

Amnesty International
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United Nations Nations Unies
**Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and
Advancement of Women**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
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10 April 2008

Dear Ms. Brown,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter dated 26 February 2008, welcoming the launch of the United Nations System-wide Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls.

Violence against women, in its many different forms and manifestations, causes untold misery, cutting short women's lives and leaving countless women living in pain and fear in every country in the world. Such violence stops women from fulfilling their potential, restricts economic growth and undermines development.

Violence against women is neither unchanging nor inevitable. It could be radically reduced and ultimately eliminated. Violence against women must be given greater priority at all levels. Ad hoc and isolated efforts must be stepped up into a comprehensive, systematic and long term approach. This is one of the major objectives of the Campaign.

Civil society, in particular NGOs active in human rights and gender equality work like Amnesty International, are invited to play an important role in the Campaign. Systematic and sustained support from the NGO community should enhance regional, national and local efforts. Partnerships between Governments, Parliaments, civil society, regional organizations and United Nations entities are necessary for achieving sustainability and results.

With regard to a new and strengthened gender architecture, the Secretary-General agrees with the suggestion of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence to replace several current gender specific structures with one dynamic United Nations entity focused on gender equality and women's empowerment. I am pleased to inform you that the General Assembly has agreed to give priority to consideration of the report of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the areas of development,

Ms. Widney Brown
Senior Director
International Law, Policy and Campaigns
Amnesty International

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humanitarian assistance and the environment, as well as proposals on the gender architecture. Its informal consultations on the system-wide coherence resumed on 28 March 2008.

The Secretary-General welcomes Amnesty International's support both for the United Nations work in the promotion and protection of human rights and in particular the rights of women. We look forward to our continued close collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Mayanja
Assistant Secretary-General
Special Adviser on Gender Issues and
Advancement of Women

in log: Ms. Mayanja replied
on SG's behalf

→ central

Amnesty International

Stefania Piffanelli/NY/UNO

28/02/2008 10:01 AM

To Andrei Abramov/NY/UNO@UNHQ

cc Rachel Mayanja/NY/UNO@UNHQ

bcc

Subject Amnesty Intl - letter to SG

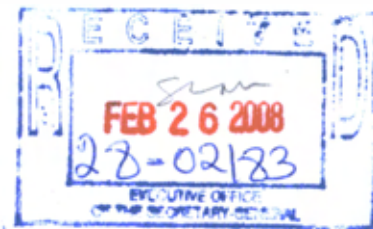
Dear Andrei, very grateful if your office could prepare if appropriate a draft acknowledgement letter.

Many thanks, stefania



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Ref.: UN/NYtr/023/08

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Room S-3800
United Nations
New York

ACTION D89 (w. brochure)
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25 February 2008

Dear Secretary-General,

Amnesty International welcomes your decision to launch today the United Nations' system-wide campaign for the elimination of violence against women and girls through 2015, the target date to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We are encouraged to hear that you are spearheading this campaign as your leadership is essential for its success //

Violence against women is a major concern of our organization. Amnesty International worked for the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and since then for its effective implementation. We therefore particularly welcome the recommendation in your October report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict that comprehensive information on sexual violence be included in all reports to the Security Council on peacekeeping and other missions. We also support your recommendation, repeated today, that the Security Council should establish a dedicated mechanism to monitor violence against women and girls.

Amnesty International launched its global campaign: "Stop Violence against Women" four years ago. Since then we have campaigned against violence against women, whether in peace or war, in the home or in public places, in all regions of the world. On 6 March our organization will launch, at the Commission on the Status of Women, a new report addressing the need to prevent gender-based violence in schools as a means to achieve effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals relating to gender equality and education. I would like to draw your attention especially to six steps governments should take to help stop violence against schoolgirls, which you might wish to draw upon in developing the UN campaign which you announced today. An advance copy of the Amnesty International report "Safe Schools: every girl's right", listing the six steps, is attached.

In the Amnesty International memorandum on human rights protection which Irene Khan, our organization's Secretary General, conveyed to you in her letter of 13 April 2007, we sought your support for the early establishment of a new and strengthened gender architecture with adequate, stable and predictable funding. If the UN system is to effectively enable governments to make significant advances to end violence and discrimination against women and girls, a stronger and fully-funded UN entity for women must be created with extensive field

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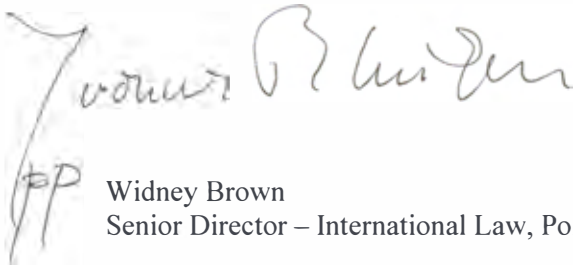
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presences, as the High Level Panel on UN system-wide coherence recommended and the Deputy Secretary-General explained in her memorandum of 1 August 2007. Despite attracting considerable support, the process of gender architecture reform appears to have stalled in the General Assembly. Amnesty International has joined over 80 other non-governmental organizations in urging action on this. The organization encourages you to give your continued and strong support for the early establishment of a stronger UN entity for women.

Irene Khan greatly valued the opportunity to exchange views with you last March. Amnesty International is keen to continue discussing human rights matters with you. I am aware that it was not possible for you to meet Ms Khan on 24 or 25 April when she will be in New York, and I will be writing separately to seek a meeting with you at another time convenient to you. //

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Widney Brown". To the left of the signature, there are two vertical lines, possibly initials or a mark.

Widney Brown
Senior Director – International Law, Policy and Campaigns.