

Rabbi Jacob S. Nefoussi  
710 Avenue S  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223

February 4, 1970

His Excellency the Secretary-General  
of the United Nations, Mr. U Thant  
United Nations Secretariat  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Honorable Sir:

My brother Marco Samuel Nefoussi is still in prison in Egypt, where he has been detained with other members of the Alexandria and Cairo communities, since June 1967.

I am deeply concerned over their plight, as well as the Jewish minorities in Syria and Iraq who are reliably reported to be in grave peril, living in an atmosphere of suspicion and hostility.

I wish to express my appreciation for your steady efforts on this humanitarian matter, which you have been pursuing with great vigor.

May I suggest, that it could be very helpful if your Excellency will find it possible to transmit special messages addressed directly to the top authorities in Baghdad, Cairo and Damascus, drawing their attention to the remarks contained in the introduction to your recent annual report, conveying to them the mounting international concern for these people, and advising them that world-wide protests on a larger scale are to be expected if they continue to deny them freedom of movement, and their right to emigrate.

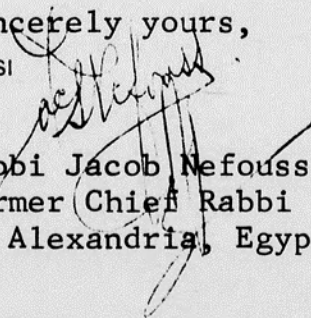
I hope that such a positive step will be taken immediately and without delay, considering the urgency of this matter, and the need to alleviate the suffering of these unfortunate people.

I respectfully request that this letter be kept confidential.

Thanking your Excellency's cooperation, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

RABBI JACOB S. NEFOUSSI  
710 AVENUE S  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11223

  
Rabbi Jacob Nefoussi  
former Chief Rabbi  
of Alexandria, Egypt