



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

H.E.Mr. Baudelaire Ndong Ella
Ambassador
President of the Human Rights Council
Geneva

Geneva, 11 March 2014

Dear Mr. President,

Subject: Israeli Diplomats' Strike – Call for Solidarity

It is with great regret that I would like to update you on the ongoing labor situation within Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Israeli diplomats, due to a year-long labor dispute which has taken a turn for the worse, decided last week to ratchet up our organizational steps.

Due to procrastination on the part of the Finance Ministry and its failure to make any progress in resolving the labor dispute, the Israeli Foreign Service Workers' Association announced March 5th its decision to implement numerous organizational steps. Israel's diplomatic corps was left with no other choice but to take action, after the failure of a seven month mediation process, led by the former Chief Justice of Israel's Labor Court.

Our demands include a long overdue (over a decade in some cases!!) adjustment of salary to the rise in the cost of living, an end to a discriminatory tax policy, and consideration of the tremendous price paid by "trailing" spouses and children in terms of loss of income, career and pension.

Regrettably, the severity of the new steps means that Israeli diplomats will, effective immediately, no longer engage with foreign representatives, participate in the work of International Organizations, handle official visits of any kind, either in Israel or overseas, issue visas or provide any consular services. We have also stopped all cable traffic to and from Jerusalem, stopped all training courses for new cadets and preparations for the outgoing diplomatic staff due to go on post this summer.

...2/

Dear Colleague,

The issues involved are of great interest to all diplomats in Geneva as well as other international civil servants.

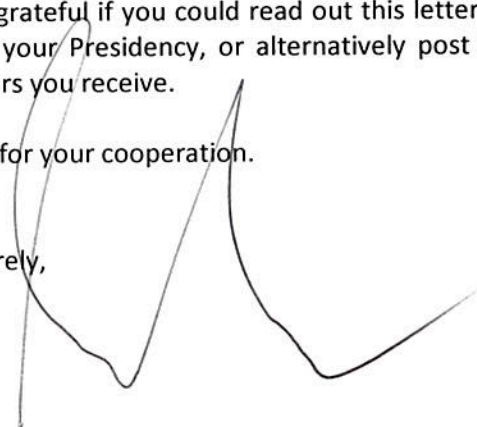
The right to resort to strike and other labor action is a basic human right.

Consequently, I would be most appreciative if you would find a way to demonstrate your understanding of, support for and solidarity with our struggle, both as President of the Human Rights Council and as Ambassador of Gabon.

I would be grateful if you could read out this letter in one of the upcoming meetings of the HRC under your Presidency, or alternatively post it on the HRC's website, as part of the official letters you receive.

I thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Eviatar Manor
Ambassador
Permanent Representative