

Ms. Irene Khan
Secretary-General
Amnesty International
1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW

Via fax: 44 20 7413 5835

15 April 2008

Dear Ms. Khan,

We write with grave concern regarding the Amnesty International conference to be held this Saturday in Berne, Switzerland, specifically, the main panel featuring Mr. Jean Ziegler, Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey and you. We find it unconscionable that Amnesty, a leading human rights organization, would invite Mr. Ziegler, and we urge you to reconsider.

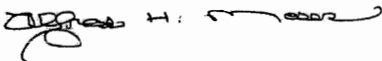
As was reported in *Time Magazine* and other prominent publications, Mr. Ziegler is the co-founder of the Muammar Qaddafi Human Rights Prize, a propaganda vehicle of the Libyan regime that has been used to celebrate Holocaust denier Roger Garaudy and similar individuals and causes. He has supported regimes that, according to your own reports, rank among the world's worst violators of human rights, such as Zimbabwe, which Mr. Ziegler defended, saying, "Mugabe has history and morality with him."

Mr. Ziegler was recently elected to be an expert advisor to the UN Human Rights Council by the same countries that decided to ignore the killings in Tibet and then to eviscerate protection of free speech. His election drew strong protests from human rights groups and dissidents, parliamentarians in Europe and Canada, and editorialists in *The Guardian*, *The Times* of London and elsewhere. (See enclosed.)

The career of Mr. Ziegler symbolizes the cynical subversion of human rights that has so harmed the United Nations and its Human Rights Council. As Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, recently noted, the Human Rights Council is in some ways worse than its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights, which was broadly condemned by the UN Secretary-General and others. By granting Mr. Ziegler a podium at your conference, Amnesty International will harm its own reputation, and, worse, undermine the principles of the international human rights movement—and the cause of the millions of victims we are sworn to protect.

UN Watch, a fellow human rights organization that appreciates your many accomplishments, urges you to reconsider.

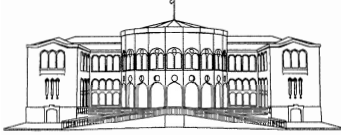
Sincerely,



Alfred H. Moses
Chair



Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director



Stortinget

Embassy of Switzerland
Att. Ambassador Denis Feldmeyer
Bygdøy Allé 78
0244 OSLO

**Progress Party Parliamentary
Group, Norwegian Parliament**

Our Date: 26 March 2008
Our Ref.: Morten Høglund

Your Date:
Your Ref.:

Dear Ambassador

We urge you to withdraw your government's nomination of Jean Ziegler to the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, the election for which is scheduled today, on March 26, 2008.

If elected, Mr. Ziegler would occupy one of the only three seats allotted to Western countries. The official criteria for the position are expertise in human rights, high moral standing, independence and impartiality. An analysis of Mr. Ziegler's record raises serious questions as to his satisfaction of these requirements. Concerns include:

- Mr. Ziegler's abuse of his current UN Mandate: UN special rapporteur on the right to food for the past seven years, Mr. Ziegler ignored many of the world's most starving populations, instead focusing attention on his personal political agenda. As documented in the UN Watch report "Blind to Burundi," during 2000 to 2004, Mr. Ziegler systematically failed to speak out for numerous food emergencies, in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone and elsewhere.
- Mr. Ziegler's support for serial violators of human rights: In 1986, Mr. Ziegler served as advisor to Ethiopian dictator Colonel Mengistu on a constitution instituting one-party rule. In 2002 he praised the Zimbabwean dictator, saying, "Mugabe has history and morality with him." He paid visits to Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Kim Il-Sung in North Korea. Mr. Ziegler is also a long-time supporter of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, whose regime Mr. Ziegler hailed during an official visit in October, while he refused to meet Cuban dissidents. Also this year, during an interview in Lebanon, Mr. Ziegler said, "I refuse to describe Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. It is a national resistance movement. I can understand Hezbollah when they kidnap soldiers..."
- Mr. Ziegler's involvement with Libyan propaganda: In 1989, shortly after Libyan agents blew up Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, Mr. Ziegler went to Libya to co-found the "Moammar Khaddafi Human Rights Prize," and served as

