

December 2022

To the Island Hebrew Congregation, Mauritius

We are writing in response to your kind invitation to Love Never Fails to write a letter for the Jewish Detainees Memorial Museum in Mauritius. As a Coalition of British Christian Pro-Israel Organisations we represent thousands of British Christians who are deeply ashamed of the gross failures of Britain's stewardship of the Mandate for Palestine which brought untold suffering upon the Jewish people.

In this letter we want to express our deep sorrow and shame for the detention by the British in Beau Bassin Prison on Mauritius of one thousand five hundred and eighty Jewish refugees who were refused entry by the British into Mandatory Palestine in 1940. Britain as steward of the Mandate for Palestine was tasked with establishing a Jewish national home and facilitating Jewish immigration, so these Jewish people should have been welcomed to Eretz Israel, their ancient homeland. However, the British Parliament had enacted the infamous 1939 White Paper, severely restricting Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine, and the plan to send them to Mauritius was designed to discourage more Jews fleeing Nazi Europe from trying to enter their homeland.

We are deeply sorry for the great disappointments and many injustices suffered by these Jewish refugees; for the trauma of being dragged from Atlit Detention Camp, near Haifa, and being put on ships for Mauritius; for the uncertainty of being sent to a far-away island in war time, not knowing when their ordeal would end; being deprived of freedom, of family life and basic human rights; for the illness, deaths and many hardships suffered in detention. Above all for the injustice of being denied entry to the Land of Israel in line with the Mandate for Palestine and with God's purposes for the Jewish people. "He who scattered Israel will gather him..." Jeremiah 31:10



Brian Greenaway
Chair Love Never Fails

