



The Director-General

United Nations
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

H.E. Mr Carmel Shama Hacoen
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of
the State of Israel to UNESCO
Embassy of Israel
3 rue Rabelais
75008 Paris

15 JAN, 2016

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Dear Ambassador,

I thank you for your letter of 4 January, 2016, by which you bring to my attention the "Iranian Holocaust Cartoon Contest" that is planned to be held in June 2016, in Iran.

As you note, this forthcoming contest follows in the wake of the similar event that was planned to be held in April 2015, in Iran. As last year, I am deeply outraged by this contest, which makes a mockery of the darkest chapter in the history of humanity, soiling the values of respect, equality, tolerance and reconciliation that have never been so urgent. I believe this contest can only further serve to incite hatred, racism and discrimination. This goes against the objectives pursued by UNESCO, including to promote greater understanding and knowledge about the Holocaust, through education, through youth engagement, and by advancing new skills for dialogue and intercultural dialogue. I believe that all UNESCO action has never been so important than in these times of turbulence, as we face the rise of violent extremism and barbarous acts of hatred and anti-Semitism.

In this spirit, I condemn this contest with absolute conviction.

Rest assured that I have written to the Permanent Delegate of Iran to voice my deep concerns.

Thanking you again, I remain,

Respectfully

Yours sincerely,

Irina Bokova

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