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PRESS RELEASE, INQUIRY REQUESTED BY THE SWEDISH OMBUDSMAN  
REGARDING THE HANDLING OF THE WALLENBERG CASE

Re: Complaint: Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Raoul Wallenberg

Dear Ombudsman,

For your information, I have been involved in the search for missing Swedish diplomat Raoul G. Wallenberg (1912 - ?) since 1985. I have been supported in the search by the Swedish government. This support was recognized by Prime Minister Persson, who wrote on 29 November 2001: “In this context your tireless efforts to promote the search for Raoul Wallenberg are appreciated by the Swedish Government. We regard them as a useful complement to the official investigation” (copy enclosed). A few examples of this cooperation were the issuing of the “Missing In Action Public Appeal”, whose text was agreed upon by the Swedish and Israeli Ministries of Foreign Affairs (copy enclosed), as well as my letter to Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeld and Foreign Minister Carl Bildt of 18 May 2007 (copy enclosed), to which I had received a reply from Mr. Johan Nyberg (copy enclosed). Furthermore, through the office of the Swedish legislation in Geneva, meetings were facilitated for me with Mr. Vieira De Mello, High Commissioner of Human Rights, as well as with Mr. Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. In addition, in an email dated 17 December 2008, Mr. Arba Kokalari of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs wrote in response to my letter to Minister Bildt and others of 24 October 2008 (copy enclosed): “We want to thank you for your concern and commitment into the investigation of Raoul Wallenberg’s disappearance”

With regret I have to conclude that Mr. Nyberg and Mr. Kokalari have not responded to the specific questions and suggestions raised in the letters to Minister Bildt with reference to Raoul’s fate, and in particular Mr. Kokalar did not address the reply from Interpol to a formal inquiry dated 23 January 2008 (copy enclosed).

Sweden states that the Raoul Wallenberg case today remains on the official Swedish-Russian agenda, agenda, and the question of what happened to Raoul Wallenberg in Soviet captivity remains formally open. There is a general consensus among professional historians and Wallenberg researchers that important documents exist in Russian archives that could shed light on the issue of Raoul Wallenberg's fate. Sweden outlined this fact at the end of its official Swedish Working Group report in 2001 through formulation of 17 questions that the Russian side can and must answer before any binding conclusions about Raoul Wallenberg's fate can be drawn.

This general consensus is supported by Vasily S. Khristoforov, Head of the Office of Registration and Archival Funds of Russia's FSB, Lieutenant General, Doctor of Law, member of the Commission for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression under President of Russian Federation, who said "The point in the history of Raoul Wallenberg has not yet been set." (Translation provided by Google; please see original Russian text <http://www.vremya.ru/2009/6/13/221158.html>.)

Yet, since 2001, I am not aware of any serious Swedish government efforts to demand access to documentation related to Raoul Wallenberg known to exist in Russian archives. Researchers are generally left to fend for themselves, with some limited assistance provided by the Swedish Embassy in Moscow in the transfer of research requests. A request for a coordinated approach between the Swedish Foreign Ministry and researchers to present a set of key requests to the Russian side was rejected in 2007 by the Swedish Foreign Office without discussion.

According to international law, the forced disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg is a crime against humanity. Whereas Raoul Wallenberg is a citizen of Sweden, Sweden has an obligation under international law to make every effort to determine Raoul Wallenberg's fate.

The following legal information is provided by Mr. David Matas, a Wallenberg expert and International Human Rights lawyer:

The United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance adopted by General Assembly resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992 provides in article 13 (6): "An investigation, in accordance with the procedures described above, should be able to be conducted for as long as the fate of the victim of enforced disappearance remains unclarified."

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 23 September 2005 provides in article 24 (6): "Without prejudice to the obligation to continue the investigation until the fate of the disappeared person has been clarified, each State Party shall take the appropriate steps with regard to the legal situation of the disappeared persons whose fate has not been clarified and that of their relatives, in fields such as social welfare, financial matters, family law and property rights."

What is of immediate importance is the fact that somewhere around the globe there may still be individuals (witnesses) with factual information on the whereabouts of Raoul. The urgency of this request cannot be overstated, since the witnesses we are attempting to find are most likely in their 80s or 90s and their life expectancies are obviously limited. The Swedish and Israeli Ministries of Foreign Affairs previously approved the text of the attached "Missing in Action" Appeal, and it was sent to some Swedish and Israeli embassies around the world.

I would like to please further request that your government also send out the "Missing in Action" Appeal through your network of embassies, with a request that each ambassador hold a briefing with representatives of the local media, human rights groups, Holocaust groups, and governments to stress the importance of the fact that Raoul Wallenberg's fate is still unknown and that perhaps through the help of these individuals (witnesses) the case may be resolved.

When Mr. Nyberg and Mr. Kokalari fail to address the questions and suggestions raised with reference to the search of Raoul Wallenberg in the letter to Minister Bildt, they directly harm Raoul Wallenberg's human rights and the rights of his family to know the truth. Furthermore, Mr. Kokalari and Mr. Nyberg do not implement the

human rights policy of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which says: “The Government in March 2008 determined that work for human rights must be integrated into all areas of foreign policy” (Swedish Government Human Rights website).

Could I kindly ask you why Mr. Nyberg and Mr. Kokalari have not responded to the specific questions and suggestions raised in the letters to Minister Bildt with reference to Raoul’s fate, and in particular why Mr. Kokalari did not address the Interpol reply? In addition could I ask you for an accounting of what specific steps the Swedish government has taken over the past eight years to request from Russia the truth about Raoul Wallenberg's fate?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Grunberg

P.S. This document has been made available for distribution to the general public.

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