



Robert Halfon, M.P. for Harlow



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Westminster Office:
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The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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14th November 2011

Dear Prime Minister,

Recently I met with Mr Raphael Luzon who is the Chairman of Jews of Libya UK. Mr Luzon is responsible for foreign relation for the Union of Jews of Libya .

Firstly, I want to give you some background information on Mr Luzon. He was born in Bengasi, Libya, and lived there until 1967 when he was thrown out after a bloody pogrom during the Six Day War. Mr Luzon moved to Italy where he studied at University and worked in Diplomacy. Mr Luzon then moved to Israel but currently lives in London.

In a time when the new leadership in Tripoli faces enormous challenges, Mr Luzon and I want to encourage the Government to build the essential elements of Government and political civil life whilst bridging ethnic and regional divides in Libya. At the same time, we ask that you urge Libyan Leaders to take special note of its Jewish History. Some Libyans feel the one Jew in Libya is one Jew too many, yet the Jews were indigenous to Libya redating Islam by almost a millennium.

When Colonel Gaddafi was still in power, Mr Luzon was the first Jew to receive an official invitation from the Gaddafi Regime to visit Libya after 42 years of expulsion. Mr Luzon has also had a proposal from the new leadership in Libya to run for office at the next general election.

As we open our embassy in Tripoli, now is the time for the British Government to encourage forces of Liberalism in Libya. We should impress upon the NTC interim government that we stand with them against Islamic fundamentalists, and we would like to see them turn over a new leaf in their relations with Jews and other minorities.



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I would also like to urge to Government to assist in obtaining compensation for exiled Libyan Jews: Law 57 of 21st July 1870 empowered the Government to seize property of the remaining Jews who had fled Libya after Pogroms in 1967. To date, no money has been paid to dispossessed Libyan Jews. I would like to suggest that the British Government takes steps to compensate these Libyan Jews with some assets reclaimed from the Gadaffi Family.

My final point is to ask you to encourage Jews, Libyan citizens, to take part in the next election in Libya. I believe this would prove the changes in the new and democratic Libya

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Halfon".

Copy: Mr Raphael Luzon