



MAURITIUS

OPEN LETTER TO H.E. Eliav Belotserkovsky

Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the State of Israel to the Republic
of Mauritius

September 9, 2023

Your Excellency, SHALOM

We extend a warm welcome to you, on your current visit to our country to mark the 83rd anniversary of the arrival of the Jewish detainees on Mauritius during colonial times. This occurred in the late 1940s, when a group of Eastern European Jews, fleeing the Nazi persecution in Europe were denied entry to Haifa by the British administration in Palestine which held a mandate on this territory following WW1. Some 1600 persons were thus deported to Mauritius where they resided in the Beau Bassin detainee camp.

This not well-known episode of our recent history has nevertheless left footprints in the local literature, with the books namely *The Mauritian Shekel* by Mrs Genevieve Pitot and *Le Voyage de Delcourt* by Alain Gordon Gentil, and also a documentary in the shadows of Beau Bassin, a documentary produced by Kevin Harris.

After the war, the detainees were offered the choice to perform Aliya immigration to then Palestine, which was to become Israel in 1948, or to return to their homeland. Most of them opted for Israel, except 127 who were buried in a section of the Saint Martin Cemetery.

It has been noted that you mentioned that the upcoming events linked with the episode Mauritius shares with the Jewish deportees, and also *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, Israel's Independence Day, this year being the 75th anniversary thereof have to be marked.

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Your Excellency, we fully understand the right to a safe existence for the State of Israel, its nationals, and citizens, as defined by the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine adopted by the General Assembly as Resolution 181(II) preconizing a two-state solution and a special international regime for Jerusalem at the end of the British Mandate.

This unfortunately was never to emerge and what followed is history of violence Blood Sweat & Tears garbed in felony and injustice imposed by the State of Israel on this land's original population in their diversity.

This history, Excellency, is one of illegal uprooting and forced exile of some 700,000 Palestinians who were deprived of their belongings, land & traditions - dumped in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria around Palestinian townships in what would become permanent refugee camps. This episode is known as the Nakba, the Catastrophe which plagues the region and has been the source of so many conflicts and instability in this part of the world.

Some 5 million Palestinians still endure harsh living conditions to date in those camps which are the source of so much suffering, violence and unrest which make the headlines across the international media platforms.

This disastrous and unfair situation has increased with the forced annexation of the West Bank Territories increasing resent and violence from Palestinian quarters side who, against all the tenets of international laws, are not allowed to return to their birth place whilst any person of Jewish descent is automatically granted residence, nationality and citizenship by the State of Israel. **Native Palestinians are denied this fundamental Human Right ENSHRINED IN THE PRINCIPLES OF Natural Justice.**

This ongoing outrage is characterized and illustrated regularly by the systematic creation of illegal settlements, illegal land occupation & destruction of olive orchards against all United Nations Resolutions and blatantly in Breach of the OSLO Accords, for what they may be worth today.

Adding insult to injury, the recent provocative incursions in the compound of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock do not augur well of the future.

This vicious circle has to be put to an end with bona fide talks aimed at finding a long-lasting peace settlement of all the issues deriving from the non-observance and respect of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. This entails namely their

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safe re-instatement in their lands and the setting up of a peaceful two-state solution as pillars of mutual respect and understanding for the future.

The quasi-apartheid system which has been systematically set up and enforced especially in the occupied West Bank is a lethal recipe of mutual assured despair and destruction. It will unfortunately and inevitably provoke both implosion and worldwide explosion.

As you would appreciate, Mauritius is a model of multi-culturalism where there is no place for apartheid. Instead, all the components of our multi-ethnic nation live in Peace, Harmony and Respect. In Mauritius, there is no race or ethnic group that is pitched as superior to any other one. We are all on the same footing and we make up the beauty of our Rainbow Nation.

We are convinced that you will be inspired by your passage in Mauritius to enrich your worldview and hence make your best to improve the situation of Palestinians living in the State of Israel and the more so in the Occupied Territories .

We are a Peaceful Nation, and we deeply wish that Peace prevails on the whole Planet. Both the people of Israel and Palestine share a legitimate aspiration for peace As a Diplomat, we are convinced that you will be sensitive to this Call from Mauritius.

Your excellency, we trust that due consideration will be granted to the points we have raised above in favor of a fair resolution of this complex situation. A situation which amounts to a denial of justice and the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people who also desire Peace not endless war terror violence. Dangerous expansionist supremacist policies that will only stir commotion and resent. As you are well aware the world is witnessing the cry for democracy from the majority of Israelis on the streets every week legitimately aiming for further democracy not an apartheid and ruthlessly supremacist government.

We wish you a pleasant stay in Mauritius and a safe flight back home in South Africa.

FRIENDS OF AL AQSA, Mauritius

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