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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO 12TH UN CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Salvador, Brazil, 12 April 2010**

08/04/10

*Delivered by Mr. John Sandage, Officer-in-Charge, Division for Treaty Affairs,
UN Office on Drugs and Crime*

Organized crime poses a threat to international peace and security like never before. It is a major impediment to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. And it inflicts grave harm on the vulnerable, people and countries alike – such as women, children and migrants, and societies suffering weak governance or mired in underdevelopment and conflict.

Ten years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and at a time of growing concern about the dark side of globalization, the world looks to this Congress to provide a better understanding of the state of crime, and to strengthen the criminal justice response.

Sharpening our legal weapons is a must. I urge all States to ratify and implement the Palermo Convention and its three Protocols, and to establish a mechanism to review implementation – as was done last year at Doha for the UN Convention against Corruption.

I also urge you to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation. This must be more than an inter-governmental process; it should involve civil society, the media, the private sector, criminal justice experts, social scientists, and local and regional authorities. We are all affected by crime; therefore we have a shared responsibility to act.

Finally I urge you to be more innovative. When it comes to emerging threats such as cyber-crime, environmental crime and counterfeiting, we must stay one step ahead of the criminals. We must also be more effective in stopping the money flows enabled by corruption and money-laundering.


The United Nations, for its part, is taking a “one UN” approach by bringing crime prevention into the mainstream of our work, particularly in conflict prevention, peace-keeping and peace-building. Crime is also increasingly on the agenda of the Security Council. We are stressing the need for human rights to be at the forefront of efforts to prevent and punish crime. And we are focusing not just what we are against – crime – but what we are *for*: justice and the rule of law.

Thank you for your commitment to this effort. I look forward to continuing to work with you to reduce vulnerability to the global threat posed by crime, and to improve security and justice for all.

10-06968



Sandar Hla/NY/UNO
08/04/2010 04:05 PM

To: Walter KEMP/VIENNA/UNO@UNOV
cc: Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ
bcc:
Subject: Secretary-General's message to the UN Congress on Crime
Preventions and Criminal Justice 

Dear Walter,

We are pleased to send you the Secretary-General's message to the UN Congress on Crime
Preventions and Criminal Justice, to be delivered by Mr. John Sandage.

Best regards,

Sandar



crimecongress12april2010.doc

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Richard Amdur/NY/UNO

Richard Amdur/NY/UNO
01/04/2010 11:58 AM

To: Sandar Hla/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc:
Subject: Fw: SG's message for Brazil

Walter KEMP

----- Original Message -----

From:
Sent: 04/01/2010 04:25 PM CEDT
To: Richard Amdur; Ruxandra Ferascu
Subject: SG's message for Brazil

Colleagues,

Just wanted to check if you received the draft of a possible message from the SG for the UN Crime
Congress in Brazil.

Happy Easter!

Walter

[attachment "SG Brazil.doc" deleted by Sandar Hla/NY/UNO]

Walter
KEMP/VIENNA/UNO@UNOV
30/03/2010 03:21 AM

To Richard Amdur/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Ruxandra
Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc Dimitri VLASSIS/VIENNA/UNO@UNOV, Simone
Monasebian/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Gemma
NORMAN/VIENNA/UNO@UNOV, Maher
bcc
Subject SG's message to the UN Crime Prevention Congress

Hello Richard and Ruxandra,

Every five years, the UN holds a Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. This year it will take place in Salvador, Brazil from 12-19 April.

It is the custom that the Secretary-General sends a message to the Congress (which is circulated and read out on his behalf).

Being pro-active (and in the interests of time) we have prepared a draft. I hope you can do your usual magic.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Walter



SG Brazil.doc

Dear Participants,

Organized crime poses a threat to international peace and security like never before. It is also a major impediment to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. The fact that the issue has been on the agenda of the Security Council several times during the past year shows the seriousness of the threat, and the determination of Member States to counter-act it.

Therefore, this Congress has an importance far beyond those that have preceded it. Ten years after the adoption of the United Nations (Palermo) Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and at a time of growing concern about the dark side of globalization, the world looks to this Congress in Salvador, Brazil to provide a better understanding of the state of crime and to strengthen the criminal justice response.

In particular, I urge you to focus on preventing crime from hurting vulnerable individuals (women, children, migrants) and regions at risk due to under development, weak governance or conflict.

We will only be successful in preventing crime and delivering justice if we sharpen our legal weapons. We must always focus on what we are *for* – justice and the rule of law – not just what we are *against* (crime). I therefore urge all States to ratify and implement the Palermo Convention and its three Protocols, and to establish a mechanism to review implementation – as was done last year at Doha for the UN Convention against Corruption. Furthermore, human rights must always be at the forefront of efforts to prevent and punish crime.

In a globalized world faced with transnational threats, States have no choice but to work together. We are all affected by crime. Therefore we have a shared responsibility to act. At the United Nations, we are taking a “one UN” approach to crime control by bringing crime prevention into the mainstream of the organization’s work, particularly in conflict prevention, peace-keeping and peace-building.

I urge you to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation to prevent crime and strengthen justice. This must be more than an inter-governmental process: it should involve all those affected including civil society, the media, the private sector, criminal justice experts, social scientists, and local and regional authorities – like the broad spectrum participants at this Congress.

I urge you to be more innovative in order to be one step ahead of the criminals, especially in dealing with emerging threats like cyber-crime, environmental crime, and counterfeiting. We must also be more effective in cutting off the oxygen of crime, by stopping the money flows enabled by corruption and money-laundering.

There can be no security or development without justice. Please use this Twelfth UN Crime Prevention Congress to reduce vulnerability to the global threat posed by crime, and to improve security and justice for all.

Twelfth Crime Congress to be held in Brazil in 2010



10 September 2009 - The Government of Brazil will host the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Salvador, from 12 to 19 April 2010. Pre-Congress consultations will take place on 11 April 2010.

The theme for the Twelfth Congress will be "Comprehensive strategies for global challenges: crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world".

Crime congresses have been held every five years since 1955 in different parts of the world and have contributed to shaping international and domestic policies and promoting novel thinking and approaches to complex issues at the heart of one of the key institutions of the modern state: the criminal justice system.

The Twelfth Crime Congress will bring together the largest and most diverse gathering of policymakers and practitioners in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as parliamentarians, individual experts from academia and representatives of civil society and the media.

The Twelfth Crime Congress, which marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, offers a unique opportunity to stimulate in-depth discussion and proposals for action along three principal avenues by:

- Establishing firmly the criminal justice system as a central pillar in the rule-of-law architecture;
- Highlighting the pivotal role of the criminal justice system in development;
- Emphasizing the need for a holistic approach to criminal justice system reform to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice systems in dealing with crime

The provisional agenda for the Twelfth Congress shows that special attention will be paid to: children, youth and crime; smuggling of migrants; trafficking in persons; money-laundering; and cybercrime.

As is the practice, participants in the Twelfth Congress will adopt a declaration containing recommendations based on deliberations held during the high-level segment, the round tables and the workshops, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its nineteenth session, in 2010.

Four regional preparatory meetings have been held (in Latin America and the Caribbean, West Asia, Asia and the Pacific and Africa), providing a platform from which to discuss the issues that will be

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raised at the Twelfth Congress from a regional perspective. At the regional preparatory meetings, participants highlighted special problems and concerns, as well as successful experiences and promising approaches to addressing them.