

ACTION

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UNESCO
(email)
CDC
Mr. Tancor
(email)

UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

23 August 2015

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations
United Nations Plaza
Manhattan
New York City
International Territory



To the Honorable Secretary General::

Re: acknowledgement of a martyr for World Heritage

We understand that colleagues, including archaeologists, art historians, museum curators, cultural administrators, anthropologists and researchers of world history and prehistory around the world deplore the recent viscerously inhuman execution of Dr. Khaled al-Asaad at the Syrian City of Palmyra. He courageously gave his life to preserve the artifacts and outstanding ruins of that ancient city. He championed the acceptance by the United Nations of ancient Palmyra as an UNESCO World Heritage Site. He is truly a hero who needs to be venerated and remembered for giving the ultimate sacrifice to save the past for the future for all the world's citizens. Just a few days after his murder, some ancient monuments at the site were destroyed by explosives.

May we suggest that the United Nation create a tablet of such cultural heroes, who represent the best of humankind around the planet, and inaugurate it with Dr. al-Asaad's name engraved thereon. The tablet could be mounted on the wall of the U.N. Headquarters in New York. The United Nations and all right thinking people across the world need to commemorate such outstanding persons. Please read this request to the General Assembly.

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully yours,

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cc Dr. Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO



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