



## **P E T I T I O N**

To: Ms. Irina Bokova

Director-General of UNESCO  
7, place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris 07 SP - France

Created on March 4, 2010

RE: UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences

We the undersigned write to you with the hope that UNESCO will reconsider its decision to establish the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences, and abolish this award named for and funded by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea.

If ever there was a moment for UNESCO to advance its mission and help to promote education for all and communication in Equatorial Guinea, this is that moment. Thirty years after Mr. Obiang declared himself President of Equatorial Guinea and fifteen years since the discovery of oil in this small nation, which today stands as Sub-Saharan Africa's fourth largest oil producer with the consequent highest GDP per capita on the continent, the level of education in the country remains significantly below the standards achieved by countries in the region with considerably fewer resources at their disposal. According to a 2009 UNDP report, spending on education by Equatorial Guinea was the lowest of all countries listed during the period from 2000-2007.

Attendance at primary and secondary schools remains disturbingly low. Meanwhile, gross underfunding has led to the decrepit condition of Equatorial Guinea's education infrastructure. Less than 60% of Equatoguinean pupils finish primary school, and the latest UNESCO "Education for All Global Monitoring Report" report cites that while a long time gender gap in education has lessened somewhat, it is due to an overall decline in enrollment from 1999-2007, as fewer boys are enrolling in school, rather than any progress affecting girls. The single and recently established university that exists in the country is a sham: it lacks basic materials, a library, qualified personnel, and academic

independence. Students at all levels must do without books and basic educational resources essential for their advancement. Additionally, they complain of chronic teacher absenteeism because there is neither a sufficiently funded nor a coherent national education program.

National leaders who genuinely seek to advance research in the life sciences start by building education systems in their countries capable of producing future recipients of international awards. In contrast others, simply eager to have their public image polished, pretend to be global philanthropists by creating international awards that carry their names. We believe that the most perfunctory examination of President Obiang's record on human rights, including education, would make it clear that he is cynically attempting to use UNESCO as a vehicle for such manipulation. This makes a mockery of the noble values of your organization.

If UNESCO is to stay true to its mission and advance its commitment to education and human dignity for all, the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo prize must be abolished and that the \$3 million endowment from President Obiang be dedicated to schools inside the country that sorely need funding for the purchase of books, benches, and other such rudimentary educational materials for their students. We believe that such an allocation would be a more appropriate use of funds that could be of tangible benefit to young learners in Equatorial Guinea, who, like students throughout much of Africa, struggle and yearn for decent educational opportunities.

Petition available at: <http://www.gopetition.com/online/34452.html>

<b>Tina Abreu</b>	Angola
<b>Cesaltína Abreu</b>	Antarctica
<b>Laura Jara Suazo</b>	Argentina
<b>Andrés Claudio Mogni</b>	Argentina
<b>Izzy Taylor</b>	Argentina
<b>Miguel Angel Riofrio</b>	Argentina
<b>Joseph Robertson</b>	Australia
<b>Elisabeth Dreyfuss</b>	Belarus
<b>Laura Liebstaedter</b>	Belgium

<b>Lucia Martín Noya</b>	Belgium
<b>Arnold Sokwa</b>	Botswana
<b>John McAllister, Ph.D.</b>	Botswana
<b>Moses Kambou, Ph.D.</b>	Burkina Faso
<b>Sarah Hamilton</b>	Canada
<b>Agustin Ovono</b>	Canada
<b>Jasco Scott</b>	Canada
<b>Raymonde Martineau</b>	Canada
<b>David Kim-Cragg</b>	Canada
<b>Cory Moringstar</b>	Canada
<b>Lorraine McNeil</b>	Canada
<b>Anita Ndog</b>	China
<b>Raymundo Trasego Infante</b>	Colombia
<b>Michael Walters</b>	Denmark
<b>Wenceslao Mansogo Alo</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Andrés Esono Ondo</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Salomón Ondó Ela</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Vicente Mabale Ituka</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Daniel Esono Abaga</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Julian Roiche</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Catherine Obono Endaman</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Roberto Edjang Mbá Ada</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Beduka Iyanga Celedonio</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Ponciano Nso Mokuy</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Abaga Ada</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Nse Obiang Obono Gabriel</b>	Equatorial Guinea

