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. <a href="http://www.69th-infantry-division.com/whowhere/photoo3-Eloyan-Rotefan-Marcosovich.html">http://www.69th-infantry-division.com/whowhere/photoo3-Eloyan-Rotefan-Marcosovich.html</a> Last updated December 21, 2010.

Original Russian Petition Letter follows.

To: **Furtseva E.A.**, Member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, a Candidate to the Members of the Presidium [May 29, 1956]

**Petition Letter** 

From Citizen Eloyan Rotefan Markosovich residing at Moscow, I-75, I.S.G. Building 21, Apartment 19.



**Dear Comrade Furtseva E.A.!** I kindly ask you to listen and ease my lot and that of my family. I'll try to describe my history as briefly and clearly as possible. I'll start from the beginning.

In June 1941 at only 15 years old I volunteered and was assigned to the armored cavalry battalion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Rifle Division. In October of that same year I was severely wounded in my left thigh. My ambulance was captured. That day began a future of misfortunes: hunger, endless physical sufferings by fascist brutality and later by my prison jailers here at home—deprived of every human dignity.

My youth and vitality enabled me to survive. As soon as I could walk I escaped and roamed village to village with a rotting wound using a stick as a crutch. I lived several months in the house of Ivan Mikheev in the village of Kamentshiki, in the region of Smolensk. But once the Germans discovered that there were soldiers hiding in the village, they came for me in Mikheev's house. I was arrested and sent to a metallurgic plant named Maksyuta near the city of Saalfield in Germany.

I did not forget my Motherland while in captivity. I know it is not modest to talk about myself so directly, but I need to tell you things that I did not want to say during the investigation or in conversations. With a little effort it is possible to find witnesses who will corroborate my facts. During my first month in the [Maksyuta] factory, I was beaten because I protested over the murder of my comrade who had been killed by the senior German (I was only 16 years old). This is just one of dozens of similar incidents where the fascist beat me with a rubber truncheon, lead pipes and boots--sometimes to the point where I had to spend two weeks recovering in my barracks. Once during an inspection, a policeman beckoned me to come over to him with his index finger, then he beat me until he saw blood. I asked an interpreter the next day why I was beaten, and he answered: "Because you gave him an angry look."

Sadly, exactly the same thing occurred nine years later in the Motherland. Lieutenant Tarasov in Dubrovka, in the Karaganda region where I was imprisoned, beat my face. When I asked him the next day why he beat me, he said the same thing: "Because you gave me an angry look." Fascist brutality and sadism was an illness cultivated by Hitler, but Tarasov's brutality

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Family Note: Fawning, subservient, cowed, fearful looks are preferred by such brutish people whose psyches demand looks of subservience from their captives. They get frustrated and lash out like they did with Rotefan when such captives exhibit any semblance of defiance to their injustices.

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was different. His twisted mind enjoyed being greeted with smiles on the surface, even though he knew people despised him on the inside.

In 1945 our camp was liberated by the Americans.<sup>2</sup> They treated us Russian war prisoners with respect—as their equals. The war was still on and I was burning with a wild hate for the fascists; wanting to fight them right away. I told the Americans I was willing to fight at their side until the end of the War.<sup>3</sup> When the War ended I was processed through our so-called filtration camps (which degraded human dignity) then came home.

Upon returning home I found my father ill and learned that my elder brother had lost his life in the Great Patriotic War. Honestly, I was not happy. Numerous pressures made by life miserable, including the bad financial condition of my father and others [friends], the humiliation of having to explain being a prisoner of war in job search questionnaires (you know how the average person doesn't understand such experiences), the injustices I had experienced, and my personal lot.

In 1946 I got married and tried to forget about the past. I was the happiest man on earth. My two sons were born whom I loved so very much. But in 1948 another misfortune befell me. I was imprisoned absolutely unjustly under Article 74 for one year for a misunderstanding when I refused to allow a militiaman to abuse his authority in managing a queue of people. He hit me when I compared him to a fascist. Nothing stopped my kangaroo-court sentence—not a petition by the 10 to 15 people who were in the queue and witnessed the militiaman's unfairness, my good work references, nor my wife's pleadings. I was judged and convicted within 2-3 hours after the incident. Nonetheless, I was released four months early for good behavior.

