



UNITED STATES MISSION TO UNESCO

Paris, July 25, 2013

Joie Springer  
Programme Specialist  
Communication and Information Sector  
UNESCO  
7, place de Fontenoy  
F-75352 Paris 07 SP

Dear Madame Springer:

The U.S. Mission to UNESCO requests an immediate review of the inscription of the writings of Ernesto Che Guevara in the Memory of the World Register. Che Guevara is a controversial figure who advocated violence and made no apologies for executing people in the pursuit of revolution. UNESCO should not memorialize the writing nor glorify the memory of a person who advocated, "Hate as a factor in the struggle, intransigent hatred for the enemy that takes one beyond the natural limitations of a human being and converts one into an effective, violent, selective, cold killing machine. Our soldiers must be like that; a people without hate cannot triumph over a brutal enemy," and, "If any person has a good word for the previous government that is good enough for me to have him shot." You will certainly agree these comments do not build peace in the minds of men and are not in keeping with UNESCO and United Nations values.

The Memory of the World program has a critical role to play in safeguarding the world's documentary heritage and must not be used as a tool to glorify or legitimize violence. We call on UNESCO to immediately review the basis for this inscription to determine if it is in keeping with the rules of the program and values of the organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David T. Killion".

David T. Killion