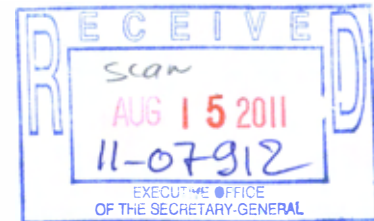


email

**ACTION
COPY**

O'Brien (fx)
Pasare (fx)
H.R. (fx)

CENTRAL



**An Open Letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the
Fight Against Corruption in India**
and
**In Support of Implementing the UN Convention Against
Corruption in India**

New York, NY
August 15, 2011

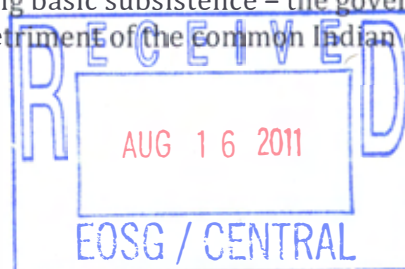
Dear Secretary General Ban Ki-moon,

I am writing this to you as a humble teacher and as an American citizen (of Indian origin) who is witnessing gross violation of basic human rights by the present Government of India which has been overtly involved in destroying efforts by upright and incorruptible individuals in India who want to bring into effect strong and effective anti-corruption legislation in India which closely matches the spirit and is in line with the UN Convention Against Corruption.

It is commonly known that India is beset with corruption (political and bureaucratic at all levels) and this has been the primary driver of wide-scale poverty in that country. The corrupt politicians, several of who have been members of the present cabinet do not want the passage of an effective law. Were corruption be reduced in India through effective legal mechanisms, the poor can benefit from better allocation of resources and live in freedom from fear of the corrupt and realize their natural potential.

It is astonishing that while India calls itself as the largest democracy in the world, several of its parliamentarians have disturbing criminal records, including accusations of murder. The intent of this Indian government is clear from its recent proposal that whistleblowers be incarcerated for 2 years for unproven complaints, while corrupt officials and politicians (upon being proven corrupt) may only be incarcerated for 6 months at the most. This, amongst other things proposed by this government is in direct contradiction of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

Corruption in India is materially detrimental to UN's objectives (and especially to the Vision for the UN that you have articulated) because it works against Millennium Development Goals of the UN, increases poverty, saps inclusive growth, misallocates limited resources, increases social inequalities, sows seeds of social chaos and deters the poor (especially women and children) from achieving basic subsistence – the government of India profoundly encourages corruption to the detriment of the common Indian citizen.



LEG/03/007

Above all, the right to peaceful and non-violent protest against corrupt governance in a democratic society is a critically important UN value. This Indian government and some of its cabinet members are willfully involved in denying Mr. Anna Hazare and his supporters their right to pursue a non-violent civil disobedience movement against this infrastructure of corruption in India. The Prime Minister of India, in spite of his portrayed wisdom in international forums, stands a mute and incompetent observer as these fundamental human rights of decent ordinary citizens are being violated.

As you deeply care about values of freedom and democratic protest around the world, I along with many other Indian Americans and friends of India around the world, urge you to urgently raise this matter with the Indian Prime Minister and India's representative at the UN. How can India be considered for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council when its government so blatantly violates fundamental democratic and human rights and basic norms of probity as are required under the UN Charter and Conventions?

Starting on August 16th, 2011 Mr. Anna Hazare and people across India should be allowed unfettered access to a place of assembly to pursue civil disobedience in a non-violent and peaceful way across India, wherever and as long as they wish.

The Secretary General is requested to pro-actively ensure that the Government of India does not unleash violence on these non-violent democratic protests by common citizens of India and to ensure that these upright citizens are allowed free and unfettered right to protest against corruption which in turn is a fight to implement the UN Convention Against Corruption in India in a way that is meaningful and improves the human condition for the poorest of the poor in India.

Yesterday, cabinet ministers in the government of India and Congress party representative went on a spree to malign honest individuals fighting for UN values. As of this morning, New York time, people fighting for laws that are in line with the UN Convention Against Corruption have been denied their request for a place for peaceful assembly to protest and fast for effective Anti-Corruption legislation in India. Why is the fundamental right to peaceful assembly and non-violent freedom of expression being denied in a country that is supposed to have a democratic constitution?

In this critical hour, please stand with these upright people led by Anna Hazare as they have nationwide support from common citizens for implementing the UN Convention Against Corruption. Please take up this matter with the government of India at senior levels.

Manish Srivastava
Adjunct Assistant Professor
New York University
New York, NY
Email: ms6640@nyu.edu
P: +1.917.650.7900