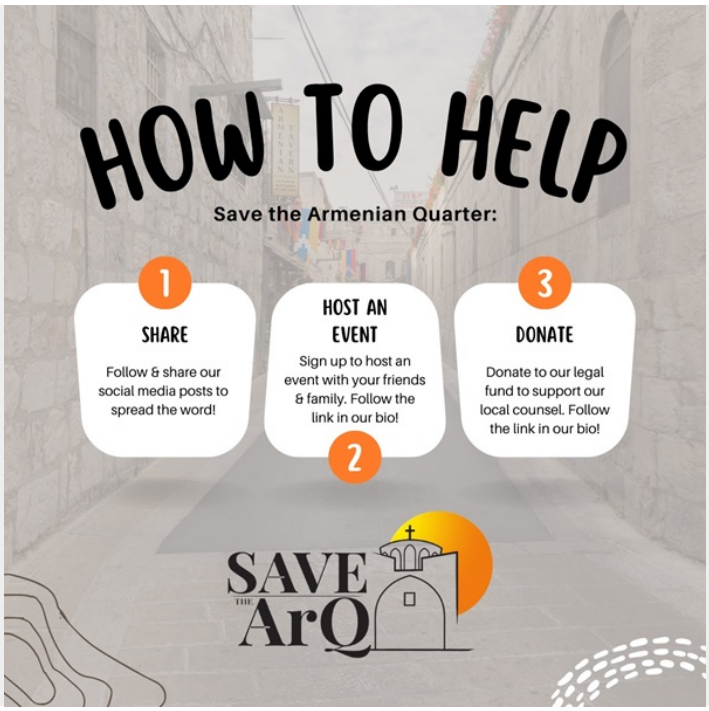
RICHARD A. MANOOGIAN'S OPEN LETTER IN SUPPORT OF JERUSALEM ARMENIANS

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Category: Opinions

RICHARD A. MANOOGIAN
[illegible]

June 26, 2024

OPEN LETTER OF SUPPORT

To the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the SaveTheArQ Movement:

I am writing to you today, not just as a concerned individual, but as someone who has been intimately connected with the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem through my father, Alex Manoogian.

The recent unsettling news regarding potential business deals impacting the Armenian Seminary and the Cow's Garden has prompted me to voice my deep concern. These deals cannot, and must not, move forward, as they are patently contradictory to the very purpose of our nation's collective efforts to maintain the Armenian character and identity of the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem.

I stand in firm solidarity with the SaveTheArQ Movement and the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem in their efforts to combat the forces seeking to compromise the integrity of the Armenian Quarter. Both the Armenian community and the Patriarchate have taken historic steps, on the ground and in the courts, and I commend and support these initiatives firmly.

I am especially grateful to the young Armenians who risk their lives and stand guard—each day and night for over 200 days now—at the Cow's Garden protecting our Armenian community's presence in one of the most important places in the world. While it pains me to learn of the repeated attacks they have endured while defending their land, I see in their dedicated defense the strength of an Armenian community who understands its unique moment in history and will protect its right to exist in Jerusalem, as it has done for centuries.

The Armenian Seminary, a beacon of faith and education funded by my father, stands as a testament to the enduring spirit and resilience of the Armenian people. It is more than just a building, it is a cradle of our heritage, faith, and future leaders. Likewise, the Cow's Garden is not merely a plot of land but a sanctuary that holds profound historical and cultural significance for our community. It is a piece of our collective soul, intertwined with the memories and the blood of our forebears. These sacred grounds have served as pillars of our community's identity and resilience; they are not commodities to be bartered but treasures to be safeguarded.

I express my unwavering support for the legal actions initiated by both the Armenian community and the Armenian Patriarchate, and I support the civic and diplomatic actions taken to protect these invaluable assets from being diminished by commercial interests. The Armenian Quarter, with its rich history and profound cultural importance, must be preserved intact for future generations. The encroachment of commercial interests threatens not only the physical space but the very essence of our Armenian Christian identity in Jerusalem.

I urge the Armenian Patriarchate and the Armenian community to stand firm and fearless in the face of these challenges. The Seminary my father funded and the cherished Cow's Garden must remain untainted by commercial endeavors, maintained solely for the purpose of strengthening our invaluable Armenian presence and purpose in the Old City of Jerusalem. These places are not merely assets but beacons of our Armenian identity and Christian faith, crucial for the continued strength and vitality of the Armenian community in Jerusalem and for the future and perseverance of Armenian Christianity itself.

The world knows the presence of the Armenian Church and people in the Holy Land, which has existed for centuries. Disturbing our centuries-old, continued presence will compromise and taint a historic legacy which has served as an integral part of Christianity in the Holy Land.

Let us remain united in our cause, steadfast in our resolve, and unwavering in our commitment to the legacy and future of the Armenian identity and our Christian faith in the Old City of Jerusalem. I urge all Armenians and all friends to stand with the Armenian Patriarchate and the SaveTheArQ Movement in this historic effort to preserve and protect our sacred soil and birthright.

With respect and solidarity,



Richard A. Manoogian

Comments



Sarkis R. – 2024-07-17 14:31:57
Kudos Mr Manoogian.