Progress Party Parliamentary Group
Foreign Affairs Advisor
Stortinget, 0026 Oslo, Norway
Ph. +47 23 31 34 07
Fax. +47 23 31 38 28
Pal-arne.davidsen@stortinget.no

its Geneva spokesman. The prize has since been awarded to anti-Western dictators such as Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez. It has also been awarded to notorious racists and anti-Semites such as Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, and Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Muhammad. Bizarrely, although he once boasted of it, Mr. Ziegler now denies any involvement with the prize. All of this was documented in a front-page story in your country's leading newspaper. (M. Haefliger, "Ziegler's Libyan Connection," *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, June 25, 2006.)

- Ziegler's support for Holocaust denier Roger Garaudy: In 1996, Mr. Ziegler publicly defended Roger Garaudy, a French Stalinist whose book, *The Founding Myths of Modern Israel*, denies the Holocaust. "All your work as a writer and philosopher," Mr. Ziegler wrote on April 1, 1996, "attests to the rigor of your analysis and the unwavering honesty of your intentions. It makes you one of the leading thinkers of our time." In 2002, Mr. Garaudy was awarded the Khaddafi Prize—the same year that Mr. Ziegler received it as well.

Many of the world's leading authorities have objected to Mr. Ziegler's practices. In 2005, both UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and High Commissioner Louise Arbour publicly denounced Mr. Ziegler for having compared Israeli soldiers to concentration camp guards. He is the only UN expert to have been so reprimanded. Seventy U.S. congressmen wrote to the UN, citing Mr. Ziegler for anti-Semitism, while the Canadian government filed an official protest.

In April 2006, an international coalition of 15 non-governmental organizations, including victims of Cuban and Libyan abuses, protested Mr. Ziegler's nomination as a UN expert, citing his disturbing record. Similarly, many scholars have questioned Mr. Ziegler's academic credentials. For example, when he was made professor at the University of Geneva, eminent historian Herbert Luthy returned his honorary doctorate in protest.

We note that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez nominated Mr. Ziegler for the same post in 2004, but that he failed to win election.

In order to protect the credibility of the world's highest intergovernmental human rights body—with which Switzerland is heavily involved—we urge you to withdraw this nomination. At a minimum, it should be suspended pending the results of an independent and impartial inquiry into Mr. Ziegler's record.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely
Mr. Morten Høglund

Foreign Affairs Spokesperson/Progress Party Parliamentary Group
Member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

Progress Party Parliamentary Group
Foreign Affairs Advisor
Stortinget, 0026 Oslo, Norway
Ph. +47 23 31 34 07
Fax. +47 23 31 38 28
Pal-arne.davidsen@stortinget.no



ALEXANDER GRAF LAMBSDORFF, MDEP

TELEFAX

Von:	Alexander Graf Lambsdorff	Datum:	25.03.2008
An:	Botschafter Jacques de Watteville	Faxnummer:	022861376 und 022304509
Betreff:	Jean Ziegler	Seiten:	1 + 0

Sehr geehrter Botschafter,

Mit Bedauern erfuhr ich heute, dass die Schweiz Jean Ziegler als Menschenrechtsexperten für den Menschenrechtsrat der Vereinten Nationen nominiert hat.

