
21 December 2006

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the U.N.
335 East 45th Street
New York, New York 10017

**Joint Letter on the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General
on the Prevention of Genocide (SAPG)**

Mr. Secretary-General:

We are writing to you to encourage you to renew and strengthen the mandate of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide (SAPG). The continued collective failure of the international community to prevent incidence of massive crimes against humanity and genocide, compel us to recommend the continuance of this vital initiative to prevent genocide.

As you are aware, the SAPG was officially appointed by the Secretary-General, in a letter dated 12 July 2004, addressed to the president of the Security Council.

Additionally, at the 2005 World Summit, heads of state and government expressed their commitment to the prevention of genocide by endorsing the mission of the SAPG. In paragraph 140, under the heading **Responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity**, member states declared that they “fully support the mission of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide.”

You will be aware that the Secretary-General appointed an Advisory Committee on the prevention of genocide earlier this year. The Advisory Committee prepared and submitted a report with recommendations to the Secretary-General in early November. It is our understanding that this report, which was circulated internally, has received comments from the Department of Political Affairs and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We also know that the Advisory Committee, making a number of important recommendations, which at this point are not public, has strongly endorsed the continuation of the Office of the SAPG.



Mr. Secretary-General,

If the United Nations under your leadership is to finally be able to prevent genocides, major reforms and initiatives are required. The challenging task of moving this agenda forward is now in your hands. The following NGOs hope that one of your earliest acts will be the renewal of the mandate of the Office of the SAPG. We urge you to consider the wide range of recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on improving and strengthening this Office.

Sincerely,

Deva Kaur Khalsa, *Representative to the United Nations, 3HO Foundation*

Eric Joyce MP, *Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Great Lakes Region of Africa*

Ruth Messinger, *President, American Jewish World Service*

Yvonne Terlingen, *AI Representative at the United Nations, Amnesty International*

Bani Dugal, *Principle Representative, Baha'i International Community*

Sheri Rosenberg, *Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law*

Andrea Bartoli, *Director, Center for International Conflict Resolution – Columbia University*

Don Kraus, *Executive Vice President, Citizens for Global Solutions*

Kumi Naidoo, *Secretary General, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation*

Abdelbagi Jibril, *Executive Director, Darfur Relief and Documentation Centre (DRDC)*

Rene Wadlow, *Representative to the United Nations, Geneva Association for World Education & Association of World Citizens*

Mark Hanis, *Executive Director, Genocide Intervention Network*

Kevin Clements, *Chair, Global Action to Prevent War*

John Packer, *Coordinator, Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy, Human Rights Internet (HRI)*



Maureen Byrnes, *Executive Director, Human Rights First*

Kenneth Roth, *Executive Director, Human Rights Watch*

Mary-Ann Alho, *National Coordinator, Human Trafficking Advocacy Initiative SA*

Paul van Zyl, *Executive Vice-President, The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)*

Simia Ahmadi, *Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)*

Nicholas Howen, *Secretary General, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)*

Brigitte Polonovski, *Permanent Representative to the United Nations, International Council of Women (ICW-CIF)*

Donald Steinberg, *Vice President for Multilateral Affairs, International Crisis Group*

Roswitha Ginglas-Poulet, *International Inner Wheel*

Atsuko Tanaka-Fox, *Representative to the United Nations Geneva, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)*

Chris Sidoti, *Director, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)*

Vivian Stromberg, *Executive Director, MADRE*

Mark Lattimer, *Executive Director, Minority Rights Group International (MRG)*

Poppy Sebag-Montefiore, *Chair, Never Again International*

Mamadou Ndiaye, *General Director, L'Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération (OFADEC)*


James A. Goldston, *Executive Director, Open Society Justice Initiative*

Nicola Reindorp, *Head of the New York Office, OXFAM International*

Trevor Griffiths, *Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, Pax Christi International*

Robert Callard, *UN Representative, Quaker United Nations Office*

Kenneth H. Bacon, *President, Refugees International*



David Rubenstein, *Executive Director, Save Darfur Coalition*

Prof. Dr. Laurent Goetschel & Dr. Heinz Krummenacher, *Swisspeace*

Philip Grant, *President, Track Impunity Always (TRIAL)*

Mia Adjali, *Director, United Methodist Office for the United Nations*

Richard Konteh, *Executive Director, West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOF)*

William R. Pace, *Executive Director, World Federalist Movement- Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP)*