In recognition of his continued struggle for so many years to make Aliyah, of his open support of the State of Israel and of his unceasing efforts for the propagation and teaching of Hebrew, despite the danger to his personal freedom.

Born in Moscow in 1932 where he was educated, he qualified as an electronics engineer and later, in 1967, obtained a Doctorate in Mathematics.

In the same year, he was appointed a researcher in the Central Research Bureau in Moscow and published eleven research works in his specialty. In 1971, after submitting an application for permission to emigrate to Israel, he was dismissed from his post.

Having become a “refusnik” he devoted himself to openly teaching Hebrew and made an official declaration of his earnings from this activity in order to establish the right to teach Hebrew. He took part in pro-Israel demonstrations. He was sentenced to be exiled to Siberia for two years. On his return from exile, he recommenced his previous activity and was once more exiled, this time for a “residential” offence. Released in 1980, he was permitted to live in Staronino, where he renewed his application to make Aliyah and recommenced his former activities.

In 1982, he was arrested for the third time and accused of anti-Soviet propaganda. During all his trouble, Dr. Begun has continued doing research despite not being allowed any official employment.