

Director General Irina Bokova
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
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France

January 22nd 2014

Distinguished Director General Bokova

With great concern we heard about your decision, not to open the exhibition "People, Book, Land - The 3,500 Year Relationship of the Jewish People to the Holy Land" today, as it was intended.

The preparation of the exposition has been a long process, during which the UNESCO could have checked all the design panels to be exhibited. It thus seems not congruent to call off the exhibition only few days before the opening due to the need for time to revise "unresolved issues relating to potentially contestable textual and visual historical points". It appears to us that the UNESCO may have been put under political pressure from the Arab countries who seek to deny the Jewish people's connection to the Land of Israel.

The long and continuous presence of Jewish life in the "Holy land" is a historical fact. Mixing history and education with questions concerning political problems between Israel and its Arab neighbours, is doing a disservice to the peace negotiations.

We thus ask you to open the exposition in its current form as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Corina Eichenberger-Walther, MP
President Gesellschaft Schweiz Israel (GSI)

cosignatory:

- Österreichisch-Israelische Gesellschaft (ÖIG)
- Česká Společnost Přátel Izraele
- Dansk-Israelsk Selskab
- ICEJ Suomen osasto
- FRANCE-ISRAEL. Alliance Général KOENIG
- Magyar-Izraeli Baráti Társaságok és Körök Országos Szövetsége
- Federazione delle Associazioni Italia-Israele
- Genootschap Nederland Israel

- Med Israel for fred (Norway)
- Cultural Friendship Association Romania-Israel
- Društvo srpsko-jevrejskog prijateljstva
- Samfundet Sverige-Israel