

Administration Service for
Employers and Foreign Workers
Permit Division – Expert Branch

[emblem of the State of Israel]

[emblem of the Population and
Immigration Authority]

To:
Adv. Michael Sfar
via email:
[REDACTED]@sfard.co.il

[stamp – Received, Michael
Sfar Law Office May 7, 2018]

Date: May 7, 2018
Reference (permits): 00199

Re: Reconsideration of Mr. Omar Shakir's status in Israel

Your letters dated January 15 2018 and March 15 2018 have been forwarded to the Minister of Interior for consideration. After having reviewed the arguments raised in your letters, as well as the information available in the matter of the individual concerned, the Minister of Interior has decided that Mr. Omar Shakir should not be permitted to remain in Israel.

In your letter, you argue that because the person concerned is an employee of an organization and its representative in Israel, only activities of the organization and Mr. Shakir as its representative should be considered. This argument cannot be accepted given that the authority of the Minister of Interior to grant Israeli residency permits, and to revoke them, is extremely broad, and in exercising it, the minister can consider all information available about the individual, beyond evaluating the organization requesting the person's entry, inasmuch as such exists. Accordingly, we have evaluated Mr. Shakir's activity over the years. The information presented to the Minister of Interior, which you have not contradicted, indicates that this is an individual who has actively and continuously supported a strategy espousing boycott, divestment and sanctions with respect to Israel. The fact that no information has surfaced regarding such activities from the time he joined [HRW] does not negate Mr. Shakir's activities prior to that time (and that is so even if we disregard the information on FIFA). It is inconceivable that a BDS activist who calls for a boycott of the State of Israel be granted entry into Israel under the guise of representing an organization. In this context, we note that the legislative amendment stipulating that no visa or permit be granted to a person who calls for a boycott of the State of Israel explicitly states it applies to a person calling for a boycott, as distinct from an organization or a body for which he acts.

We note that this decision does not constitute a general, blanket refusal to allow the organization to employ a foreign expert, but rather relates specifically to the request to employ Mr. Shakir. Hence, the organization may submit a new application to employ another expert, and such application will be reviewed according to its circumstances.

In light of the above, the Minister of Interior has decided that Mr. Shakir's employment in Israel and continued residency in the country should not be approved. Given the aforesaid, the permit for employment granted to Human Rights Watch will not be extended. Mr. Shakir must leave Israel within 14 days.

Respectfully,
[signed]
Moshe Nakash

Permit Division Director
per Supervisor