



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

22 May 2013

Dear Members of Congress,

I wish to thank you for your joint letter of 29 April 2013 regarding the remarks about the Boston Marathon attack by Mr. Richard Falk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

Let me first recall that after the Boston Marathon bombing, I immediately condemned the attack and stated that nothing could justify such actions. My Spokesperson also made a statement on my behalf rejecting the comments of Mr. Falk.

As you may know, Special Rapporteurs are appointed by the Member States of the Human Rights Council in Geneva as independent experts, not by the Secretary-General. I am hopeful that Special Rapporteurs such as Mr. Falk understand that, while they maintain an independent status, their public comments can undermine the credibility and the work of the United Nations.

Please rest assured of my commitment and that of the United Nations Secretariat to uphold the highest standard of integrity and respect for human rights everywhere in the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki Moon Ban".

BAN/Ki-moon

Members of the Congress  
of the United States  
Washington, D.C.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

22 May 2013

Dear Chairman Menendez,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 26 April 2013 regarding the remarks about the Boston Marathon attack by Mr. Richard Falk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

As you recall in your letter, my Spokesperson made a statement on my behalf rejecting the comments of Mr. Falk. I would also like to restate my position. I immediately condemned the attack and stated that nothing could justify such actions.

As you may know, Special Rapporteurs are appointed by the Member States of the Human Rights Council in Geneva as independent experts, not by the Secretary-General. I am hopeful that Special Rapporteurs such as Mr. Falk understand that, while they maintain an independent status, their public comments can undermine the credibility and the work of the United Nations.

Please rest assured of my commitment and that of the United Nations Secretariat to uphold the highest standard of integrity and respect for human rights everywhere in the world.

Yours sincerely,

  
BAN Ki-moon

The Honourable Robert Menendez  
Chairman of the Committee  
on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

22 May 2013

Dear Congressman Roskam,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 30 April 2013 regarding the remarks about the Boston Marathon attack by Mr. Richard Falk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

After the Boston Marathon bombing, I immediately condemned the attack and stated that nothing could justify such actions. As you recall in your letter, my Spokesperson also made a statement on my behalf rejecting the comments of Mr. Falk.

As you may know, Special Rapporteurs are appointed by the Member States of the Human Rights Council in Geneva as independent experts, not by the Secretary-General. I am hopeful that Special Rapporteurs such as Mr. Falk understand that, while they maintain an independent status, their public comments can undermine the credibility and the work of the United Nations.

Please rest assured of my commitment and that of the United Nations Secretariat to uphold the highest standard of integrity and respect for human rights everywhere in the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name "BAN Ki-moon" is printed in a standard font.

BAN Ki-moon

The Honourable Peter J. Roskam  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.


### 3 Letters for SG's signature

#### Re: Special Rapporteur Richard Falk's comments on Boston bombing

1. Members of the Congress of the United States.
2. The Honorable Robert Menendez, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate.
3. The Honorable Peter J. Roskam, Member of the Congress of the United States, United States House of Representatives.

Drafter: DPA

Proofread by: AG/MZ

Approved by: 

Date: 22 May 2013

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