

**NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**  
(through Mr. Nambiar)

DPI Weekly Press Review

The dramatic double veto in the Security Council over Syria attracted widespread global media attention throughout the week. As illustrated in the first segment of this week's Press Review, Tuesday's Council meeting was seen as a clash between two groups, the BRICS and the West, with the nature of media analysis similarly divided. Most Western media outlets viewed the vetoes with frustration, depicting the Council effort as a moral issue. For their part, BRICS nations' outlets tended to applaud the veto and accused the West of seeking regime change.

Coverage of your reaction to the veto was widely described as one of disappointment and, in some instances, disagreement with the outcome. The Council's inability to reach agreement has, so far, not been depicted as a failure of the Organization as such, although lone voices once again used the occasion to call for Security Council reform. And while "R2P" was not specifically mentioned in media commentary, those in support of the vetoes saw themselves as averting a trend towards what they described as "intrusive diplomacy."

Looking ahead to Special Envoy Benomar's briefing to the Security Council next week, the review's second segment focuses on media coverage of the situation in Yemen. Overall, the Special Envoy's efforts to date were portrayed as falling short, owing in large part to President Saleh's refusal to accept the terms of the proposed settlement plan. Next week's briefing by the Special Envoy to the Security Council and his subsequent media encounters present crucial opportunities that could be used to clarify the purpose and message of your good offices efforts on Yemen. Our UNIC Director in Sana'a is providing support to the Special Envoy's missions to Yemen and will continue to offer guidance on issues related to the media and public outreach. The Nobel Committee's decision to award Tawakkul Karman of Yemen with the Peace Prize may also lead to increased media attention on Yemen – and the UN and international community's efforts to help resolve its political impasse and associated problems.

The final segment of the review analyzes media coverage of the protests on Wall Street within the context of the global reaction to the economic crisis. The movement has by and large been characterized by the media as part of the global wave of popular protests, and the timing may soon be right for you to reiterate core UN messages at selected opportunities on the need for decent jobs, the protection of the most vulnerable, and the need to provide economic security at a time of global uncertainty.

Thank you.

PR: Kept by SG. JLN



Kiyo Akasaka  
7 October 2011

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General/Mr. Pascoe/Mr. Kim/Mr. Orr/Mr. Haysom/Mr. Meyer/  
Mr. Nesirky



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