

United Nations
Staff Union



Syndicat du personnel
des Nations Unies

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21 October 2008

Dear Ms. Kane,

I refer to your letter of 20 October 2008 concerning a resolution adopted by the Staff Council on Thursday, 16 October titled "Breach of Confidentiality".

We note that the attachment you have provided is a draft which presumably was forwarded to you by the Presiding Officer shortly after the Staff Council had concluded its business and prior to the final form of the resolution issued concordant with established policy. Please find attached the actual referenced resolution, RES/42/55.

With regard to the role of the Department of Management in the breach of confidentiality, the Staff Council's resolution was informed by your intervention, on 16 October 2008, regarding the governance of iSeek in the wake of the publication of the so-called petition. We have since consulted the Objectives and Guiding Principles of iSeek and noted that the authorization for posting on iSeek appears to fall under the purview of the Under-Secretary-General Department of Public Information.

By copy of this letter we wish to additionally assign the breach of confidentiality to the Under-Secretary-General Department of Public Information. Indeed, the principal sponsors of the so-called petition are DPI staff members, one of whom has admitted culpability and immediately resigned from the Staff Committee.

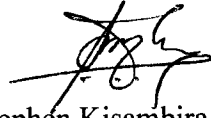
We have since received confirmation from many staff who signed the so-called petition that the documentation published did not correspond to the text of the petition for which the sponsors had solicited signatures. The principal sponsors of the so-called petition perpetrated a fraudulent act against the staff in furtherance of their personal interests, contrary to Section III.9 of the iSeek Objectives and Guiding Principles. They used the iSeek tool to facilitate that deed and the Internal Communications Unit knowingly enabled the commission of the fraud.

Ms. Angela Kane
Under-Secretary-General
Department of Management

cc: His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka
Mr. Vijay Nambiar
Ms. Catherine Pollard
42nd Staff Council

We expect the Secretary-General to respond to the Staff Council's call for a full and independent investigation into the fraudulent act and to hold accountable its sponsors and perpetrators.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Kisambira
President,
United Nations Staff Union



RES/42/55
Meeting # 93

Staff Council

RESOLUTION

Breach of Confidentiality

WHEREAS, the Department of Management authorized the publication of documentation on its global intranet (i-seek) that lists the names, departments, ID numbers and signatures of staff;

WHEREAS, this action represents a breach of confidentiality that compromises the safety and security of staff by placing confidential information in the public domain;

WHEREAS, the press has already commented on this security lapse with the result that the names have now been removed.

THE COUNCIL DECIDES:

- (a) To request the Secretary-General to initiate an immediate and independent investigation to determine culpability and to hold the individual responsible for authorizing publication of this information to account.
- (b) Requests further that the President of the Staff Committee bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, all other staff unions and associations of the United Nations secretariat, and the media.

Adopted	Unanimously
For	15
Against	0
Abstention	0