

# Standing Watch

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*The global society faces a new kind of war with an enemy that threatens the very existence of humankind. The enemy's name is Terrorism—it is without geographic border—and it holds nuclear, chemical, and biological agents as its weapons.*

Judicial Watch believes good government exists when those who are empowered by the people are held accountable to the people they represent. It adheres to the principle of good stewardship.

Most importantly, Judicial Watch believes in the primacy of the rule of law—that all individuals must adhere to and be judged by the same standards, as its motto attests: “No one is above the law.”

It is well known that Judicial Watch has been active in investigating and exposing corruption in the federal government and the judiciary—indispensable bureaucracies, but ones in which power is concentrated. Judicial Watch knows that in any venue where power is invested, individually, or in a group, the potential for abuse of power and corruption exists. And the potential for abuse is directly proportional to the power allotted to particular individuals, branches of government, courts, institutions and organizations . . . *absolute power corrupts absolutely.*

The United Nations is an immensely powerful organization.

As of 2005, the United Nations consists of 191 member states.<sup>1</sup> From the inception of the United Nations in 1945, the United States has been its single largest financial contributor for nearly sixty years.<sup>2</sup> America has a tremendous monetary investment in the United Nations, with an assessed monetary contribution of \$439,611,612 in 1995 alone. The total assessed Member States' contributions FY 2005 is \$1,827, 663, 523 (*One Billion, Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven Million, Six Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Three Dollars*)!<sup>3</sup>

The buzz of a major corruption scandal at the United Nations made front-page headlines in all major newspapers around the world in 2004, implicating the secretary-general, his son, and close associates. What became known as the “Oil-for-Food” corruption scandal involved some 270 “individuals, political entities, and companies from across the world” doing business with now deposed dictator Saddam Hussein. A program designed to bring much needed relief in the form of food and medical supplies to the Iraqi people, turned into a “pot of gold” for corrupt UN officials and their collaborators, who in turn aided and abetted a madman's quest for weapons of mass destruction.<sup>4</sup>

But this was only the tip of the iceberg. Once the investigation began, Judicial Watch knew that the breadth and depth of corruption, gross incompetence, mismanagement, and inertia uncovered at the United Nations would be absolutely staggering!

It was in 1995 that Judicial Watch undertook the representation of State Department employee, Linda Shenwick, in a whistleblower action. When Ms. Shenwick's reports of massive waste, fraud, and abuse of power she had uncovered at the United Nations—as part of her job—was met with a campaign of harassment, threats and eventual dismissal by Clinton-appointed Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, she sought counsel with Judicial Watch. She knew it was the only government watchdog group actively investigating the numerous other scandals of the Clinton administration. (See [Whistleblower Protection – Linda Shenwick](#).)

It would be another ten years before the scandal-plagued organization would finally face an accounting by the United States Congress.

In December of 2004, the United States Congress, at the behest of Rep. Frank Wolfe (R-VA), mandated the creation of a task force of American think tanks, representing the spectrum of liberal and conservative political ideologies, to thoroughly investigate the failures of the United Nations and provide an actionable plan for reform. (See [Task Force on the United Nations: U.S. Institute of Peace](#).) The public hearings detailing this task force's findings and final report to Congress were attended by a Judicial Watch representative.

And after much foot dragging and political horseplay, John Bolton was installed by presidential fiat in a 17-month recess appointment as Ambassador to the United Nations. He has been entrusted with an enormous responsibility—the restoration of a corrupt, but requisite organization. We believe he is the right man, at the right time, for an extremely important, but difficult job. Judicial Watch commends President Bush's choice. (See <http://www.judicialwatch.org/jwnews/080305.htm>.)

Judicial Watch will be doing its part in bringing reform to the United Nations. We believe that corruption is the enemy of good government and, internationally, it creates the conditions that foster Terrorism: hopelessness, poverty, and religious, racial and ethnic intolerance.

Judicial Watch has been receiving visiting international delegations since 1991, whose countries are attempting to build civil societies based upon the rule of law. They see the successful American democratic experiment as a worthy role model.

Judicial Watch has filed open records and FOIA requests seeking information regarding former disgraced U.S. President Bill Clinton's February 2005 appointment as UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery. We question the appointment of an impeached and ethically-challenged former president to a post in an organization facing similar troubles. (See [UN SPECIAL ENVOY BILL CLINTON'S RECORDS SOUGHT FROM UNITED NATIONS AND STATE DEPARTMENT](#).)

And Judicial Watch announced its investigation into the UN's Corrupt Oil-for-Food Program on May 25, 2004, requesting documents relating to the corruption scandal through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. (See [Watchdog Launches Investigation Of UN's Corrupt "Oil-for-Food" Program.](#))

Judicial Watch has been standing watch.

Judicial Watch believes there is a new impetus for international cooperation and one which became terrifyingly apparent on September 11, 2001. The global society faces a new kind of war with an enemy that threatens the very existence of humankind. The enemy's name is Terrorism—it is without geographic border—and it holds nuclear, chemical, and biological agents as its weapons.

The United Nations was conceived out of the universal desire to prevent war and its tragic consequences following the devastation of two world wars. It was conceived out of America's genius and it is sustained by America's dollars. We believe America must be a good steward. We must hold the United Nations accountable to its charter and its stated purpose to prevent war and its horrific consequences. It is our God-given duty to safeguard our freedoms by standing watch and demanding accountability over those institutions we empower. And in the case of the United Nations—it is now imperative that we do so.

To that end, we will continue to stand watch and expose corruption, call for accountability, and exercise the power of the media towards the fulfillment of that purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org> – United Nations – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia – Microsoft Internet Explorer (Page last modified 22:47, 25 October), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/B86116.pdf> - Microsoft Internet Explorer; *CRS Issue Brief for Congress*, "United Nations System Funding: Congressional Issues," Updated April 20, 2005, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.eyeontheunorg/facts.asp>; *Eye on the UN*, "Straight UN Facts, What the U.S. Pays the U.N."; (accessed October 24, 2005), p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.heritage.org> – Investigate the United Nations Oil-for-Food Fraud – Microsoft Internet Explorer, *Background*, No. 1748, April 21, 2004, Nike Gardiner, Ph.D., and James Phillips (accessed October 26, 2005), p.4.