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United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

Dear Mr. Holmes, *Tolson*

Please find attached, for your information, a joint letter from the National Chairman and National Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) addressed to the Secretary-General, with regard to your comments during your recent trip to Israel and the Gaza Strip.

*N. Haysom*

Nicholas Haysom  
21 February 2008

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C [redacted] NH

February 20, 2008

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
United Nations Secretary-General  
United Nations Secretariat  
New York, NY 10017

Via Fax: 212-963-4879

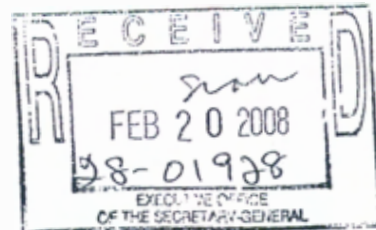
Dear Mr. Secretary General:

We are writing to express our concern over comments made by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, during his recent trip to Israel and the Gaza Strip.

We appreciate that Mr. Holmes made this important trip and took the time to meet with leaders of the Sderot community to learn more about the hardships they are facing. Yet, we were deeply troubled by Mr. Holmes' equating the clear-cut security situation in Sderot with the more complex humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

The near-hourly rocket attacks on Sderot are part of a campaign by Hamas to sow terror among Israeli civilians. After years of these indiscriminate strikes, the population of Sderot lives in daily fear of being caught unprotected by a rocket attack. This fear has led to great stress and despair in Sderot, particularly among children. The solution to this situation lies firmly in the hands of Hamas who can simply decide to end the rocket attacks. Only once this campaign of terror ends will the people of Sderot and the Israeli south be able to resume their lives.

The situation in Gaza is very complex. The people of Gaza live in difficult conditions. These hardships however, are not as, Mr. Holmes implied, due to the restrictions Israel places on Gaza's borders. Gaza's isolation is the result of the actions of Hamas, which refuses to acknowledge Israel's right to exist, is committed to the destruction of the Jewish state and advocates and engages in terrorism against Israeli civilians.

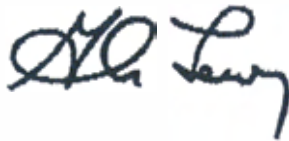


February 20, 2008  
His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
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The international community, through the Quartet, has made it very clear that should Hamas meet its basic conditions, which include renouncing terrorism, this isolation will end. This policy by Israel and the international community does not preclude the passage of medical supplies and humanitarian relief.

Thus, the onus is on Hamas to improve the situation on the ground for the people of Gaza, as well as for the people of Sderot.

Sincerely,



Glen S. Lewy  
National Chairman

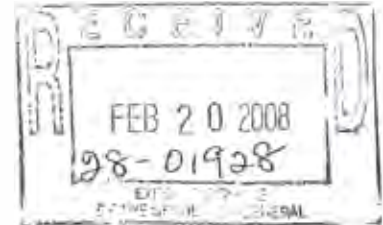


Abraham H. Foxman  
National Director

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### TRANSMISSION MEMORANDUM

#### THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS FOR:

**Name:** His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
United Nations Secretary-General

**Fax No.:** 212-963-4879

**From:** Glen S. Lewy, National Chairman,  
and Abraham H. Foxman, National Director

This transmission memorandum plus 2 page(s).

**Date:** 2/20/08

**Time:**

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#### MESSAGE:

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please convey the attached letter from Glen S. Lewy, National Chairman, and Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, to His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Judith Heistein".

Judith Heistein  
International Affairs Analyst

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