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January 14, 2014

Minister Naftali Bennett
Kiryat ben Gurion
Jerusalem 91950
Israel

Dear Minister Bennett,

The Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA) stands behind Rabbi Avi Weiss and other Orthodox rabbis in America whose halachic authority and testimony on matters of personal status have been challenged by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. We are further disheartened by the process by which this rejection was carried out, a trial by whispering and innuendo from “unnamed sources.” No legal system ought to tolerate anonymous slander. Morality and justice demand that the accusers come forward to allow open scrutiny of actions and accusations that have intensified this breach.

JOFA speaks as an American, Orthodox, feminist organization. We are staunch supporters of Israel. We treasure the *halacha* that governs our lives, and we respect the chain of tradition. Regrettably, the actions by the Rabbanut attempt to divide Diaspora Jewry from rabbinic leadership in Israel, weakening all of us in the process. We believe that such behavior is neither in the true spirit of Orthodox Judaism nor tolerable to any fair-minded or honest individual.

Respectfully,

JOFA Board of Directors