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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

18 December 2008

Dear Mr. Spahić,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 5 December 2008, inviting the Secretary-General to be a patron of and a special guest at the XXV International Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter 2009", to be held from 7 to 28 February 2008 in Sarajevo.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I thank you for your kind invitation. However, I regret to inform you that he will be unable to attend the Festival, owing to scheduling reasons. Besides, I also regret to advise you that in keeping with United Nations practices, the Secretary-General does not serve as patron for non-UN events.

Nevertheless, let me take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a successful event.

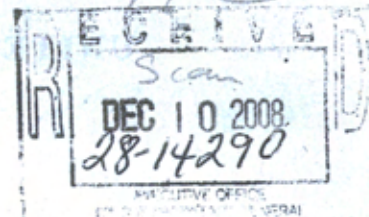
Yours sincerely,

Yeocheol Yoon

Special Assistant to the Secretary-General
& Chief, Scheduling Office

Mr. Ibrahim Spahić
Director
International Festival Sarajevo
"Sarajevo Winter"
Sarajevo

28-14290



1-4832513



festival Sarajevo
sarajevska zima

Sarajevo, December 5, 2008

UNITED NATIONS
Secretary General
Mr Ban Ki-Moon

Your Excellency,

It is a great pleasure for us that International Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" these past 16 years has been under the patronage of UNESCO. Please, allow me to express our gratitude for your patronage.

The XXV Jubilee International Festival Sarajevo «Sarajevo Winter 2009» will represent an encounter of artists from all over the world and will take place in the city of Sarajevo from February 7 until February 28, 2009. The title of the XXV International Festival Sarajevo «Sarajevo Winter 2009» will be „Organic Art Life”.

The program consisting of the Theatre plays, Concerts, Movies, Fine Arts Exhibitions, Panel Discussions, Literary Events, Architecture, Video, Programs presenting cultural heritage and Children Programs will be presented within the next edition of the Festival.

The programs of the Festival are not only being held in the theatres, galleries, museums and concert halls in the city, but on the Olympic mountains as well, thus celebrating the 25th anniversary of the 14th Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to be a patron of the XXV International Festival Sarajevo «Sarajevo Winter 2009» and to be our special guest during the Festival. It would be a great honor for us if you could attend the official Opening Ceremony and to address Sarajevo citizens together with other present officials.

With our deep respect,

Ibrahim Spahić
Director of International Festival
Sarajevo «Sarajevo Winter»



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SARAJEVO – "SARAJEVO WINTER" (since 1984) – Titova 9a or Gabelina
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www.sarajevoconcerthall.com
OPENING CEREMONY - THEATER - CONCERTS - MOVIES-FINE ARTS EXHIBITIONS - HERITAGE - PANEL



festival sarajevo
sarajevo winter

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SARAJEVO "SARAJEVO WINTER "

The International Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" is a traditional meeting place for artists and citizens from all over the World.

The first "Sarajevo Winter" Festival was held from 21 December 1984 to 6 April 1985. In the course of twenty four years of its existence, the Festival has become an inseparable part of the city life. More than 3.080 performances and exhibitions with over 26.500 artists from all parts of the world took place in the 1113 festival days. They were attended by more than 2. 973.500 people. The "Sarajevo Winter" Festival was not prevented from taking place even in the times of war, and has become a symbol of freedom of creativity and a place for familiarizing with diverse cultures and civilizations.

Together with the International Peace Center "Sarajevo Winter" initiated and organized the project "Sarajevo, Cultural Center of Europe" from 21 December 1993 to 21 March 1994 (i.e. the period between the two Cultural Centers of Europe - Antwerp '93 and Lisbon '94). The idea was supported by the Sarajevo City Assembly and by 11,000 renowned personalities and institutions the world over. The International Peace Center and the International Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" plan to renew the same initiative. Twenty years of the Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" was dedicated to project Sarajevo, Intercultural City of Council of Europe. The International Peace Center and the "Sarajevo winter" festival are preparing the project "Sarajevo - The World Cultural Center 2014".

The organizer of the "Sarajevo Winter" Festival is the International Peace Center Sarajevo. International Peace Center is member of the International Societies for Performing Arts (ISPA), European Festival Association (EFA), Association of the Biennial of Young Artist of Europe and Mediterranean (BJCEM).

The International Festival Sarajevo "Sarajevo Winter" was awarded with numerous international awards and acknowledgments, as well as the highest prize award of the City of Sarajevo "Šestoaprilska nagrada Sarajeva".

The "Sarajevo Winter" Festival has traditionally been held under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, European Union, UNESCO, The Presidency of B&H, The Federation of B&H, The Council of Ministers of B&H, Sarajevo Canton, City of Sarajevo and Stari grad Municipality.

Ibrahim Spahić
Director of International Festival Sarajevo
"Sarajevo Winter"

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www.sarajevoconcerthall.com BIENNIAL OF YOUNG ARTISTS website www.bjcem.org