

MAGNUS-HIRSCHFELD-GESELLSCHAFT E.V.

FORSCHUNGSSTELLE ZUR GESCHICHTE
DER SEXUALWISSENSCHAFT

MAGNUS-HIRSCHFELD-GESELLSCHAFT E.V. • CHODOWIECKISTR. 41 • D-10405 BERLIN

Mr. Uri Lupulianski
Mayor of Jerusalem
City Hall
Jerusalem, Israel
Fax 00972-2-629 6014

November 10, 2004

Your Excellency!

Recently, we were informed about the suggestion to name a street in Jerusalem after Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, the famous German sex researcher (1868-1935) who died in exile in Nice, France. We strongly support this project to honour Hirschfeld in Jerusalem.

As a student, Hirschfeld took part in discussions with Max Nordau in Paris. Though not a Zionist himself, he took great interest in the experiment to create a new Jewish society and a state. He visited Mandate Palestine at the end of his trip around the world in 1931. A very sympathetic account of this experience can be found in his book "Weltreise eines Sexualforschers" (Bözberg 1933; English titles. "Women East and West", London 1935; "Men and Women. The World Journey of a Sexologist", New York 1935)

As you know, Hirschfeld could not return to Germany from this trip, but had to stay in exile. His Berlin Institute for Sexual Science was destroyed by the Nazis in 1933; its library and its collections are lost forever. In his very last book, titled "Racism", he tried to fight Nazi ideology.

The Magnus Hirschfeld Society collects remaining works and strives to preserve the memory of Magnus Hirschfeld. We contributed to a section in the Berlin Jewish Museum which honours him, and did the same for an exhibition at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

We are very willing to help with further information if needed.

Please keep us informed about the decision of the City Council's Street Names Committee.
Respectfully yours,

Ralf Dose M.A.

cc: Mr. Sa'ar-Ran Nathaniel
Member of the City Council
4 Safra Square
91007 Jerusalem, Israel
Fax +972-2-629 6659