



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Office in New York

10 August 2011

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Reference NYO/DIR/11/rrh/118

Dear Dr Grigorian,

At the request of the Office of the Secretary-General, I wish to reply to your letter, addressed to him on 17 June 2011 and concerning the exhibition of Armenian cross-stones held at UNESCO Headquarters last June.

I am aware that you have received correspondence directly from UNESCO on this issue (letters from Mr Eric Falt, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information dated 26 and 27 July 2011). As explained, the **exhibition** focused on promoting the ancestral know-how of the Khachkars, and on the unique craftsmanship and symbolism of the cross-stones. Moreover, the exhibition was organized by and developed in consultation with the Permanent Delegate of Armenia to UNESCO. In this respect, allow me to reassure you that the Organization followed the rules and procedures applicable to all Member States and to the Secretariat when organizing an exhibition within UNESCO.

The International community fully acknowledges the importance of Armenian cross-stones as a unique representation of intangible cultural heritage, which UNESCO is proud to promote through their

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11-06449

EXR/17/001

inscription on the intangible heritage list. Indeed, you may wish to consult the UNESCO web page which, beyond the cross-stones, aims also to promote a better knowledge of Armenia's rich cultural heritage more generally.

With my best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Bilello', written in a cursive style.

Suzanne Bilello a.i.  
For Philippe Kridelka  
Director,  
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Dr. Ashot Grigorian  
President,  
Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe (FAAE)  
Viničná 1668/20A  
900 27 Bernolákovo  
Slovakia

cc. Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединённых Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**The Assistant Director-General  
for External Relations and Public Information**

Dr Ashot Grigorian  
President,  
Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe  
(FAAE)  
Viničná 1668/20A  
900 27 Bernolákovo  
Slovakia

27 July 2011

Réf. : ERI/DPI/SPE/11.114/AA/jtd

Sir,

On behalf of the Director-General, I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15 July 2011 reiterating your concern regarding the exhibition held at UNESCO Headquarters in June, presenting the **Khachkars** cross stones know-how.

As explained earlier, the exhibition was meant to faithfully present the intangible heritage of Khachkars **cross** stones whose symbolism and craftsmanship have been inscribed in 2010 on the Urgent Safeguarding List of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention (2003).

In addition, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the exhibition in its final design had **been** validated by H.E. Mr Viguén Tchitetchian, **Ambassador**, Permanent Delegate of Armenia to UNESCO, including the choice made to focus and promote the ancestral **know-how** of the Khachkars, a culture, and not the geographical location of the 50000 crosses.

Also, the exhibition displayed two films on the **amazing** and **unique** sculptures, methods and patterns together with a live performance of cross stone **sculpting**, thanks to the presence on site of an Armenian sculptor during the whole period of the exhibition.

In addition, with the concern to promote this internationally recognized intangible heritage, UNESCO dedicated a web page presenting the cross stones on the following link:

[http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/index.php?s=films\\_details&id\\_page=33&id\\_film=1665](http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/index.php?s=films_details&id_page=33&id_film=1665).

I **sincerely** hope that this additional information will demonstrate that UNESCO, as always, is doing its utmost to promote a better knowledge of Armenia's rich cultural heritage and, through this, international dialogue and mutual understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Falt



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## The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information

Dr Ashot Grigorian  
President  
Forum of Armenian Associations of  
Europe (FAAE)  
Viničná 1668/20A  
900 27 Bernolákovo  
Slovakia

26 July 2011

Réf. : ERI/DPI/SPE/2011.099/AA/jtd

Sir,

The Director-General asked me to **respond** to your letter of 17 June 2011, by which you communicate your disappointment regarding the exhibition entitled "The art of Khachkars – Armenian cross-stones", organized by the Permanent Delegation of Armenia to UNESCO at the Organization's Headquarters from 15 to 24 June 2011.

UNESCO would like to **underscore** the following points:

At the time of the ratification by Armenia of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2006, the **country recognized** "the invaluable role of the intangible cultural heritage as a factor in **bringing** human beings closer together and ensuring exchange and understanding among them".

In nominating the symbolism and craftsmanship of the Khachkars for inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of **Intangible Cultural Heritage**, Armenia also committed to promote a heritage and craftsmanship **that** are shared by different **cultures and different countries**. It further asserted that **"inscription** of the element will contribute to **ensuring** visibility and awareness of the significance of the intangible cultural heritage and to **encouraging** dialogue".