Jean Ziegler hat durch seine Unterstützung von Diktatoren wie Mengistu Haile Mariam, Robert Mugabe, Fidel Castro und Moammar Khaddafi unrühmliche Bekanntheit erreicht und ist Mitbegründer des "Moammar Khaddafi Friedenspreises". Dieser Preis wurde unter anderem Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez und dem Anführer der *Nation of Islam* Louis Farrakhan verliehen. Jean Ziegler hat sich persönlich für den französischen Stalinisten Roger Garaudy stark gemacht, der in seinem Buch "Myths of Modern Israel", in dem der Holocaust geleugnet wird, und hat auch sonst die Vereinten Nationen stets als Plattform zur Förderung seiner unlauteren Ziele instrumentalisiert. All dies wurde beispielsweise ausführlich in der NZZ vom 25. Juni 2006 dokumentiert ("Zieglers Libyen-Connection").

Jean Ziegler erfüllt daher in keiner Weise die von Ihm verlangten Kriterien in den Bereichen Menschenrechte, Unabhängigkeit und Objektivität, so dass ich inständig hoffe, dass Ihre Regierung seine Nominierung für den Menschenrechtsrat zurückziehen wird.

Hochachtungsvoll,

Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, MdEP

Fax Vorlage.doc

ALEXANDER GRAF LAMBSDORFF

MITGLIED DES EUROPÄISCHEN PARLAMENTES

POSTANSCHRIFT:
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT
ASP 10 G 158
60, RUE Wiertz

B-1047 BRÜSSEL

TELEFON:
+32(0)2-28 37118
FAX:
+32(0)2-28 49118
MAIL:
AGRAFLAMBSDORFF-
ASSISTANT2@EUROPARL.EU.INT



**Joint NGO Appeal to Swiss President Couchepin
and Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey**

March 25, 2008

Dear President Couchepin and Foreign Minister Calmy-Rey,

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Sincerely,

Per Ahlmark
Former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden

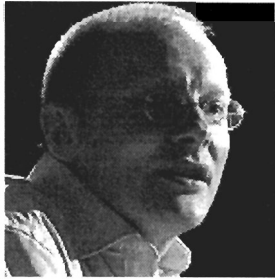
Professor Irwin Cotler, M.P.
Human Rights Advocate
Member of Canadian Parliament & Opposition Critic on Human Rights
Former Minister of Justice and Attorney-General

Angel De Fana
Ex-political prisoner
Director of political prisoners' organization
Plantados Hasta la Libertad y la Democracia

Gibreil Hamid
Darfur Survivor
President, Darfur Peace and Development Center

Dr Charles Mwape, Hope for Africa International, Regional Director for Africa
Roy W. Brown, Main Representative, UN Geneva, International Humanist and Ethical Union
Sally Thompson, Deputy Executive Director, Thailand Burma Border Consortium, Thailand
Dr. Harris O. Schoenberg, President, United Nations Reform Advocates
Sylvia G. Iriondo, President, Mothers & Women Against Repression (M.A.R. Por Cuba)
Alessandro Pettenuzzo, President, European Union of Public Relations
Einat Erlanger, Help Others Help Themselves, Switzerland
Janisset Rivero, Cuban Democratic Directorate
Wendy Wright, President, Concerned Women for America
Wayne L. Kines, President, World Media Institute, Canada
Naghma Imdad, Director, Acid Survivors' Foundation, Pakistan
Babette Francis, Endeavour Forum, Australia
Rama Enav, Representative to the UN in Geneva, WIZO
Rhoda Gueta, Secretariat, Resistance and Solidarity against Agrochem TNCs, Philippines
Janisset Rivero, Directorio Democratico Cubano
Professor Cesar Tolosa, Spokesperson, Tanggol Magsasaka (Peasant Network for Land, Justice and Human Rights), Philippines
Danilo Ramos, Secretary General, Asian Peasant Coalition
Anna Maria Cervone, Centrist Democrat International
Wiko Iamain, Former Child Laborer, Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts
Nirvana González Rosa, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, Puerto Rico

April 5, 2008



Appointment with farce

The election to the UN Human Rights Council of a man who has served as an aide to a dictator is a scandal

Alan Johnson

"In the present state of the world it is difficult not to write lampoons," remarked the Roman poet Juvenal. The author of *The Satires* came to mind last week when I heard of the decision of the UN Human Rights Council to elect Jean Ziegler to its advisory committee by 40 votes to 7.

