

Desperate Staufen Wastes Away

Eight days. Eight days without food, without daylight, and without hope. This has been Philip Staufen's life for the past week. A solid 5'7 and 150 pounds in November of 1999, Phillip might have weighed 135 pounds last week. Today, the man with no memory weighs around 125 pounds.

Bobby Sands, an Irishman elected MP, lasted 56 days before he died. The Appeal of Judge Scarth's decision will be heard on July 20th 2001. It will be the 31st day of Philip's hunger strike assuming he is still alive. Unlike Bobby Sands, Philip began his hunger strike already in fragile condition from a digestive disorder, coeliac disease.

Philip is weak, depressed, and paranoid. He does not want to talk to the media. Finding out his true identity is the least of his worries right now. What he wants is the opportunity to live the life he has been robbed of. A random act of Canadian violence has left him a prisoner for 20 months.

3000 kilometres away, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Elinor Caplan and the Right Honourable Prime Minister Jean Chrétien turn a blind eye. To them Philip is just a name. With no pressure applied to the government, Philip Staufen will surely die. Canada will not be remembered for its compassion towards this man but rather its indifference, for ignoring the cry of a desperate human being.

Please call the Right Honourable Prime Minister Jean Chrétien at (613) 992-4211 or e-mail him at pm@pm.gc.ca

Manuel A. Azevedo
mazevedo@direct.ca
www.appealsbc.com
Tel: (604) 687-0231