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"Censorship in Israel", a Letter by Elyas Kusa to the Editor of the Jerusalem Post, July 1960

Addressed by Elyas Kusa to the Editor of the Jerusalem Post on 19 July 1960, this formal letter was written regarding the issue of censorship in Israel and in response to the newspaper's claim that it is a military censorship related to security matters and does not have political motives behind it.

and for that matter, the Syrian press whose owners and editors formed part of the perverse minority, unhesitating freedom is tantamount to killing the already noble aim in the end. It should be borne in mind that this so-called Dictator and his colleagues have already made great achievements and are still making considerable efforts for the development of the country, the improvement of social conditions, the betterment of the standard of living of the peasantry and other classes of the population as well as for the establishment of social justice. They are gradually but surely preparing the inhabitants to accept and practice democracy in its true meaning and vibrant spirit. This, of course, requires time but it will be achieved.

In the circumstances, it is neither just nor fair to make any comparison between Israel and Egypt in this respect. The realities of the two countries are widely divergent.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. EGURSA

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Yours faithfully,


E. D. KDUSSA.

WILLIAM W. KENNEDY
ADVOCATE
P.O. B. 14
HAIFA

12th July, 1930

The Editor of The Jerusalem Post,
P. O. B. 21,
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir,

In your comment on the letter of the Chairman of the Foreign Press Association in Israel, asserting that "there is censorship of the local and foreign press, and an official one," you claimed that there was no political censorship, but a military censorship which applies only to security matters.

I think your claim is not correct. In the programme entitled "Three unpublished letters" which I recently printed and distributed the following sentence as well as every other phrase or word indicating the existence of an agreement between France, the United Kingdom and Israel to launch the final campaign were deleted by the Censor:-

"Mr. Ben Gurion ordered the attack on Egypt when he agreed on its launching with two of the three big powers which undertook upon themselves under the Tripartite Declaration to prevent the outbreak of war between Israel and the Arab States, to preserve the existing boundaries and not to allow the alteration thereof by the use of force and violence. Sir Anthony Eden's memoirs unveiled the facts showing how the conspiracy was hatched and organized. Mr. Ben Gurion carried out, faithfully and honestly, the part allotted to the Israeli forces."

As the deleted sentence was essential for my reply to Bishop Makin's doctrine that no Arab in Israel should write the words "the drunkenness of the alleged victory in the Transjordan strike" I rephrased it as follows, but the Censor struck out the underlined words:-

"These facts which indicate the synchronization and co-ordination of the final campaign with the attack launched by the two colonial powers sufficiently show the Transjordan character of the attack....."

I decided to cut the whole sentence and replace them by dots. The printer informed that the Censor had issued strict instructions against this method. I, therefore, inserted the sentence dictated by the Censor.

It is evident that the deleted sentence did not deal with any matter of security. The question whether there was prior agreement between Israel and the two imperialistic powers to launch the final campaign is of historical interest and cannot possibly under mine the security of the State, especially as it was referred to by Sir Anthony Eden in his memoirs and was the subject of careful and minute study by independent investigators. It follows that there is, as Mr. Eban has said, censorship of the local press.

In Egypt it is highly imperative that there should be strict censorship. President Abdel Nasser whom the Jewish, Zionist and colonial press want to describe as a dictator, and his faithful collaborators are privy to a vicious system of life which has been in existence for centuries and has destroyed the lives of an influential corrupt minority that had in its grip the overwhelming peasantry stricken with poverty, disease and ignorance and also with religious fanaticism. To allow the Egyptian press

ELIAS H. KOUSSA,
ADVOCATE,
P.O.B. 14,
HAIFA.

19th July, 1960.

The Editor of The Jerusalem Post,
P. O. B. 81,
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir,

In your comment on the letter of the Chairman of the Foreign Press Association in Israel, asserting that "there is censorship of the local and foreign press, and an official one", you claimed that there was no political censorship, but a military censorship which applies only to security matters.

