

Press Releases

Letter Denounces Wiesenthal Center for Building "Museum of Tolerance" on Muslim Cemetery

Planned Site for Jerusalem Museum of Tolerance

Go [HERE](#) to see the letter

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Washington, D.C. - Americans for Peace Now (APN) today sent a letter to the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Los Angeles-based Jewish human rights organization, urging it not to build its Jerusalem "Museum of Tolerance" and "Center for Human Dignity" on top of a historic Muslim cemetery. The letter, signed by Israeli and American political, cultural and security figures, calls the Wiesenthal center's insistence on building the Museum at the Mamilla site in Jerusalem "foolish," "divisive," and "dangerously wrong," and calls on the Wiesenthal Center to find an alternative location.

"In so stubbornly pursuing your right to build in this spot, you appear mindless of the insults you are heaping over Palestinians and Muslims, for whom Jerusalem is also home and whose cemetery should be respected as sacred ground," says letter that supporters of APN and its Israeli sister organization, Peace Now, sent to Rabbi Marvin Hier, the Wiesenthal Center's Dean. "You're wasting Israel's and the Jewish people's precious moral capital that we must draw on as Israel takes

risks in finding a settlement with the Palestinians and answering the threat posed by Iran," continues the letter, which APN organized.

The letter's signatories warn that pursuing the plan to build the museum at the Mamilla cemetery site is akin to lighting a match, which might ignite riots, with "fatal consequences."

"For supporters of Shalom Achshav and Americans for Peace Now, and for all of us who love Zion - including those of us who live in Zion - peace and security in Jerusalem is more important than any monument. Jerusalem's future depends on the ability of Jews, Muslims and Christians to coexist in this city," the letter says.

The letter's signatories are: US writers Michael Chabon, Ayelet Waldman and Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Israeli General (res.) Shlomo Gazit and strategist Yossi Alpher, Knesset Member Colette Avital and former MKs Tzali Reshef, Mossi Raz and Professor Naomi Chazan, U.S. Professors Michael Walzer and Franklin Fisher (who chairs APN's Board of Directors), Israeli professors Galia Golan and Menachem Klein, APN Board members Martin Bresler, Victor Kovner and Ambassador David Birenbaum, and APN President and CEO Debra DeLee.

Go [HERE](#) to see the letter and signatories. More background on the issue are available upon request.