

To the Central Executive Committee of the USSR

From the Jewish community of religious citizens residents of the shtetl Chislavichi, the Western Region

### Petition

Last time the Executive Committee of Chislavichi District has denied us the right of slaughter at the local slaughterhouse according to the Jewish law which we enjoyed during the whole after-revolution period and which the old Jewish residents of other shtetlach in our region continue to enjoy just now.

When we appealed to the Regional Executive Committee against this prohibition, we got the answer attached herewith. This answer which evidently copies the District Executive Committee's decision is unthoughtful and substantially wrong: no ceremony of religious cult is performed at the slaughter, which can be proved on the spot. The only difference is that our shochet does not stun the animal with the butt of an axe, and our method of slaughter results in fuller drainage of its blood. It has been known from 1892' Protocols of St. Petersburg Medical Society and the Protocols of its meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 1893. But to connect each form of slaughter to religious ceremony is as voluntary as wrong. Actually, in our declining years we have been denied of hot food which is harmful to our health.

Besides, it can be seen from their answer that the slaughter itself is not as unacceptable as the slaughterhouse, and if there were a parallel slaughterhouse, the problem could be solved. Just so they said us at the District Executive Committee: open your own slaughterhouse. But this is just mere mockery: where can we get means for that when we are mostly living by support of our children, workers and public servants, scattered all over the (Soviet) Union?!

Referring to Stalin's care for people and seeing nothing contradicting to Stalin's Constitution in our petition, we ask the Central Executive Committee to cancel the order of the District Executive Committee as clearly cruel. And may we be forgiven for being born 40-50 years before the great epoch comes that our children are destined to live in it and our views and beliefs to be changed.

13.04.(19)37

Signed by: Chaim Smolyak

Z.G. Sorkin

L. Peskin

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The scan of the original document (in Russian) can be found at

<https://shl2gur.tripod.com/Chislavichi/Shchita-petition-cyr.pdf>

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