

Open Letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

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11 February 2026

To:

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

cc:Ms. Fatoumata Ndiaye, Under-Secretary-General, OIOS
Mr. Khaled El-Enany, Director General, UNESCO
Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Chef de Cabinet
Mr. Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General

Subject: Open Letter – former UN staff member Fabrice Aidan, Epstein Correspondence, and the UN’s Duty to Disclose Disciplinary Measures (including ClearCheck measures)

Your Excellency,

I write this open letter in my capacity as a former senior United Nations official, and as the author of a published investigative analysis based on publicly available U.S. Department of Justice disclosures relating to Jeffrey Epstein.

The correspondence released through official U.S. channels identifies a former UN staff member, **Mr. Fabrice Aidan**, as having used his official UN email account over a sustained period to communicate with Jeffrey Epstein, circulate Security Council briefings, and facilitate Epstein’s access to elite diplomatic forums in the Middle East. The documents further reflect the use of UN institutional access, UN political proximity, and UN operational channels for purposes wholly incompatible with the standards of conduct binding international civil servants.

The seriousness of these revelations cannot be overstated. The central issue is the United Nations’ governance response: what the Organization knew, when it knew it, and what action, if any, was taken.

Recent reporting published in France has now introduced a further dimension to this case, one that transforms the matter into a potential institutional scandal involving the handling of alleged pedophilia-related conduct.

According to numerous mainstream French news site, based on multiple concordant sources, Mr. Fabrice Aidan was reportedly the subject of an FBI report in 2013 for consultation of child pornography material. The same reporting alleges that his conduct was described by a source with access to the FBI report as “*obsessional*,” and that the discovery of this information, reportedly transmitted through the United Nations, prompted the Permanent Representative of France to the Security Council at the time, Ambassador Gérard Araud, to send Mr. Aidan back to France in

April 2013, rather than refer him to U.S. judicial authorities. The article further reports that Mr. Aidan allegedly transited through Canada to avoid arrest, and that he later returned to the United States in 2014 without being troubled by either French or American authorities.

These allegations, if accurate, raise questions that go to the heart of the UN's integrity framework, its internal accountability architecture, and its willingness, or refusal, to act when the individual involved is well-connected, politically protected, or institutionally useful.

The situation is further aggravated by the fact that Mr. Aidan later returned to the UN system. Public information indicates that he worked at UNESCO in Paris **between 2019 and 2023** under the then Director General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay. That fact alone makes any attempt to treat this case as an isolated episode impossible. It suggests that whatever information the UN may have possessed in 2013 did not prevent Mr. Aidan from re-entering the UN system years later.

This raises a series of unavoidable questions.

1) What measures did the United Nations Secretariat take against Mr. Aidan while he was a UN Secretariat staff member?

Given the nature of the DOJ-released correspondence, given the reported FBI findings cited above, the fact that Mr. Aidan was working as a Special Assistant to the then Secretary-General's Envoy for the Middle East Process, the UN must clarify:

- Was Mr. Aidan ever the subject of an internal OIOS investigation?
- Was any disciplinary process initiated by OHRM under the Staff Rules and ST/AI governing disciplinary measures?
- Was he placed on administrative leave at any stage?
- Was the matter referred to the Host Country authorities, as required, where criminal conduct is suspected?
- Was Mr. Aidan's name included in the UN's Clear Check Database? And if not why?

If the UN did not investigate, it must explain why.

If the UN did investigate, it must disclose the outcome.

2) How was Mr. Aidan allowed to exit the Organization?

The reporting suggests that Mr. Aidan was effectively removed quietly, through a repatriation arrangement rather than through formal judicial accountability. If the UN facilitated, tolerated, or silently enabled such an exit, it would represent a grave failure of oversight and duty of care, besides being a serious failure of institutional responsibility.

The UN cannot credibly claim "zero tolerance" policies on sexual exploitation and abuse while allowing a staff member alleged to have consulted pedopornographic material to depart without public accountability and without transparency regarding the measures taken.

3) How was Mr. Aidan cleared to return to the UN system (UNESCO 2019–2023)?

The fact that Mr. Aidan later held a position at UNESCO raises the issue of the UN's ClearCheck mechanism.

ClearCheck is the UN system-wide screening database designed to prevent the rehiring or contracting of individuals who have been found to have engaged in misconduct or whose records should preclude future engagement. It exists precisely to prevent individuals with serious disciplinary histories from quietly resurfacing in other UN agencies.

According to the CEB's official page, ClearCheck has been operational since 28 June 2018.

Mr. Aidan's return to the UN system therefore raises an alarming governance question:

- Was Mr. Aidan's file never entered into ClearCheck?
- Or was it entered and ignored?
- Or was it deliberately sanitized?

Because if the allegations reported are accurate and if the UN was indeed aware of an FBI report in 2013, then allowing Mr. Aidan to re-enter the UN system years later constitutes a failure not merely of oversight, but of the UN's most basic safeguarding mechanisms.

4) Is the United Nations covering up for Epstein-linked insiders?

The UN has spent the last two years issuing gag orders and threatening staff with disciplinary action, including separation from service, for speaking publicly about Gaza, Palestine, or Israel's ongoing assault on civilians. Staff are disciplined for perceived reputational risk. Staff are threatened for external commentary. Staff are sanctioned for the slightest deviation from imposed "neutrality."

Yet in this case, the Organization appears to have tolerated for years the use of UN institutional access to serve Jeffrey Epstein.

The UN cannot continue to withhold the facts and to refuse to disclose what action was taken, while proclaiming that it is committed to accountability, safeguarding, or institutional ethics.

5) Demand for disclosure

In light of the seriousness of the matter, I call upon you, as Secretary-General, to disclose publicly:

1. Whether Mr. Fabrice Aidan was investigated while employed by the UN, and if so, by whom and under what mandate;
2. Whether the UN received information in 2013 regarding any FBI report or any allegations of pedophilia-related conduct, and what action was taken in response;
3. Whether any disciplinary measures were initiated, and the outcome thereof;
4. The circumstances under which Mr. Aidan separated from service, including whether separation was voluntary, negotiated, or facilitated by UN management;
5. Whether Mr. Aidan's record was entered into ClearCheck or any other UN screening mechanism, and whether UNESCO was informed of any adverse record prior to his recruitment;

The Organization has no moral authority to threaten staff for expressing outrage about massacred Palestinian children while refusing to disclose how it handled a staff member allegedly implicated in pedophilia-related conduct and deeply linked to Jeffrey Epstein.

The United Nations cannot claim to uphold rules it applies selectively. Accountability cannot be something imposed on the powerless while those embedded in elite networks are shielded from scrutiny. Continued silence will only confirm what many staff have learned through experience: governance, ethics, and accountability operate in one direction only: downward.

I urge you to respond publicly.

Respectfully,

Nadine Kaddoura

Founder, CERTIORARIS

Former United Nations Senior Staff

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nadine Kaddoura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal tail stroke.