

To the kind attention of:
Presidente della Repubblica Italiana, Hon. Sergio Mattarella,
Corso Quirinale, 00124 Roma Italia
Director World Heritage Center UNESCO, Dr. Mechtild Rössler
7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris France

Subject: Request of sanction. Removal from charge of the Vice Mayor of Vicenza and annulment of the management duties of the UNESCO site. Notification of defamatory, unconstitutional behavior and of equivocal documents.

Vicenza, January 9th, 2017

«Dad, is it true that you're a criminal?».

To our children's eyes, we are criminals. We are criminals for having defended our city's cultural heritage and for calling upon UNESCO to intervene.

«Those who want for Vicenza to be withdrawn from UNESCO, to my eyes, are criminals» - asserted the Vice Mayor **Jacopo Bulgarini d'Elci** on December 21st, 2016. Sadly though, these are not just the 'personal' eyes of the Vice Mayor. Such words were proclaimed during an official, closed-doors, press conference meeting for the press and insiders during which the Municipality of Vicenza presented its reply to the results of the UNESCO-ICOMOS Technical Review. These words were then reported the next day by the press (Giornale di Vicenza and Corriere del Veneto), as «City out of Unesco. A criminal idea» - «Unesco, who calls to withdrawal is a criminal» - «Unesco, the Municipality's report. Who wants out is a criminal». From the press, these words then poured into the public opinion.

The intent of these very heavy words is clearly defamatory (art. 595 c.p., all requisites), otherwise they would have been proclaimed or should have been proclaimed in a completely different context. Not in an official setting. This is an unforgivable mistake, or rather an unforgivable act of arrogance.

That a Vice Mayor defines as criminals the citizens who follow and apply, literally, the UNESCO Convention during civil practice of their active citizenship (art. 9 e art. 21 c.i.), is an instance that cannot be overlooked and cannot go without receiving a heavy sanction by the democratic institutions that such Vice Mayor represents. Even just as a sign of respect towards the memory of eminent personalities of the Italian culture, such as **Mario Rigoni Stern**, first signee of the 2007 petition **Vicenza Fuori dall'UNESCO** if the Military Base Dal Molin were to be built; or as Prof. **Antonio Papisca**, influential jurist and founder of the Center for Human Rights at the University of Padova, but also recipient of the UNESCO professorship, and the first to expose, in 2008, the incompatibility between the new Military Base and UNESCO principles as well as many other unlawfulness aspects. The 'new' Military Base, which is by no means an 'enlargement' (!), violates regulations on all levels, from local (urban and environmental, see PAT and VIA), to national (constitutional, see art. 11 and art. 113 c.i.), and finally also international (bilateral agreements between the nations and UNESCO, art. 6, comma 3, of the 1972 Convention). The United States themselves, violate article 6 of the 1972 Convention which they countersigned.

It is for the above reasons that in 2007 it was invoked for Vicenza to be withdrawn from UNESCO, as an intelligent deterrent and provocative "de-compensation" (as opposed to Variati's "compensation" referred to in point 1.) to stop the construction of the Military Base. Today, ten years later, now that the harm has been done, we ask for the Municipality of Vicenza to be removed from the managerial duties of the Site, on the basis of its clear incompetence demonstrated during the period evaluated and because of its lack in initiating the UNESCO procedures requested in 2008, which would have protected the city. Therefore, none of us

are requesting for Vicenza to be withdrawn from UNESCO. Rather, we believe that UNESCO is our most precious civil strength, an irreplaceable and honest (“integerrima”) strength against continuous manipulations.

To this regard, I notify that the equivocal words pronounced by Jacopo Bulgarini d'Elci, prelude to hidden gaps and lies reported in the official documents of the submitted Municipality's Dossier, here summarized in three final points:

