

Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon
United Nations Secretariat
New York, New York
10017

5 April, 2016

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

On behalf of the Government Accountability Project (GAP), a free-speech and whistleblower protection advocacy organization in Washington, D.C., I want to object to the treatment accorded Matthew Lee of *Inner City Press* by the United Nations. The decision to expel Mr. Lee from the UN Secretariat and exclude him from the access needed by a journalist to cover the Organization comprehensively is capricious and targeted. No rule breaking has been cited, nor has any process or established procedure been invoked to explain the action to be taken.

If such a process exists, or if Mr. Lee violated a UN protocol or regulation, whether knowingly or unknowingly, for which he is to be expelled, would you please inform us at GAP or him?

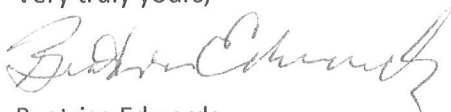
As you know, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reads:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

The Declaration is a fundamental document for much of the work of the United Nations and forms a baseline for interpretations of international law around the world. The Secretariat's crude high-handed treatment of Mr. Lee is tantamount to a repudiation of Article 19 on the premises of the very Organization entrusted by the international community to defend freedom of expression.

I respectfully request that you take action to reverse the decision that will soon result in Mr. Lee's expulsion from his office and the withdrawal of his access to the UN premises.

Very truly yours,



Beatrice Edwards
International Program Director
Government Accountability Project