



PRESS RELEASE 11/30/10

RE: Alarm at ongoing desecration of Romanian mass grave

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Our office has received with shock and disbelief the news that authorities in Romania seem determined to continue with the disturbance of a Holocaust era Jewish mass grave at Popricani, near Iasi, Romania, as soon as news of the “scientific” investigations to establish the cause of death of the victims and the identity of the perpetrators’ became known a few weeks ago, Inquiries were made by Jewish organizations abroad as well as by Romanian Chief Rabbi Menachem Hacoheh, calling for desecration of Holocaust graves to cease immediately.

The Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Europe issued a strongly worded statement in London on Tuesday saying that this was the first time ever that a national government is openly declaring its intention to proceed in the disturbance of the graves of Holocaust victims, A Committee spokesman said that if this is being done in an effort to challenge reports of Romanian collaboration with the Nazis, it will in fact have the opposite effect, only harming Romania’s standing among nations. The Committee appeals for an immediate end to excavations and investigations at the site and for the swift reburial of all human remains in accordance with Jewish law.

A statement calling for an end to the investigations in Popericani has also been issued by the Conference of European Rabbis,

We are saying to the Romanian Government that this painful disregard for the respect due to Jewish graves, and especially for the victims of Nazi inhumanity, is totally unacceptable to all decent human beings!!