1. The Municipality claims to have promoted a popular consultation in 2008. The Municipality did not promote anything. It only provided the proper service due by law to the citizens who wanted to have the consultation, which was then blocked by the State and nullified with absolute blandishment from Mayor Variati. The Consultation was instead promoted by the same committees that two days prior, on October 3rd, 2008, had organized the Conference THE BASE OR UNESCO, and which today are accused as being criminals. Variati's administration tore away the previously granted sponsorship to such conference because it was putting light on the rising and appalling argument that could have prevented any plans for construction: **a military base 2 km long and 1500 meters from the historic center of the UNESCO city, world-wide symbol of urbanism and promoter of peace through cultural means, cannot be built**. Not by NATO, even less by U.S.A., for sure they would never allow it on their land. **Still today, in the mentioned Dossier, the construction is deliberately and shamefully equivocated as “enlargement”**. Enlargement of what, is a mystery. Of Caserma Ederle, at that time? Of the former Italian military airport, today? The former is not an enlargement. The latter is both an urbanistic and a legal farce. To confirm these repeated, false pretenses, Mayor Variati appeared “inconsolable” the day after the Consultation of 2008, which took place in spite of the State's opinion, burying under the sand a good 23thousand voices of Vicenza's citizens whom anyway went to the voting polls to say no. NO. Instead and infact, Mayor Variati declared that he could do nothing. For the first time he started to talk about “compensations”, which made the games of interest that politics had been carrying on over the years clearly perceivable. One name above all: Gianni Zonin, banker, manipulator of Confindustria (General Confederation of Italian Industry), first socioeconomic person in charge of the new Base and undisputed protagonist responsible for the city's moral decline. To find today that the Consultation was used and manipulated as a defense by the Vice Mayor is an insult to democracy.

2. The current Administration, as the previous one, is obliged to report to UNESCO the intention to proceed with works or interventions that may have an impact on the Site – this was never done. I underline: never. As reported in ICOMOS Technical Review dated January 15th, 2016: **“ICOMOS also regrets that no information was made available on these projects to the World Heritage Committee”**. None. Words of UNESCO. This unacceptable negligence has allowed, among other devastations, the construction of the eco-monster Borgo Berga, in the former Cotorossi area, now under an investigation of the court for multiple abuses.

3. It is unacceptable that the Dossier cites as a work reference of the Municipality the same company that, after having worked to make the citizens “swallow” one of the projects under evaluation of UNESCO, the HD/HC Railway Line Project, is now called to lead the Group working on the Heritage Impact Assessment. That is the company Sistema snc of Venice, which is **transforming itself from operator of consent into critic investigator**. In the three meetings to which we, called “criminals”, have participated, we remained astonished not only by this, but mainly by the incredible superficiality shown by the winning Group led by Sistema snc. During the last meeting, held on December 21st, 2016, the Group had to suspend its presentation on the progress of works performed to that point because of a strong perplexity generated throughout the audience present in Salone Civico of Villa Tacchi, after having proven serious documental lacunae and related deductions in the enclosures shown up to that moment.

Because of all of the above facts, which have led to the current situation of Vicenza, I am asking the President of the Italian Republic and the Director of the World Heritage Center UNESCO to open an **urgent discussion** with their parliamentary bodies regarding the legitimate request to remove Jacopo Bulgarini d'Elci from the charge of Vice Mayor and to withdraw from the Municipality of Vicenza the management duties of the property “City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto”, as by U4V petition in progress with MIBACT, addressed to the Hon. Dario Franceschini.

Confiding in your attention and in a prompt reply, I send you my very best regards,



Dr. Alberto Peruffo

Founder Member of Unesco for Vicenza | U4V

Creator of Motion Vicenza Out of UNESCO 2007-2010

Curator of Conference UNESCO 2008 «The Base or Unesco» for Consultation Table - Casa per la Pace

Curator of Gandhian Days for World March for Peace Vicenza 2009

c.c.

Giornale di Vicenza (editor)

Corriere del Veneto (editor)

Mayor of Vicenza, Achille Variati

Vice Mayor of Vicenza, Jacopo Bulgarini d'Elci

Hon. Dario Franceschini, MIBACT

Local and national press.

Attachment

Defamatory articles

Municipality Dossier Vicenza Riscontro ICOMOS-UNESCO delivered on December 21st, 2016

<http://195.31.128.25:55555/owncloud/s/w49FtPvn4HORCrD#pdfviewer>

Supplementary worksheets

<https://unesco4vicenza.org/base-dal-molin/>

<https://unesco4vicenza.org/>

Petition

<https://www.change.org/p/ministro-ministro-dei-beni-e-delle-attivit%C3%A0-culturali-e-del-turismo-on-dario-franceschini>