

My expulsion is not only contrary to existing laws in the Socialist Republic of Romania, and a flagrant breach of fundamental human rights, but it also contradicts the Plenum of the Romanian Communist Party's Central Committee, held from 22-25 April 1968. The Plenum stated: "nobody has the right to abuse in any way his position in State or Party in order to neglect the laws of the State and break the norms of our Socialist legality. No resolution or order issued by a person, regardless of his position, can be a substitute for the law. Each Party member, each citizen, is responsible for his actions and has the duty to act in accordance, and only in accordance, with the laws of the country."

The refusal to annul the expulsion "Order" is also illegal. The Plenum also stated: "Party, State and People's authorities, the leaders of institutions, enterprises and economic units are obliged to analyse, in the spirit of the existing norms and laws, and solve the problems raised by citizens through letters and audiences, and answer questions within the legal term; to take severe measures against those who give citizens answers in a formal manner and delay dealing with letters . . . Party and State activists, cadres with great responsibility from all walks of life - regardless of their position - have the duty of organizing an exemplary programme of audiences, and of being an example in the way they obey the laws and devotedly serve the interests of the population."

I worship and have fellowship with my brethren in the Baptist Church, "Holy Trinity", in Mihai Bravu Street, no. 106, Bucharest. In 1966 I married Ruth, a medical assistant, and have three children, aged from three to seven, Magdalena, Bogdan and Patricia.

In my earlier memoranda and petitions I asked and now request the Ministry of Teaching and Education and the Rector of the University of Bucharest to annul Order No. 177 of 6 April, 1973, on the basis of which I was expelled. I ask to be reinstated so that I can continue my studies and graduate from the Philosophy Faculty. This declaration does not ask for anything illegal, but only that a right be granted and recognized - the right to study - a right which is guaranteed by the laws of the Socialist Republic of Romania, without any discrimination, to all her citizens. Since all my efforts here to get a legal solution to my case have failed and since all doors have been closed to me, I have found myself compelled to send this declaration abroad for publication and for this I accept all responsibility.

12 May, 1974

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Arrest of Russian Baptist Leader

Georgi Vins, a founder and leader of the Soviet so-called "reform" Baptists, or initsiativniki, was arrested in Kiev at the end of March this year. In 1966 Vins was arrested after a Baptist demonstration in Moscow outside the building of the Communist Party Central Committee. Later he was sentenced to three years

in a labour camp. In 1970 a new case was opened against him, but he refused to obey the authorities' summons and went into hiding in order to continue his work for the Church. The four children of Georgi Vins wrote the following letter to the Soviet leaders on 18 April, 1974.

To: A. N. Kosygin, the Kremlin, Moscow
N. V. Podgorny, the Kremlin, Moscow
Copies to: Council of Churches of Evangelical
Christians and Baptists
Council of ECB Prisoners' Relatives

In violation of the Constitution of the USSR and of international conventions on human rights, our father Georgi Petrovich Vins has again been illegally arrested for his religious convictions and his work in the Church.

For thirteen years our father has constantly been subject to persecutions from the authorities. He served a term of imprisonment from 1966 to 1969, from which he returned with his health seriously undermined. This new arrest causes us to fear for his life. We do not want to see our father posthumously rehabilitated like our grandfather, Pyotr Yakovlevich Vins, who was sentenced for his religious convictions and tortured to death in the camps, but later rehabilitated.

Our whole family has been suffering persecutions for many years now. Our grandmother, Lidia Mikhailovna Vins, served a term in the camps from 1970 to 1973 because she campaigned for our father during his imprisonment and for other believers who had suffered repressions. Our mother, Mrs. N. I. Vins, was dismissed from her job in 1962 because of her religious convictions and for some years she was unable to get work anywhere. She is now working, but not in her own profession.

The repressions also affect us children. Natasha Vins was illegally dismissed from work on 9 January 1974. During a preliminary conversation the senior doctor of Kiev Hospital No. 17, Khryapa, declared that he would find a pretext for dismissing her, since religion and medicine were incompatible. Petya Vins has finished the tenth form (i.e. he is now 17 - Ed.) but cannot find work anywhere.

All these actions against our family are an attempt to annihilate us. Our father's present arrest is impermissible, and if you do not release him immediately, we will take all possible steps, beginning with an appeal to all believers, telling them what has happened.

We have full reason to suppose that he is in bad health. All responsibility for his life and continued imprisonment rests with you. If our father is not released and if measures are taken against him in prison which endanger his life, then we want to inform you and believers throughout the world that our whole family is fully resolved to die with him.

Our address: Kiev-114,
ul. Soshenska 11b.

Natasha Vins
Petya (Peter) Vins
Liza Vins
Zhenya (Eugene) Vins