



Joseph Sims Elementary School

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A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL



Unified School District

May 29, 2008

Director-General Koichiro Matsuura
UNESCO
2, United Nations Plaza, room 900
NY 10017 New York

Dear Director-General Matsuura,

It has been brought to my attention that in the country of Iran, religious minorities including Christians, Jews and in particular Baha'is, experience persecution in their schools. Most notably reports indicate that Baha'i students in primary and secondary schools are mistreated, harassed and subjected to cruel and unfair treatment by school administrators and teachers for no reason other than their religious affiliation. The children are secretly monitored by school officials and then reported on. False and outrageous tales about the Faith's teachings are taught by teachers to the children's fellow classmates. These children are then not allowed to correct these falsities and are often abused and expelled.

Iran is a signatory on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These reports are a clear violation and since these incidents of discrimination and persecution have been escalating in recent months, I would ask that these offenses be investigated vigorously. The Baha'is have had a long history of persecution in Iran. As an elementary school principal, I feel the children should be our first priority.

Regards,

Carlos Ramirez

Principal

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