

Raoul Wallenberg Honorary Citizen Committee

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State Comptroller and Ombudsman M. Lindenstrauss
State of Israel
Jerusalem

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Re: Complaint: Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Raoul Wallenberg

Dear State Comptroller and Ombudsman M. Lindenstrauss,

For your information, while living abroad I had requested Yad Vashem to grant Raoul Wallenberg honorary Israeli citizenship. This was granted by President Herzog in 1986. Besides honoring Mr. Wallenberg, I thought that this would give the Israeli government legal grounds to continue the search for Raoul Wallenberg.

After I moved to Israel in 1990, I requested through the assistance of the then Knesseth Speaker, Mr. Shevach Weiss a discussion on the fate of Raoul Wallenberg in the Knesseth (debates 4671, 4612 1991 and debate on 17 January 1995) which resulted in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a file was opened on the Wallenberg case.

Over time, I developed a close relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among the decisions the ministry reached were to send Ambassador Dov Schmorak to Sweden and Ambassador Yochanan Bein to the Russian Federation to pursue the search for Raoul Wallenberg. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also approved the enclosed text of a Public Appeal to individuals who may have factual information about the whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg, and the ministry also helped to circulate this appeal worldwide.

In 2006, I received a letter from Mr. Shalom Tongarman, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister (letter enclosed), indicating that Ms. Aviva Raz Schechter, Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' department for the battle against anti-Semitism, was asked to give this matter attention and consideration.

For your information, since 2006 I have been unable to enlist the active assistance or active participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the search for Raoul Wallenberg. In addition, I have asked Ms. Raz Schechter, in email correspondence and telephone conversations to clarify the ministry's position on the Wallenberg case.

The forced disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg is a crime against humanity. Whereas Raoul Wallenberg is an honorary citizen of Israel, Israel has an obligation under international law to make every effort to determine Raoul Wallenberg's fate as well it has a moral obligation to search for Raoul Wallenberg, who saved tens of thousands of Jewish individuals during the Holocaust.

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 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."

When the Israeli Government fails to do whatever it can to try and clarify Raoul Wallenberg's fate, the country directly harms all of humanity, members of Raoul's family as well in particular me, who tries in a small way to assist in the search for Raoul. These efforts have been officially recognized by the Swedish government (see copies enclosed. Another example of my involvement was a personal meeting with the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Mrs. Louise Arbour, in Geneve, together with the then MK Natan Sharansky and Ms. Louise von Dardel.

Without the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs I am unable to effectively continue the search for Raoul Wallenberg. Could I kindly ask you to investigate why the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not any longer a policy regarding the search for Raoul Wallenberg and why, since 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been unable to offer any practical assistance with the search.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Grunberg

