

→ Central

NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(through Mr. Nambiar)

DPI Weekly Press Review

As this week's Press Review notes, the response by the international community - and by the United Nations in particular - to the events in Libya was a major preoccupation for the media over the past week. For the UN, the results appear to add up to a case of "mixed reviews" during a week of rapidly changing developments.

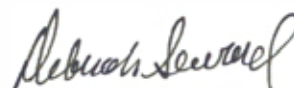
For most of the week, the generic "UN" continued to come under fire for what was widely seen as the lack of a coherent stance and meaningful action. Most of that type of criticism, however, was aimed at two bodies - the Security Council and the Human Rights Council. While it's too early to tell, one can anticipate a change in tenor in the reporting on these two bodies in the light of actions in the respective Councils earlier today.

Your clear and strong statements have received wide and predominantly favourable coverage, as has the seriously debated subject of a responsibility to protect. Your "outspoken" stance was recognized even by those critics who felt that your words were unlikely to yield substantive results. And your decision to cut your visit to Los Angeles short was quickly picked up in reports highlighting your continuing engagement, although your presence there prompted sardonic remarks from some journalists. While the situation in the region at present is highly volatile, you may wish to consider at some stage delivering a message of support directly to the peoples in the countries facing unrest.

The second segment of the review looks at the coverage of your visit to Los Angeles, which generated some media interest in an array of mainstream papers, as well as in special interest outlets. On the positive side, the coverage highlighted your strong commitment to the issue of climate change and your desire to reach out to the creative community. Several authors felt that closer ties between filmmakers and the UN was a worthy idea that could yield useful results. On the other hand, the UN's association with Hollywood led to expected criticism of the trip as a purely public relations exercise aimed at burnishing the UN's image.

Thank you.

Press Review: Kept by S.G.



Deborah Seward
Officer-in-Charge
Department of Public Information
25 February 2011

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General/Mr. Pascoe/Mr. Kim/Mr. Orr /Mr. Haysom/Mr. Meyer/Mr. Nesirky

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