



**State of Israel
Ministry of Justice**

The Office of the Deputy Attorney General (International Law)

July 13, 2017

Ref: 1257

To: Mr. David Kaye, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Dear Sir,

Re: Communication concerning Mr. Rafi Rotem

Your reference: AL ISR 1/2017

We received your communication regarding the above and would like to address your concerns, according to information forwarded to us by the Office of the State Comptroller and Ombudsman.

Following complaints received by Mr. Rotem concerning corruption of the Israeli Tax Authority personnel, in 2007 the office of the State Comptroller and Ombudsman has initiated an investigation and established a designated investigation team, under the supervision of the State Comptroller's special advisor for fighting public corruption. Following a thorough and comprehensive investigation, the team did not find a justified basis to support Mr. Rotem's claims.

Certain issues raised by Mr. Rotem's have been published in the media and were already known to the authorities, while in other cases, the claims were to be unfounded. Most of the claims that were of a criminal nature have already been examined and rejected by the State Attorney's Office. The Office of the State Comptroller and Ombudsman has therefore decided to refrain from re-examining claims that were already examined by other state authorities or that were not supported by sufficient evidence.

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Nevertheless, the Office of the State Comptroller and Ombudsman has willfully attempted to assist Mr. Rotem in various means, such as examining different alternatives for his reassignment in the Civil Service, however, the Office of the State Comptroller and Ombudsman was unable to find a workplace which satisfied Mr. Rotem's requirements.

Finally, in 2014, the State Comptroller and Ombudsman has agreed to enable Mr. Rotem to submit an application for protection order with respect to the decision to terminate his employment in the Tax Authority. Following the appeal, the State Comptroller and Ombudsman reexamined the case, and decided to issue a warrant to protect the rights of Mr. Rotem, providing him with an immediate compensation of 750,000 NIS (211,000 USD) and a monthly life allowance which is estimated at over 500,000 NIS (140,000 USD) (an estimated subtotal of 1,250,000 NIS (351,000 USD)).

Yours Sincerely,

Alisa Gannel, Adv.



Cc: Hila Tene-Gilad, Adv.