



ŽIDOVSKA OPĆINA ZAGREB
הקהילה היהודית של זגרב

Israeli Embassy

H.E. Y. Amrani, Ambassador

Zagreb, May 25, 2010

Your Excellency,

Within the Jewish Film Festival opening held on May 23 we both witnessed the humiliating part of the event “dedicated to the noble people who saved Jews during the WWII”.

The organizers found appropriate to present some kind of acknowledgments to the people who saved the Jews during WWII.

Besides the fact that I was not able to understand why should some kind of film festival take the role of the State or The Jewish Community and why should anyone pay respect to just a few people among all who were awarded “The Righteous Among the Nations Award” in Croatia I was deeply shocked with the certificate presented to the Bulgarian Royal family.

The Royal Family of Bulgaria was responsible for the deportation and killing 11.434 Jews of Macedonia and Trace (Greece). In addition the Bulgarian Jewish Community does not even give them a credit for stopping the deportation of the Jews in Bulgaria in 1943.

Thus, in this case even the “Jewish” institution legitimates such award and contributes to all future attempts of minimizing the crimes against the Jews. This award was publicly recognized as “The Righteous Among the Nations Award” and such recognition could produce severe consequences in the future.

Unfortunately, the epithet “Jewish” given to the name of this festival strongly suggests the involvement of the Jewish Community or at least the Jewish spirit. Your involvement as a partner provides the convincing hinterland for the organizers and their wrongdoings.

Concerning all said before I regret the fact that the Embassy agreed to be a partner to the festival. Not only with this particular act but also with the fact that this festival advertises itself as Holocaust Education point. This feature of the festival diminishes all our efforts towards the establishment of proper Holocaust Education in the country. In the role of an official partner the integrity of The Embassy of The State of Israel in Croatia is being jeopardized.

I kindly ask you to do whatever you can to protect the interest of Jews in Croatia and to stop the organizers in their hasty and harmful acts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ognjen Kraus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ognjen Kraus, M.D.Ph.D.

President