

UNITED NATIONS



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*American Jewish Cttee  
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

19 February 2009

Dear Mr. Goodkind,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I thank you for your letter of 24 December 2008, co-signed by Mr. Felice D. Gaer, Director of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, inviting him to address the meeting of the Board of the Institute scheduled for 28 January 2009.

As initially communicated to your Office, the Secretary-General could not attend the 28 January meeting and the possibility of an alternate date was being explored for the course of February 2009. Unfortunately, I must inform you now that the demands on the Secretary-General's schedule will not allow for his participation in the meeting of the Board of the Institute, for now. Therefore, he would take a future opportunity to address the Board. I would be grateful if you could convey this response to Mr. Gaer.

With thanks for your kind understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Vijay Nambiar  
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. E. Robert Goodkind  
Chair  
The Jacob Blaustein Institute  
for the Advancement of  
Human Rights  
New York

*28-15004*

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Administrative Council

E. Robert Goodkind  
Chair

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Marion Bergman

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Harold Tanner

Daniel Terris

Felice D. Gaer

Director

Selma Hirsch

Special Consultant

H.E. Ban Ki Moon  
Secretary General  
The United Nations  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017  
BY FAX: 212.963.2155

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

We are writing to congratulate you on your inspiring remarks on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to invite you to address our Board. Your statements in support for human rights defenders – both individual experts and members of non-governmental organizations – offer hope and protection to those struggling in difficult, sometimes dangerous, circumstances to bring rights and dignity into the lives of others.

We would be honored if you would address the Board of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights ("JBI"). JBI has been very active in the human rights field and within the Jewish community in support of the United Nations. Indeed, one of our core purposes is and has been to strengthen U.N. human rights mechanisms and norms. Jacob Blaustein, in whose memory our Institute was created, first called for the creation of a High Commissioner for Human Rights, and our institute was one of the most active in support of its creation in 1993.

We actively offer suggestions calling for constructive US engagement in the UN's human rights bodies and now, with a new US administration about to arrive in Washington, and a new High Commissioner for Human Rights selected by you in Geneva, we would welcome the opportunity to hear from you directly as to your view of the importance of these issues.

Our board meets biannually and consists of 29 persons based in different cities. They would be eager to hear directly from you about the UN's important work in this field.

We hope it will be possible to arrange such an opportunity.

A JBI board meeting is scheduled for later in January (January 28), but should you be available at another point during January or February, we would gladly accommodate your schedule. We can be reached at [gaerf@ajc.org](mailto:gaerf@ajc.org) and [ergoodkind@pryorcashman.com](mailto:ergoodkind@pryorcashman.com) or by phone at 212-891-1314.

Thanking you in advance, once again, we remain,

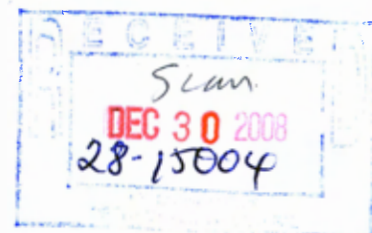
Very sincerely yours,



American  
Jewish  
Committee

E. Robert Goodkind  
Chair

Felice D. Gaer  
Director



12128911460



The Jacob Blaustein Institute  
for the Advancement of Human Rights



THE JACOB BLAUSTEIN BUILDING  
165 EAST 56<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

**FROM:** Felice D. Gaer  
**TO:** UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon  
**DATE:** December 29, 2008  
**FAX:** 212.963.2155  
**# OF PAGES:** 2 (including cover sheet)

**MESSAGE**

Please deliver to Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. If there are any questions please contact Felice Gaer at 212.891.1314 or fax 212.891.1460.

Thank you



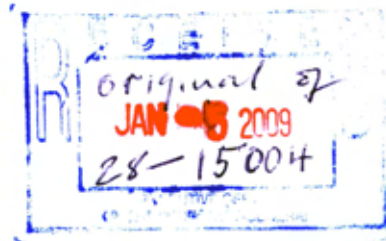
The Jacob Blaustein Institute  
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Selma Hirsh  
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American Jewish Cttee



December 24, 2008

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Secretary General  
The United Nations  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017  
BY FAX: 212.963.2155

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JAN - 7 2009