

2 August 2012

The Honorable Yaakov Ne'eman

Minister of Justice

29 Salah a-Din St.

Jerusalem

Re: Civil Law Procedure Regulations (Amendment 4) 2012

Dear Mr. Ne'eman:

Yesterday, 1 August 2012, Amendment 4 of the Civil Law Procedure Regulations was published in Regulations Registry 7150 and will take effect within 30 days.

According to the amendment, the regulations will now include Regulation 7A, which states, "a document submitted to the court shall not be accepted by the court registry if it does not include at the outset the identification number of the person submitting the document." Regulation 1 defines the identification number. According to this definition, the identification number of someone not a resident of Israel is his passport number.

The result of the amendment is that Palestinian residents of the Occupied Territories, refugees, and stateless persons who do not have passports will not be allowed to conduct legal proceedings as any pleadings they submit will not be accepted. The right of access to courts— a fundamental right in Israeli jurisprudence, which is also specifically enshrined in Article 16 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and Article 16 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) – would be trampled.

We request that you act immediately to amend the regulations in a way that will accept the pleadings also of those who do not have a passport.

Respectfully submitted,

Atty. Oded Feller

CC: Ms. Orit Koren, Deputy Attorney General (Legislation)