I think your claim is not correct. In the brochure entitled "three unpublished letters" which I recently printed and distributed, the following sentence as well as every other phrase or word indicating the existence of an agreement between France, the United Kingdom and Israel to launch the Sinai campaign were deleted by the Censor:-

"Mr. Ben Gurion ordered the attack on Egypt when he agreed on its launching with two of the three big Powers which undertook upon themselves under the Tripartite Declaration to prevent the outbreak of war between Israel and the Arab States, to preserve the existing boundaries and not to allow the alteration thereof by the use of force and violence. Sir Anthony Eden's memoirs unveiled the facts showing how the conspiracy was broached and organized. Mr. Ben Gurion carried out, faithfully and honestly, the part allotted to the Israeli forces."

As the deleted sentence was essential for my reply to Bishop Hakim's doctrine that no Arab in Israel should write the words "the drunkenness of the alleged victory in the treacherous tripartite attack", I redrafted it as follows, but the Censor struck out the underlined words:-

"These facts which indicate the synchronization and co-ordination of the Sinai campaign with the attack launched by the two colonial Powers sufficiently show the treacherous character of the attack....."

I decided to omit the whole sentence and replace them by dots. The printer informed that the Censor had issued strict instructions against this method. I, therefore, inserted the sentence dictated by the Censor.

It is evident that the deleted sentence did not deal with any matter of security. The question whether there was prior agreement between Israel and the two imperialistic powers to launch the Sinai campaign is of historical interest and cannot possibly undermine the security of the State, especially as it was referred to by Sir Anthony Eden in his memoirs and was the subject of careful and minute study by independent investigators. It follows that there is, as Mr. Abian Lacombe said, censorship of the local press.

In Egypt it is highly imperative that there should be strict censorship. President Abdul Nasser whom the Jewish, Zionist and colonial press are wont to describe as dictator, and his faithful collaborators are pulverizing a vicious system of life which has been in existence for centuries and destroying vested interests of an influential corrupt minority that had in its grip the overwhelming peasantry stricken with poverty, disease and ignorance and also with religious fanaticism. To allow the Egyptian press

ELIAS H. KOUSSA,
ADVOCATE,
P.O.B. 14,
HAIFA.

19th July, 1960.

and for that matter, the Syrian Press whose owners are bent on
further part of the perverse minority, unrepentant in their
tentament to killing the afore-said noble aim in the East.
should be borne in mind that this so-called Dictator and his
The Editor of The Jerusalem Post, at achievements and are still
P. O. B. 21, distinguished efforts for the development of the country,
Jerusalem, want of social conditions, the betterment of the standards
of living of the peasantry and other classes of the population
as well as for the establishment of social justice. They are
Dear Sir, but surely preparing the inhabitants to accept and give
rise to a new era in its true meaning and vibrant spirit. This, of
course, requires time but it will be achieved.

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Press Association in Israel, asserting that "there is censorship of
the local and foreign press, and an official one", you claimed that
there was no political censorship, but a military censorship which
applies only to security matters.

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"three unpublished letters" which I recently printed and distributed,
the following sentence as well as every other phrase or word indi-
cating the existence of an agreement between France, the United
Kingdom and Israel to launch the Sinai campaign were deleted by the
Censor:-

"Mr. Ben Gurion ordered the attack on Egypt when he agreed
on its launching with two of the three big Powers which undertook
upon themselves, under the Tripartite Declaration to prevent the
outbreak of war between Israel and the Arab States, to preserve the
existing boundaries and not to allow the alteration thereof by the
use of force and violence. Sir Anthony Eden's memoirs unveiled the
facts showing how the conspiracy was broached and organized. Mr.
Ben Gurion carried out, faithfully and honestly, the part allotted
to the Israeli forces."

As the deleted sentence was essential for my reply to Bishop
hakim's doctrine that no Arab in Israel should write the words
"the drunkenness of the alleged victory in the treacherous tripar-
tite attack", I redrafted it as follows, but the Censor struck out
the underlined words:-

"These facts which indicate the synchronization and co-ordi-
nation of the Sinai campaign with the attack launched by the two
colonial Powers sufficiently show the treacherous character of the
attack....."

I decided to omit the whole sentence and replace them by dots.
The printer informed that the Censor had issued strict instructions
against this method. I, therefore, inserted the sentence dictated
by the Censor.

