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A Letter from Elyas Kusa to Samuel Leibowitz, August 1957

Printed in English, this document features a letter from Elyas Kusa to Samuel Leibowitz an American Lawyer, sent on 3 August 1957, responding to his request in regard to Palestinians refuting the allegation made in the United Nations by the Egyptian delegation stating that the state of Israel is a slavery type of a state against Palestinians in the 1948 Occupied Palestinian Territories. Kusa, in his letter, denies this allegation and confirms that Israel oppresses the Palestinians but at the same time it is not a slavery type of a state, he also points out that Faras Hamdan; serving as an Arabic member in the Knesset agreed on the statement delivered by the Egyptian delegation, confirming that Hamdan is affiliated to Mapai's political party describing him as a tool in the hands of the Israeli government.

المكتبة العربية في القاهرة

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See Jerusalem Post 7
15.8.1952
reported Judge Leibowitz
departure for Israel on 14/8/52

Judge Samuel Leibowitz,

~~King David Hotel,~~

left

back to London

received back on
11.8.1952. Dr

בלתי ידוע
מסרב לקבל
עוב ללא כתבה
לא נודע
נפטר
ירושלים.
מער בלתי מספיק



ELIAS N. KOUSSA

ADVOCATE

Telephone 2416

القاضي
إلياس كوسا
تلفون ٢٤١٦

HAIFA 3rd August, 1957.
P. O. B. 14

حيفا
٣٤ - ب

Judge Samuel Leibowitz,
Eden Hotel,
Jerusalem.

Dear Judge Leibowitz,

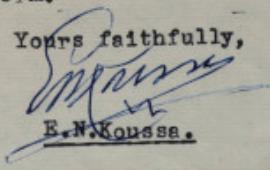
The Jerusalem Post of Thursday the 1st instant, reported that you are endeavouring to obtain from the Arabs of Israel information to refute the statement allegedly made by the Egyptian Delegate to the United Nations that these Arabs are "persecuted and live in a state of virtual slavery". It further stated that you had recorded a three hour conversation with Mr. Fares Hamdan, the Arab Kneset member.

I unhesitatingly say that the statement allegedly made by the Egyptian Delegate is an exaggeration. The Arabs of Israel do not live in a state of virtual slavery, but they are oppressed, discriminated against, humiliated, and are being gradually impoverished with a view to forcing them to depart for good and all. I enclose a copy of my letter of today's date to the Editor of Jerusalem Post which, probably, will not be published.

If you are really eager to enquire into the conditions of the Arabs here with an open mind, to hear the Arabs who have the moral courage to express their views, who fear not the retributions of the Military rule and are not the stooges of Mapai and the Government, you would do well to meet with independent Arabs in Jerusalem, Ramleh, Haifa and Acre. I would advise you to contact Dr. I. B. George of 80 King George Avenue and Mr. Wadi Itayyem, Y.M.C.A., Jerusalem, Mr. Ismail Nahhas, Ramleh, Mrs. Najla Asmar, Lydda Rly Station, Messrs. Boulos Farah and Fouad Khayat of Haifa, Mr. Jabbour Jabbour, the Mayor of Shefa-Amr, Mr. Jamil Labib Khoury, advocate of Acre, Messrs. Taher Fahoum and Wajdi Tabary of Nazareth. The Arab Kneset members are affiliated to Mapai and are simple tools in the hands of the Government. For many obvious reasons, they will speak to you with much reservation.

I shall be pleased to meet with you whenever and wherever you wish. Mrs. Koussa and I would be delighted to have you for dinner whenever it is convenient for you to come to Haifa. I shall arrange that you meet and discuss with some of the independent Arabs the mission you have enthusiastically volunteered to perform.

Yours faithfully,


E. N. Koussa.

2nd August, 1957.

The Editor of Jerusalem Post,
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir,

In your issue of Thursday the 1st instant, it was reported

that Judge Samuel Leibowitz, the noted judge of the King's County
Criminal Court, New York, desires to obtain information from the Arabs
of Israel to refute a statement allegedly made by the Egyptian Delegate
to the United Nations that these Arabs are "persecuted and live in a

state of virtual slavery".

If this statement were truly made it is, no doubt, an unhappy

exaggeration. The Arabs of Israel do not live in a state of virtual

slavery. They are oppressed, discriminated against, humiliated and are

virtually treated as second class citizens. Of the many grievances they

suffer are the systematic usurpation of their agricultural lands in pur-

suance of legislative enactments, the unjustified restriction of their

freedom of movement, and the obstruction of their businesses and trades.

They are denied the opportunity to work, and the right to share in the

administration of the country and are even deprived of the free exercise

of their right of franchise in military areas.

The inevitable truth is that a large number of the Arabs

of Israel would be too happy to leave Israel if they are adequately

compensated for their properties and permitted to depart with their

monies in hard currency.

Yours faithfully,
