



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

October 24, 2012

Ms. Beatrice Ask  
Minister of Justice  
Sweden

via the Swedish Embassy in Israel

Your Excellency Madam Beatrice Ask,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ), is a recognized NGO at the UN and at the Council of Europe. One of our main goals is to fight antisemitism using legal tools and accordingly we wish to draw your attention to increasing antisemitic activities in Sweden, the latest incident being an explosion and a smashed security window at the Jewish Community Center in Malmo a few days ago.

We understand that in order to prosecute someone for an antisemitic act that is deemed to be a hate crime, that act must be a crime within the meaning of the Swedish criminal code; it must have been committed in Sweden and the crime must have been committed with a bias motivation.

The IAJLJ takes the view that individual Jews cannot be regarded as responsible for Israel's policies towards Palestinians and there can be no justification for attacks against Jews motivated by either antisemitism or anti-Israeli views. Equally, the IAJLJ believes that in a democracy such as Sweden, Jews have the right to demonstrate and state their views freely without fear from the Moslem population.

In view of this we strongly condemn the remarks of the Mayor of Malmo, Mr. Reepalu, who has called for the "Jewish community to distance itself from Israel's 'violations' of the civilian population in Gaza" and who believes that the exercise of the democratic right to demonstrate by Jews "sends wrong signals to the Muslim population in Malmo".



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Looking at the above as an example, the IAJLJ calls upon you to protect the rights of the Jewish community in Malmo and elsewhere in Sweden.

In addition, we respectfully encourage you to enact a law that will prohibit Holocaust denial in Sweden, thereby sending a strong message to the perpetrators of antisemitic hate crimes.

The IAJLJ read your online statement that "Sweden must be a country where everyone can live in safety, no matter who they are or where they live...". We wholeheartedly support this statement and hope that it will be applied equally to the Jewish Community in Malmo and in Sweden in general.

Yours sincerely,

Irit Kohn, Adv.  
President, IAJLJ

Copy:

Mr. Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmo