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**From:** Margaret Besheer  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** Sonja Pace  
**Subject:** THE MATT LEE SAGA FW: Harassment of media - for kind attention of Rep. Ros-Lehtinen

Hi Sonja,

Just deleting some old mail from when I was off last week and found this one my Reuters colleague had forwarded. He told me the other day he had asked the US mission if they had received this mail since they were copied and they said they hadn't, confirming his suspicion it was bogus. But I note there is no signatory to this idiotic letter. But the reason I send to you is that he says VOA pays some of UNDP's budget...which makes no sense whatsoever, but FYI.

He's sent out a slew of emails over the weekend and the lawyers at our UNCA president's newspaper are preparing their libel case against Mr. Lee. Also my Reuters colleague said his legal department is reconsidering whether to sue him (originally the dropped the idea, but now maybe not).

Just wanted to keep you in the loop.

Margaret Besheer

UN Correspondent

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**From:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 04, 2012 3:54 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Margaret Besheer; (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Harassment of media - for kind attention of Rep. Ros-Lehtinen

Fyi guys. I suspect that this email is bogus. I think it's from none other than the man himself or someone else close to him...

—Original Message—

**From:** undp watch2010 [mailto:undpwatch2010@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 04, 2012 3:13 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6) (Reuters News); mbesheer@voanews.com; (b)(6);  
(b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) matthew.lee@innercitypress.com

Subject: Fwd: Harassment of media - for kind attention of Rep.  
Ros-Lehtinen

Some of us UN staffers cannot believe that you guys are trying to kick out ICP... that is the ONLY blog that most of us read on the UN.

Clearly, you guys seem to be involved in the corruption as well with some senior UN managers. Am copying this to the BBC representative - we still believe that BBC is one of the fairest, largest and most neutral of all organizations in the world.

Some of us have worked in Sri Lanka - I have seen for myself the complete mess and terrible atrocities that the Govt. there has done; there can be no excuse for siding with them and seeking to kick out someone critical of them.

We really think you guys are exploiting the goodness of the US Govt. - if you so dislike what ICP and others are doing; why don't you leave the US, and go back to your home countries; instead of asking a real, good and virtuous American to get out of the UN?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: undp watch2010 <undpwatch2010@gmail.com>  
Date: Tue, 5 Jun 2012 00:28:42 +0530  
Subject: Harassment of media - for kind attention of Rep. Ros-Lehtinen  
To: arthur.estoplnan@mail.house.gov,  
christine.delportillo@mail.house.gov

For the kind attention of Rep. Ros-Lehtinen

Dear Rep. Ros-Lehtinen,

My name is SD... an acronym. Great injustice is being done in the land of the free. I am writing this to you for your urgent and kind attention. I know how much Representative Ros-Lehtinen feels about the UN and the below is exactly the reason why Rep. Ros-Lehtinen is right and why your Office needs to take action. I have been closely following her work, including reading the minutes of all meetings especially on the UN.

I am a staff member working for the United Nations Development Program (one of the most wasteful Organizations in the planet, but they pay well). I am writing about a blog site called InnerCityPress that is being sought to be expelled from the UN Correspondents Association (and eventually from UN HQ) by a bunch of Europeans and Arabs, with shockingly some support from US-funded Voice of America.

All these years, InnerCityPress is the only blog and news source that one goes to for the real and unblemished news about the UN - the corruption issues; reports on the wastage of money; reports on the dirty backroom deals and everything that the US taxpayer dislikes about the UN. InnerCityPress is run by a guy called Matthew Lee, an American who has a passion for truth, justice and fairness.

Unfortunately, some foreign reporters (European and Arab interests) including one backed by the US-funded VOA are seeking to expel Matthew from the UN Correspondents Association at UN HQ, for supposedly insulting fellow journalists etc (basically, some trivial rubbish cooked up to hush up the outstanding and honest work done by ICP). Some of these reporters including (b)(6) the reporter of Al-Arabya (sponsored by the Saudi Govt. - a Govt. that regularly stones its women to death); French press such as Agence France Presse; London-based Reuters; and Italian based Quotidiano Nazionale. The grouping is no mystery - some of these guys are clearly majorly corrupt as well, doling out favors to top UN majors in return for favorable stories. In all these years, not once have I read or seen any negative report about any UN manager from these so-called mainstream media. It is shocking.

This is just the beginning of a massive suppression of truth, fairness and all the ideals the US stands for. These very same European and Arab journalists who are trying to kick out the ICP from the UN are those who have benefitted from the

wonderful laws of the US - they have brought their families here; educate their children here; bought houses here; yet completely exploit all the values that the US stands for - by seeking to kick out ICP from the UN Correspondents Association, they are seeking to ensure that corruption issues are swept under the table; that US taxpayer money continues to be wasted at the UN; that corrupt backroom deals become a way of life. These same useless and corrupt UN managers supported by some of these major news outlets who are seeking to kick out ICP will be the ones who will apply for US residency and citizenship eventually - well after abusing the goodwill, the warmth and the freedom provided by the US.

I know - I know from personal experience at the UNDP the amount of corruption; the amount of backroom favors; and the wastage of money that takes place. It is only thanks to people like Matthew and to the ICP that so many issues that would have been swept under the carpet have come out. ICP is one of the most popular blogs on the UN that almost all UN staff read on a daily basis - what ICP publishes (all the negative reports) are all true.

Below is the latest report from the ICP on its website about what is happening against ICP by a grouping of European and Arab journalists.

