

URGENT! ADVOCATE FOR YOSEF KIBITA ...
DENIED ALIYA - MIGHT BE DEPORTED FROM ISRAEL BY 12/31/2021



Yosef Kibita is at risk of deportation, after the Israeli Interior Ministry denied his application for Aliya, as his visa is set to expire December 31, 2021. We are outraged at this decision and need to advocate for it to be overturned immediately.

Yosef converted officially to Judaism under the supervision of the Conservative movement (USA) in 2008 when many in his community in Uganda were given formal conversion. He has lived officially as a Jew since 2008 and applied for Aliya in 2017 under the Law of Return. He did another conversion with the Israeli Masorti Rabbinical Court in March 2021.

"He grew up attending a Jewish school, studied Judaism, spent time in studying in the Conservative Yeshiva, is active in religious life on Kibbutz Ketura where he lives, reads from the Torah during prayer services, and he has come before a rabbinical court and proved himself as Jewish to them," said Rabbi Andrew Sacks, Director of the Masorti/Conservative Movement's Rabbinical Assembly in Israel.

Rabbi Sacks also declared, "In a continued effort to stymie the Aliyah of Jews of Color from so-called 'emerging communities,' Israel's Interior Ministry has shown contempt for the Conservative Movement, for our converts, for the judicial process, and for the very rules it helped enact."

Since his Abayudaya community was only granted formal status as a recognized Jewish community by the Jewish Agency in 2009, the Population Authority rejected his aliyah

request, saying his conversion was invalid for the purposes of citizenship since it was conducted before the Abayudaya were a recognized community.

[Read the article by Judy Maltz on Dec 15, 2021](#) for more on the Jewish Agency and the need for them to be more proactive. Links to additional articles are shared below.

Please send your letters, a sample is shared below, with the following people, plus anyone else whose email you may have. Sadly, there is no head of the Jewish Agency since Isaac Herzog became President of Israel for us to contact:

[Ayelet Shaked](#), Minister of the Interior

[Naftali Bennett](#), Prime Minister

[Yair Lapid](#), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alternate Prime Minister

[Alon Tal](#), Member of Knesset (MK) and Masorti movement member!!

[Rabbi Gilad Kariv](#), MK, former head Israel Reform Movement

[Penina Tamano](#), Minister of Immigration and Absorption

[Nachman Shai](#), Minister of Diaspora Affairs

[Yitzhak Herzog](#), President of Israel

[Yaacov Hagoel](#), Acting Chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Chair of the World Zionist Organization

Sample letter:

Dear :

I am outraged that the application for Aliya for Yosef Kibita has been denied once again. He has converted three times, once in Uganda in 2008, and twice in Israel, most recently in March 2021!

We plead that you make sure he is NOT DEPORTED and his aliya application is accepted NOW! He followed all the rules given by the Interior Ministry and is part of an accepted community by the Jewish Agency. And this denial was issued just a couple of weeks before his visa expiration.

His last conversion in March 2021 was completed to comply with an 8-1 decision in March 2021 by the Israeli Supreme Court which ruled that "Conservative and Reform conversions in Israel must be recognized for purposes of Aliya and the Law of Return."

Take all the necessary steps needed TODAY to make sure the Interior Ministry will accept his Aliya application immediately and work to stop this insult to Yosef and others who apply while following all the "rules" with legitimate papers, learning, conversions when necessary, etc.

Rav todot, Many thanks,

Your Name

For more information, here are links to articles on Yosef's case:

[Jewish Agency Effectively Walks Back Recognition of Uganda's Jewish Community](#)

[A look at the PIBA's 'culture of suspicion and hostility'](#)

[Ugandan Yosef Kibita denied right to aliyah again](#)

[Pride and prejudice: The State of Israel vs Yosef Kibita](#)

[This Jew by Choice Is Testing Israeli Top Court's Landmark Ruling on Conversions](#)

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