It was in this spirit that UNESCO welcomed the initiative of the Permanent Delegation to present an **exhibition that would focus** on the **symbolism and craftsmanship** of these important cultural expressions.

When an activity taking place **at UNESCO** headquarters involves **other** countries, it is standard practice that prior consultation **with those countries** should be undertaken. Unfortunately, this key condition was not fulfilled in the case of the **Armenian** exhibition.

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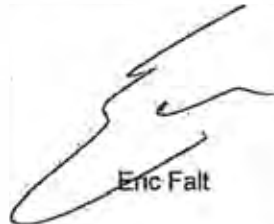
After examining the items proposed for the exhibition, it appeared that certain elements might undermine the spirit of international understanding and cooperation that underpins all of UNESCO's work, or go beyond the strict mandate of the Organization.

As a result, the Permanent Delegation of Armenia agreed to remove these elements. UNESCO itself did not "censor" any information, nor did it deny any historical fact. It tried to work closely with the Armenian authorities to avoid an unnecessary politization of a cultural activity.

At all times during the preparatory phases of the exhibition, the UNESCO Secretariat has strictly followed the rules and procedures applicable to all Member States, and in the United Nations System, and spared no effort to ensure the success of the event.

We regret that you have been misinformed and trust that this explanation will reassure you that UNESCO is unwavering in its commitment to international understanding, dialogue and mutual respect.

Yours sincerely,



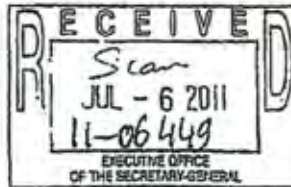
Eric Falt

Regular



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ԲՀՄԵ  
Forum of Armenian Association of Europe  
FAAE

ACTION Mr. P. Grigorian  
COPY Mr. K. Grigorian



H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations

CA  
KC

Your Excellence

The Presidium of the Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe (FAAE) and the President personally, Dr Ashot Grigorian, wish to express their extreme disappointment to the UNESCO Secretariat and its Director General Ms Irina Bokova, requesting an explanation for the scandal surrounding the UNESCO organized exhibition of Armenian cross-stones (khachkars) in Paris on June 15, 2011. It is understood that UNESCO requested the organizers to remove from the placards the exact location of the cross-stones' origin. This absurd request becomes even more preposterous when the explanation provided reveals that it is a request from Azerbaijani and Turkish authorities, i.e. the two countries that methodically carried out cultural genocide destroying millennia old valuable Armenian memorials in Armenian regions furthermore demand removing the same from people's memories. It is known that in 2005 Azerbaijani authorities organized and executed the complete destruction of thousands of ancient Armenian cross-stones in the region of Julfa, Nakhichevan. To date UNESCO has not investigated this transgression and has failed to send an investigation mission to Nakhichevan due to the counter efforts of the very organizers of this vandalism – the Azerbaijani authorities headed by President Ilham Aliyev.

FAAE requests that UNESCO set up a commission to investigate the above mentioned statement and hold to account the perpetrators of the deliberate and intentional destruction of Armenian cultural heritage.

In addition, we request an explanation regarding the Paris exhibition and an apology from those responsible for this scandalous act. Alternatively, FAAE will put this case forward to the jurisdiction of international courts.

Sincerely yours,

DPA/OUSG

Dr. Ashot Grigorian  
President, Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe

Bratislava, Slovakia  
June 17, 2011

Rec'd 11 July 2011  
log# EUROPE AS APPROPRIATE  
ACTION  
BLP/OFT/ES

P/s advise whether action  
should be done outside of  
DPA



**Response to letter from Forum of Armenian Association of Europe**

**Felicia Rosita Hackett** to: SGCentral, Stephen Paparo

10/08/2011 04:43 PM

Cc: j.trentin, r.roca-hachem

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10 August 2011

**Attention: Mr. Stephen Paparo and M. Vertulie Vincent**

For information purposes only.

Please see scanned below UNESCO'S response to the Forum of Armenian Association of Europe (FAAE).

