



The Permanent Delegation of the
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UNESCO



The Permanent Delegation of the
State of Palestine to UNESCO

Paris, February 9th, 2021

Dear Madam Director-General,

We are writing to you concerning the continuous Israeli violations just a few meters away from the World Heritage site of the Old City of Jerusalem, inscribed on the World Heritage List upon the request of Jordan in 1981 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1982.

On November 30, 2020 the Israeli Occupying Power, started the demolishing of the historic stairway of Al-Yousifieh Islamic Cemetery that leads to the Al-Aqsa Mosque through (Bab Al-Asbat). (Please see pictures enclosed). On December 14, 2020 it continued the destruction of the walls of Al-Yousifieh, Islamic Cemetery located next to the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. Al-Yousifieh Cemetery is one of the oldest Muslim graveyards in occupied Palestine and one of Islamic endowed sites of the holy city.

The destruction of this cultural and religious property comes as part of the Israeli authorities' confiscation plans in East Jerusalem. These continuous violations are illegal under the 1954 Hague convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols as well as the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Madam Director General, we ask you to demand Israel, the Occupying Power, to stop such violations that harmfully affect the distinctive historic character of the City and to abide by the provisions of the above-mentioned UNESCO conventions. We also ask you to take all appropriate measures to preserve and safeguard the integrity and authenticity of the old city of Jerusalem and its surrounding.



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We kindly ask you to annex this letter and to reflect the above-mentioned violations in the appropriate working document of the Executive Board at its 211th session as well as in the appropriate working document of the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session and to annex this letter to both working documents.

Please accept, Madam Director General the assurances of our highest consideration.

Makram Queisi
Permanent Representative of Jordan

Elias Sanbar
Permanent Representative of Palestine

Cc: President of the General Conference
President of the Executive Board
Assistant Director General for Culture