

TO:

Mayor Kay Barnes  
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The Kansas City, Mo, City Council,  
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The Sister City Association of Kansas  
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FROM:

Auni Khahil MD  
On behalf of the Popular Committee of the Arab Residents of Ramle  
E-mail: [aunikhahil@yahoo.com](mailto:aunikhahil@yahoo.com) Cellular tel no: +972 54 642 1441

Dear Sirs,

Dear Madams,

Greetings,

We, representatives of the Arab population of the City of Ramle, were shocked when we heard the recent racist statements and most despicable gutter language directed by the Mayor of the City of Ramle, Mr Yoel Lavi, against the Arab population of our dear City. These statements were uttered in response to the Application by our non-governmental organization, (known in Hebrew as "Amutah"), the Ramle AL-DAR charity, to allocate Arabic names to some of the streets in the Old City of Ramle.

Our Application was drafted professionally, and submitted officially to Ramle City Council. In response Mayor Yoel Lavi issued a call to transfer the Arab population of Ramle to the Arab village of Jaljuliya, preceded by an attack on "One Muhammad" and on Allah saying: "Why Should I Change the Name? Just Because One Muhammad Wants Me To? Let Him Change His God!", thereby violating the dignity of the entire Arab population in our City.

We demand that Mayor Yoel Lavi make a full and public apology, and completely desist from making such racist statements as he is prone to utter from time to time. Furthermore, given progressive deterioration of his recent utterances, and his, hitherto, adamant refusal to make a public apology, we demand his resignation from the office of Mayor, a position he clearly does not deserve.

We turn to you, in your capacity as Mayor of Kansas City, the Kansas City, Mo, City

Council, the Sister City Association of Kansas, and the Kansas City International Office with the request that you sever all contact with this particular Mayor, who has delivered a crippling blow to the delicate patterns of relationship that obtains between the Jewish and Arab communities in the City. It is imperative to point out that the racialism of this person not express in verbal utterances and statements alone, but in his concrete actions on the ground, including the calculated neglect of the Arab quarters of the City with regards to infrastructural development; erection of separation walls and fences, more properly referred to as apartheid walls and fences, around certain Arab quarters, and the premeditated disregard of other Arab quarters; demolition of homes, refusal to issue building permits, and the deliberately humiliating manner in which these refusals are delivered - and this list of the grievances of the Arab population is far from being exhaustive.

We ask that in addition to the statutory requirement that you maintain contact with the Ramle City Council as a corporate body, you also develop direct contact with the two elected representatives of the Arab population of our City, as well as with civil society non-governmental organizations in the City. The Popular Committee of the Arab Residents of Ramle, on behalf of whose members I write, has been established recently incorporating all civil society organizations working to empower the Arab sector in the City including charities ("Amutot"), borough committees, leadership of the various Arab communities and more. Our primary objectives include, in the first instance, correcting the situation of intentional official neglect of the Arab quarters of the City, advancing the quality of life of the Arab population of the City, and improving living conditions and educational facilities for the Arab residents of Ramle.

We look forward to cooperating with yourselves to the advantage of all sections of the Ramle population irrespective of religion, race or sex.

We truly hope that you are able to respond to our appeal, and, needless to say, we are happy to be at your service any time and at all times.

We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to approach you

And remain

Yours faithfully

The Popular Committee of the Arab Residents of Ramle