



Plateforme des Juifs Libéraux de Suisse PJLS • Plattform der Liberalen Juden der Schweiz PLJS



Anti-Defamation League
Mr. Glen S. Lewy - National Chair
Mr. Abraham H. Foxman - National Dir.
605 Third Avenue
USA – New York, NY 10158-3560

Zurich, 16 April 2008

Dear Mr. Lewy, dear Mr. Foxman

It is with deep concern that Swiss Jewry views your current campaign against Switzerland, in which you severely criticize our country for financing terror. These accusations cause great discomfort to the Swiss population and are not, from our point of view, the most effective way to deal with the situation.

A debate about the interaction between representatives of the Swiss Federal State Government and the Iranian regime is absolutely legitimate and necessary. Swiss Jewry has already protested strongly about the gas deal with Iran long ago, claiming that this deal sends out a wrong message both nationally and internationally. We are also irritated and adversely affected by the way in which our Foreign Minister, Micheline Calmy-Rey, organized her stay in Iran. An intervention in this spirit has already been made by the Swiss Jewish community both before Mrs. Calmy-Rey's departure and shortly after her return. The substantive dialogue with the Foreign Ministry will take place soon.

Your attacks against Switzerland stoke resentment within the local population towards Jewish organizations in general and make the objective debate which we ourselves are conducting in Switzerland all the more difficult. We ask ourselves, what is your intention in this matter? Like any other country, Switzerland is very sensitive to interventions by foreign organizations. In this respect, your provocative current campaign seems to us highly inappropriate and not at all helpful to Swiss Jewry.

The Jewish umbrella organizations of Switzerland strongly urge you to stop your current advertising campaign. We are completely at your disposal for an exchange of ideas on how to work cooperatively on constructive solutions to this very vexing situation.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Alfred Donath
President SIG FSCI

Nicole Poëll
Co-President PLJS