



Union Internationale de la Marionnette
Organisation Internationale non gouvernementale bénéficiant
du statut consultatif auprès de l'UNESCO fondée en 1929

To whom it may concern

Charleville Mézières, on July 4th, 2013

The recent cancellation of the children's puppet festival at the El-Khakawati theatre, the Palestine National Theatre in East Jerusalem, which has been running an annual children's festival for almost 18 years now, is a loss to the youth of East Jerusalem and artists in general.

Culture and the propagation of culture build bridges of understanding and hopefully peace amongst people and nations.

As adults we may not be able change our mindset.

However for children the experiences and value of culture both our own and of others cannot be underestimated, how else will they come about without an understanding of the other, without seeing what is positive and what isn't ...in their lives and for the future.

We quote from the preamble of UNIMA the world puppet organisations constitution, in the hope that we can all live and act by this ideal:

"UNIMA (Union Internationale de la Marionnette) is an international Non-Governmental Organisation bringing together people from around the world who contribute to the development of the art of puppetry, with the objective of using this art in the pursuit of human values such as peace and mutual understanding between peoples, regardless of race, political or religious convictions and differences in culture, in accordance with the respect of fundamental human rights, such as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations of December 10th, 1948".

We are aware that there are legal hurdles that are obstructing the festival, but banning a festival could lead to more animosity between peoples.

On the other hand letting it run would stimulate better understanding, thus promoting friendship and respect.

This is a question we all need to look into and reflect upon.

There are numerous sites and signature campaigns in support of this festival, We urge you to do what your consciences tells you to do, without any prejudice or malice to anyone.

The deputy mayor of Jerusalem has himself it seems said, that the action of stopping the festival only increases hatred and anger amongst the East Jerusalem public.

The incident unfortunately, will also reflect on the participation of the many talented and creative Israeli puppet artists performing in festivals the world over.

We urge the authority's concerned to look into the matter and resolve it with dialogue, trust and understanding.

We quote

"If we are to reach real peace in the world, we shall have to begin with the children."

"I offer you peace.

I offer you love.

I offer you friendship.

I see your beauty.

I hear your need.

I feel your feelings.

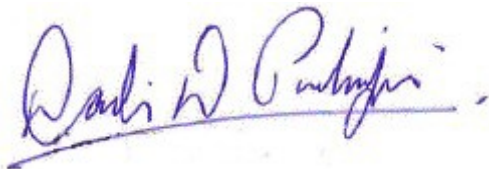
My wisdom flows from the highest Source.

I salute that Source in you.

Let us work together. For unity and peace."

Mahatma Gandhi

Dadi PUDUMJEE
President
of UNIMA



Jacques TRUDEAU
General Secretary
of UNIMA

