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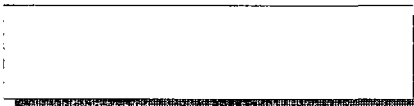
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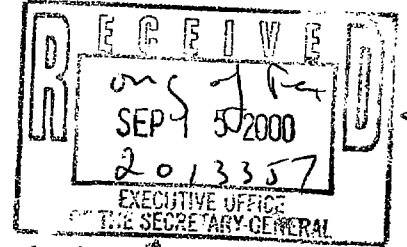
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Central



JIMMY CARTER



TO ST

Millennium Summit
Carter Pres. Letter

September 1, 2000

To Secretary-General Kofi Annan

As the Millennium Summit approaches, I wish to congratulate you on your efforts to present governments with a set of priorities for global cooperation that reflects true vision and leadership. Your report to the Millennium Assembly, " 'We the Peoples,' " is a remarkable document as it places the human being at the center of the agenda in a way that has not been done before at this level.

In particular, I was encouraged by your call to governments to ratify and comply with the 25 core treaties that comprise the global framework for the rule of law. By equating human rights treaties with agreements on climate control and disarmament, you have established firmly the centrality of human rights to the issue of global human security and progress. I believe that this act will be viewed by history as a turning point in the fulfillment of the promise of human rights for all that was made to the peoples of the world over fifty years ago.

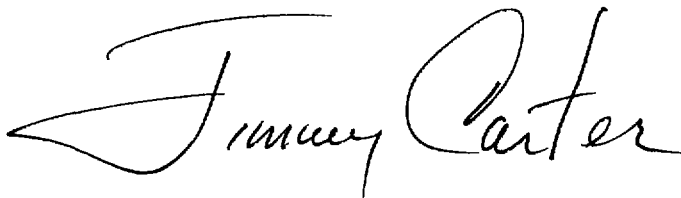
As you know, The Carter Center has worked since 1993 toward the establishment and then the effective functioning of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It is our view that the core activities of the United Nations' Human Rights Program must receive greater support through universal ratification of treaties, government cooperation with the mechanisms, and increased financial support. The fact-finding work carried out by the Special Procedures and the Treaty Bodies play a key role in reporting on actual human rights conditions in all parts of the world. I have long believed that if these bodies could function properly with adequate staff and other resources, grave human tragedies could be averted due to the early warning they are best situated to provide.

In keeping with this long-standing interest, I wrote to 52 Heads of State encouraging them to respond positively to your call for universal ratification of human rights treaties. In addition, I suggested that greater attention be paid to the question of funding for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is charged with providing support for the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures. The Office has been chronically under-funded since it was created, undermining the High Commissioner's ability to carry out this vitally important mandate. I have enclosed a copy of my letter along with a list of receiving countries. I wanted you to know about this in case you are able to make use of my intervention with leaders in your own interactions with them during this week's meetings.

Once the Summit has concluded, I would be grateful for your own views about how the international community might work more effectively to strengthen the United Nations' human rights system in the coming years.

Thank you for all of your efforts. Please be assured of my best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

His Excellency Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations
One UN Plaza
New York, NY



JIMMY CARTER

August 17, 2000

To Prime Minister John Howard

I am writing at this time to bring to your attention a very important matter that will be a subject of discussion during the upcoming Millennium Summit September 6-8. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan will present "We the Peoples," his report to the Millennium Summit and General Assembly, for consideration by the heads of state that will gather for this historic meeting. In the report, the Secretary-General addresses a host of issues that concern the international community. One of the most insightful conclusions reached in the report has to do with the centrality of human rights to pursuit of peace and justice.

Since 1993 The Carter Center and I personally have been looking for ways to generate more support for a strong UN Human Rights Program. During the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna I made personal appeals to many heads of state urging them to support the creation of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights, and was gratified when the campaign succeeded. Since that time, The Carter Center's International Human Rights Council has worked to identify ways to strengthen the work of UN human rights fact-finders, including the Special Rapporteurs who can produce timely reports on human rights crises throughout the world. I believe that if the UN's human rights monitors are able to report accurately and efficiently on human rights problems to the organization's deliberative bodies, including the Security Council, much more can be done to identify and prevent potentially deadly conflicts. These mechanisms, together with the Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Bodies, constitute the core of the UN's human rights program. Unfortunately, the work of these bodies is hampered by a chronic lack of funding, a situation that has not improved significantly since 1993.

I am appealing to heads of state that will attend the Millennium Summit to respond favorably to the Secretary-General's call for wider ratification of human rights treaties, with a view to reaching universal ratification as soon as possible. The Secretary-General has quite rightly pointed out that the universal embrace of these standards will help prevent human catastrophes and establish firmly the global rule of law.

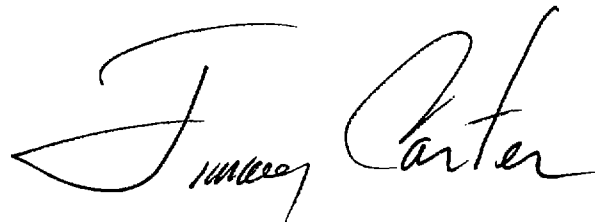
In order for the Treaty Bodies to carry out their mandate to monitor and urge compliance by states parties, a significant increase in their budgets will be required. It is well known by the human rights community and by others familiar with their work that

these bodies, like the Special Rapporteurs, could be much more efficient and effective if they could rely on consistent and adequate staff support and other services that are not available now because of an insufficient budget. It is my hope that more attention will be paid during the Summit to the financial support that will be needed to translate wide ratifications into meaningful actions to protect human rights at the national level.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has prepared a paper that addresses the resource implications of universal ratification of the human rights treaties. Together with the High Commissioner's Annual Appeal, which details the costs of a wide range of activities within her office, this document provides to member states an assessment of costs that can serve as a basis of fiscal planning. I urge you to examine what your government can do to help meet these requirements so that Mary Robinson can do the job with which she was entrusted—to build a strong and effective human rights program within the United Nations. Some nations will be in a better position than others to offer increased financial resources. What is important is general support for the human rights mechanisms, including political support for their work. This will require courageous leadership when these bodies criticize policies that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights. No nation can be exempt from such scrutiny as it is a universal system that is evolving.

The Carter Center has an abiding commitment to the work of the UN's human rights fact-findings bodies, and I would be most grateful for your insights into how the international community can work together to ensure that they benefit from greater levels of financial and political support in the coming years. This way, we can act sooner to address human rights problems and prevent potentially devastating conflicts from escalating beyond control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

The Honorable John Howard
Prime Minister of Australia
Department of the Prime Minister
Suite MG8, Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600
Australia

Heads of State to Receive UN Human Rights Letter

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
El Salvador
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Guatemala
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Republic of Korea
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Mexico
Monaco
Morocco
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