

Raoul Wallenberg Honorary Citizen Committee

P.O. Box 38, Ra'anana 43100, ISRAEL
Tel.: +(972) 544 953039 Fax: +(972) 9 7749495 E-mail: max@maxgrunberg.com

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Respectfully submitted to H.E. Stefan Amer, Political Adv
Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Laila Freivalds



RAOUL WALLENBERG – FACT SHEET

In my letter July 18th Minister Freivalds, Prime Minister Persson and other Ministers and Parliamentarians, I have included the following points, with Sweden's and Ambassador Hamrin's remark in green to what has been done about it, or not done, and my response in red:

- 1) To consider the possibility of the Swedish Parliament asking the Swedish government and the Foreign Minister to facilitate a meeting between President Vladimir Putin and the immediate members of the Wallenberg family (von Dardel and Lagergren families). President Putin, as Head of State, has the authority to open key archives, as we have strong indications that highly relevant records are available in these archives. Russia now needs to provide access to these records. (see attached press release, Questions for President Putin) Furthermore, President Putin also has the authority to instruct one of his government agencies to circulate the Missing in Action appeal.
So far no response
- 2) To issue a statement that the search for Raoul Wallenberg and the clarification of his fate remains a matter of high priority and has the support of Swedish lawmakers.
So far no response
- 3) To convene public hearings to investigate why Sweden openly rejects offers of international assistance and continues to insist on sole control of the Wallenberg case. In short, Sweden is not fulfilling its obligations to its citizen, Raoul Wallenberg, and this transgresses international human rights law. Following are some excerpts from letters which illustrate Sweden's consistency in rejecting offers for international assistance, most recently a formal approach from the government of Canada:

- I. Excerpt from an internal e-mail of the U.S. State Department dated February 10, 1992 showing that, contrary to general belief, the U.S. vigorously pursued the question of Raoul Wallenberg's fate with the Russian government; and that Sweden at that time in fact requested the U.S. government to refrain from further inquiries:

"The Swedish government has asked the U.S. to ease up on inquiries about Wallenberg, since the Swedes are satisfied with the Russian government's cooperation in the joint Swedish/Russian Wallenberg commission"

II. Two excerpts from the rejection of a recent official Canadian offer of assistance in the Raoul Wallenberg case show that the Swedish government points as justification to a planned joint Swedish-Russian archival project which it intends to pursue in Moscow. However, by its own acknowledgement, this project in effect plans to exclude the Raoul Wallenberg case:

a. Letter Ambassador Harald Hamrin to Canadian lawyer and Wallenberg expert David Matas, January 27, 2005:

"I would like to inform you that we are presently discussing with a group of representatives of Swedish archives and researchers a possible Swedish initiative to establish a broader cooperation with Russian archives on issues related to Swedish-Russian relations during the second half of the 20th century - **i.e a much wider area of issues and not necessarily related to Raoul Wallenberg.**"

b. Letter dated 24 May 2005 – Swedish Ambassador Hamrin-Canadian Wallenberg expert Matas – “As I mentioned in my letter of January 27, 2005 we are also looking into the question of a broader Swedish-Russian cooperation related to archival documents in Swedish and Russian archives. On the basis of these considerations we have come to the conclusion that we should not, at least at this stage, enter into a formal cooperation of the kind that you have proposed with regard to the Russian-Canadian Memorandum of Understanding”.

Why is Sweden rejecting Canadian assistance when it in effect would fill a critical gap in Sweden’s official Wallenberg research?

Ambassador Hamrin's response 13th October 2005:

1. Point 3:II. You are quoting the correspondence between myself and Canadian lawyer David Matas. I want to stress that there has not (rpt not) been any, as you write, "official Canadian offer of assistance in the Raoul Wallenberg case".

My response:

1. Point 3:II. In the report of the Swedish-Russian Working Group issued by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated Stockholm 2000, page 180, it states: "It should be mentioned that several governments, including that of Canada, have declared themselves ready to assist in various ways". I believe that therefore that Ambassador Hamrin should clarify his concern with the authors of the report of the Swedish-Russian Working Group issued by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Just the mere fact that Ambassador Hamrin discussed Mr. Matas's proposal indicates that there was a real proposal to be discussed, otherwise why would Ambassador Hamrin engage in this correspondence in the first place? As it is known, Mr. Matas is a well-respected human rights lawyer who has been involved for many years in the Wallenberg case and has liasoned in this case between the Canadian Government and Ambassador Hamrin. Another indication of Mr. Matas's involvement with the Canadian Government and their willingness to help includes: "The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Canada on September 5, 1996 announced that the Government would assist in defraying the cost of my research activities to be conducted to determine the fate and whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg", (What Happened to Raoul Wallenberg, Matas).

