



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO UNESCO

22 December 2011

THE AMBASSADOR

Dear Madame Director-General,

I am writing to you to draw your attention to several disturbing news stories. A group called Palestinian Media Watch has reported that the educational children's magazine, *Zayzafuna*, "includes terms glorifying jihad," and references an essay by a teenage Palestinian girl, published in February 2011, applauding Hitler for murdering Jews. According to these reports, UNESCO supplied some funding to *Zayzafuna*. If this is true, this funding must stop immediately.

Madame Director-General, in your speech on December 13th, in the presence of Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, you said, "Membership of UNESCO goes beyond raising the flag. It comes with rights and responsibilities. It means sharing values – the values of tolerance, respect for others." You also said that you "...dream of joint educational textbooks on the history of shared ties to the land where Israelis and Palestinians live." If you believe, as you told the audience, that "...Human dignity is our starting point and the measure of our success," then you must take action immediately to let the Palestinians know that the kind of anti-Semitic, anti-Israel venom their educational system and media is introducing to young Palestinians is not the way forward towards tolerance, respect and peace.

UNESCO must let the Palestinian Authority know that this double-speak, using a message of peace for the international community, and another message for domestic consumption that teaches hatred, is unacceptable.

I count on you to investigate whether UNESCO funding is, in fact, still being used to sponsor this Palestinian magazine; and, if so, to take the appropriate steps to end the international community's financing of such hatred through this Organization.

Sincerely,

David T. Killion

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