See also Vladislav Eloyan and Michael McKibben with Joseph Lipsius and George West. "Eloyan Rotefan Marcosovich. A Newly Discovered 69th Inf. Div Legacy of Spirit, Resilience and Valor. 69th Inf Div 271st Inf Reg AT Co". The U.S. Army 69th Infantry Division Association Website. July 4, 2010. http://www.69th-infantry-division.com/whowhere/photoo3-Eloyan-Rotefan-Marcosovich.html Last updated December 21, 2010.

Original Russian Petition Letter follows

To [Roman Rodenko] the Prosecutor General of the USSR

Petition Letter

[City of Semipalatinsk. 29 March 1955]

From prisoner Eloyan
Rotefan Markosovich
1925 year of birth.
Sentenced in Moscow in 1950
pursuant to Article 58.1.B
to a 10 year term
in correctional work camp.



This is my second petition. I wrote the first at the end of 1953. I don't remember who it was written too. My family's difficult living conditions (two small children, wife and elderly parents) compel me to ask you again to reconsider my case. Allow me to introduce myself.

Before the War I lived and studied in Moscow. In June of 1941 I joined the Red Army—13th Infantry Volunteers Division, armored battalion. In October 1941 I was wounded by shrapnel in my leg during a fall back near the town of Vjazma. While recovering in the camp hospital I was taken prisoner. My life since that time has been nothing but suffering. I have suffered deprivation, hunger, rubber truncheons, sticks, and German boot heals so severe that I could not stand. Sometimes I thought I could not go on. Perhaps you can imagine what German captivity was like. It was especially difficult for me given my [uncompromising] character.

But then came 1945. The Americans liberated our camp¹ and it seemed that our sufferings would come to an end. But!

In 1945 I returned to the Motherland, but during our trip home we were ridiculed as loathsome exprisoners rather than liberators from the fascists. I made it back home to Moscow in 1946 where I found my seventy-year old aunt caring for my ill father who had returned from the war, and learned of my elder brother's death in battle near Moscow in 1941.

I married the same year. My first son was born in 1947 and the second in 1948. My life wasn't easy. I worked hard. I am a professional mechanic and worked in a factory. In my free time I earned money on the side as a loader in the artel [collective] "Mospogruz" where I eventually went full time. The pay was better and I liked working in a collective.

In 1949 due to my moral scruples I got into trouble and was put on trial for no reason. One Sunday I was standing in a queue at a market when I noticed a militiaman who was supposed to be keeping order in the queue actually breaking the rules himself by letting his friends cut in front. I made some comment which led to an exchange of words, then a small fight.

Because of this incident I was sentenced three hours later to one year in prison under Article 74 which accused me of being a thug. The director of the shop where the incident occurred testified against me, but was sentenced himself several months later for real crimes.

I spent 8 months in a camp and was released early on good behavior.

Vladislav Eloyan and Michael McKibben with Joseph Lipsius and George West. "Eloyan Rotefan Marcosovich. A Newly Discovered 69th Inf. Div Legacy of Spirit, Resilience and Valor. 69th Inf Div 271st Inf Reg AT Co". The 69th Infantry Division Association Website. July 4, 2010. http://www.69th-infantry-division.com/whowhere/photoo3-Eloyan-Rotefan-Marcosovich.html Last updated December 21, 2010.

¹ Family Note: Saalfield, Germany. Rotefan's memoirs of Saalfeld are filled with descriptions of resistance, sabotage and beatings. Saalfeld was his last Nazi prison camp because the U.S. Army 87th Infantry Division liberated their Saalfeld concentration camp on April 13, 1945. Two weeks later Rotefan found his way north to the U.S. Army 69th Infantry Division near Colditz, Germany where he served before returning to Moscow later in 1945.

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You can imagine the stress this placed on my family with the lack of money. Moreover, my son was ill in the hospital that whole winter.

A few months later I was arrested again. They came in the night at 3:00 AM with a warrant for my arrest and search. After a 3 hour search I was taken away in a way that would lead my neighbors to believe I was some big enemy of the state. What were my wife and others to think? Her opinion is very valuable to me.

