



ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

Mr. Avi Meshulam
Chief Editor
Ma'ariv

Your ref.:

Our ref.:

Date:

26 July 2011

Dear sir,

In today's paper you run an interview with me, of which I have received an English translation from a news service. I would like to clarify the following:

I spoke to your journalist off the record with a clear condition that any quotes would be sent to me for my approval. The interview, however, was printed without me having been presented with the quotes. This goes against the journalistic norms that I am used to both from this country and other postings, and I do not find it acceptable.

Regarding the substance of the interview, there are several problems and inaccuracies in the text. The most important one is this: When asked whether the terror attack in Norway would change Norwegian perception of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, I told your journalist that many Norwegians would see terror actions in Israel in the context of both the occupation and religious extremism, and that this would not change after what happened at Utøya.

I did not seek to convey any personal or governmental position regarding the motivation behind terror attacks against Israel, nor to compare terror attacks in Israel and Norway. The Norwegian position has always been, as rightly stated in your article, that terror, regardless of motivation, is unacceptable.

I would have wished to be given the opportunity to check my quotes, so that these misunderstandings could have been avoided.

Yours sincerely,



Svein Sevje
Ambassador