<b>Jerónimo Moorman</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Ángel-Obama Obiang Eseng</b>	Equatorial Guinea
<b>Lacoste Gisele</b>	France
<b>Ibolo Kmobé Jose Manuel</b>	Gabon
<b>Veye Tatah</b>	Germany
<b>Daniel Bendix</b>	Germany
<b>Elena Mangia</b>	Italy
<b>Lorenzo Lamarche</b>	Italy
<b>Giuseppe Fei</b>	Italy
<b>Serena Belligoli</b>	Italy
<b>Colm Halley</b>	Kenya
<b>Undule Mwakasungula</b>	Malawi
<b>Angel Marcos Ekee</b>	Mexico
<b>Moises Vazquez</b>	Mexico
<b>Yolanda Hernandez</b>	Mexico
<b>Martin Quiroga</b>	Mexico
<b>Patrick Munyaneza</b>	Mozambique
<b>Xavier Bartroli</b>	Morocco
<b>Cory van den Brand</b>	Netherlands
<b>Hugo Hinfelaar, Ph.D.</b>	Netherlands
<b>Franssen Harry</b>	Netherlands
<b>Jan Spierings</b>	Netherlands
<b>Hendrick C. Hoeben, Ph.D.</b>	Netherlands
<b>Gerard Moorman</b>	Netherlands
<b>Olutosin Oladosu-Adebowale</b>	Nigeria
<b>Heidi Haugen</b>	Norway

<b>Ana Raqual Ferrão</b>	Portugal
<b>Mondongo Oyono Mifumu Ruperto</b>	Portugal
<b>Pedro Ela</b>	Romania
<b>Takawire Musavengana</b>	South Africa
<b>Jessie Lazar Knott</b>	South Africa
<b>Mandisa Mbali, Ph.D.</b>	South Africa
<b>Bethany Dawson</b>	South Africa
<b>Mixolisi Makinana</b>	South Africa
<b>Ivan Simmers</b>	South Africa
<b>Fermin Alogo Molongua</b>	Spain
<b>Mutu Nguema Damian</b>	Spain
<b>Gaspar Edu Anguesomo</b>	Spain
<b>Lucas Jorge Olo Fernandes</b>	Spain
<b>Antonio Forés Gascón</b>	Spain
<b>Nvo Zang Okenve</b>	Spain
<b>Imma Mata</b>	Spain
<b>Patrica García Amado</b>	Spain
<b>Ndong Nsué</b>	Spain
<b>Pedro Bueriberi</b>	Spain
<b>Miguel Menacho</b>	Spain
<b>Faraco Elena</b>	Spain
<b>Andres De la Peña Fdez, Ph.D.</b>	Spain
<b>Eduardo Bidaurratzaga</b>	Spain
<b>Dikens James Fernando</b>	Spain
<b>Laura Tiana Alvarez</b>	Spain
<b>Jose Alemany</b>	Spain

<b>Santiago Ortiz</b>	Spain
<b>Montoliu Torné</b>	Spain
<b>Remigio Mpá Sipaco</b>	Spain
<b>Victoria Janiero</b>	Spain
<b>Felipe Martinez</b>	Spain
<b>Marina Garcia Hidalgo</b>	Spain
<b>Ramón Soler</b>	Spain
<b>Christian Paris</b>	Spain
<b>Gema Sánchez</b>	Spain
<b>Baladia Santana Oieda</b>	Spain
<b>Maria Llama</b>	Spain
<b>Rosa Davies</b>	Spain
<b>Jose Luis Rodriguez Cuesta</b>	Spain
<b>Héctor Ayestarán</b>	Spain
<b>Fernando Rivero san José</b>	Spain
<b>Eduardo Strong-Erimo, Ph.D.</b>	Spain
<b>Irene Barrientos</b>	Spain
<b>Alicante Teodora</b>	Spain
<b>Alberto-Eson Ondo Obono</b>	Spain
<b>Adrián Docando</b>	Spain
<b>Damasco Evuy</b>	Spain
<b>Juanjo Calderón Salazar</b>	Spain
<b>Yolanda Abarca</b>	Spain
<b>Luis Costart</b>	Spain
<b>Clara Thomas</b>	Spain
<b>Amando Canitrot Perez</b>	Spain

