
13 February 2007

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
United Nations, Room S-3800
New York, NY 1001 7

TRANSMISSION NOTE:


Mr. Secretary-General:

Please find attached a joint NGO letter outlining our support for the continuation and strengthening of the post of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide (SAPG). This letter resulted from recent NGO meeting convened in New York, Geneva and London.

This letter, which was originally transmitted to you on 21 December 2006, was signed by 18 NGOs. Over the course of the last weeks, support for the letter has grown to include 40 signatories representing international, regional and national civil society organizations.

In addition to the attached letter, we would like to emphasize the following points which have subsequently been raised in consultations with many of the signatories:

- We are gratified to receive reports that you are committed to the renewal of the SAPG position and we have been told that you favor upgrading the post to full-time stature. These were two of the important recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to the Secretary-General on Prevention of Genocide in a report transmitted to you at the end of last year.
- We are also aware that you might be considering combining the mandate of the SAPG with the mandate of another office. Whether one seeks to combine the SAPG post with another human rights position, or with the mandate of another Special Representative, all civil society groups who have been consulted strongly oppose this merging of posts. The concern of the NGOs was that both mandates would be weakened not strengthened.

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- Additionally, all groups consulted encourage you to establish a policy of greater transparency and consultation in the process of making this and other high-level appointments; including publicizing qualifications, short-lists of candidates and a time frame within which interested governments or NGOs could provide comments. This is one of the important improvements made under the previous administration which should be continued.
 - Finally, we encourage you to consider making public the report and recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Most United Nations high-level panel findings are generally made public, in all or part. We realize and support that a Secretary-General does not agree with all recommendations but we strongly believe that wider discussion of the Advisory Committee report and recommendations could strengthen the role of the SAPG.

Sincerely



William R. Pace
Executive Director
World Federalist Movement-
Institute for Global Policy



Mark Lattimer
Executive Director
Minority Rights Group International