

Ambassador Susan E. Rice
United States Mission
to the United Nations
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Via Fax: +1 212-415-4443

June 27, 2011

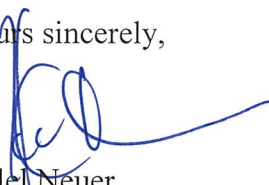
Dear Ambassador Rice,

UN Watch is deeply concerned, as I am sure you are, that the United Nations endorsed the cynical conference on terrorism organized by Iran this past weekend, as detailed in our enclosed letter to the Secretary-General. We trust that the United States will demand that the UN distance itself from this Orwellian propaganda exercise—an insult to victims worldwide of Iranian-sponsored terrorism—and that it refrain from similar acts in the future.

The damage is clear. Over the past three days, Iranian state media have been trumpeting the UN Secretary-General's message, reportedly presented at the conference by a UN official who oversees a UN office on counter-terrorism. One headline from the Fars News Agency reads: "UN Chief Praises Tehran's Anti-Terror Initiative."

By celebrating an event like this, the UN calls into question its credibility on the issue of terrorism as well as on human rights as a whole.

Yours sincerely,



Hillel Neuer
Executive Director

Encl.

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
The Secretary-General
The United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Via Fax: +1 212-963-2155

25 June 2011

Your Excellency,

Earlier this week, UN Watch warmly welcomed your deserved reelection as UN Secretary-General and applauded your principled leadership. It is in that spirit that we call upon you to distance yourself and the United Nations from a cynical conference now underway in Iran which claims to have your blessing and that of the United Nations.

Organized by the Iranian government, the conference is entitled "International Conference on Global Fight Against Terrorism." It opened today and continues tomorrow. The opening message by Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei attacked "the United States, Britain and some Western governments, with a black record in terrorist behaviors," "satanic world powers," and "terrorist organizations such as the Zionism International Agency." (<http://www.icterrorism.com/en/?news=163>)

The Iranian Supreme Leader further stated on the conference website that "the creation and growth of the wild and blind terrorism is basically the result of the wicked policy of America and England," and that "it is a duty for all Muslims to confront and fight this inauspicious offspring which is the clear example of corruption on earth and fighting with God." (<http://www.icterrorism.com/en/?page=200>)

Inflammatory cartoons abound on the conference website, in which the United States is depicted as a purveyor of terrorism (<http://www.icterrorism.com/en/?album=77>). One image portrays innocent Middle Easterners as the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Another shows the Statue of Liberty holding a stick of dynamite. Still another shows an Israeli soldier as a devil with horns.

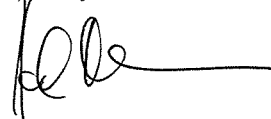
If this were not enough, the conference openly defied the United Nations by prominently hosting Sudanese President Al-Bashir, against whom there is an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court on the charge of genocide against the people of Darfur.

As you know, this conference is the height of cynicism. Iran is a leading sponsor of terrorism, arming and training proxy organizations such as Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Iran has been accused of sponsoring terrorist attacks in Iraq, and of currently aiding the Syrian regime in the bloody repression of its own population. Iran has been condemned repeatedly by the UN General Assembly for violating the human rights of its own citizens, and is under UN sanctions for violating international law in its covert pursuit of a nuclear bomb. Last September, you rightly condemned Iranian President Ahmadinejad when he used the UN podium to accuse the US of perpetrating the 9/11 terror attacks.

In light of the above, we were alarmed to see that this Iranian propaganda vehicle not only features the UN logo on the home page of its website, implying UN sponsorship, but also appears to have received a special message from you that was read out in person by a UN representative in Tehran. A summary appears on the conference website under your photo (<http://www.icterrorism.com/en/?news=216>). According to the Mehr News agency, "United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon sent a message to the conference, which was read out by UN representative Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah. In his message, Ban thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing the conference and said that all countries in the world should shoulder a responsibility for campaigning against terrorism." (<http://www.mehrnews.com/en/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=1344118>)

Mr. Secretary-General, your good name and that of the United Nations should not be exploited in this way. It harms the credibility of the world body, contradicts the principles of the UN Charter, and aids and abets the sponsors of terrorism in their global propaganda. We urge you to publicly distance yourself and the UN from this shameful conference.

Yours truly,



Hillel Neuer
Executive Director