

Raoul Wallenberg Honorary Citizen Committee

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Your Majesty, King Gustaf XVI,

On 17 January 2007, 62 years will have passed since the disappearance of Swedish citizen Raoul Wallenberg, and on July 2007, 60 years will have passed since the “alleged” death of Raoul Wallenberg in Soviet captivity.

I am writing to ask your assistance in requesting your country’s government to actively pursue the search for Raoul Wallenberg by:

- a. implementing a governmental policy in order to immediately clarify the fate of Raoul Wallenberg
- b. requesting from the Russian government access to all relevant files.
- c. asking for the assistance of the German government
- d. circulating the Missing in Action Appeal

In 2003, the report *Kommissionen om den svenska utrikesledningens agerande i fallet Raoul Wallenberg* (Stockholm: 2003) came to the conclusion that research into the question of Wallenberg's fate had been far from complete, especially in Russia. The report concluded by saying “... much still remains to be done.”

We all remember how King Gustaf V contributed in the appointment of Raoul Wallenberg to the Swedish Legation in Budapest. We also remember how King Gustaf V initiated a personal letter to the Hungarian Regent, Admiral Miklós Horthy, and how, as a result of the King’s initiatives, thousands of people were saved.

It is extremely shameful that Raoul Wallenberg, who saved so many lives and who is believed to be alive today, is now being abandoned by the world's powers. We are therefore appealing to you, Your Majesty, on humanitarian grounds to please actively support this initiative of trying to find information on the whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg.

In the past we have had contact with your country's Prime Minister, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and Speaker of the Parliament, as well as some other Swedish Parliamentarians.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Laila Freivalds responded on 27 January 2006 as follows:

Answer to question 2005/06:821 on the follow-up of the Raoul Wallenberg report:

- 1) "So the Raoul Wallenberg case is thus still on the bilateral Swedish-Russian agenda. It has been raised on a number of occasions both political and official Swedish contacts with Russia. The case has also been raised in talks with representatives of other countries."
- 2) "The Swedish Government naturally intends to continue raising the question of what further measures can be taken to move forward in investigations regarding the fate of Raoul Wallenberg."

In reference to Sweden's position (point 1), I would like to inform you that since February 2003 the Russian Government has maintained an opposite position, namely in a letter from Mr. Victor Smirnov, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Tel Aviv.

On 6 February 2003 Mr. Smirnov wrote:

"At this stage the issue of clarifying the fate of Raoul Wallenberg has been moved from the agenda of the Russian-Swedish relations. Work on this issue has been completed at the official level and has become a matter of historical research.

The Russian side continues to assist Sweden in replying to specific requests for additional information about the fate of Raul Wallenberg proceeding from the fact that further work on this issue is to be conducted by historians."

Therefore, it is my belief that the Minister of Foreign Affair's commendable initiative in point 2, of raising the issue of Raoul Wallenberg's case, will only be productive in the long term, as Sweden would first need to have a commitment that the Russian government will move the fate of Raoul Wallenberg back on to the agenda of Russian-Swedish bilateral relations.

Your Majesty, I would like to make you aware that, as the Swedish Head of State, were you to ask your government to continue its investigation to determine the truth about Raoul Wallenberg's fate, and were you to ask your government to make all relevant files relating to the case available, there is a great likelihood that the case may be solved.

As part of this policy, may I further please ask you to specifically encourage your country's government to request from President Putin, as the Head of the Russian government, full access to all files in Russian archive collections that are known to your government and to Wallenberg researchers, and to conduct a search for witnesses. Both actions are crucial to a positive resolution of the case.

I believe that there are close ties between the Swedish Royal family and the German people. May I respectfully draw your attention to the fact that Germany is taking over the Presidency of the European Union as of January 2007. For your information, the European Parliament passed a resolution on 17 May 1990 that concludes by stating:

1. Calls on the Soviet authorities to reopen the case of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg and his driver, Mr. Vilmos Langfelder;
2. Calls on the Soviet authorities to allow an international commission of historians and experts to examine all relevant archive material;
3. Calls on the Soviet authorities to use the press, radio and television and all other legal avenues to launch a search throughout the territory of the Soviet Union;

I respectfully ask you to please ponder the thought of asking the German President and Chancellor to use their influence and implement further this European Parliament resolution.

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 Ministry of Foreign Affairs previously approved the text of the attached "Missing in Action" Appeal, and it was sent to some Swedish embassies around the world. I would like to please further request that your government send out the "Missing in Action" appeal through its 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.

Please find below a quote from Ambassador Hagard that supports our request to you:

9 January 1998

“Any new piece of information; any appeal to people in power and/or people with information is welcome because it is needed.”

In addition, may I respectfully ask if Your Majesty would consider receiving members of Raoul Wallenberg’s immediate family, in order to allow the family members to personally convey their plea to you?

Respectfully submitted and yours truly,

Max Grunberg

2002 Recipient, Swedish Royal Order of the Polar Star

cc: Prof. Guy von Dardel (brother of Raoul Wallenberg, Switzerland)
Mrs. Nina Lagergren (sister of Raoul Wallenberg, Sweden)
Ms. Louise von Dardel (niece of Raoul Wallenberg, France)
Mrs. Marie Dupuy (niece of Raoul Wallenberg, France)
Mrs. Nane Annan (niece of Raoul Wallenberg, United Nations)

Mrs. Susanne Berger, Wallenberg expert and Former Independent Consultant to the Swedish-Russian working group, USA
Mr. David Matas, Wallenberg expert and Barrister and Solicitor, Canada
Mr. Baruch Tenembaum, Founder International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, USA
Prof. Frank Vajda, Wallenberg expert, Raoul Wallenberg Committee, Australia

H.E. Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden
H.E. Per Westerberg, Speaker of the Riksdag
H.E. John HM Hagard, Swedish Ambassador
H.E. Robert Rydberg, Swedish Ambassador
all Ministers of the Government of Sweden
all Members of the Riksdag

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