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اليهودية، حزيران رسالة من إلياس كوسا إلى اللجنة الأمريكية ١٩٥٨

اللجنة الأمريكية رسالة مطبوعة باللغة الإنجليزية من إلياس كوسا إلى
إلى فلسطين لدراسة اليهودية بتاريخ ١٩ حزيران ١٩٥٧ بخصوص زيارة اللجنة
والروم الكاثوليك تحت أحوال الفلسطينيين بشكل عام والمسلمين والدروز
والذي يتضمن الحكم الاسرائيلي، مرفق مع الرسالة خطاب كوسا للجنة
يتضمن المعلومات معلومات حول أوضاع الفلسطينيين في اسرائيل. والذي
المزارعين الفلسطينيين، التالية: ١، ٢٥٠، ٠٠٠ دونم أرض تم مصادرتها من
تنتج الأرض، تعويض المزارعين الفلسطينيين تم على معدل أقل مما
العسكري مما يحد من غالبية الفلسطينيين يقطنون مناطق تخضع للحكم
الفلسطينيين حركته وتنقلهم، مستوى تعليم الفلسطينيين منخفض،
الفلسطينيين غير ممثلين في الأجسام الحكومية، على الرغم من دفع
يعاملون كمواطنين درجة للضرائب وعليهم نفس الواجبات مثل اليهود إلا أنهم
ثانية، لا يتمتع المسلمون بحق إدارة أملاك الوقف.

ELIAS N. KOUSSA,
ADVOCATE,
P.O. BL4.
HAIFA.

19th June, 1958.

Mr. James Marshall,
The American Jewish Committee Delegation,
King David Hotel, Jerusalem.

Dear Sir,

In reporting the arrival of your delegation, the Jerusalem Post of today stated the delegation will study during its stay the "minority situation", and discuss it with minority leaders in Galilee-Arab, Druze and Greek Catholic.

Being an Arab who has chosen to remain in the country believing that the State of Israel will be a Jewish state "based on absolute equality of all citizens and on democracy", and who has subsequently found out that Israel falls painfully short of being such a state of which the Jewish leaders had fluently and impressively spoken before the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, I wish to place before you the following information to enable you to enquire into the conditions of the Arab minority with an open mind, free from racial bias, political partisanship and official misguidance:-

(1) About 1,250,000 dunams (312500 Acres) of fertile land were usurped from the Israeli Arabs rendering thousands of Arab farmers landless and jobless.

(2) This usurpation was made in flagrant violation of the United Nations Partition Resolution of 1947, and of the Israel-Transjordan Armistice Agreement of 1949.

(3) In almost every case, the compensation offered by the Government to dispossessed Arab owners is at a rate considerably less than the net annual yield of a dunum.

(4) Some 35,000 displaced Arabs are scattered in Arab localities in Israel. Some of their villages were purposely demolished to prevent the villagers' return, while other villages still stand intact but the villagers are forbidden to return home.

(5) The overwhelming majority of the Arabs of Israel live in three separate military areas governed by army officers where all sorts of malpractices and humiliation are brought to play.

(6) Freedom of Arab movement to and from these areas is strictly forbidden except with permits often capriciously withheld or arbitrarily granted.

(7) Arab education is of a low standard, and were it not for missionary and private Christian schools, thousands of Arab boys and girls would go without education.

(8) The Arabs are hardly represented in Government departments, no Arab senior officer in any department, no senior police officer, no judge in the District Courts or in the Supreme Court.

(9) Although the Arabs pay all kinds of taxes, direct and indirect, as well as all compulsory loans and other imposts in the same manner and to the same extent as the Jews, they are treated as second class citizens.

(10) The Muslim community, the largest Arab community in Israel, unlike the Christian and Druze communities, is denied the right of administering the wakf properties yielding an enormous annual income which, if properly managed, would satisfy much of the social and educational needs of the community.

