

Letter to Mr Hillel Neuer

Mr Hillel Neuer, in a false and defamatory statement published in the International Herald Tribune on 7 September 2006, accuses me of having co-founded and received in 2002 the “Muammar el-Qaddafi Human Rights Prize”. I did not “co-found”, and have never received, this Prize. As far as I am aware, the Prize was created by the Libyan Government.

Mr Neuer and UN Watch’s attacks on my personal integrity have not stopped since I carried out an official visit in July 2003, on behalf of the UN Commission on Human Rights, to examine the situation of hunger and malnutrition of Palestinian children. Unfortunately, today, it appears that no one can make any statement about the impact of Israel’s actions on Palestinian people, without inviting a barrage of personal attacks or insinuations of anti-Semitism. I have been facing these attacks and insinuations since 2003, yet ironically everyone seems to have forgotten that I face attacks and court procedures in Switzerland for my work in support of the claims of the Jewish communities in relation to the Holocaust assets held by Switzerland’s largest banks. On 22 July 1998, I testified before the Banking Committee of the US Senate in a hearing on the assets of Holocaust victims, in support of the claims of the World Jewish Congress. My book, “The Swiss, the Gold and the Dead: How Swiss Bankers Helped Finance the Nazi War Machine” was published by Harcourt Brace in the US in 1998 (see New York Times article by [Peter Grose](#), April 5 1998) and was then extremely well-received by America’s Jewish community. It seems a shame that so many years of this work should now be so easily eclipsed by Mr Neuer’s ridiculous name-calling.

Jean Ziegler

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food of the UN Council on Human Rights