

June 22, 2015

Mr. BAN Ki-moon
The Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

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Dear Secretary General Ban Ki-moon:

My sister, Nicole Valenta, was among the members of the U.N. family who lost their lives in the earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010. The pain of her loss has remained unchanged and will stay with my parents and me for the rest of our lives. The U.N. has done much to commemorate those lost in the earthquake and we are deeply grateful for all its efforts.

It took my parents and me more than five years to move beyond just grievance and realize that my sister would not have wanted her life and career with the U.N. to be overshadowed by the tragic circumstances of her passing. If anything, she would have wanted her and her colleagues' lives to serve as an example of the richness, fulfillment and meaning a service with the U.N. can entail. She would have wanted us to talk about her and her colleagues' time in Geneva, in New York City and in the field and, in looking at her and her colleagues' lives, she would have wanted young generations to be intrigued by a career with the U.N., not be discouraged.

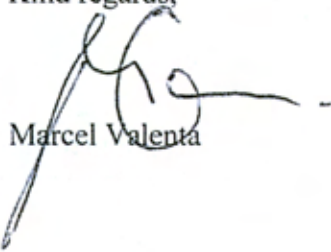
To that end, my parents and I recently donated fifteen paintings my sister had collected in Haiti to the Arizona State University's New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. We chose to donate the artworks to the New College because of the school's interdisciplinary approach to education and its accessibility to students of all backgrounds. The New College, in our view, helps students develop the versatility and open-mindedness necessary to succeed in an environment as diverse as the U.N.'s. Philosophically, the U.N. and the New College have a lot in common and if my sister's life could serve as even the slightest inspiration for an international career for any of the New College graduates, it would have made her incredibly happy.

But my parents and I alone cannot have as much of an impact and create something of permanence as the U.N. could. We therefore would like your help and kindly ask you to dedicate a person on your team to explore with me and representatives of the New College how a bridge between the U.N. and the New College could be built. Many possibilities come to mind: a U.N./MINUSTAH-sponsored chair for international relations could be created at the New College, internship opportunities at the U.N. could be made available for top-ranking New College students or we could create a permanent exhibition at the New College about life and service at the U.N.

The Arizona State University and its President, Michael Crow, as well as the New College and its Dean, Vice Provost Marlene Tromp, have been remarkably supportive of my efforts. Five years after a devastating tragedy for the U.N. and many personally, including my parents and me, we have an opportunity to create a legacy for those who lost their lives on January 12, 2010 that

goes beyond commemoration by encouraging students to follow into their footsteps and pursuing careers in international service. It would be magnificent if you as well, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, would support these efforts.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MV', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marcel Valenta