The investigation was physically and mentally exhausting. The investigator tore at my soul for three months. He hurled horrendous obscenities. He deprived me of sleep the entire time, sometimes for two weeks at a time.

He interrogated me only at night. I was put in a cold punishment cell a few times--a so-called sobering-up station under stairs where one was not allowed to sleep more than five minutes at a time.

After the investigation ended, I hoped for justice at trial because when I signed Article 206 the investigator and prosecutor told me that I could prove my innocence in court. But the trial never occurred, they lied to me.

I was transferred from Lubyanka prison to the Butyrka prison where after three months I was forced to sign a four line statement--the Special Conference Decision, condemning me.

Without a trial I was sent to [a Special Camp at] Karaganda.²

For the last five years I have been transferred to camps and prisons around half of the country, including the Norilsk polar region.³

What horrors I have seen and what sufferings I have experienced!

I will be 30 years old soon. I am in bad health and believe that I will die soon.⁴

I feel especially bad because my family needs me desperately. My older son is a first-grader and my father finds it hard to live without me—his only living child. My dad is very old and ill having been wounded many times. He has gone through a lot in his life and has been a member of the Party since 1920. I want to make his life happier by being near him.

Prosecutor General! I swear that I am not guilty of any of the crimes of which I am accused. All this has happened because of unfortunate circumstances, evil people, and my [stalwart] character.

City of Semipolatinsk. 29 March 1955⁵

Prepared by Michael T. McKibben, website engineer for the 69th Infantry Division Association, and son-in-law of Jerry Hoovler, 69th Inf Div 272nd Inf Reg K Co, and Vladislav Eloyan, grandson of Rotefan Eloyan.

² Family Note: Special Camp № 8 named "Peschanlag" or "Peschanuy Lager" (translated "Sandy Camp") near the town of Karaganda (identified in Alexander Solzenitzyn's *The Gulag Archipelego*. p. 532).

³ Family Note: Rotefan was incarcerated in ten (10) camps and prisons in total, including Lubynaka, Butyrka, Karaganda, Norilsk, Krasnoyarsk, Sverdlovsk, Vladimir, Semey (Semipalatinsk), and Vorkuta.

⁴ Family Note: Rotefan was released nine months after writing this petition. He died four years later on February 18, 1960 of tuberculosis at age 34. fully exprered of the crimes be was accused of having committed.

tuberculosis at age 34, *fully exonerated* of the crimes he was accused of having committed.

⁵ Family Note: After a stint in a Vladimir prison Rotefan was transferred to a camp near the town of Semey which was also the site of the USSR's Semipalatinsk nuclear testing facility until its closure in 1990. In March 1955 Rotefan wrote this letter in March 1955 to Roman Rodenko, then Chief Prosecutor of the Soviet Union (and the USSR's chief prosecutor during the Nazi War Crimes Trials at Nurmeberg), appealing for an end to the enforced slavery of Soviet citizens and many WWII patriots. This letter appears not to have fallen on deaf ears. The last camp before his release was Vorkuta Special Camp № 6 "Rechlag" (translated "River Camp") near the town of Vorkuta, site of another uprising two years earlier which had been contemporaneous with the Norilsk Uprising which Rotefan had helped organize to protest the treatment of Soviet citizens and returning WWII patriots. Unfortunately, by the time of his release in December 1955 Rotefan had contracted tuberculosis—a parting gift of the Gulag.

