
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,

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

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

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

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

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

Maureen Byrnes, *Executive Director, Human Rights First*

Kenneth Roth, *Executive Director, Human Rights Watch*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kenneth H. Bacon, *President, Refugees International*

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

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