

1936 Oct 27 Abdullah Saade to head of Orthodox Ecclesiastical Court in Jerusalem

Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico

(draft)

27 Oct 1936

To the head of the Ecclesiastical Orthodox Court, Jerusalem

His beatitude Bishop Teotheos,

We have just noted your announcement in the *Filistin* newspaper, published October 1936, concerning the case of our daughter Katrina Abdullah Michael Saade of Bethlehem, the wife of Suleiman Jiryes Farhat of Ramallah. The defendant [*Katrina*] is in a case raised by her husband Suleiman in your August court concerning a case of divorce. You have requested her appearance before the court personally or through a representative on Tuesday, the first of December 1936 by the Gregorian calendar. Now I answer you that I find this very strange since your Excellency knows that our daughter Katrina is in America, a long way from Palestine, and she cannot be expected to appear in less than one month in accordance with your announcement. Since the post takes one month one way and another month on the way back, we only have two months to communicate. She obviously needs more time if she would be given the right to defend herself from her husband, who is a scoundrel and a cheat.

Secondly, said husband knows where she lives in America and you should have taken an affidavit from her on the reasons for this case for divorce which he has raised against her.

My intention is to return to the homeland at the beginning of winter, where I can explain to you everything about the aforementioned Suleiman Farhat.

In 1921, Suleiman Farhat married our daughter Katrina in the United States, in the city of Los Angeles, California, in accordance with American laws. Under conditions of deceit and forgery, he took an oath in front of the American government that he is a bachelor and gave his name as Jiryes Farhat instead of Suleiman Jiryes Farhat, which is his real name. After marriage, we came to the knowledge that he was already married in Ramallah. He took his wife and traveled to America, leaving his wife alone in Cuba and then he escaped to Mexico. After that, he went to the United States, where he married our daughter Katrina deceitfully. All the people of Ramallah know about this. His [first] wife had passed away in America three years ago in conditions of destitution and humiliation.

Said Suleiman was in America last year, with his wife Katrina. He said to her that 'my intent is to visit the homeland for a few months, and then I will return.' He took all his money in secret, without his wife's knowledge. She did not realize that he was leaving her alone with her children in America. She is still waiting for his return until this moment and has no knowledge of this [court case]. From this, your Excellency, you can see that this man has a deep tradition of deceits and forgery. He has a tradition of cheating women and the people of Ramallah know of this, from whom you can

investigate the truth. We have every trust in your just Ecclesiastical Court to look into this case and to pass judgment in truth and justice before God and the whole of humanity. For this is a woman who is looked upon by God with her little children, and harm will come to anyone who oppresses her unjustly.

If this man is decent and honorable, he can go back to take his wife and children from America as he promised.

We ask for your blessings,

Your son,
Abdullah Michael Saade

Translated by Salim Tamari