. She entered unobtrusively and came immediately to greet us. At the dinner table we found her to be a very warm, hospitable and courageous woman.

After dinner, Yoko Ono spoke and reminded us that the honorees (also jour-



DAVE ALLOCA/STARPIX

Adoptive parents Nick and Mary Eoloff, with Yoko Ono (center)

nalist Seymour Hersch) were people who "have spoken out for the benefit of the world, overcoming extreme personal difficulties."

"My hope," she said, "is that the awards will not only honor the two recipients for their incredible courage but ask others to follow their example to take a stand for truth."

Seymour Hersch, author of *Chain of Command: From 9/11 to Abu Ghraib*, accepted the award first. We then read a moving and challenging acceptance speech from Mordechai as well as his poem, "I Am Your Spy." In addition to the grant, Yoko Ono gave each honoree an engraved silver bowl which we will give to Mordechai when Israel frees him. May that be very, very soon.

VANUNU NOMINATED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE BY LAUREATE MAIREAD MAGUIRE

At a standing room only press conference in East Jerusalem on December 19, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire (Ireland) announced her nomination of Mordechai Vanunu for the Nobel Peace Prize, and said she would continue to nominate Vanunu for the award "until he gets it." Vanunu has been nominated for the prize every year since 1989.

Dimona News...

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Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, visited Israel and some of its nuclear research facilities in July, but he did not demand to inspect Dimona. While he also made no effort to visit Vanunu, supporters of the whistleblower picketed outside ElBaradei's closed lecture at Hebrew University, calling for a Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction.

In January for the first time, the government permitted an Israeli television station to broadcast bucolic footage of the Dimona facility that revealed little beyond the props of an attractive oasis workplace in the desert.

"Mordechai Vanunu has paid a heavy price in order to protect us all from nuclear weapons. We are all indebted to him for telling the truth to power and I have come to thank him on behalf of his human family," Maguire said.

Knesset member Issam Makhoul also spoke at the press conference, calling for Vanunu's freedom and for Israel to dismantle its nuclear arsenal. Makhoul stated, "Mordechai Vanunu is not a traitor, he is an Israeli hero. The nuclear bomb does not protect Israel, it endangers Israel."

Asked why he refuses to speak to the Israeli media in Hebrew, Vanunu answered – in Hebrew: "The government of Israel refuses to recognize my human rights. I am prohibited from speaking to foreigners. I say to the Israeli public: I am not your enemy. All I want is for Israel to abolish its nuclear weapons, to respect the rights of the Palestinian people and to let me go free." Continuing in English, Vanunu stated that he has no further secrets to reveal about Israel's nuclear reactor and that he demands the right to express his anti-nuclear views, to speak freely to the media and to write his prison memoirs. Vanunu said that all he wanted for Christmas was to be free to leave Israel and celebrate with his adoptive family in the U.S.

Life at St. George's Cathedral

After waiting 18 years to walk out of Ashkelon Prison, Mordechai Vanunu now waits for the restrictions to be lifted so that he can finally leave Israel and rebuild his life. He continues to live at St. George's Anglican Cathedral in East Jerusalem, where he was offered sanctuary by Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal at the time of his release in April. There he rings the church bells at noon daily, and attends religious services. He fills his time with swimming in the pool at a nearby hotel, meeting visitors and tourists, giving interviews and sitting with a laptop computer at internet cafes, responding to email from international supporters. On October 13, Mordechai celebrated his 50th birthday - his first birthday in 18 years outside of Ashkelon Prison - at a party with friends at St. George's.

Vanunu has asked for asylum from numerous countries, including Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, France, Canada, and England; and has unofficially made his interest known to Morocco, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Palestine and South Africa. But asylum bids are typically made only after one arrives in the country where one applies, and Vanunu cannot leave Israel until the restrictions are lifted. He recently applied for a new passport, and hopes that soon he will be able to travel abroad and celebrate his freedom with supporters around the world.

