No. 65

Consulate of the United States
Jerusalem, September 10. 1888.

Honorable George F. Rives
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the two citizens of the United States, viz. Meyer Freeman, and Isaac Glickman (the latter accompanied by his wife), referred to in my No. 62 of the 30th ultimo, evading the vigilance of the Joffa police, and aided by the darkness of the night, escaped to this office in Jerusalem, reaching this on the 5th instant.

On entering the city, they were, at once, placed under police restraint, and threatened with expulsion. They were, however, offered their liberty on condition of my signing an assurance that they would remain in Palestine only three months. This, of course, I refused to do. My influence with the local authorities has resulted, notwithstanding, in obtaining their release; so that they are now free. I understand that the authorities on finding we would give no a guarantee that those citizens would leave the country in the above mentioned time, went through the performance of taking such assurance from a Hebrew, an Ottoman subject, a man of no standing or property, who happened to be in the crowd, and offered to satisfy them by going surety.

The carriage driver, who is a Hebrew, and a Turkish subject, and who brought our aforesaid citizens from Joffa to Jerusalem, was, at once, thrown into prison.

I had already informed the Governor of Jerusalem of my having referred the case to our Legation at Constantinople, and requested his awaiting the result.

And this he seems to be tacitly doing, though I have had no positive assurance that he would delay. Still the 6th of September, the threatened date of the expulsion of those citizens, has come and gone without the execution of the decree.

I have, as yet, had no response from our Legation or our Consulate General; but keep hoping for favorable intervention.

I have received assurance that the English, French, and Austrian Consuls at Jerusalem will not visit the expulsion of their citizens of Hebrew race, and will also refuse to give any warrant limiting their sojourn in Palestine. They have, I understand, lately received the most stringent orders from their Governments to this effect, and, I believe, through the influence of our action. So that where at first I stood alone, I shall in future have this important cooperation.

The Russian Consul, however, continues to aid the Ottoman Government in the expulsion of Russian Jews, and large numbers of these people are driven daily from our shores.

I am Sir
Your Obedt Servt

Consul