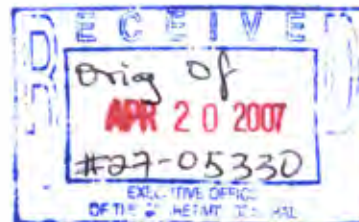




Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The President of the Swiss Confederation

Switzerland



Berne, 4 April 2007

Contribution to the book "Regards sur les droits humains – Focus on Human Rights"

Dear Secretary-General,

On 19 June 2006, the Human Rights Council opened the first session of its existence. To mark this historic event and to promote the significance of this important reform of the United Nations system to a wide public, last year Switzerland organised among other things a photographic exhibition on the theme of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The exhibition was a great success and showed the extent to which there is still a great need to promote awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the world through varied and innovative means.

With this in mind, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has decided to publish in the near future a book entitled "Regards sur les droits humains – Focus on Human Rights". It will present the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in a new light, and it will both prolong the original exhibition and make it accessible to a much wider public.

The book's 160 large-format pages will contain 80 high-definition black-and-white photographs by the Swiss photographer, Luc Chessex, the photographer of most of the images shown in the exhibition in Geneva last year. These excellent photographs will not only provide illustrations to accompany the main foundation document of human rights but also the personal thoughts of some prominent people active in promoting and protecting human rights in the world. In this way, the various perspectives presented in "Focus on Human Rights" will be captured both in texts and images. To promote the truly universal message of the Declaration, I have invited the Swiss writer Adolf Muschg, winner of many literary prizes, to contribute a short essay. The book will also contain some accounts of human rights violations told by the victims, who will remain anonymous. In addition, it will present by graphic means the many different languages in which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been translated – to date more than 365. The text of the Declaration will also appear at the end of the book in the six official languages of the United Nations. The book itself is written in English and French.

It is an honour for me to ask you to contribute a personal reflection on human rights to this book. Each contribution will be accompanied by a short biographical note about its author and one of Luc Chessex's photographs. Please find enclosed an example of Chessex's photographs together with a list of the people I have invited to contribute to the book. The preface will be signed by me. Contributions between 2,000 and 2,500 characters (with spaces) in length together with a brief biographical note of a few sentences only should be written in English or French. I would be most grateful to receive your contribution by 15 May 2007.

His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Building
New York



I would like to add that with this book Switzerland also aims to highlight the Human Rights Council and its mandate to promote and implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Publication is planned to coincide with the Global Compact Leaders Summit, which will take place on 5-6 July 2007 in Geneva.

I very much hope that you will accept this invitation to participate in the making of this book, whose ultimate purpose is to add moral authority to current efforts to promote human rights throughout the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Micheline Calmy-Rey.

Micheline Calmy-Rey

Enclosures

- list of contributors
- one photograph

Publication of the book
“Regards sur les droits humains – Focus on Human Rights”

List of contributors

Preface: Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation

Reflections on human rights

- Adolf Muschg, Swiss writer
- Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the 61st General Assembly of the United Nations
- Luis Alfonso de Alba, President of the Human Rights Council
- Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Rigoberta Menchú Tum, winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize
- Jimmy Carter, winner of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize
- Shirin Ebadi, winner of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize
- Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize
- Mohammad Yunus, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize

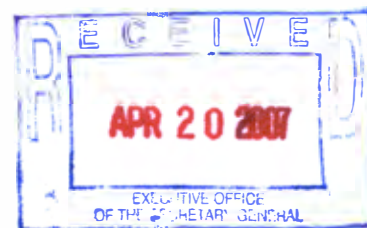


Luc Chesse



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations



61-07/714.1-11.0

La Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès des Nations Unies présente ses compliments au Secrétariat des Nations Unies et a l'honneur de lui transmettre, en annexe, l'original d'un pli destiné à Son Excellence Monsieur Ban Ki-moon, émanant de la Présidente de la Confédération Suisse Mme Micheline Calmy-Rey.

La Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès des Nations Unies saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Secrétariat des Nations Unies les assurances de sa très haute considération. &

New York, le 19 avril 2007



Au Secrétariat
de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

New York

