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June 12, 2007

Madam Louise Arbour
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations
UNOG – OHCHR
1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

Dear Madam Arbour:

Edmond Burke, the Irish philosopher, taught us:

“All that is needed for evil to prevail is for good men (and women) to do nothing.”

In view of your past achievements and, particularly, the exemplary role you played as Chief Prosecutor of the International War Crimes Tribunal, we write to you on behalf of the Lord Reading Law Society to express concern about the abysmal behaviour of the United Nations Human Rights Council (“HRC”) in its “year of reform”.

As you know, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, when championing the reformulation of the Human Rights organization, observed that the Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) was suffering from declining

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professionalism and that countries sought membership in the Commission “not to strengthen human rights but to protect themselves against criticism or to criticize others”.

In its first year, the HRC has, unfortunately, continued in this dismal tradition and has, some would argue, even taken it to new depths.

We, at the Lord Reading Law Society, realize that the HRC does not answer to the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner. However, we believe that you do have an obligation to speak out on all issues relating to human rights and, particularly, when the HRC itself has been hi-jacked and its mandate distorted.

As High Commissioner for Human Rights, you are painfully aware of the human rights’ abuses that take place regularly in North Korea, China, Sudan, and Chechnya, to name but a few.

As of May 2007, the Council has issued only twelve (12) country specific HRC resolutions, nine (9) of which constituted censures of Israel and three (3) of which were non-condemnatory resolutions on Sudan. The excessive focus on Israel diverts attention from abuses being committed elsewhere, by the very members of the HRC.

When the Lord Reading Law Society chose to honour you with its Annual Human Rights Award, and asked our own member, the Honourable Irwin Cotler, a well-known and often honoured human rights activist, to introduce you, we did so with pride in your accomplishments and activities to that date, and anticipated that you would continue to defend human rights throughout the world. This included protecting the HRC from those

who would use it as a political platform for any purpose other than the protection of human rights.

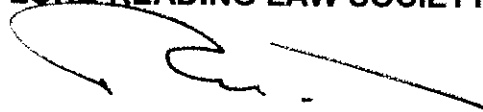
In view of the above, we implore you to speak out against the abuses being committed by members of the HRC.

With great office comes great responsibility. Great responsibility allows great people to rise to the occasion. We invite you to do just that.

We close by acknowledging that any human rights abuses, wherever they occur, need to be exposed to the light of day and dealt with. We do, however, call for balance, fairness and justice. We trust that you demand nothing less.

Respectfully yours,

LORD READING LAW SOCIETY



Per: Ronald H. Levy
Second Vice-President
RHL/md

c.c. Mr. Mark Schrager (President)