



THE KNESSET
MK Dr. Shimon Ohayon

His Excellency Dr. Nabil El Araby

Jerusalem,
28th June 2013

Secretary General

League of Arab States

Secretary General,

For over 2,500 years, Jews in substantial numbers resided in the Middle East and North Africa, predating Islam and the Arab conquest and subsequent occupation of much of these areas. During the twentieth century, roughly 99% of all Jews, almost a million men, women and children, were uprooted from their ancient Jewish communities in ten Arab countries – Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Aden.

The repression against Jews in so many Arab countries was not independent phenomenon but rather the result of collusion by the League of Arab States to target and persecute their Jewish populations. This is evidenced from: (a) reports of multilateral meetings of the Arab League; (b) ominous and violent threats made against Jews by delegates of Arab countries at the U.N.; and c) legislation and discriminatory decrees, enacted by numerous Arab governments, that violated the fundamental rights and freedoms of Jews in Arab countries.

In 1947, the Political Committee of the League of Arab States approved the *Text of Law* which provided that "...all Jews were to be considered members of the Jewish 'minority state of Palestine,'" their bank accounts would be frozen, assets confiscated and many would be interned as political prisoners.

These discriminatory actions made the lives of Jews in Arab countries simply untenable. Jews were uprooted from their countries of birth and in virtually all cases, as they fled or were expelled, individual and communal properties were seized and/or confiscated without any compensation provided by Arab governments.

The League of Arab States should acknowledge its role and responsibility in the drafting and endorsement of the *Text of Law*, colluding to inflict human rights



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violations against its Jewish nationals and residents, and the consequent displacement of Jewish refugees.

The Arab League must accept historic accountability for the humiliation, the suffering, and the losses incurred by innocent Jewish victims of the Arab world's declared war against the State of Israel.

As a matter of law and equity, the Arab League must assume full responsibility for ensuring rights and redress for Jewish refugees, the direct result of their collusionary actions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, MK