

Against this background, the Secretary-General will also maintain his unequivocal position, reiterated several times in recent weeks and months, including in his remarks on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, that he unreservedly condemns rocket fire and other attacks against civilian targets. The Secretary-General will continue to call for an end to such attacks and for full respect by all parties of the calm that has been in effect since 19 June 2008.

However, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, he must also express deep concern for the suffering of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip. The Secretary-General will continue to call on Israel to allow sufficient and predictable supplies to reach the population, to ensure access for humanitarian workers, and to facilitate stalled UN projects. The Secretary-General will emphasise in this respect that measures which increase the hardship and suffering of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip as a whole are unacceptable and should cease immediately. All parties have to abide by international legal provisions.

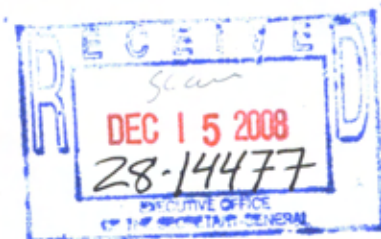
These positions should be seen as an expression of the Secretary-General's most natural concern for the security, safety and well-being of civilians, irrespective of their nationality or loyalties. I wish to assure you that these will remain the guiding principles of the Secretary-General's interventions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Nambiar', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vijay Nambiar  
Chef de Cabinet

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December 10, 2008

His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
405 East 42nd Street, Room S-3800  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon:

Every year the United Nations is stained by its annual International Day of Solidarity. A biased and one-sided event that demonstrates the many deficiencies of this otherwise important world body.

I know you to be a man of great thought and balance, and thus want to express my personal disappointment in comments made by UN officials, and most especially those of the General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann. As President of the General Assembly, Brockmann should not have broken protocol and participated in the conference in the first place. His past public embrace of Ahmadinejad coupled with his statements calling for an international boycott of Israel and comparing its actions to the "highest policy of apartheid," do little to help the cause of the Palestinian people or the United Nations.

One-sided comments and actions such as these, which ignore the many wrongs done to the Israeli people as well as the many injustices carried out in other parts of the Middle East, distract everyone from real matters of importance while removing any credibility of the United Nations as a balanced partner. Instead, the organization comes across as one that mourns the creation of the State of Israel, and is paralyzed from carrying out any decisive actions against pressing issues such as Iran's nuclear development or the genocide in Darfur.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman  
American Jewish Congress  
Council for World Jewry