Felicia Hackett  
Office of the Director  
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----- Forwarded by Felicia Rosita Hackett/NY/UNO on 10/08/2011 04:37 PM -----

From: uony@un.org  
To: "Felicia Rosita Hacke" <hackett@UN.ORG>  
Date: 10/08/2011 04:24 PM  
Subject:

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This E-mail was sent from "Ges-755-026" (MP5500/DSm755).

Scan Date: 08.08.2011 16:48:34 (-0400)



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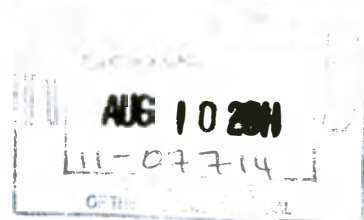
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United Nations

Nations Unies

Office of the Special Envoy of the  
United Nations Secretary-General for Assistance to Pakistan



UNSE/2011/08/045

9 August 2011

Dear Ms. Amos,

*Dear Valerie,*

I have officially informed the Secretary-General that I will complete my one year assignment as his Special Envoy for Assistance to Pakistan on its expiry date, 26 September 2011. The Turkish Foreign Minister has informed me that I will serve as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. As I return to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, I look back on a year full of enriching experiences which I will keep in fond memory.

I have greatly appreciated the trust the Secretary-General bestowed upon me to serve as his Special Envoy at a time that Pakistan was facing one of the worst disasters this country has seen in its history. Pakistan, for me, is a second home. I tried my best to further develop the relations between the United Nations and Pakistan.

With this letter, I also want to express my sincerest appreciation for the support you personally have given me during my tenure as Special Envoy. I still remember the very first meeting we had in September 2010 and the valuable guidance you provided me. Your visits to Pakistan helped to raise the profile of the humanitarian situation in Pakistan and your leadership in the Inter Agency platforms at headquarters contributed to define humanitarian action in the aftermath of the unprecedented disaster. I also want to acknowledge the support of OCHA senior management. Assistant Secretary-General Mrs. Bragg chaired our donor conference in Geneva in March and the missions of the Director CRD New York and the Director OCHA Geneva brought forward valuable observations. I always knew I could rely on constructive contributions from our senior management.

Mrs. Valerie Amos  
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs  
and Emergency Relief Coordinator  
United Nations  
New York



Postal Address: P.O. Box 1051, Islamabad, Pakistan Tel : (92-51) 8355600 Fax: (92-51-2655014-15)

HRM/07/002 ; HRM/16/001

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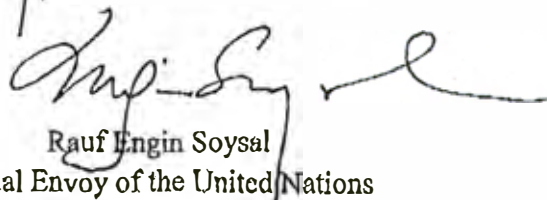
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Equally so, I benefited without fail from the valuable services of the OCHA team in Pakistan under the leadership of Mr. Manuel Bessler. Whether preparing for Islamabad based meetings or during missions to the field hubs- I could always count on the excellent support of the OCHA team. During the mission of the Director CRD New York, Mr. John Ging, to Islamabad in March, he mentioned that OCHA staff needs to fulfill "three C criteria", being: "to be competent, to be committed and to care". In my view the OCHA team stands out in all three areas as they contribute to the humanitarian agenda in Pakistan. I hope OCHA will remain committed to provide its much needed services in Pakistan.

Finally, your personal and early engagement to contribute to the establishment of my Office by seconding one of your staff, Ms. Carmen van Heese, must be underlined. Carmen has been a great asset for my work as Special Envoy. She has an extraordinary commitment to the humanitarian cause which made her a much respected and appreciated colleague among all, and made her a strong representative of my Office accordingly. She is also well appreciated by her Pakistani counterparts. When we discussed humanitarian challenges at stake, she provided me with valuable advice. She has all the skills to ensure good team work. I believe she deserves key positions in OCHA. I would like to suggest to you to kindly consider this assessment in her future career.

I will be in New York between 12 to 15 September. I am looking forward to exchange views on Pakistan for the future and personally express my gratitude for all support extended to me by OCHA in the past year.

*Yours sincerely,*



Rauf Engin Soysal  
Special Envoy of the United Nations  
Secretary-General for Assistance to Pakistan

CC: Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet, United Nations, New York  
Mr. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary General for Department of Political Affairs,  
United Nations, New York