Arabs in cities and with Israeli officials, Jewish and Arab". But he omitted, for obvious reasons, to mention the names of the Arabs with whom he discussed these problems, the substance of their statements and his findings. Upon his arrival to Israel, I sent him and every other member of the American Jewish Committee delegation, a letter, copy of which is enclosed, setting out the main causes of Arab grievances, complaints and resentment. I received no reply either from him nor from any other member. It is not strange that he reiterates the arguments of the Government about the necessity of the military rule. Unfortunately, he does not appear to evaluate properly and conscientiously these flimsy contentions.

The Government alleges that the Arabs of Israel are potential fifth columnists and would rise in revolt as soon as a convenient occasion presents itself. It contends that the military rule is, therefore, essential to check their activities and to keep them under effective control. In point of fact, this charge is a concoction justifying the imposition and preservation of the military rule in all areas predominantly inhabited by Arabs. There is not the slightest shred of evidence that the Israeli Arabs entertain any antagonistic designs against the State. They have not indulged in any subversive activities; they have not formed any underground movements, and they have not carried out any sabotage or destructive acts undermining its safety. On the contrary, they have proved to be peaceful and docile citizens even during the aggressive Sinai campaign when the brutal murder of 49 Arabs of Kafr Qasem was a sufficient provocation for them to rise in armed revolt. Had they any evil design against the State, they would have exploited this opportunity and forced the Arab armies deployed along its frontiers to attack Israel in their defence, come what may. That they refrained from any such act, kept the peace and conducted themselves exemplarily as acknowledged by the Prime Minister in the Knesset in December, 1956, are irrefutable evidence of their benevolent intention toward the State, an intention which they would have enthusiastically displayed in more active ways had the policy of the Government not been oppressive, discriminatory and humiliating. In almost every field of Arab life, none sees, feels and touches a sense of racial hatred, rancour and sadism on the part not only of the Jewish leaders, in and out of Israel, but also among the Jewish masses in Israel against the Arabs of the country. And this sense arises from the hostile policy persistently pursued by the Government. I do acknowledge the sincere efforts of a number of liberal minded Jews to improve the lot of these Arabs but, unfortunately, their voice is like an echo in a vast wilderness.

The Arabs of Israel fully realize the danger facing the State and which will continue to menace its very existence for many years to come. They are not blind to the glaring fact that it is surrounded by Arab enemies who are becoming stronger and stronger from year to year and are irreconcilable to its existence. But they cannot agree to be the scapegoat for the commissions and omissions of its Government that have led to this impasse. They will, therefore, continue to have resort to every legitimate action to arouse the conscience of the civilized and democratic world, especially the hearts of the United Nations, to hearken to their outcries and extend to them the necessary assistance that would put an end to the wretched conditions in which they have been living since the birth of the State.

Yours faithfully,


E. N. KASSA.

(11) Parliamentary elections among the Arabs in the military areas were not free, but vitiated by intimidation, terror and coercion.

(12) The seeds of disunity, of community discord, and of family rivalry are sown among the Arabs to keep them disagreed and divided.

You will be taken by Government officers to meet Arabs in military areas where the military rule has had a demoralizing effect on the Arab inhabitants of these Arabs. Very few will have the moral courage to speak to you with frankness and sincerity, especially in the presence of Government representatives. Beware of the non-communist Arab Knesset members for they are the stooges of the ruling party "Mapai". It would be of interest for you to find out why 15,000 Druzes are represented by two Druze Knesset members, while some 150,000 Muslim Arabs are only represented by two Muslim members. For your information, the two Druze members are almost illiterate, and only one of the Muslim members is educated.

I would ask you to visit Al-Rameh and Al-Jish villages in Western Galilee and see for yourself the heart-rending lot of the Christian villagers of Iqrit and Kafr Bir'em, which were dynamited by the military authorities to stultify two judgments of the High Court of Justice directing the villagers' return to their homes and lands. Please see their miserable habitations and enquire into their means of subsistence. These two villages are cited by way of illustration only. There are many other Arab villagers who suffer similar distressing lot.

Should you desire any additional information about the Arabs of Israel, I would be delighted to supply it. Likewise, if you would like to meet independent Arabs, they would be pleased to meet with you wherever and whenever it is convenient for you.

Yours sincerely,

E.N.KOUSSA.

