

European Association for ICR Museum Support
P.O.B.10 09 05 • D-42809 Remscheid

**UNESCO Director General
Mrs. Irina Bokova
UNESCO Headquarters
7, Place de Fontenoy**

75352 Paris 07 SP France

P.O.B. 10 09 05
42809 Remscheid
Germany

F +49 2191 9129207
eurassim@outlook.com
www.eurassim.org

11.03.2017

1/2

Incident at Moscow International Centre of the Roerichs on 7th March, 2017

Dear Mrs. Bokova,

the European Association for the Support of the International Centre of the Roerichs and its Public Museum named after N.K. Roerich appeals to You with the hope to assist in the support of the Non-governmental Roerich Museum and the International Centre of the Roerichs (Moscow) in connection with the recent events of March, 7th, 2017. Law enforcement officers have seized part of the heritage of the Public Roerich Museum of the International Centre of the Roerichs, including paintings and drawings of Nicholas Roerich, as well as documents.

To our regret, the actions were carried out in violation of legal norms and citizens' rights, there were seized paintings and documents, which do not relate to any investigation. During the seizure of the cultural property, rules on safety and transportation of the cultural values were violated. The Museum donation documents were seized without leaving copies of the originals, in violation of the law; the paintings were sent to one of the state museums. Within short after the actions, ICR held a press conference, which can be followed with the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya3zcVH6evY>

The unique Non-Governmental Roerich Museum of the International Centre of the Roerichs, located in the Lopoukhins' estate in the centre of Moscow, is the one of the largest public museum and a unique center of culture not only in Russia, but also abroad. The basis for the collection of the Museum is the heritage of the Roerich family, handed over by Svetoslav Roerich, citizen of India, great artist and public figure, to a non-governmental organization according to his will. www.icr.su

For more than 25 years, tens of thousands of people, have participated in the creation of this unique centre of Russian culture: they preserved and replenished the collection, recreated the architectural ensemble of the Lopoukhins' estate from the ruins. The result is a wonderful public museum of world importance, an example of a public non-governmental form of culture. The Museum is the fourth in a row — after the State Hermitage, the State Russian Museum and State Tretyakov Gallery — that represented Russia in the international project "Best Museums in the World." The Peace project "The Roerich Pact. History and Modernity", dedicated to the idea of full protection of cultural heritage worldwide, raised a movement for the preservation of the historical memory of the people in the

European Association for ICR Museum Support

2/2

countries that hosted this exhibition. Exhibitions of the International project "The Roerich Pact. History and Modernity" took place in 120 cities of the Russian Federation, in 17 countries in Europe, America and Asia. Exhibitions held in major cultural centres have caused a wide social and cultural resonance.

In 26 years of its existence, the International Centre of the Roerichs and its Museum have become not only the largest but also the world's leading organization for the preservation, study and popularization of the Roerichs' heritage, which is based on humanistic ideas about the priority of Culture in human life.

Having visited the Museum in May, 2016, you, being the UNESCO Director-General, highly appreciated the activities of the public Roerich Museum. During the meeting, the ways of further cooperation between the UNESCO and the Roerich Museum in promoting the Roerich Pact and its fundamental principle of "Peace through Culture" had been outlined. <http://en.icr.su/news/index.php?news=3667>

The international Centre of the Roerichs by all its cultural and educational activities claims Culture as the basis of sustainable development of modern civilization. However, the events of March, 7th, 2017, related to the non-governmental Roerich Museum of the International Centre of the Roerichs are causing our anxiety and concern. <http://en.icr.su/news/index.php?news=5181>

As experts confirm, the conditions of storage of cultural values, their display in the non-governmental Roerich museum of the ICR correspond to the state norms of museum work and can serve as an example for many museums. It is difficult to find more appropriate conditions for the preservation of the paintings than in this non-governmental Roerich Museum of the ICR. The whole incident is evidence of the strangulation of the public form of culture, the desire to destroy the non-governmental museum.

We appeal to You, Mrs. Bokova, to take into account the events and to give Your assessment of what is happening around the Roerich Museum of the International Centre of the Roerichs. We ask You to assist and to prevent the destruction of the unique Museum, located in the Lopukhins' estate, according to the will of the donor – Svetoslav Nikolaevich Roerich.

Sincerely,



Elena Aleksandrova

Chairman
Coordination Council

European Association for the Support
of the ICR and its Public Museum
named after N.K. Roerich