



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

**MOTION
OF THE PARTICIPANTS
TO THE FIRST CULTURAL FORUM FOR IRAQ**

UNESCO, 26-27 MAY 2004

Noting that the Iraqi people have long suffered from the oppression and gross abuses of human rights;

Whereas many of these abuses have been closely associated with penitentiaries and other centres of repression constructed by Saddam Hussein's regime;

Whereas there is a widely felt need among many Iraqis to insure that their memories of torture and unjust imprisonment will not be erased from the historical record;

We, as participants in the First Cultural Forum for Iraq, gathered in Paris on the 26th and 27th of May 2004, under the aegis of UNESCO, are:

Persuaded that many buildings constructed by the former ba'athist regime – especially prisons, palaces and other edifices that were instrumental in acts of repression – should be preserved as historical monuments of remembrance;

Convinced that all decisions concerning the ultimate fate of Abu Ghraib Prison must be made by a duly constituted Iraqi authority;

Persuaded that the authority entrusted with these decisions should be a sovereign Iraqi government selected by the Iraqi people through national elections.

Paris, 27 May 2004