



# United Nations Correspondents Association

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To: Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Under-Secretary-General of DPI  
Stéphane Dujarric, Director, News and Media Division  
Hua Jiang, Chief, Press Service News and Media Division

Re: Access of UN Correspondents

Dear Peter, Stéphane, Hua:

Thank you for the meeting yesterday on the Capital Master Plan. Under separate cover, we will follow up on the plan going forward to ensure that all resident correspondents have adequate space and to make the best of the dramatic reduction of space allotted for the press in the renovated Secretariat building. We look forward to continuing those discussions in good faith on both sides.

I am writing to elaborate on another serious concern of our membership – access at U.N. Headquarters. As requested by many UNCA members, we'll be making this letter public so they know exactly what we're looking for in terms of access for our daily coverage when we return to the Secretariat building in April.

There is a general concern on the part of our membership that press access has been increasingly restricted over the past few years, particularly since our temporary move to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library. We understand that some restrictions have to do with the relocation, but listed below are a few of the larger issues that we feel we urgently need to address.

1) Security Council ACCESS: UN Correspondents had, before the move, access to the hallways, stairwells, and areas around the Security Council and Security Council Stakeout. Since the move, the media has been restricted to a penned-in area in front of the Security Council and at the stakeout. We would like DPI to **make public without delay the floor plan for the Security Council stakeout** and hallways around the Security Council area showing us exactly what our access will be. This is necessary to allay UNCA members' fears that access to the Council will be as restricted as it is now – or even further restricted – when we return to the Secretariat.

2) General Assembly ACCESS: We will be writing to the President of the General Assembly about this. In the meantime, we wanted you to be aware that press access was restricted at his remarks to the General Assembly this week even though we had previously been told the meeting would be open to the press. The Secretary-General said at his press conference yesterday that the restriction was based on Member State requests. We would like to state our position is that **all such events should be open to the press** and pledges to make them so be honored and not changed at the last minute.

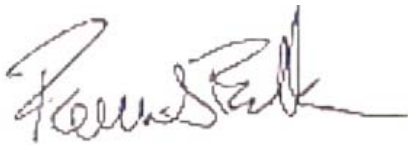
3) Security Council and General Assembly BOOTHS: For almost 60 years, news organizations requiring them had broadcast and radio booths overlooking the Security Council and General Assembly. All of those booths have been removed in the move back to UNHQ. You can understand the consequences of removing access to booths for news organizations. Under the new plan, the only way a reporter will be able to watch the proceedings of the General Assembly or Security Council, and to report on those events live, is to use UNTV.

You are creating a monopoly for UNTV that contradicts the spirit of a free press and, in our opinion, the United Nations Charter. UNCA would like to state clearly that this is unacceptable. **The UN must find a way to make booths available to news organizations.**

4) DELEGATES LOUNGE: We would like confirmation that **Resident Correspondents will have access to the Delegates lounge** when it is reopened just as they did prior to the move to the swing space.

The Secretary-General has repeatedly stated that he is committed to transparency and a free and vibrant press at the United Nations. We therefore hope that he and DPI will assure us that proper press access will be restored when we all return to the Secretariat, and that all policies that would curtail our ability to report from the United Nations will be reversed.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela Falk', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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