

April 29, 2025

AMICHAÏ CHIKLI
MINISTER OF DIASPORA AFFAIRS
AND COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

עמיחי שיקלי
שר התפוצות והמאבק באנטישמיות

The Honorable Bart De Wever
Prime Minister of Belgium

Dear Prime Minister De Wever,

On behalf of the Government of Israel, I wish to bring to your attention the alarming case of convicted felon Abdelkader Belliraj and respectfully urge you to prevent his repatriation to Belgium following his recent pardon by King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

Belliraj—a dual Belgian Moroccan citizen—was convicted in Morocco in 2009 as the mastermind behind a terrorist network comprising more than 30 individuals and was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was also implicated in multiple violent crimes in Belgium during the 1980s and 1990s, including the brutal, antisemitic murder of Dr. Josef Wybran on October 3, 1989. Dr. Wybran, a Holocaust survivor, was not only a distinguished physician but also served as president of the B'nai B'rith lodge in Brussels and of the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium (CCOJB). He was assassinated in the parking lot of Erasmus Hospital in Brussels.

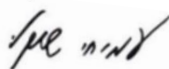
Despite compelling evidence and the gravity of these crimes, successive Belgian governments regrettably failed to prosecute Belliraj or his accomplices, ultimately allowing the statute of limitations to expire and closing the case without justice being served.

As a leader who is committed to combating antisemitism, I turn to you with urgency and trust. At a time when antisemitism is already posing an increasing threat to the Jewish community in Belgium, particularly since the atrocities of October 7, 2023, the return of a dangerous individual like Belliraj would further endanger the community and undermine their safety.

In light of these grave concerns, I respectfully urge you to take all necessary measures to prevent Abdelkader Belliraj from returning to Belgium or make it known that he will be arrested upon returning to Belgium. I also encourage you to strongly consider reopening the investigation into Dr. Wybran's murder and the related crimes, in order to pursue long-overdue justice for the victims and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent and critical matter.

Sincerely,



Amichai Chikli

Minister of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism

State of Israel