

UNESCO Passes Pro-Palestinian Resolution Despite Tel Aviv's Complaints



Paris, October 27 (RHC)-- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has approved a motion that endorses the right of the Palestinians to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound and slams Israeli provocations around the holy site.

UNESCO's 21-member World Heritage Committee adopted the resolution in Wednesday's secret ballot at the agency's headquarters in Paris. Ten countries voted for, two against, eight abstained and one was absent in the voting.

The resolution expresses UNESCO's deep concerns over Israeli construction works and archaeological excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem. Saeb Erekat, the secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, welcomed the passage of the motion and accused the Tel Aviv regime of resorting to a campaign of distorting facts in a bid to legitimize its occupation of East Jerusalem.

"Through an orchestrated campaign, Israel has been using archaeological claims and distortion of facts as a way to legitimize the annexation of occupied East Jerusalem," Erekat said. He further noted that the UNESCO resolution urges "respecting the status quo of its religious sites, including the al-Aqsa Mosque

compound that continues to be threatened by the systematic incitement and provocative actions of the Israeli government and extremist Jewish groups.”

Earlier this month, UNESCO’s 58-member Executive Board approved a similar resolution, prompting a furious reaction from Israel as the regime suspended its ties with the agency.

Wednesday’s vote further infuriated Israel, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announcing that the regime’s ambassador to UNESCO, Carmel Shama-Hacohen, had been recalled for consultations.

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