

Calling on Museum of Tolerance to Respect Muslim Cemetery

Whereas, the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center plans to construct a "Museum of Tolerance" on a Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem, thereby ignoring the pleas of Jewish rabbis, as well as Muslims and Christian leaders who, in the spirit of cooperation and respect for all peoples of faith, have kindly asked the center to relocate its new research facility and library elsewhere because this cemetery, once the largest Muslim cemetery in Palestine with approximately 15,000 graves, is of tremendous historical and archaeological significance, as well as a holy site for more than a billion Muslims worldwide; and

Whereas, in Ireland, the Irish long to protect their burial sites, specifically the grassy Hill of Tara, from highway construction that would dishonor Ireland's spiritual birthplace; in this country, in New York City, an African Burial Ground Monument on federal land preserves a site containing the remains of over 400 African slaves; and in California, Native American leaders of the Chumash want burial plots to remain as such, lest construction projects erase the memory of the people who once lived on the land and loved the earth; and

Whereas, building a "Museum of Tolerance" atop a cemetery in Jerusalem, unlike the admirable goal of furthering tolerance and understanding, will only add to the existing pain and suffering of Palestinians and Israelis, sowing the seeds of even more animosity and resentment.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party respectfully asks the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Museum of Tolerance's founder and Executive Director Rabbi Marvin Hier to relocate its "Museum of Tolerance" in Jerusalem to a site that will not disrespect other faiths and cultures or fan the flames of intolerance in the region, and also requests California legislators, who previously have budgeted millions of dollars for the Museum of Tolerance, to add their voices to a growing chorus calling on the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in the spirit of reconciliation and respect, to honor the Muslim graves in Jerusalem by relocating its new research center and library site; and

Therefore be it further resolved, this resolution, written to further peace and understanding, will be distributed by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party to all California state legislators; the Mayor of Los Angeles; LAUSD Superintendent and school board members, as well as members of the Board of Directors of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Museum of Tolerance .

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Passed by LACDP Resolution Committee 02/03/09