

[on letterhead of the Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law, Israel Yearbook on Human Rights]

May 22, 1974

To: Sinai Rom, Deputy Director of UN Mission, A, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
From: Prof. Yoram Dinstejn, Chair of Amnesty Israel Section

Since the meeting you attended, on January 27, in which I was elected chair of the Israeli section of Amnesty, we have carried out the following agreed-upon actions:

1. We have prepared section bylaws (in accordance with the Amnesty International Constitution and following the example of other sections (enclosure no. 1). We have been lawfully registered as an association under the Ottoman Association Law. We have recently received confirmation of said registration (enclosure, no. 2).
2. We informed Amnesty International of the changes to the section structure and personnel. On April 18, while I was in London, I met Martin Ennals together with Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohn. Ennals complained to us that Moshe Barnea, temporary section secretary in its previous incarnation, who was still occasionally purporting to be acting on behalf of the section, though he had been removed from his position by the previous board and was not re-elected to the current board – was causing Amnesty some problems with various elements perplexed by his actions, which exceed what the Amnesty constitution permits. Ennals welcomed the new board makeup and we agreed that he would issue a suitable notice to all Amnesty sections in the secretariat's monthly newsletter. The item has already appeared in the May newsletter (enclosure no. 3, page 4).
3. Even prior to the formal registration in Israel and the conclusion of talks with Ennals abroad, we began handling routine Amnesty materials. I will present several examples from the area I handle (other matters are handled by my colleagues).
 - a. In February, in response to a communication from the Austrian section of Amnesty, I provided information about Jewish refusenik Lazer Lubarsky. This was done in coordination with Zvi Netzer (enclosures nos. 4-5).
 - b. Again, in February, in response to a communication from the German section of Amnesty, I explained that an administrative detainee from the Territories, declared as a "prisoner of conscience", was not in custody at all. This was done in coordination with Col. Dov Sheffi (enclosures nos. 6-7).
 - c. On March 27, I received a telephone call (!) from Amnesty in London, in which I was told that the committee in charge of determining who was a "prisoner of conscience" was in session, and dealing with a case of a woman (whose name they refused to give me), claiming she had been detained in Israel on smuggling charges and was denied legal remedy. I answered immediately that I think such a case is highly unlikely, and that in any case, the Israel Amnesty section

undertakes to obtain legal remedy for the woman – should she contact us. I complied with a demand put to me, as a condition for the committee refraining from deciding to adopt the case, to provide the name of a lawyer who undertakes to represent the women if need be (Adv. Daniel Yacobzon, a member of our board volunteered to do so). While I was in London, I was told (as expected), that the woman's claim had apparently been completely baseless.

- d. In April, in response to a communication from London (Amnesty secretariat), I stated there was no basis for the claims regarding the arrest of Israeli journalists in Brazil (the original story apparently related to local Jews – not Israelis – and was misquoted in London). This was carried out in coordination with Yoel Bar-Romi (enclosures nos. 8-9).
4. I believe that these trifles, all dating from before we officially began our activities, point to the importance of having an Israeli section of Amnesty. At present, as we take our first steps, we urgently require an operating budget, according to the following items:
- a. Amnesty International membership fees for the 1974/5 fiscal year 121 £.
As you shall see in the enclosed document (enclosure no. 10), we have been asked to pay the minimum possible amount within an overall budget of no less than 200,000 £.
 - b. Publication of the association's registration in a daily newspaper (such publication is required by law). A newspaper ad costs 150 Israeli pounds, and it seems to us, given public uncertainty over personnel at the section and its new structure – that publication should be made in at least two newspapers.
 - c. Routine expenses (for letter paper, printing, stamps, cables and travel), totaling 1,000 Israeli pounds. So far, the expenses have been absorbed by the offices of the World Jewish Congress and the university, but this clearly cannot go on in the long run.

The total amount we are seeking (half of which goes to membership fees) is 2,500 Israeli pounds. It seems clearly a modest request to me. We are in the process of opening a special bank account in Amnesty's name (to avoid confusion with other funds) and will provide you with details after receiving your response (in the hopes, of course, that it is positive...).

All the best,
[signed]
Prof. Yoram Dinstein