

Unknown

Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 4:51 AM
To: msfreund@netvision.net.il
Subject: RE: [anusim] Re: Who is REALLY vs the Anusim

Dear Mr. Freund,

Months ago I asked you to be transparent on the process, and the way Amishav was handling the conversion issue. No answer was ever issued, nor I ever hoped one forthcoming. I have largely remained silent because at the very least, the Chuetas of Mallorca and the Jews of Belmonte were getting some attention, despite some historical and dialectical inconsistencies sustained in your newsletters that I rather not pay attention to. I did not want to hinder in any way the hopes infused on those two communities, specially because they have been abandoned by Sephardim.

The very fact when you say that you are working with the "Chief Rabbinate" is misleading. There is more than one Chief Rabbinate in Israel -- as you well know, and the one we must fall under is the Sephardic Rabbinate, because we are Sephardic Jews with specific customs and ways in living under the halakha. To date, there has not been a single public announcement from the Sephardic Chief Rabbinate, nor any outward signs of them getting involved regarding this issue. Silence is a powerful message.

I speak with authority because I have spent the last five years of my life studying the responsa on the Anusim from the 12th to the 18th century, so I know what I am talking about. I have spoken with Sephardic scholars and Dayyanim, and even them cannot refute me. When there is a legal dispute that clearly is going against Jewish law, Jewish Law allows me to challenge it. What do you take us for?

Anusim in general are highly sensitive to issues of clerical hierarchy and iron-fist self-pontified authorities, after all we survived the onslaught of that monster created by the Spanish State, the Christian-only State. The fact that we are still here as members of the Jewish Nation more than proves the strength of Israel. We would be fools, absolute fools to believe on people who claim to do us a favor, like the Church once did. Been there, done that.

Transparency, Mr. Freund, transparency. Tranparency = Honesty. And being honest is part of a great mitsvá. And as mitsva-compliant Jew, I am sure you like to be honest.

Although formally Anusim do not need any conversion process, Anusim have to know in full, so they can make up their own decision. After all, being a Jew is also a matter of choice.

Until we see a full explanation on how things are being handled, with all halakhic explanation appended to it, I will retire my attacks on your organization and issue a formal apology. After all, it is our lives you're playing with, at least Amishav or any other organization who "helps" Anusim owes us this much.

My deep apologies to Mr. Bonet for being harsh; I was not aware of the background that triggered in writing such letter. For the future, I would kindly ask Mr. Bonet to submit any drafts to the Anusim groups, before we decide what to sign. We all have to agree on what to sign, because being a Jew is also a matter of communal agreement, and in no way anyone has the authority to speak for all of us.

Shabbat Shalom.

David

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2003 9:36 AM
To: msfreund@netvision.net.il;
Subject: Re: [anusim] Re: Who is REALLY vs the Anusim

Dear Mr. Freund

What you and Mr. Ramirez wrote about Amishav, we can conclude that - behind the scenes - there is only a game of interests and political power.

We saw this movie more than 500 years ago !

Thank you very much for your concern in my return or conversion. But I really don't need that !

Best regards

J. Geraldo

>
>Though I generally remain silent on this list, I feel compelled to
>reply to David Ramirez for his unprovoked and ad hominem attack on
>Amishav and others. Though he states at the end of his message that he
>"does not want to spread Lashon Hara", that is precisely what he spends
>most of his message doing, speaking authoritatively about things of
>which he has no knowledge and falsely attributing ulterior motives
>where there are none. Hence - and this is but one minor example - he
>suggests that Amishav prefers
>to get Anousim to "convert" rather than "return" to Judaism, "as prescribed
>by our Rabbanim of Sefarad, as left by the tendencies of the Geonim, as
>defended by God Himself". While I will not presume to speak for G-d, I can
>say that we have been working closely with Israel's Chief Rabbinate to
>re-create the "return" mechanism for Anousim which existed during the
>Middle
>Ages, with the aim of restoring this option to modern use so that Anousim
>need not be subjected to what is termed "conversion". We have also
>intentionally called our Spanish-language ulpan in Jerusalem a "Conversion
>and Return Institute" for this reason, making it the only such institution
>in Israel. Thus, Ramirez is absolutely incorrect in his assertion. Indeed,
>the fact of the matter is that all of our work is carried out in full
>consultation and coordination with Israel's Chief Rabbinate, under their
>guidance and with their approval. Our goal is to help the Anousim, and to
>do
>so by working fully within, and together with, "the system" - as that is
>not
>only the right thing to do, but it is also the best way to make progress
>that will be lasting and effective.
>It saddens me to see that some people on this list prefer to expend
>precious
>time and energies needlessly criticizing others rather than trying to do
>something constructive - I hope that at least on this point, Mr. Ramirez
>can
>agree.
>
>Michael Freund
>Director, Amishav
>
>
>
>----- Yahoo! Groups Sponsor
>-----~--> Buy Ink Cartridges or Refill Kits for your
>HP, Epson, Canon or Lexmark Printer at MyInks.com. Free s/h on orders
>\$50 or more to the US & Canada.
><http://www.cltracking.com/l.asp?cid=5511>
><http://us.click.yahoo.com/mOAaAA/3exGAA/qnsNAA/bZWolB/TM>
>-----~-->
>
>
>For more information: <http://members.tripod.com/~anak/anusim.htm>

>Archives are located at:
><http://www.yahogroups.com/arcindex.cgi?listname=anusim>
>Rules are located at: <http://www.yahogroups.com/files/anusim/>
>For Portuguese info: <http://www.saudades.org/>
>For Sephardim info: <http://www.sephardim.com/>
>Post message: anusim@yahogroups.com
>Subscribe: anusim-subscribe@yahogroups.com
>Unsubscribe: anusim-unsubscribe@yahogroups.com
>List owner: anusim-owner@yahogroups.com
><http://www.yahogroups.com/group/anusim>
>
>
>Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to
><http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
>
>

MSN Hotmail, o maior webmail do Brasil. <http://www.hotmail.com>