



Director General Irina Bokova
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

European friendship associations with Israel protest against ignoring of cultural and religious ties between the Jewish people and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

Mai 9th 2016

Distinguished Director General Bokova

The European Alliance for Israel counts 23 national friendship associations with Israel and unites 30.000 members and 100 parliamentarians.

We raise a solemn protest against the decision, submitted by Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar and Sudan (reputable democracies), and passed on April 11th by the executive board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO).

The decision completely ignores the deep historical, cultural and religious ties between the Jewish people and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, presented solely as Al Aqsa Mosque/Al Haram Al Sharif, as well as to other holy sites, as the Tombs of Rachel and of the Patriarchs.

The deep rooted connection, backed by numerous archaeological findings, abundant scientific literature and, last but not least, by the Bible, is deliberately ignored by this decision which is erasing the heritage of millions of people, and which constitutes a vicious attempt to re-write history.

This travesty is an offense to history, science, culture and intelligence, as well as a violation of religious and cultural rights. The mandate given to UNESCO for the good of education, science and culture – with the final goal of lasting peace – is ridiculed by this decision. Its wording bears witness of intolerance, leads to violence and supports the ideology that tries to deny the right of existence the state of Israel.

Therefore, we call upon you to use your authority as Director-General of the UNESCO, to make sure that in 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board and in all future, items concerning Jerusalem and other religious sites in Israel are treated with respect to importance also for the Jewish People. Furthermore, we call upon you to grant the same respect in the progress reports you were invited to submit in point 40 of the decision of the Executive Board in question.

Sincerely,

Corina Eichenberger-Walther, MP
President European Alliance for Israel

Charles Meyer
Vice-president European Alliance for Israel