генеральному берокурору С.С.С.Р. У И От заклюгенного Слогиа. Готеорана Маркосовига 1925 года рождения 1925 года рождения. Осумденного в Москве 1950г по ст 58 15 сроком на 10ме Истравительно трудовых narepeu. Maroda Улице вторую жалобу первую написал в конце 1953. не помню на име кого. Пиознемое положение моей семи (двух маленоких детей, жены и стариков) об'язывает меня еще раз обранится к Вам с прозобой пересмотреть мое дель. Неминого расскому Вом о себе. я записания доброваниями в красную приню, был зачинен в отдельный бронетонсковый батольой 1304 стренковой дивизии. В октябре 1941 года при отступлении под Вязыно меня тяжело ранило осканкам яшные в ногу и находясь в половом госпитаме я попал в плен. С этого дня жизись для меня стала стлошной мукой. Экиничное положение гогод дмявишеся годолии, резиновые иманги, полки, Kadujku Helleykux canor om komopeix не ogun paz no недели я не мог поднаться, а бывого так что думал, вот этот раз мые больше не поднять. Да Вы и сами наверные regelno Buseine cede rino inakoe neueuskui mien. A ocodenko Обрио писто мие, с моги неспокойным характером. Ho repuere 1945 rog o перикания освободити наше лагерь. Казалось бы, гіпо страданиям пришел конецень! В 1945 году я вериделя на родине, правда дорогой нам ocerga garane ry scinbolame uno nin destruit nuemune, мена и без этого было тажель, при мыски сто я так молю egerare gis ochodosugeres om gammentos. 13 1916 rogg a noue-Зал домой в Москву. Дама я нашел больного отка вернувшегося с войны, селидесятилетного тетью, котрол после омерти моей матери зоменями мне мать и весть о так, что старийй брат в 1941 году поче под Москвой.

В этан-же году я женимия, В 1947 году у нас родилая сым, в 1948 второй. Мие было не мегко, я шиого работам. По специальности я слесарь работа на заводе, в свободное време жодиле подрабативать грузтиком а потам совсем перещем работать грузим вартель «Моспогруз» здесь жороше платими и име откровению все это време я гувствовам себя стастивые но вот опять беда в 1949 году, за пустяк, опять за мой характер я попал под суд. Однажды в воскресем я сам пощем на базар. Стоя в осереди я заметил сто мелиционер наблюдавший за порядком в осереди сам его нарушает т. е. пропускает своих знокошение вне огереди, я сказам ему обэтом после этого мы с ним поругамись и дело опять дошло до маленькой драк За это меня терез три гаса судини и дами 1 год по 44 ст. сделавменя хумигомом, свидетемых против меня был директор этого могозина-которого герез несколько месячев судили по укозу. 4 ombois à sarape measures Coceres, nongreis 30 xopomую работу загеты вернулся дамой. Можете представить себе скалько горя пришлось пережить селеве лишившихся денег, которые я зарабатывал, да еще сын болел, промежав в госпитале всло зиму. в три гаса ноги зашем и предавили ордер на арест и обыск, после трежгасового обыска увени на гиозах увато дома, как крупного государственного и другие? А ее мнение для меня отемь дерого.
Следствие для меня было тяжемыми марамыными и дризисескими мугением. Гири месяма следовары терзал мене думу. Оскоромях меня сопровождая стологомический порам мине спать потом, три месяма он не довай ине спать, порой по две недели подряд. В опрос вем томько могью, а за то что в камере днем заснечие жоть петь минут

администрация тюрьшые сажана в эсомодиний кариер так называемый «отрезвиновкой под

местичей - куда я неоднократно попадам. суда, так как при подписание 206 ст. следователь и прокурор сказами мые тто будет суд и я смогу доказать свою правоту, но суда я не дожданся смедователь и прокурор меня обмануми.

из Лубанской теорымые меня перевым в Бутырскую тюрьшу, где герез три шесяча ши дами подписать маленькую бумажегу с гетыремя коротенькими строгками - Решение Особого совещания

Не разрешив даже свидания, меня поведме

в Караганду.

За эти пать мет я обездил половину страные,

был 4 в заполярые в гор. Норильске.

ми не прими ось перенести на себе!

Сентас мне скоро будет тридцать мет, а здоровье у меня такое, что я чуватвую что

Сентас мие особению тяжемо, семья моя краине нуждается в мосей помощий, стариши сым уже учитыя в первым классе, да истариками тоже тяжело доживать свой вых обез меня-единственного сина, отец мой уже старый бывной линого раз ранен, много перешиле 8 choesi ruezuese à 1920 roger vien napmus u dune жотелось бы свочи присудствием нешного украсить ему жизив.

врандании генеранний прокурор! еще раз заявило вам гто во всех преступисниям в которых шеня обвиняют я совсем не виноват, все это потолизето так сложимись обстоятельства и у модет еще есть змо, да еще характер у Celalus.

гор. Семиполотинск 29 марта 1955 г.