All advisers to the council are supposed to possess "expertise in human rights", "high moral standing", and "independence and impartiality". So how does Jean Ziegler measure up?

In 1989 - four months after Libya bombed Pan Am flight 103, killing 270 people from 21 countries - Ziegler launched the annual Muammar Qaddafi Human Rights Prize in Tripoli, boasting it was the "Anti-Nobel prize of the third world". Winners have included Fidel Castro, Louis Farrakhan, and a leader of a Ba'ath party women's organisation in Saddam's Iraq. In 2002, the recipients included the convicted French Holocaust denier Roger Garaudy, and Ziegler himself.

In 1986, Ziegler acted as an adviser to the Ethiopian dictator Mengistu, helping draft his one-party constitution. In 1993, *Le Monde* reported on "Jean Ziegler's trip to visit Saddam Hussein and Kim Il-sung."

Ziegler proclaimed "total support for the Cuban revolution" shortly after Fidel Castro had imprisoned many journalists. While visiting Cuba as a UN official he refused to meet Cuban dissidents but lavished praise on Castro.

In 2002, he praised the Zimbabwean dictator, saying, "Mugabe has history and morality with him."

In 2006, Ziegler said, "I refuse to describe Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation. It is a national resistance movement. I can understand Hezbollah when they kidnap soldiers ..."

Ziegler calls the US an "imperialist dictatorship" guilty of genocide, and labels George W Bush "the Pinochet who sits in the White House"; 9/11, he alleges, was used by Bush as a "justification for the staging of organised economic destruction of the people of the southern hemisphere".

He claims western capitalism has "put the planet under the scalpel of organised economic destruction", its leaders deliberately organising starvation as a "weapon of mass destruction". Western capitalism "kills, destroys, slaughters ... for no other reason than the desire for maximum profit for some cosmocrats who are driven by an obsession for power and unlimited greed".

(Actually, more people have been lifted out of absolute poverty in the past century than at any time in human history. In 1820, about 85% of the world's population were living in absolute poverty - usually defined as living on less than one dollar a day. By 1950 that figure had fallen to 50%. Today it is about 20%. As for globalisation, the average global income per capita has almost doubled over the past 35 years with the poorest fifth of the population increasing their income faster than the wealthiest fifth. But, as Juvenal wrote, some things are just destined to become "the schoolboy's favourite and a subject for declamation".)

When Ziegler was UN special rapporteur (pdf) on the right to food he criticised the United States 34 times but he never criticised any party in 15 of 17 countries deemed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to have a man-made food emergency.

Ziegler didn't just attack the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. He called it "the worst in the history of colonialism". He described Gaza as "an immense concentration camp" and celebrated when what he called the "guards" left.

Ziegler's appointment as an adviser to the UN Human Rights Council was bitterly opposed by Per Ahlmark, former deputy prime minister of Sweden, as well as by the Canadian MP Irwin Cotler, a former minister of justice and attorney-general, who served as counsel to Nelson Mandela and Andrei Sakharov, and the Darfur survivor and president of the Darfur Peace and Development Center, Gibreil Hamid. A large group of NGOs lobbied hard. All to no avail.

What does this tell us about the UN? Well, back in 2003, when Libya was elected as chair of the Human Rights Commission - a Tom Lehrer "death of political satire" moment if ever there was one - the commission became a stain on the UN's reputation, a body as likely to side with dictatorships as with their victims. So it was abolished in 2006 and replaced by the UN Human Rights Council. Last week's appointment of Ziegler

suggests little has really changed. That was the meaning of the farce played out in Geneva.

When those charged with guarding our human rights elect Mr Jean Ziegler as their expert adviser we would do well to remember the question Juvenal famously posed: "Who guards the guards?"

http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/alan_johnson/2008/04/appointment_with_farce.html