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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

24 January 2011

Dear Mr. Neuer,

In response to your letter to the Secretary-General dated 20 January 2011 on the subject of a recent blog post by Mr. Richard Falk, the Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967:

You are aware, no doubt, that the Special Rapporteurs and other independent experts who represent the Human Rights Council are appointed by the Council, not by the Secretary-General. Their continuance in their jobs is thus for the Council to decide.

That said, I feel very strongly that these representatives, however eminent they may be in their fields, have a clear responsibility to uphold the high standards of the United Nations and the Council.

You specifically refer to Mr. Falk's allegations of an "apparent cover-up" related to the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. The Secretary-General condemns these remarks. He has repeatedly stated his view that any such suggestion is preposterous – and an affront to the memory of the more than 3,000 people who died in the attack.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vijay Nambiar".

Vijay Nambiar  
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Hillel C. Neuer  
Executive Director  
UN Watch  
Geneva