

4 June 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am writing this letter to provide information on a case of abuse of power, nepotism and financial mismanagement that is about to take place in your office. Due to the obvious consequences and the lack of implementation in its true spirit of your whistle blower policy, I am also forced to remain anonymous. However, the facts I provide below can be verified and merits of the case judged based on that verification.

As the new Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Jan Eliasson starts his assignment on 1 July 2012, his former Special Assistant Ms. Shirin Pakfar has been brought from Libya on a TDY for 90 days to help start his office. First of all, it is strange that Ms. Pakfar, a P4, is being chosen for this assignment for such a senior UN official and not someone who is more senior and has had the experience to do so in the past. Hence my allegation of pure nepotism in this particular case since Ms. Pakfar is Mr. Eliasson's former Special Assistant and is being brought back from Libya to do this when several other more experienced staff members in New York can perform the same function.

Moving over to the financial aspect of the situation, the approximate cost for just Ms. Pakfar's visit to New York would be over \$40,000. Another staff member is being sent to Libya to replace Ms. Pakfar in Libya proving that her position in Libya cannot be left vacant for even 90 days. That endeavor would cost the organization approximately an additional \$30,000. These costs are a conservative estimate incorporating airfares and DSA in New York and Tripoli. So in sum total, the whole exercise will cost the UN around \$70,000 for what? So that a P4 can travel to New York and settle the new Deputy Secretary-General? This is what I meant when I mentioned financial mismanagement.

Ms. Pakfar has also made it known to many of her colleagues that she will ultimately be employed at a key P5 position within the Deputy Secretary-General's office after she completes a year in Libya and satisfies the mobility requirement for a promotion. While you have been quite consistent on the transparency procedures every recruitment must adhere to in your office, this situation flies in the face of those principles. I would hope that is abuse of power that is about to take place in your office would be stopped and a transparent competitive process would be followed and the position not just earmarked for Ms. Pakfar who currently remains unqualified for the position. If a P5 position is kept vacant in the Deputy Secretary-General's office, it should be ample proof of this impending abuse of power and the best way to prevent is to have immediate, transparent and competitive recruitment of all positions in the office of the Deputy Secretary-General.

I am absolutely sure that you are not aware of this case but there are people in your office who are and made this TDY possible while setting aside norms and rules of the organization. It is for this reason that I am also forced to send a copy of this letter to the USG for the Department of Management and the USG for OIOS as I am not sure if the

same people will let this letter even get to you. Furthermore, this also does not bode well for a Deputy Secretary-General who is yet to start his assignment.

In light of the above, I would request that some immediate measures are taken to rectify the situation. First, Ms. Pakfar and the staff member earmarked to replace her in Libya must be instructed to continue in their current assignments in order to save the organization an unnecessary expense of over \$70,000 which in today's economic climate could be used for a better purpose. The function of welcoming the new Deputy Secretary-General can be performed by anyone in the staff of the outgoing Deputy Secretary-General. Second, an investigation should be held to ascertain who all were responsible for proposing and making these arrangements. And finally, recruitment in the Deputy Secretary-General's office should commence immediately and follow the same principles of transparency and qualification as followed in the recruitment of your staff.

Best regards,

A concerned staff member of the United Nations.

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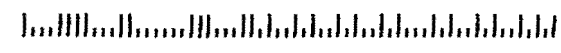

United Nations Headquarters

New York, NY 10017

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