Dimona in the News

Last summer Israeli authorities distributed potassium iodide tablets to neighbors within 30 km of the aging Dimona nuclear reactor and bomb factory. The tablets, if taken within hours of a non-routine reactor leak, can block the thyroid from absorbing radioactive iodine, one of many deadly threats from such events. An area resident told the press, "People here can't stop talking about the subject. Everyone thinks that there are things which have been hidden from us."

And indeed, a few weeks later, a university led study revealed a significant level of radiation from Dimona is contaminating the Negev and Arava area aquifers. The aquifers are pumped for agricultural and aquaculture in the region.

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Efforts Continue Around the World to Win Full Freedom for Mordechai Vanunu

Six people chained themselves to the iron gate of Israel's embassy in London on September 30. Acting on the 18th anniversary of Vanunu's kidnapping, the group from the U.K.'s Campaign to Free Vanunu and for a Nuclear Free Middle East wore Vanunu masks and called on Israel to stop their "vindictive and vengeful efforts to destroy Mordechai." Police used boltcutters to cut their chains, and let them go without charges.

The British Campaign also held a very successful benefit in London on November 20, that featured a telephone hook-up with Mordechai.

On December 15, students at Scotland's Glasgow University elected Mordechai Vanunu as Rector of the University, a three-year appointment. The Rector's main role is to act as spokesperson for the students, who said they chose Vanunu to show that they support human rights and oppose weapons of mass destruction.

Members of the Free Vanunu Campaign in Ireland have been busy appealing to government officials to grant Mordechai Vanunu asylum, and collecting messages of support from prominent people there. They held a protest of the restrictions at the Israeli Embassy in Dublin on October 13 to mark Mordechai's 50th birthday. Mordechai Vanunu has also been nominated for the Tipperary Peace Prize.

Activists in Saintes, France arranged a telephone hook-up for Mordechai Vanunu to address the Rally for International Disarmament there at the end of October.

In Canada, the Vanunu Trust and the Committee for a WMD-Free Middle East are proceeding with an application for refugee status for Mordechai Vanunu. They await final details of Canadian church sponsorship for the application.

Norwegian lawyer Fredrik Heffermehl has traveled to Israel several times since the April prison release, including as a legal observer at the Supreme Court hearing in July. He and American human rights attorney Jennifer Harbury have formed Lawyers for Full Freedom for Vanunu. The group will be contacting international legal organizations, soliciting amicus (friend of the court) briefs to present to Israeli authorities. A talk in Tucson, Arizona by Jennifer Harbury on "Torture and U.S. Policy" in February helped to raise money needed for the translation of court documents. Harbury has also helped Mordechai Vanunu apply for the Scholars at Risk Fellowship at Harvard University and the Human Rights and Justice Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

At the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C., monthly vigils continue to call for Vanunu's full freedom. Last summer in Berkeley, California, the Bay area campaign held a fundraising party to celebrate Mordechai's release from prison. And in

October, Mordechai's adoptive parents Nick and Mary Eoloff accepted the Lennon Ono Grant for Peace on his behalf in N.Y.C. (see story on page 3).

In June, the U.S. and U.K. Campaigns initiated an international petition calling for Israel to lift the restrictions against Vanunu. The 150 signatories included prominent figures from diverse backgrounds, such as Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mairead Maguire and Prof. Joseph Rotblat, artists and performers including Yoko Ono, Julie Christie and Susannah York, clergy, parliamentarians from four countries and a host of scientists and nuclear experts. In addition to Yoko Ono, signatories from the U.S. included Pete Seeger, Daniel Ellsberg, Patricia Browning, Edmond Browning (Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, retired), Rabbi Leonard Berman, Rabbi Everett Gendler, Rabbi Neil Kominsky, Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf, Kathy Kelly, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Avner Cohen, Howard Zinn and Noam Chomsky. The petition and list of names were translated into Hebrew by Israeli activist Rayna Moss, and then published as an advertisement in the Israeli daily newspaper Ha'aretz just days before the Supreme Court held a hearing on Vanunu's petition to lift the restrictions.

Together we must continue to work for Mordechai Vanunu's full freedom! Please see page 2 for what you can do to help.