

Dear Ambassador Dermer,

The Duma arson attack of July 2015, took the lives of 4 members of a PA family. Although it was well known that an 18-year-old feud existed between Arab clans in the city, responsibility was immediately placed on the "price-tag" Jews who had been accused of retaliating for murders of Jews.

In January 2016, two Israeli Jews were indicted in the case. One was a 17-year-old boy, Elisha Odess, who was imprisoned, tortured, both physically and mentally, kept in solitary confinement, denied his religious observances, and allowed only brief visits with his family. Elisha is still in prison, although NO evidence has been found to tie him to the arson attack. There is no evidence that a trial is planned.

In Israel, a country that prides itself on its morality, its ethics, and its democratic values, it is beyond comprehension that a Jewish boy should be subjected to the torture that Elisha Odess has experienced and should be imprisoned without a trial for two years. Regardless of the outcome of the situation, and we trust he will be exonerated if and when there is a trial, he can never resume normal life.

Will this attack also claim the life of Elisha Odess? Where are his rights? Does Israeli law not provide for rights of the accused at least to face his accusers in a court of law?

This boy is an American citizen. We ask that as our Ambassador to Israel, you intervene to ensure that a fellow American's rights are not denied.