

29.08.2010

Dear Mr. Barenboim,

We are Israelis and other Jews living in the diaspora, who would like to bring to your attention Firas Maraghy's hunger strike by the Israeli Embassy in Berlin, which is entering its sixth week.

Firas Maraghy is a native of Silwan in East Jerusalem, he is married to a German citizen, and they have an eight month old daughter. He is asking for the basic right to register his marriage and his daughter in his travel document (laissez-passer), a right that the discriminatory laws of Israel deny him and thousands of other Palestinians from East Jerusalem.

Mr. Maraghy has been in Berlin since 2007 and has been told he must return to East Jerusalem in May 2011 for at least eighteen months, in order to keep his right to reside in the place where he and his family have lived for over 150 years. It is an exception even by the discriminatory Israeli law which revokes the Palestinians' residency rights in East Jerusalem after an absence of seven years.

The refusal of the Israeli Embassy in Berlin as well as of the authorities in Jerusalem to recognize his marriage and to register his daughter will prevent his wife and daughter from joining him when he returns to Jerusalem. Israel puts him in an the inhumane position of having to choose between his family in Berlin and his family in his homeland, a choice that Jews, even those born and living outside Israel, never have to face because of the 1950 Israeli Law of Return. This is why Mr. Maraghy could see no alternative but to protest with a hunger strike in front of the Israeli Embassy.

We, Jews with full rights, are joining him in his protest and approaching you because of your actions for dialogue and justice in the Middle East. We understand you are currently on tour in South America with the Divan Orchestra, which has become a symbol for dialogue and coexistence in the Middle East. We would like to extend our best wishes to you and the orchestra, and hope you might find a way to express solidarity with Firas Maraghy and the Palestinian people in East Jerusalem.

Attached is an article from the Süddeutsche Zeitung regarding Firas's case. A short video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O99QSUJkWPo> shows him explaining his case in the context of East Jerusalem.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Finzi  
Abi Melzer  
Herzl Schubert  
Yossi Bartal  
Eleanor Cantor  
Oded Schechter  
Ruth Fruchtman  
Michal Livne Kaiser  
Ruth Luschnat  
Noga-Sarai Bruckstein  
Immanuel Bruckstein  
Prof. Dr. Gideon Freudenthal  
Tamar Fleishman  
Ilil Friedman  
Yael Vishnizki Levi  
Arie Shulov

Hedy Epstein  
Dr. Anat Matar  
Yael Politi  
Shemi Shabat  
Jonathan Liraz  
Ofar Neiman  
Hava Oz  
Dror Feiler  
Prof. A.S. Bruckstein Çoruh  
Lana Sirri  
Ruth Ristik  
Shay Seltzer  
Rina Shapiro  
Liad Kantorowicz  
Prof. Jacob Katriel  
Chassia Chomsky-Porat

Kobi Snitz  
Rachel Giora  
Nora Gottlieb  
Dr. Eliav Brand  
Reuven Abergel  
Tanya Ury  
Dana Bader  
Elias (Elisha) Davidsson  
Nirit Sommerfeld  
Reuven Moskovitz  
Anat Guthmann  
Adi Dagan  
Tal Hever-Chybowski  
Esther Ben Chur  
Einat Podjarny  
Margalith Pozniak

Barbara Wolterstädt  
Yael Lerer  
Eilat Maoz  
Ophira Gamliel  
Galit Altshuler  
Paula Abrams-Hourani  
Ohal Grietzer  
Aviram Shamir  
Byron Simmonds  
Yehudit Keshet  
Amanda Sebestyen  
Sue Goldstein  
Ruth Pulgram  
Vivienne Jackson  
Inna Michaeli  
Lois Swartz  
Alice Beauchamp  
Jennie Stoller  
Cy Swartz  
Mark Robert Brill

Evelyn Hecht-Galinski  
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Benjamin Hecht  
Prof. Dr. Fanny-Michaela Reisin  
Iris Hefets  
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Norah Orlow  
Tony Tabatznik  
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Sophie Waterhouse  
Michael Sackin  
Vivienne Porzsolt  
Ed Mendelsohn  
Susanne Moses  
Phyll Mendelsohn  
Uri Horesh  
Giorgio Forti  
Ann Jungman  
Paul Mayersberg  
Sündermann Golan

Zohar Milchgrub  
Judith Bernstein  
Naama Farjoun  
Ishai Menuchin  
Orly Noy  
Micky Fisher  
Richard Szklorz  
Oscar Strasnoy  
Dan Judelson  
Mike Cushman  
Richard Kuper  
Colin Purkey  
Alf Filer  
Diana Neslen  
Stanley Walinets  
Giuseppe Zambon  
Angela Godfrey-Goldstein  
Stacey Blatt Bilha  
Michael Ellman  
Dr. Kate P. Katzenstein