<b>Carmen Rodriguez</b>	Spain
<b>Teresa Huete</b>	Spain
<b>Julio Freijido</b>	Spain
<b>Alvaro Garcia</b>	Spain
<b>Julio Puentes Agregán</b>	Spain
<b>Luis Maria Cifuentes</b>	Spain
<b>Xavier Torrado</b>	Spain
<b>Jorge Álvarez</b>	Spain
<b>Juan Suárez</b>	Spain
<b>Andrade Andres</b>	Spain
<b>Luis Escudero</b>	Spain
<b>Sergio Calvo</b>	Spain
<b>Nancy Lozano-Hoyos</b>	Spain
<b>Teresa Feliu</b>	Spain
<b>Rosario Mazuela</b>	Spain
<b>Maite Muñoz</b>	Spain
<b>Mercedes López López</b>	Spain
<b>Miquel Esquerra</b>	Spain
<b>Rita Baumann</b>	Spain
<b>Teresa Lopez Delgado</b>	Spain
<b>Cristina MacViegh Martinez de Lecea</b>	Spain
<b>Alejandro Pozo</b>	Spain
<b>Coro Jimenez-Arellano, Ph.D.</b>	Spain
<b>Maria Dolores Rodriguez</b>	Spain
<b>Irene Martin</b>	Spain
<b>Pilar Felipe Martinez</b>	Spain

<b>Elena Roncal</b>	Spain
<b>Jaime Pastor</b>	Spain
<b>Jose Julio Martín-Sacristan Nuñez</b>	Spain
<b>Rose De Lera</b>	Spain
<b>Josep Maria Royo Aspa</b>	Spain
<b>Severo-Matías Moto Nsa</b>	Spain
<b>Itziar Ruiz-Gimenez</b>	Spain
<b>Teresa Tejero</b>	Spain
<b>Angel Sanchez</b>	Spain
<b>Elena Crego</b>	Spain
<b>Carmela Caballero</b>	Spain
<b>Xavier Bartroli</b>	Spain
<b>Rafael Martínez</b>	Spain
<b>Eduardo González</b>	Spain
<b>Marla Cañadas</b>	Spain
<b>Dorys Ardila</b>	Spain
<b>Asier Tapia Gutierrez</b>	Spain
<b>Manuel Sobrino</b>	Spain
<b>Carmen Felipe</b>	Spain
<b>Oye Ngono Gregorio</b>	Spain
<b>Joseph Garcia Roldán</b>	Spain
<b>Socorro Thomas Andre</b>	Spain
<b>Ignacio Sánchez</b>	Spain
<b>Fernando Ollero Butler, Ph.D.</b>	Spain
<b>Silvia Companyó</b>	Spain
<b>Deniz Kellecioglu</b>	Sweden



<b>Ulf Halldin</b>	Sweden
<b>Michael Madikenya</b>	Tanzania
<b>Nathan Makuregye J G</b>	Uganda
<b>Barnaba Otaala, Ph.D.</b>	Uganda
<b>Kimbowa Richard</b>	Uganda
<b>David Kato</b>	Uganda
<b>Kieron Hardie</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Adam Groves</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Barbara Murray</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Andrew Sutherland</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Karen M.</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Hannah McNeil</b>	United Kingdom
<b>M. Rodriguez Masela</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Miguel Obama</b>	United States
<b>Alberto Begue, Ph.D.</b>	United States
<b>Antonio Ntutum-Obono</b>	United States
<b>Simon Maria Nsue Mokuy</b>	United States
<b>Santiago Ecu Mba</b>	United States
<b>Adam Martin</b>	United States
<b>Manuel Obsa Mba</b>	United States
<b>Talina Angue</b>	United States
<b>Beduka Iyanga Celedonio</b>	United States
<b>Carlos Mba-Ndong</b>	United States
<b>Angel Elo-Ndong</b>	United States
<b>Isabel Obono Ndong</b>	United States
<b>Felipe Ndong Ecuada</b>	United States

<b>Enrique R. Mitogo</b>	United States
<b>Edrie Irvine</b>	United States
<b>David Raskino</b>	United States
<b>Worbah Zubah</b>	United States
<b>Mohammed Kromah</b>	United States
<b>Sang Kromah</b>	United States
<b>Margret Kromah, Ph.D.</b>	United States
<b>Georgetta Porompyae</b>	United States
<b>Jordan Porompyae</b>	United States
<b>Hilarie Urinkuru</b>	United States
<b>Yoseph Petros</b>	United States
<b>Melvin Lawrence</b>	United States
<b>Steven Fake</b>	United States
<b>Bryant Galindo</b>	United States
<b>Harry Massele</b>	United States
<b>John David</b>	United States
<b>Theresa Oates</b>	United States
<b>Guido Nuñez-Mujica</b>	Venezuela
<b>Egon Goldenberg</b>	Venezuela
<b>Vivienne Kernohan</b>	Zimbabwe
<b>Frances Lovemore, Ph.D.</b>	Zimbabwe