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Asirai Zion Fund, Inc., 1946.

ASSIRE ZION COMMITTEE

(Aid for Jewish Detainees and Deportees)

HEAD OFFICE :

P.O.B. 1663
Tel-Aviv.

PALESTINE :

Chairman:—

Professor J. Klausner,
Talpiot, Jerusalem

GREAT BRITAIN :

M. Arram
Charles Barclay
I. Benari
Mrs. R. Benjamin
M. Bennett
Mrs. F. Brickman
Professor E. Frankenstein
Dr. I. S. Fox
Miss N. Grant
S. Graubart
R. Jaffett
Dr. T. Jochelman
Dr. S. Klinger
A. Konitzer
J. Mankin
M. Markus
Eng. J. Mirkin
I. J. Ojalvo
Dr. H. C. Schnur
M. Schwartz
A. W. Williams

REMO HOUSE,
312 REGENT STREET,
LONDON . W.1.
Telephone: LANgham 2172

July 30th 1946.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple.
Cleveland. Ohio. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Silver,

I must present to you my apologies for writing directly, without having had the honour of being introduced to you personally.

From the enclosed booklet and the enclosed copies of letters we have received from the Chief Rabbi of Palestine, Dr. Herzog, and Professor Klausner of the Hebrew University, you will be able to judge the aims of the Assire Zion Committee. As you see, the Assire Zion Committee is a Non-Party Committee which has a double aim.

- (1) To extend legal help to the Deportees and Detainees.
- (2) To provide the families of the Deportees and Detainees with regular subventions.

I suppose, that in the purely legal field of our activities you have been informed from the general press of our steps. After the decision of the High Court of Justice in Palestine, last October, we transferred the case to the Privy Council, and leave to appeal was granted to us, and the case will be dealt with some time in October of this year. We have briefed lawyers, we have prepared our case for the Privy Council. Apart from this a test case is pending in Addis-Abeba, Abyssinia. Our lawyers are now studying the possibility of challenging the right of the Palestinian Administration to detain people without judgment

or trial. In other words, to test the validity of the Emergency Regulations of 1935, in the light of habeas corpus.

In the field of purely humanitarian activities, we are supporting the families of the Deportees and Detainees without any distinction of party affiliations, as proved by the letters of Professor Klausner, Rabbi Uziel, Rabbi Herzog, and others.

The London Committee participated in the past in the expenses in Palestine, and also the legal expenses of the case in London.

The latest events in Palestine, when about 2,000 people have been detained in the concentration camps, are putting on our Committee very heavy responsibilities, and our main Committee in Palestine are pressing us to send them substantial funds, in order to meet the situation and to provide the families with the essentials. In order to comply with the instructions of our headquarters, we have decided to open a drive in England at the beginning of September. This drive will consist of several functions, and we shall, during this period, publish a special bulletin, dealing with all the problems of the Assire Zion.

The tense political situation made the leaders of the Jewish Community in England more than shy to come openly with their support and help. Therefore, we are compelled to ask our leaders abroad, who are more independent, and more courageous in their moral support. If you consider that the aim of our Committee is worth while being supported, we shall appreciate it very much if a message to this effect will be despatched by you, to us. Your moral support, and your message, will secure success for our drive, and I am sure that you will approach this problem from a Non-Party point of view, as our Committee is a Non-Party institution.

You will see from the names published on the left hand corner of our paper, that practically all shades of opinion are represented in our Committee, united in one aim - to fight for the elementary civil rights of the Jews in Palestine and

to provide the families with help in the absence of organised public assistance.

It will interest you to know that in 1937-38, when the leaders of the Arab Committee were expelled, the families of these leaders received a regular subvention from the Palestinian Government, but when a similar request was submitted by some of the wives of the Detained in Eritrea, they were officially advised to ask for help by some Jewish Charitable Organisations.

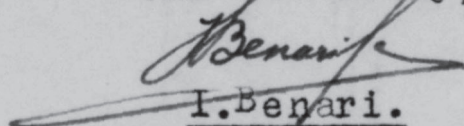
If you will so desire the copies of our legal proceedings in the Privy Council and other judicial institutions, as well as the copies of the correspondence between us and the Palestinian Administration, these will be submitted to you.

