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,

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director
UN Watch
Geneva