

NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(through Ms. Malcorra)



DPI Weekly Press Review

This week's press review examines coverage of the arrest of former General Assembly president John Ashe and others over allegations of corruption and bribery related to his time at the United Nations, and of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in light of an upsurge in violence in the region.

Ashe's arrest led to a string of negative headlines, with the press stressing his links to the UN and journalists questioning both the levels of transparency and accountability within the Organization, and the nature of the UN's relationship with private foundations.

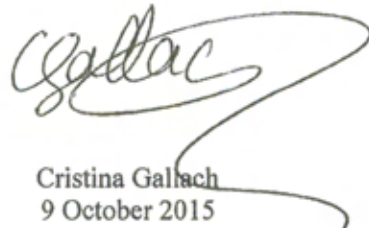
Your strong initial remarks, coupled with your order yesterday for an audit of the UN's financial relations with two foundations involved in the investigation, will help reinforce that the UN views the allegations extremely seriously.

As United States authorities continue their investigation, this story has the potential to generate more damaging headlines and to have a significant reputational impact. It is therefore important that the UN be as proactive and forthright as possible in communicating its response.

Turning to the Middle East, observers are increasingly warning that a third Palestinian intifada looms – if it has not started already. While your comments deploring the violence were widely reported, most commentators were sceptical of the ability of the international community, including the UN, to revive any meaningful peace process.

Meanwhile, the UN's main Twitter account surpassed a major milestone this week: five million followers. UN social media platforms, across all official languages, are closely covering your current trip to Latin America and have started sharing content related to UN70 celebrations later this month.

Thank you.



Cristina Galhach  
9 October 2015

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General / Mr. Feltman / Mr. Khare / Mr. Kim / Mr. Ladsous / Mr. O'Brien / Ms. Mohammed / Mr. Amdur / Mr. Dujarric

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