Those most happy with ICP getting kicked out will be the top UN Managers - those who indulge in the corruption, in the abuse and in the wastage of public money. Many of these reporters aligned against ICP are directly in cahoots and tied up with these corrupt senior UN managers to permit the illegal deals to continue, only for their own vested interests.

Please, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen's office needs to help - to help keep the flag of truth and justice flying high. I am sorry to remain anonymous but given the Incredible amount of retribution that takes place at the UN, I need to be very careful. This is an issue that affects everyone.

The only ones who will be happy with the way that ICP is being treated are the most corrupt managers at the UN; and the most dictatorial countries that abuse human rights (which ICP regularly reports on).

Please, I assure you and appeal to you to act - this is a fundamental issue that affects the US of A. I am trying to mobilize more grass-roots level staffers to act.

Sincerely,

SD

Forward to - US mission to the UN  
- Executive Committee, UNCA  
- InnerCityPress

**Bid at UN to Ban ICP Led by 5 Big Media, For France, Lanka, Ladsous By Matthew Russell Lee UNITED NATIONS, May 29 --**  
Hours after UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous refused to answer Inner City Press' questions about charges that his Department introduced cholera into Haiti, and has Sri Lanka alleged war criminal general Shavendra Silva as an adviser, representatives of five media organizations presented charges to eject Inner City Press. Longer version here.

Video of Ladsous' refusal to answer is here, Minute 28:10.

The five signers of the charge letter to set up a "board of examination" to "investigate" Inner City Press with the goal of expelling it include not only Louis Charbonneau of Reuters and Timothy Witcher of Agence France Presse (as explained below, a major French Mission and Ladsous tool).

Now they've expanded to five, with Flavia Krause-Jackson of Bloomberg, Talal Al-Haj of Al-Arabia and Margaret Besheer of Voice of America.

During Tuesday afternoon's session, Bloomberg's Flavia Krause-Jackson told Inner City Press, We're not talking about giving evidence... we do not like your attitude.

The original purpose of the UN Correspondents Association is to protect the freedom of the press and protect the rights of bona fide correspondents to secure accreditation and unhindered access to the UN without discrimination. But it appears that big media at the UN is seeking to expel a smaller, more critical online news site. For others of Tuesday's indicters, it is state controlled media from countries reliably accused, including in ICP, of human rights violations.

UNCA President Giampaolo Pioli at the beginning of Tuesday's inquisition complained to Inner City Press about "your blog," citing "complaints over the years."

It was Charbonneau who filed a complaint with the UN's Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit saying Inner City Press is "making it very hard for me and others in the UN press to do our jobs."

Charbonneau sent copies of a complaint to MALU against Inner City Press to Basheer of VoA, Witcher of AFP (who previously used UNCA against Inner City Press after ICP reported that Ladsous was at best Nicolas Sarkozy's second choice for the French position atop UN Peacekeeping) and Pioli.

As previously reported, Charbonneau and Reuters used without any credit Inner City Press' exclusive March 28 report that US official Jeffrey Feltman would come to head the UN Department of Political Affairs.

By contrast, Foreign Policy's "The Cable" credited Inner City Press. When asked about it, Charbonneau said for a year he has had a policy or practice of not crediting ICP. He repeated Tuesday, we don't have to give credit, it's just a courtesy.

Repeated inquiries with Reuters if this is an acceptable policy have gone unanswered, by "ethics" chief Greg McCune up to Reuters CEO James C. Smith.

Bloomberg, specifically Flavia Krause-Jackson, previously reported without any credit Inner City Press' exclusive expose that 14 kilograms of cocaine was found in the UN mailroom (her defense is that once the UN held a 6 pm press conference responding to Inner City Press' story and questions at noon, she and Bloomberg didn't have to give any credit). AFP also stole the story, as did some other chargers and supporters, Tuesday voters.

Inner City Press said that UNCA should not be just a club of big media. Flavia Krause-Jackson of Bloomberg interjected, don't try to make this about big bad media against a small one. But how not?

Pioli has expressed anger at Inner City Press reporting that he accepted rent money from Sri Lanka's Ambassador Palitha Kohona and then arranged for Kohona to screen his government's genocide-rebuttal film "Lies Agreed To" in the UN without asking other UNCA Executive Board members about it, and without the underlying Channel 4 film "Killing Fields" being screened in the UN, because it would conflict with a ceremony for Ban Ki-moon.

Pioli points out, and we include, that the rent acceptance was "seven or eight" years ago.

Pioli still demanded that the article be removed from the Internet. Inner City Press refused, calling this censorship.

Pioli screamed at Inner City Press, I will get you thrown out of the UN.

At Tuesday's meeting Talal Al-Haj said of the Pioli story, I would like to see the facts behind your story, I need this to be investigated. Inner City Press asked if Al-Haj was asking to know the sources of the story. Of the board of examination, Al-Haj said we can choose any five.

But can those complaining, or witnesses, be on the board of examination? Can the prosecutor or witness be on the jury? How can they then give evidence?

Strangely, a correspondent for a media which has in the past credited Inner City Press on a Libya scoop Tuesday voted for the process to try to expel Inner City Press. Does it highlight the difference between the media's English and non-English versions or something deeper?

Pioli cut off all objections to end Tuesday's session and called the question, "to set up a five member" Board of Examination.

Inner City Press has its own nominations for the panel, and should have the right to challenge for cause. ICP has also provided notice of other requests it is making and actions it will take.

Inner City Press believes this is an abuse of power, anti press freedom, and will fight it. Watch this site.

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