



Portugees – Israëlietische Gemeente te Amsterdam

ק"ק ספרדים תלמוד תורה באמשטרדם

Prof. Yitzhak Y. Melamed
By e-mail: ymelame1@jhu.edu

Amsterdam, 01 December 2021

Dear Prof. Melamed,

We regret that a perfectly normal request to visit the premises of the Portuguese Synagogue in order to work on a documentary for Kan Israel Broadcasting Cooperation has led to an international uproar. The letters of the rabbinate of the Portuguese Jewish Community (Kahal Kados Talmud Torah) that caused this, were sent without prior knowledge and authorization of the Ma'amad. The Ma'amad, in its capacity of being the sovereign of the Esnoga premises, has informed its members that the rabbinate does not have sole authority to declare anyone a "persona non grata" on its premises.

We, the Chairman of the Ma'amad and the General Director of the Jewish Cultural Quarter, under whose daily aegis the Synagogue complex is open to the public, herewith confirm to you that we will gladly welcome you to visit our premises to work on said documentary. It goes without saying that this access includes full, unlimited access to all resources of Ets Haim – Livraria Montezinos. That is a matter of academic freedom, guaranteed by the Jewish Cultural Quarter under whose aegis Ets Haim – Livraria Montezinos operates.

We do hope that you will decide to pursue your plans to come to Amsterdam and do your work as requested. We are looking forward to welcoming you.

With best wishes,

Michael Minco
Chairman of the Ma'amad
Kahal Kados Talmud Torah

Prof. dr. Emile Schrijver
General Director
Jewish Cultural Quarter

C.c.

- Aboed Shabi, Chairman Stichting Cultureel Erfgoed Portugees-Israëlietische Gemeente
- Liesbeth Bijvoet, Director of Finance and Operations, Jewish Cultural Quarter
- Heide Warncke, Curator of Ets Haim-Livraria Montezinos
- Annet Röst, Documentary maker