

ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDE WIEN



To the Prime Minister of Israel
Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
Knesset
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91950
Israel

Vienna, 22nd of December 2010

Dear Mr. Prime Minister!

As president of the Jewish Communities of Austria I am writing you this letter to express my deep anger about the behaviour of Israel's Deputy Minister of the Development of the Negev and Galil, Ayoob Kara. Mr. Kara visited Vienna yesterday and today on an official invitation of the extreme right wing Austrian party FPÖ, in which he has officially honored and praised individuals of this party as well as their political program. FPÖ has for decades been the aim of national and international criticism because:

- FPÖ was founded by the surviving Austrian Nazis in 1948. Many of its functionaries were SS-men or NSDAP-members and participated in the Shoa.
- Over decades representatives of this party (such as Jörg Haider) have made anti-Semitic remarks and praised the Nazi regime, denied the Holocaust or invited and promoted notorious Holocaust deniers. Now the leader of the party is H.C. Strache.
- In recent years FPÖ party leaders and representatives called for the abolishment of anti-Nazi legislation in Austria and M.P. Johannes Hübner legally supported and defended notorious Holocaust deniers such as Moshe Arye Friedman, who worked in close cooperation with the Iranian secret service in Austria;
- FPÖ staged anti-Semitic, anti-Israeli public posters during the last Vienna election campaign in October 2010;
- FPÖ organized meetings of anti-Semitic and Neo-Nazi European parties (JOBBIK, Romania, Bulgaria, NPD) etc. in Austria.
- FPÖ-members organized a trip to Israel last week together with other extreme right-wing European parties, visited Yad Vashem and when entering the Memorial Hall, wore special hats (Biertonnen) – symbols of extreme right-wing German student movements which from 1948 until today were and are the worst promoters of anti-semitism and nazism.
- Etc., etc.

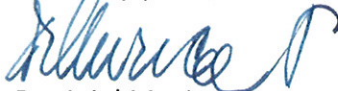
For decades the small Jewish Community of Austria has successfully fought against any kind of anti-semitism and neo-nazism and the FPÖ was and is one of our worst adversaries.

Vice Minister Kara's visit and actions are stabbing us in the back and are an unacceptable act which was made purposely, without any prior consultations with the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the Israeli Ambassador to Vienna or the Jewish Community in Austria.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, I am not in a position to demand consequences but as head of a community which has unconditionally supported the state of Israel and its people and worked hard over the last 4 decades to establish a new Jewish Community in Austria (as you and your wife were able to acknowledge during your visits to Vienna), we feel betrayed and are outraged about this behaviour of Deputy Minister Kara. I consider this a shame for the State of Israel and a betrayal of the murdered 65.000 Austrian Jews and the 6 million martyrs of the Shoa.

I am very sad, I have to write this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Ariel Muzicant
President