

NGO "I"

Note to Mr. Guéhenno

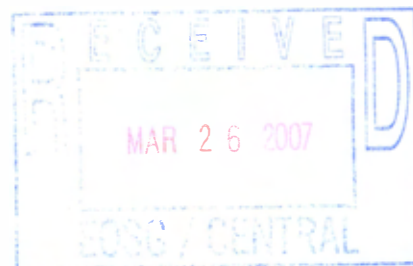
Letter from the American Council for Voluntary International Action

1. Please find attached a letter dated 5 March 2007 from the President and CEO of the American Council for Voluntary International Action on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings.
2. We would be grateful for DPKO's views together with a proposed draft reply for the Secretary-General's consideration. If a reply on behalf of the Secretary-General is deemed preferable, please let us know.



Vijay Nambiar
13 March 2007

cc. Mr. Kim



27-03984

CdC		SG	
For SG's approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's attention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noted	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For SG's signature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date	12.03.2007	Date	
Comment (if applicable):			
7h check with OPRD			

202 667 8236

InterAction.
American Council for Voluntary International Action

March 5, 2007

President & CEO
Samuel A. Worthington

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Save the Children

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International Youth Foundation
Yolanda Richardson, *CEDPA*
Leonard Rubenstein,
Physicians for Human Rights
George Rupp,
International Rescue Committee
John Schultz, *Christian Children's Fund*
Richard Stearns, *World Vision*

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Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon
760 United Nations Plaza,
New York City, NY 10017
USA

Secretary-General Ban:

It is with great pleasure that I write on behalf of InterAction, the largest U.S. alliance of international humanitarian and development nongovernmental organizations, to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations and to share our hope for your leadership on the issue of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in humanitarian settings.

The December 2006 High Level Conference on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and Non-UN Personnel was an important milestone in a process that has evolved over a number of years, to acknowledge instances of exploitation by UN and Non-UN staff. We applaud the UN's efforts to develop a clear policy to end the culture of impunity, meet the needs of victims, and prevent further occurrences.

From our perspective, we view the appointment by your predecessor of H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, the Secretary-General's Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, as a key step in ensuring that discussions about sexual exploitation and abuse received the attention and leadership which it deserves.

In his role as special adviser, Prince Zeid Ra-ad Zeid Al-Hussein was instrumental in identifying and helping to realize a number of concrete reforms to establish and implement a comprehensive strategy to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel. However, as we are all aware, the work of the UN and the humanitarian community on this issue leaves us with many challenges to address.

Abuses continue to be reported and the needs of the victims of abuse as well as their children remain a central unresolved issue. We urge you to take up the subject of sexual exploitation and abuse as part of your mandate as Secretary General, appointing a new special advisor on sexual exploitation and abuse responsible

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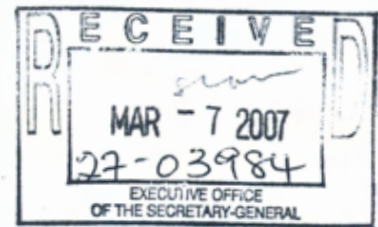
InterAction is a membership association of US private voluntary organizations engaged in international humanitarian efforts including relief, development, refugee assistance, environment, population, public policy, and global education.

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13 March



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for continuing the vital work initiated by Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein. We would expect this position to carry forward the message of the Secretary General's Bulletin, *Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse* (ST/SGB/2003/13), ensuring that discussion of these issues includes UN civilian and military personnel.

We believe the person appointed as special advisor on sexual exploitation and abuse must have the ability to work across various agencies, have knowledge and passion for the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse, be experienced with the issue and the UN agencies and their mandates, have the ability to build consensus, and have the authority to advocate for increased attention to sexual exploitation and abuse.

As a community of NGOs, we have firmly committed to ensuring our own appropriate conduct. CEOs of all 165 members of InterAction certify annually that they are in compliance with our standards, which include the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Core Principles on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. In addition, a number of our members have signed the Statement of Commitment on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and Non-UN Personnel, introduced by the UN in December 2006.

I look forward to working closely with you in the follow-up on the December 2006 High Level Conference on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse within the context of a strong UN and NGO partnership.

Sincerely,



Samuel A. Worthington
President and CEO

Cc: Jean-Marie Guehenno
Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, DPKO

Ambassador Alejandro Wolff
Acting Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations

Ann M. Veneman
Executive Director, UNICEF