

Feb 17, 2016

Ms Irina Bokova
Director General
UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75353 Paris 07 SP

Dear Ms Bokova,

In October 2015, China's nominations of the "Nanjing Massacre" (ID Code: 2014-50) and the "Comfort Women" (ID Code: 2014-49) to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Memory of the World Program (MOW) were evaluated. While the nomination of the "Comfort Women" was rejected, the "Nanjing Massacre" was inscribed to the MOW.

For the following reason, we petition for the "Nanjing Massacre" to be removed from the MOW register.

The Happiness Realization Party has submitted petitions to the UNESCO MOW on four occasions to show that the nomination of the "Nanjing Massacre" was academically lacking and also ran counter to the founding principles of UNESCO. With the support of over one hundred renowned co-signatories, the petitions were submitted to the UNESCO MOW headquarters in Paris. Furthermore, we have collected and submitted to the Japanese government in April 2015, 192,036 signatures within Japan to protest against China's nomination.

The inscription of the "Nanjing Massacre" has stirred significant consternation within Japan.

First, we ask that there be more transparency in the inscription process of the UNESCO MOW. At the moment, the assessment process undertaken by both the register subcommittee and the International Advisory Committee are not publicized. The public has no means of assessing who makes the final decision regarding inscription nor have access to the information upon which the decision was made. Furthermore, even after the final decision was made by the UNESCO Director General, no minutes regarding the details of the assessment process have been made public. We ask that all the information regarding the assessment process be made public as soon as possible.

In addition, as mentioned in the MOW reform proposal submitted in December 2015, we ask that relevant nations be given appropriate time to study and, if necessary, form a rebuttal against a nomination. At the moment, the nomination process is such that interested parties and nations may, without their knowledge, become objects of criticism due to the inscription of a particular nomination. Even if the interested party were to become aware of such a nomination, the details of the nominations are not made public, making any evaluation/investigation into the nomination difficult. We believe that a nomination process that does not allow a chance to form a rebuttal to be fundamentally unfair, and can lead to any nominator to submit a nomination for political ends.

Lastly, the UNESCO constitution upholds the ideal to “build peace within the minds of men and women”. While we pray that these ideals become reality, the Chinese nomination lacks authenticity, and is a fabrication of history. The decision made by UNESCO regarding the “Nanjing Massacre”, in the end, must be criticized for taking part in China’s anti-Japanese propaganda, and runs counter to UNESCO’s founding principles.

In order to ensure that MOW lives up to UNESCO’s ideals, we ask that our proposal calling for more transparency at UNESCO to be included in the final reform plan.

Yours faithfully,

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Ryoko Shaku
Happiness Realization Party
Party leader
