



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

2014/OCI

Paris, 2 April 2014

Madam Director-General,

In my capacity as Chair of the Group of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to UNESCO, and further to numerous letters that have been sent to you, I am addressing you, once more, concerning the violation of graves and the over one thousand years desecration of the old cemetery of Mamilla (Ma'man Allah);

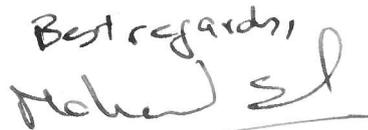
As you are aware, the Israeli authorities have authorized the Simon Wiesenthal Center and NGO admitted with the status of a UNESCO partner - to build a "*Museum of Tolerance*" within the Mamilla cemetery.

The advanced construction of this museum is not only in contradiction with the moral and ethical values promoted by UNESCO, it also violates the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

The OIC Group is extremely concerned insofar as the complete area of the Mamilla cemetery, main burial place during centuries for inhabitants of Jerusalem - Sufi saints, scholars of law, historical figures and thousands of ordinary citizens of the city - is also a historical and religious site. Sacred as any cemetery, today it is violated in the name of a so-called "tolerance"...

Knowing your deep commitment to defend and respect the values of human and religious rights, the OIC Group expects you to condemn in the strongest terms the construction of the "*Museum of Tolerance*" by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Please accept, Madam Director-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Best regards,  


Mohamed Sameh AMR  
Chairperson of the OIC Group to UNESCO  
Ambassador Permanent Delegate of Egypt

H.E. Mrs Irina BOKOVA  
Director-General of UNESCO  
UNESCO HOUSE