It is evident that the deleted sentence did not deal with
any matter of security. The question whether there was prior agree-
ment between Israel and the two imperialistic powers to launch the
Sinai campaign is of historical interest and cannot possibly under-
mine the security of the State, especially as it was referred to
by Sir Anthony Eden in his memoirs and was the subject of careful
and minute study by independent investigators. It follows that
there is, as Mr. Abian Lacombe said, censorship of the local press.

In Egypt it is highly imperative that there should be strict
censorship. President Abdul Nasser whom the Jewish, Zionist and
colonial press, are wont to describe as a dictator, and his faithful
collaborators are pulverizing a vicious system of life which has
been in existence for centuries and destroying vested interests
of an influential corrupt minority that had in its grip the over-
whelming peasantry stricken with poverty, disease and ignorance
and also with religious fanaticism. To allow the Egyptian press

WILLIAM H. ROBERTS
ADVISOR
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE
WASHINGTON
10th July, 1900.

The Editor of The Jerusalem Post,
P. O. B. 61,
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir,

In your comment on the letter of the Chairman of the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem, asserting that "there is no connection between the local and foreign press, and an official one," you claimed that there was no political connection, but a military connection which applies only to security matters.

I think your claim is not correct. In the brochure entitled "The Jerusalem Post" which I recently printed and distributed, the following sentence as well as every other sentence of the article, stating the existence of an agreement between the United Kingdom and Israel to launch the Great Campaign, was deleted by the Censor.

"Mr. Ben Gurion ordered the attack on Egypt when he agreed on the launching with two of the three big powers which entered upon themselves under the Tripartite Declaration to prevent the outbreak of war between Israel and the Arab States, to preserve the existing boundaries and not to allow the 'Arabian Desert' to be the use of force and violence. Sir Anthony Eden's words in the House of Commons showing how the conspiracy was prepared and organized. Mr. Ben Gurion carried out, faithfully and honestly, the duty allotted to the Israeli forces."

As the deleted sentence was essential for my reply to Sir H. Balfour's book, I had no Arab in Israel should have been the words "the darknessness of the alleged victory in the 'Arabian Desert'." I repeated it as follows, but the Censor struck out the underlined words:

"These facts which indicate the symmetrical and co-ordinated action of the three powers with the attack launched by the colonial powers sufficiently show the triangular character of the attack....."

I decided to omit the whole sentence and replace them by facts. The printer informed that the Censor had inserted the sentence in the margin of this method. I, therefore, inserted the sentence in the margin of the Censor.

It is evident that the deleted sentence was not given any matter of security. The question whether Israel was given any matter of security, and the two important points to launch the Great Campaign in of historical interest and cannot possibly be the same the security of the State, especially as it was referred to by Sir Anthony Eden in his remarks and was the subject of several and minute study by independent investigators. It follows that there is, as Mr. Ben Gurion said, a connection of the local press.

In Egypt it is highly important that there should be a connection between the local press and the Jewish, Muslim and Christian press. It is not to be expected that the Jewish press should be a separate system of its own, but it should be a part of the general press, and the Jewish press should be a part of the general press, and the Jewish press should be a part of the general press.

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In the circumstances, it is neither just nor fair to make any comparison between Israel and Egypt in this respect. The realities of the two countries are widely divergent.

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Your correspondent, V.B., whose letter in today's issue is a mean fabrication and a contemptible person who has no conscience, nor the slightest self-respect to deter him from making such gross accusations are contained in his letter is a disgrace not only to himself but also to human society.

I assure your readers that I have never either driven in a British car, with British soldiers in any part of Haifa, or used a newspaper to frighten the Arab population to leave the country, or even to change their habitual place of residence. On the contrary, there are still Arabs in Haifa who will testify to the efforts which the Arab Emergency Committee of which I was a member, made to allow their feet and persons to remain.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to protest against the unfair headline under which your published my letter regarding the Haifi. I am disappointed to believe that the headline was inserted intentionally to mislead the readers. There is no word in my letter to justify it.

I shall be grateful if you will publish this letter.

Yours faithfully,

V.B. KOUSSA.

Mr. Kousa
The above letter is an instructive illustration of the level of education to which the local press will lower itself to mislead me in the eyes of the Jewish people. I am sorry for such an alleged Jewish triumph.
Yours sincerely
Ben

The Editor
P.O.B. 81,
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir,

Your
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