

5 February 2009

Your Excellency President Peres:

Could I kindly ask for your assistance, on humanitarian grounds, in clarifying your position on the case of Raoul Wallenberg, Israel's first Honorary Citizen? (Please see Knesset sub-committee statement at the end of this letter and the reply of the Israeli Ombudsman of 29 January 2009, copy enclosed). I am turning to you as a last resort, as I have turned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to no avail (enclosed letter to the Israeli Ombudsman, 25 December 2008) and I still remember how much you supported our efforts at the time that you were Prime Minister (statement enclosed).

I specifically believe that, as the President of the State of Israel, your voice will be loudly heard by the diplomatic and human rights community in attempting to assist with this important public national cause.

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 Wallenberg. 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 the President's Office also send out the "Missing in Action" Appeal through the Israeli 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. It would also be greatly appreciated if we could have your Office's assistance in publishing the "Missing in Action" Appeal for information in the Russian-language Israeli newspapers. Furthermore, could I please ask you to mediate in the facilitation of Wallenberg researchers having access to all witness testimonies available in Israeli archives in the Raoul Wallenberg case, as well as to the assessment of these testimonies by Israeli agencies (Foreign Office, Defense Department and Intelligence Community) and to Israeli Foreign Office

correspondence files with international counterparts and internal memoranda and exchanges with other Israeli government agencies.

Most importantly, could you please consider issuing an official statement that Raoul Wallenberg fate is unknown and that the case remains open until full clarity of his fate is gained.

For your information, Sweden states that the Raoul Wallenberg case today remains on the official Swedish-Russian agenda, and the question of what happened to Raoul Wallenberg while he was 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>.)

I look forward to hearing from you with any questions you may have, and I would like to politely request an in-person meeting with you, if possible, to discuss the possibility of you inviting members of the diplomatic corps to enlist a humanitarian effort to obtain release of all documents held in various international country archives pertaining to Raoul Wallenberg and to request the diplomatic corps assistance to circulate the “Missing in Action” Appeal worldwide.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Grunberg

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

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. Susanne Berger, Wallenberg expert and Former Independent Consultant
to the Swedish-Russian working group, USA
Prof. Irwin Cotler, Member of Canadian Parliament, Wallenberg expert and Former Chair
International Wallenberg Commission
Mr. David Matas, Wallenberg expert and Barrister and Solicitor, Canada
Prof. Frank Vajda, Wallenberg expert, Raoul Wallenberg Committee, Australia

The Knesset

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Raoul Wallenberg – Concluding Proposal

Based on the information that has been accumulated on the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg, the Parliamentary Committee to Combat Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia considers that all efforts must be made in order to trace his fate.

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