In 1950 I was arrested again and sentence to 10 years under Article 58 by the Special Council. During the investigation I was deprived of sleep for 3 months. My investigator, Major Goncharenko, interrogated me only at night. Because I tried to sleep during the day in my cell, I was stripped to my underpants and undershirt and put in a cold cell under a ladder where I could not sit down. If you have ever visited Lubyanka, perhaps you have been shown this place. I was put there often. When I signed the exit papers for the investigation, my prosecutor and investigator promised that I would have my day in court where I could defend myself. But there was no trial and after being held for 3 months in Byturka prison, I received a small "paper" with four lines: the Special Conference Decision. I was sentenced to correctional work camp, but was sent to Karangada Special Camp instead. Big numbers were hung on my chest, back and pants, and even on my cap, in the same way the fascists did it. For 5½ years I was everywhere: Karaganda, Norilsk, Siberia and Vorkuta; 10 prisons. Of the 5½ years, 4 years were spent in prisons and punishment cells because I protested the violence against and humiliation of honest people, and for fighting against the lawlessness administration of the camps and their prison chiefs.

Sometimes it is even hard for me to believe that all this has happened to me: weights, handcuffed in the figure of eight torture.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Family Note: Saalfeld was liberated by the U.S. Army 87th Infantry Division on April 13, 1945.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Family Note: Two weeks after his liberation on April 13, 1945, Rotefan found his way north to the U.S. Army 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division near Colditz, Germany where he served before returning to Moscow later in 1945. Remember, Rotefan had been incarcerated by the Germans since he was 15 years old. He knew nothing of global politics. He understood little about and had no experience with Stalin's paranoia of Western influence in Soviet society. He was simply a newly-freed teenager who wanted to fight the enemy that had brutalized him for four years. The American 69<sup>th</sup> was his immediate and best opportunity, and as he said, they treated him with respect. Rotefan served The U.S. Army Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division until the war ended.

In the fall of 1952 in Norilsk I was put in a punishment cell after a beating where two of my ribs were fractured and my lung punctured. I coughed blood for a whole week. There were many similar incidents, almost too unbearable to relive as I write. I give you my word of honor that during my entire life I have never done anything to deserve these punishments or the injustices I have experienced.

On December 11, 1955 I was released immediately by the Vorkuta Special Commission to Reconsider Cases of Political Prisoners. I was liberated with my criminal record expunged, but I have not been fully rehabilitated.

At the present time I am in the Tuberculosis Institute—three months ago I was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. I doubt that you are surprised by my story. I don't know whether the Institute will be able restore my health. It is a shame that I should die at 30 years old—when after so much suffering I am finally back with my dear and loving family. My eldest son is 9-years old and has just completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of school with excellent marks. He had similar success in his 1<sup>st</sup> year of school and is thinking about becoming a surgeon. My youngest will be in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. You can imagine how much tribulation my wife has suffered these last 5½ years while working as a kindergarten teacher for 410 Rubles a month; how she struggles over the heartbreak of my illness. Without help, I struggle like a "fish on ice" with the desire to stay alive. My feelings of helplessness are sometimes overwhelming.

I write this letter to request full rehabilitation to that of an unblemished citizen in good standing. This rehabilitation will also erase the undeserved stains that my wife and children will otherwise have to carry in their personal histories as they go through life without me. This will also give them the benefit of my pension, which has not been paid for the last 6 months since my release because my illness has prevented me from working, and the law prevents my pension from being paid since I don't have a clean record without the rehabilitation.

I trust you, dear Comrade Furtseva E.A., that you won't ignore my request. I await your answer regarding rehabilitation.<sup>4</sup>

29.05.56 Eloyan R.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> On May 14, 1957, the Military Board High Court of the USSR dropped all charges against Rotefan and closed his case. **Rotefan was fully rehabilitated**.

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ваниенов постоко ночью, а за по что потраещь взрешний днём в комере — самеам в ориц комосного и ниженей рубешке под метиму, т. е в хомодиую камеру, где стомого месте, что насызаметь. Вам вы позуще быми на Лубанке, по Вам, верно, показывами это место. Я, конечно, често пида попадам. Когда я подписывых конеу сместь ствия, мет бурга пуд зде я омогу оправдаться. — Ио суда никаком не бымо и пробыв сще 3 и ча в бутореной прорыме. Я помучим метемую бутанему с четырьных строчнами. Дет особраннями вумания в бутореной прорыме.

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