- III. Excerpt from a rejection letter dated 1 December 2004, involving the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Hamrin-Grunberg:

"We would, however, not want to involve other parties, such as the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the handling of the Appeal by, as you write in your letter, coordinating the distribution of the Appeal between the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the Swedish Foreign Ministry and your Committee".

Ambassador Hamrin's response 13th October 2005:

2. Point 3:III.. Concerns the Appeal "Missing in Action". Sweden has contributed financially to the Appeal launched by the Raoul Wallenberg Honorary Citizen Committee, to which you have stated in letters to me that you would ask contributions from other sources as well. I, in turn, have stated in a letter to you that, apart from the Swedish contributions to the Appeal, the responsibility for the further handling of the Appeal lies with the "Citizen Committee". Sweden cannot **both** partially fund the initiative **and** take the responsibility for the further handling of it.

My response:

Ambassador Liden and First Secretary / Deputy Head of Mission Ferrer personally took part in discussions at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem. There were no objections made on a distinction of that Sweden cannot be both partially fund the "Missing in Action" appeal and take responsibility for the further handling of it. As well in an e-mail of January 14th, 2005 Ambassador Hamrin wrote: "As I have told you before we are quite willing to help you with the distribution of the Appeal through Swedish Embassies"

- IV. With reference to asking the assistance of the International Red Cross and the High Commissioner of Human Rights, please see answer in letter dated 30 April 2004, Hamrin-Grunberg:

"As far as your suggestions are concerned to establish contact with the International Red Cross Missing Persons Division and with the United Nations' Human Rights Commissioner we highly appreciate your recent initiative in connection with the Missing Persons Conference in Geneva. Ambassador Johan Molander is in contact with both, but, as I mentioned to you during our meeting in Geneva, the Swedish Government would not want to act in such a way that it could be seen as depriving itself of part of its responsibility in the search for further information on Raoul Wallenberg."

To the best of my knowledge Sweden has not officially asked for the assistance of the International Red Cross and the High Commissioner of Human Rights, although they do have a Missing Persons division.

Ambassador Hamrin's response 13th October 2005:

3. Point 3:IV. Concerns the International Red Cross Missing Persons Division and the United Nations' Human Rights Commissioner. As I have written previously to you "we highly appreciate your recent initiative in connection with the Missing Persons Conference in Geneva". Our then Ambassador in Geneva, Mr. Johan Molander, and myself met with you on that occasion. We think, however, that the most effective way of action would be an initiative of these two

organizations, at the suggestion of indepent Raoul Wallenberg associations / committees, to promote our common interest in the case of Raoul Wallenberg.

My response:

"It is vital that disappearances cease and that the families' right to know the fate and whereabouts of their relatives, which is recognized by the entire international community, be upheld", Pamphlet from Conference "The Missing", 2003. According to international humanitarian law and human rights law, the primary state actor responsible for trying to obtain information about the missing person, and to relate that to the family of the missing person, is the state of which the person is a citizen. Therefore the primary responsibility lies, for these two points, directly with Sweden. In addition to the primary state actor, other state actors or non-profit organizations, may be able to assist them in the search.

- 4) To request the assistance of international Human Rights organizations to use all means at their disposal to seek out information regarding Raoul Wallenberg.
So far no answer
- 5) To issue a clear and unequivocal statement asking all countries in which Russian or former Soviet citizens live, as well as the Russian government to intensify the search for Wallenberg, urging all citizens with knowledge of Wallenberg's fate to come forward.
So far no response
- 6) To call on foreign ambassadors stationed in Sweden to review the Wallenberg case and to request to allow full access to their countries' files, especially those which up until now remain classified, and to urge them to pursue any action in the case that facilitates the clarification of Raoul Wallenberg's fate.
So far no response
- 7) To urge the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convene and sponsor an annual meeting of international researchers and those involved in the search in order to review progress and coordinate ongoing efforts.
So far no response
- 8) To examine the possibility of the Swedish parliament or the Swedish government to honor Raoul Wallenberg himself, and his brother and sister with the Illis Quorum Medal distinction.
So far no response

Yours truly,

Max Grunberg

Cc: Prof. Guy von Dardel, brother of Raoul Wallenberg
Mrs. Nina Lagergren, sister of Raoul Wallenberg

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)

H.E. Robert Rydberg, Swedish Ambassador to Israel
H.E. Harald Hamrin, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Unknown
21 juin ''05, 19:01
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