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**To whom it may concern**

**Re: "On the Banks of the Tigris"**

It gives me much pleasure to write in support of this documentary film project being undertaken by Ms Marsha Emerman and Mr Majid Shokor. I have seen the preview material for the film and am impressed and moved by it.

I believe that this film is likely to make a valuable contribution to peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. It focuses on the great wealth of culture in Iraq and, in times of war and conflict, reminds us of the important treasures of civilization which bind us all together.

The film emphasises that in the midst of all the bitterness generated by intense conflicts it is still possible to retain sight of the underlying, higher values which keep alive the possibility of hope, trust and peaceful cooperation. It shows how the ties created by music, art and other forms of culture can bring people together and provide a pathway for them to explore more constructive ways of resolving conflict. It shows how music and art can triumph over the bitterness and hatred sometimes fomented in the name of religion, nationalism and political differences.

The Global Reconciliation Network is an international alliance of individuals and organisations committed to reconciliation: that is, to fostering communication and dialogue across the boundaries of nationality, race, religion and politics. We are active in many countries around the world, including the those of the Middle East. We greatly value the contribution of Ms Emerman and Mr Shokor which we believe will contribute importantly to the work we and others are doing.

I am particular impressed by the quality of the work. I feel that the film could well become a benchmark for the use of art in the service of reconciliation. I feel that it is quite possible that it will strike a cord with audiences around the world, causing both pleasure and a sense of hope and confidence in the possibility of peace.

I commend the project to all who may consider becoming associated with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Komesaroff', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Paul Komesaroff MB, BS, BSc (Hons), MA, PhD, FRACP**  
Convener, Global Reconciliation Network  
Professor of Medicine  
Director, Monash Centre for Ethics in Medicine and Society