

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIFORNIA
GARY L. ACKERMAN, NEW YORK
ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AMERICAN SAMOA
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
BRAD SHERMAN, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT WEXLER, FLORIDA
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
BILL DELAHUNT, MASSACHUSETTS
GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
RUSS CARNAHAN, MISSOURI
JOHN S. TANNER, TENNESSEE
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
LYNN C. WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA
SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TEXAS
RUBÉN HINOJOSA, TEXAS
JOSEPH CROWLEY, NEW YORK
DAVID WU, OREGON
BRAD MILLER, NORTH CAROLINA
LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
DAVID SCOTT, GEORGIA
JIM COSTA, CALIFORNIA
ALBIO SIREs, NEW JERSEY
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
RON KLEIN, FLORIDA

ROBERT R. KING
STAFF DIRECTOR

PETER M. YEO
DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

DAVID S. ABRAMOWITZ
CHIEF COUNSEL

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5021
[HTTP://WWW.FOREIGNAFFAIRS.HOUSE.GOV/](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/)

July 5, 2007

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY
DAN BURTON, INDIANA
ELTON GALLEGLY, CALIFORNIA
DANA ROHRBACHER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD A. MANZULLO, ILLINOIS
EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA
STEVE CHABOT, OHIO
THOMAS G. TANCREDI, COLORADO
RON PAUL, TEXAS
JEFF FLAKE, ARIZONA
JO ANN DAVIS, VIRGINIA
MIKE PENCE, INDIANA
THADDEUS G. McCOTTER, MICHIGAN
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, SOUTH CAROLINA
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
JEFF FORTENBERRY, NEBRASKA
MICHAEL T. McCaul, TEXAS
TED POE, TEXAS
BOB INGLIS, SOUTH CAROLINA
LUIS G. FORTUÑO, PUERTO RICO

YLEEM D.S. POBLETE
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

MARK G. GAGE
REPUBLICAN SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

KIRSTI T. GARLOCK
REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Secretariat
One United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

Knowing well your personal commitment to reform and professionalism within the United Nations system, we are writing to respectfully urge you to intervene in all appropriate ways to protect a veteran UN employee (whose identity is already known to you) from any retaliation for his actions as a whistleblower in uncovering significant irregularities in the operations of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in North Korea. We also urge you to investigate the alleged retaliation against him by UNDP personnel which, if true, constitutes serious misconduct under Section 1.4 of the UN whistleblower policy (ST/SGB/2005/21).

As you are likely aware, the House of Representatives voted last month to cut \$20 million in U.S. funding for UNDP. In large part, this cut reflected bipartisan concern over accountability for UNDP operations in North Korea, both the irregularities indicated in the preliminary report by UN auditors, as well as particularly troubling expenditures and transfers raised with UNDP by U.S. officials, for which UNDP has not yet accounted.

The actions of the individual at issue appear to be those of a classic whistleblower. He reportedly attempted to raise the violation of UNDP rules and practices up the UNDP chain of command beginning in early 2005. However, instead of addressing the substantive issues, UNDP management allegedly curtailed his North Korea assignment for "rocking the boat." After 13 years of loyal UN service, his contract (which expired earlier this year) was not renewed. In his unsuccessful attempts to secure employment with another UN entity, he reportedly has been told on multiple occasions that, notwithstanding his qualifications, antipathy from UNDP management has made him a "hot potato," too dangerous to hire.

To date, this gentleman's attempt to vindicate the integrity of UNDP's own rules and practices has cost him and his family dearly. His case appears to be a fundamental test of the UN's whistleblower protection policy, one of the touted hallmarks of internal UN reform in recent years. It is also highly relevant to whether UNDP has adequately internalized the need for increased transparency and accountability.

We hope that as Secretary-General you will exercise your authority to ensure that the whistleblower at issue is not wronged. We also urge you to investigate his allegations of retaliation which, if established, require "disciplinary action and/or transfer" of those responsible, pursuant to Section 7 of the UN whistleblower policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ileana Ros-Lehtinen', written in a cursive style.

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Ranking Member