


מדינת ישראל - משרד המשפטים
The State of Israel - Ministry of Justice


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Rights of Jews from Arab Lands

Government Decision

[10/2/2004]

The Government Secretariat

Government Decision n. 1250, December 28, 2003.

"1250

- A. Recognition of Rights and Restitution of Jewish Property
- B. Rights of Jews who left Arab Countries as Refugees

Deciding (unanimously):

A. Recognition of Rights and Restitution of Jewish Property

- 1) The State of Israel will consolidate a multi-year general policy pertaining to restitution of Jewish property in all areas and for all the relevant countries across the world.
- 2) The State of Israel, along with Jewish organizations, will determine and coordinate actions pertaining to the recognition of rights and restitution of Jewish property and for the restitution of the property of Jews left as a result of the Holocaust and their heirs, and will act within Israel and beyond, in cooperation with other State authorities and various organizations and Diaspora communities already involved with this matter, and government authorities outside of Israel relying, when necessary, on the various Jewish organizations.
- 3) A ministerial committee will be established to deal with the issue of the recognition of Jewish property. The ministerial committee will be comprised of: Minister of Justice (for Jerusalem, social and Diaspora affairs) - chairman, Minister of Justice - Affairs - member, Minister of Finance – member, Minister of the Interior – member, and Absorption - member, Minister Meir Shetreet - member. The chairman will be a permanent guest participant.

The functions of the ministerial committee will be to determine a general policy regarding sections 1 and 2. This general policy will be updated annually and will be a guideline regarding the restitution of Jewish property, subject to the coordination with the State of Israel's foreign policy. The general policy will be presented to the Government for its implementation.

- 4)
 - a. A steering committee will be established to deal with the matter of

restitution of Jewish property. The steering committee will be comprised of Sharansky (responsible for Jerusalem, social and Diaspora affairs), Foreign Affairs - chairman, a delegate of the Ministry of Finance Ministry of Justice - member. The chairman of the Jewish Agency participant.

- b. The steering committee will be subordinate to the ministerial committee and will be responsible for implementing the ministerial committee. The steering committee will centralize the hand in conjunction with international bodies, for the purpose of coordinating policy for the management of the process – as provided by the government.
- 5) The steering committee will submit a report regarding the progress made on rights and restitution of Jewish property within six (6) months and subsequent report will be consolidated and debated by the steering committee and will ministerial committee. The report will detail the activities organized both in progress on all related issues, and include within its scope the various countries and organizations involved in the subject matter.
- 6) The ministerial committee and the steering committee will inform all government decision and all recognized Jewish organizations that are involved in the consolidate a uniformed and structured policy to insure the most efficient whole, as determined by the State of Israel.
- 7) An appropriate budget will be allocated to implement this governmental Minister Natan Sharansky (responsible for Jerusalem, social and Diaspora affairs).

B. The rights of Jews who left Arab countries as Refugees

This Government decision renews the March 3rd 2002 decision number 1544 relating to "Rights of Jews from Arab Countries" which itself renewed the September 28, 1969 decision - coupled with Part A of the current decision - broadens the scope of the two previously detailed hereafter.

- 1) The State of Israel will determine and centralize all activities pertaining to claims of Jews who left Arab countries as refugees, in Israel and abroad, in various bodies, institutions abroad, various organizations and Diaspora communities. The Jewish Agency, and government authorities outside of Israel will provide assistance and cooperation of various Jewish organizations.
- 2) a) The Department for the Rights of Jews from Arab Countries, under the Assistance at the Ministry of Justice, will continue to gather - as it did in the past - and documents on the subject matter. The Department will be responsible for and communal/public property claims as well as of the different violations of laws in various countries. This will be achieved through combining databases of existing organizations.
 - b) The following steps will be taken in order to create a centralized, coherent database: The existing collection of documents, which already includes wide information, will be processed and broadened, providing the basis and the documentation in different languages, all this based upon the influx of reports and publicizing of this subject.
 - c) The Ministry of Justice will publicize this issue in several languages through communication media and through the internet, giving it an echo among Jews both in Israel and abroad, and will invite every interested party, including a

information, to come forward and to register his rights, as determined by the well as the current decision.

- 3) a) A steering committee will be established on the issue of the rights of refugees. This steering committee will be comprised of: The Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (chairman), a delegate (responsible for Jerusalem, social and Diaspora affairs) – member, the chairman, the Head of Legal Assistance at the Ministry of Justice - coordinating committee.

b) The steering committee will be subordinate to the ministerial committee for restitution of Jewish property. The steering committee will inform the developments relating to the subject matter and will perform missions determined by the ministerial committee according to the government decisions on this matter. The steering committee will centralize the handling on the subject and will act in conjunction with the ministerial committee of coordinating a coherent and consistent policy for the management of the government decision.
- 4) The handling of the registration and documentation will continue to be in the Ministry of Justice, at the Department for the Rights of Jews from Arab Countries, under the supervision of the Legal Assistance, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Jewish Affairs (responsible for Jerusalem, social and Diaspora affairs), the Organization of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC), the delegates of the Ministry of Justice and any other relevant body, according to their areas of knowledge and expertise.
- 5) The ministerial committee and the steering committee will inform all government decisions and all recognized Jewish organizations that are involved in the subject matter to consolidate a uniformed and structured policy to insure the most efficient handling of the subject matter as a whole, as determined by the State of Israel.
- 6) An appropriate and distinct budget will be attributed by the Ministry of Justice for the purpose of building the necessary human resource and documentation for the implementation of the governmental decision, as determined by these Ministries."