2010/8/27 Presse2 < press-assis@berlin.mfa.gov.il >

Dear ...

I would like to inform you that in the framework of the continues efforts of the embassy to bring to a good end Mr. Firas Maraghy's hunger strike, the Ambassador has succeeded to get Mr. Maragy an exceptional personal meeting in Jerusalem with Mr. Amos Arbel, Director of the Registration and Civil Status Department at the Ministry of Interior of Israel, who is the highest authority in Israel who deals with citizenship / inhabitant status.

Following this important development, the Minister and the Vice-Consul of the embassy met today at 14:00 with Mr. Maraghy, and informed him of the expected meeting. They advised him to travel to Jerusalem to meet Mr. Arbel as soon as possible in order to resolve his issue.

Regrettably, Mr. Maraghy rejected this offer, and clarified that he refuses to travel and meet with the high official. Furthermore, he also rejected the suggestion to issue his daughter a German passport (her mother is German), which would enable her to accompany him to Jerusalem.

Mr. Maraghy clarified that he conducts an "ideological" struggle, and therefore he would continue with his hunger strike.

The embassy regrets deeply that despite of all the solutions that were continuously offered to Mr. Maraghy to promptly resolve his situation, he insists on maintaining his political demonstration in front of the embassy.

FYI,

Yinam Cohen

Pressesprecher

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