May I ask you again to express your attitude to the aims of our Committee in a message to us.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain,

Your sincerely,


I. Benari.

P.S. As you see from our heading paper, Professor E. Frankenstein whose open letter, the Zionist Organisation of America recently published, is one of the prominent members of our Committee, and if you wish, your message can be addressed to him.



ASIRAI ZION FUND, INC.

140 WEST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

WISCONSIN 7-2595

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HONORARY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Samuel Brot

Rabbi Dr. Leo Jung

Rabbi Louis I. Newman

Rabbi Morris M. Rose

Prof. Chaim Tchernowitz

Prof. A. S. Yahuda

Morris Weinberg
(Publisher Jewish Day)
Treasurer

Dr. David Bukspan
(Executive Director,
Asirai Zion Fund in
Eretz Yisrael)

October 28, 1946

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
President, Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42 St.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Silver :

For your information enclosed please find copy of
letter sent to Mr. H. Montor of the United Jewish Appeal.

Very truly yours,

Dr. D. Bukspan
Dr. D. Bukspan
Executive Director

October 24, 1946

Mr. Henry Montor
c/o United Jewish Appeal
342 Madison Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I deeply regret that all requests to meet you personally have been rejected. I had contemplated discussing with you in detail the functions of the Asirai Zion Fund.

The purpose of this fund is, as you are undoubtedly aware of, to sustain the families whose breadwinners have been detained in keeping with the Emergency Regulations in force in Palestine according to which individuals can be held without trial.

I am one of the directors of the Asirai Zion Fund in this country and in Palestine and I must say that I was indeed shocked to learn through contacts in Chicago, Philadelphia and other cities, that they have been advised by you not to take part in our activities. May I ask you how you have the moral right to criticize our campaign?

a) For your information I wish to state that the following prominent personalities in Palestine participate actively on the work of the Asirai Zion Fund: Professor Joseph Klausner, who is head of the Committee in Palestine; Chief Rabbi Herzog, with whom I am in constant contact, and who has given me letters of introduction to important people in America; Mr. I. Rokach, Mayor of Tel-Aviv, Mr. Saphir, Mayor of Petach Tikvah, Mr. O. Ben-Ami, Mayor of Natanyah and Mr. Krinitzy, Mayor of Ramat Gan are also lending the Committee their full support.

b) While it is true that there are small settlements in Palestine who support the families of their own detainees, the destitute families of detained breadwinners residing in larger colonies and in the cities, are being supported directly and only from the Asirai Zion Fund.

c) At a meeting held in Palestine between Mr. D. Remez, chairman of the Va'ad Leumi (prior to his detention) and members of this committee, Mr. Remez explained that neither the Va'ad Leumi nor the Jewish Agency has organized funds for the purpose which we are serving, and he therefore advised us to continue with our campaigning abroad, to do our utmost to carry on our urgent and important work on behalf of the families of the detainees.

d) Although the Jewish municipalities in Palestine would like to contribute toward this cause, their expenditures are unfortunately strictly controlled by the British government and needless to say, it does not permit the allocation of funds for such purposes.

e) Recently the Deputy Chief Rabbi of England, Rabbi H.M. Lazarus, was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Palestinian Committee.

f) You have advised people in the United States that those who have lent their names to the Asirai Zion Committee have done so without carefully examining the functions of that body. For your information this contention is not only groundless, but is in direct contradiction to the facts. Those people have identified themselves with our Committee, have done so with full knowledge of the situation in Palestine, and after careful consideration. They have acted with great courage and enthusiasm.

I still cannot comprehend the negative attitude which has prompted you to do your utmost to disrupt our campaigning.

Today, in this country, many campaigns are being sponsored by different organizations with various aims, and are being supported by numbers of people. I have not heard of your organization interfering with the work of any of these groups. I should also like to emphasize that those parties and funds which get substantial allocations from the United Jewish Appeal are also conducting separate campaigns of their own, for example the Histadruth.

Regrettingly and unwillingly I have been forced to the conclusion that your attitude is beyond understanding and I am impelled to state that your behavior in our case has been extremely unfair. Although I am not an American and am a stranger in this country, I will find ways and means within the framework of the Zionist Organization and Congress to bring this matter to the attention of the proper people.

Yours truly,

Dr. David Buksan
Executive Director

DB/eu