

Rwandan Minister Louise Mushikiwabo visits Israel

Jerusalem (July, 2014) – Rwanda’s Foreign Minister, Louise Mushikiwabo, paid a two-day official visit to Israel, on a follow up trip of the recent visit by her Israeli counterpart, FM Avigdor Liberman, who was on a five-country tour of Africa last month.

On her first day, the Rwandan Foreign Minister held bilateral discussions with Minister Liberman and visited with him the city of Ashkelon bordering the Gaza strip. Minister Mushikiwabo reiterated Rwanda’s position for all stakeholders to work harder for sustainable peace to prevail. She stressed that it is time for the international community to pay closer attention to the

complexities of regional conflicts that require a deeper understanding of underlying difficult issues.



During her visit, Minister Mushikiwabo also met with Shimon Peres, President of Israel and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, visited Yad Vashem, the Martyrs and Heroes Memorial to the Holocaust, and concluded her visit with a meeting with 130 Rwandan students currently training in Agricultural Sciences near Tel Aviv.

Ambassador Belaynesh accompanies FMs meeting in Israel

Jerusalem, Kibbutz Zikkim (July, 2014) – FM Avigdor Liberman met in Jerusalem with Rwandan



Amb. Belaynesh (far left) with FMs Liberman and Mushikiwabo at Kibbutz Zikkim

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mrs. Louise Mushikiwabo, followed by a tour in the Hof Ashkelon regional council, accompanied by our Ambassador Belaynesh Zevadia.

Foreign Ministers Liberman and Mushikiwabo visited the situation room at the regional council, observed the Iron Dome missile defense system in action, met with soldiers at Kibbutz Zikkim, and visited a home damaged several days ago at Netiv Ha’asara. FM Liberman said in the course of the visit that he attributes great importance to the visit of FM Mushikiwabo, particularly given Rwanda’s current position of presidency of the UN Security Council. It is very important that she sees with her own eyes what is happening here, coming here at this time in order to understand the vastness of the challenge which Israel is facing.

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Rwandan youth in Israel acquiring skills in modern agriculture

Tel Aviv (July, 2014) – Marking the end of her visit to Israel, Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise



Foreign Minister Mushikiwabo visiting flowers' greenhouses

Mushikiwabo met with more than 100 Rwandan students in Tel Aviv. The group, which arrived in Israel in November 2013, is undertaking a one-year program in Agriculture studies, focusing on modern agriculture and irrigation technologies. The Minister expressed gratitude to the State and People of Israel for welcoming Rwandan youth in their country and giving them the opportunity to acquire skills that will benefit greatly to their homeland. She also urged the students to make the most of this program.

Accompanied by Ambassador Benayesh Zevadia and Mr Hezi Bezalel (the Honorary Consul of Rwanda to Israel), the minister toured flowers' greenhouses where some of the students are undergoing practical training.

Deputy Amb. Leo's courtesy call to Ethiopian academicians

Addis Ababa (July, 2014) – Addis Ababa Science and Technology University's academicians: Dr. Nurelegne Tefera (Vice President for Academic Affairs, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University) and his deputy Dr. Tarekegn Tadesse (President of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University) conversed with Deputy Ambassador Leo Vinovezky, among others, regarding the invitation extended to them by Weizmann Institute of Science and mada Tech, Israel National Science Museum. They are invited to visit Israel from Aug. 5 - 9 and discuss on possibility of collaborations between the two institutions.



Leo Vinovezky with Dr. Nurelegne and Dr. Tarekegn (From left to right) on their way to Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel very soon

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Ambassador Belaynesh in exclusive interview with Sendek

Addis Ababa (July, 2014) – Ambassador Belaynesh Zevadia gave exclusive interview to Sendek newspaper, a mainstream Amharic weekly, on the current developments regarding Israel-Hamas clash. In her interview with Sendek’s senior reporter Mr. Fanuel Kinfu, she clarified in detail that some of the international media’s distorted reports of Israel’s defensive attacks against Hamas are not the correct and actual picture on the ground. Hamas uses civilians as shields in military warfare, whereas Israel uses military force to protect its civilians.



Amb. Belaynesh answering Mr. Fanuel's questions

Leo Vinovezky briefs local press about Israel, Hamas situation

Addis Ababa (July, 2014) – Chargé d'affaires Leo Vinovezky talked in-depth with local media about the current situation with Hamas. He explicated: "If Hamas puts weapons down, there will be a ceasefire, absolutely, in the hope to see light at the end of these tunnels."



While conferring with media

Replying to journalists’ questions regarding Israel’s alleged attack on civilians in Gaza, he asserted that “Hamas has created a city of terror inside its own neighborhood, and is now preventing residents from leaving. This use of human shields makes Hamas a war criminal under Article 51 (7) of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions. Israel continues to do its utmost to minimize civilian casualties, but Hamas ensures that they are caught in the cross-fire. Hamas perfectly knows what would happen if it started raining rockets into Israel. It is its strategy to force Israel to react and protect itself so that the rest of the world will condemn Israel.”