



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for Culture

Ms Maria C. LaHood
Mr Rashid I. Khalidi
Campaign to preserve Mamilla
Jerusalem Cemetery
Centre for Constitutional Rights
666 Broadway, 7th floor
New York, NY 100012
United States of America

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Dear Ms LaHood and Mr Khalidi,

On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to thank you for your letter of 10 June 2010 concerning the project of the Simon Wiesenthal Center to construct a museum over the Mamilla cemetery. This is indeed a long-standing issue that has generated numerous reactions throughout the world. As you may be aware, we alerted the Israeli Permanent Delegation to UNESCO on it in 2006 and again recently.

I wish also to thank you for forwarding the petition prepared by the Center for Constitutional Rights. However, the mandate of UNESCO as regards Jerusalem is focused on the Old City within its walls, as inscribed on the World Heritage List. Therefore, we are not in a position to field a mission to investigate the issue of the Mamilla cemetery, which is not exclusively an archaeological matter.

Nevertheless, please rest assured that UNESCO will pursue its efforts towards establishing dialogue among the parties concerned as regards the preservation of the historic heritage of Jerusalem.

Yours sincerely,


Francesco Bandarin

cc. Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to UNESCO
Permanent Delegation of Jordan to UNESCO