

January 14, 2012

#### UNITED NATIONS REPORT

Period Report Covers October 27 to January 14, 2012. The United Nations held five Sessions during this period that I attended as a representative of the Jewish War Veterans. They were;

- October 27, "May I ask a Question, Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ?"
- November 3, "Return and Restitution: The Question of Restoring Cultural Property To the Countries of Origin"
- November 10 "Promoting Multi-Generational Dialogue through Social Media"
- December 1 "Getting to Zero: Youth and HIV/AIDS"
- December 15 " Year in Review, 2011"

Each of these sessions covered important subjects for each of us as citizens of the United States and the welfare of other people. The following is a brief summary of each.

1. This briefing looked at the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), one of the worlds foremost humanitarian agencies. UNHCR was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly as an agency to lead international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee issues worldwide.
2. Culture is the soul of a nation. The illicit removal or destruction of such property deprives people of their history and tradition. Restitution is the only means that can restore damage and reinstate a sense of dignity. This briefing looked at what is happening globally and the role that each of us must play in protecting our cultural heritage.
3. Our NGO community is actively involved year-round in organizing conferences, preparing educational and social activities , and hosting public awareness events. Through these activities our NGO community are better able to remain active, informed and engaged. This workshop expanded on the notion of social media and its role as a tool for civil society in getting its message out to the world. The overall aim of the Workshop is to unite older and younger generations through dialogue and enable all age groups to utilize new technology and develop new skill sets.
4. This briefing examined the profound impact of HIV/AIDS on young people and the effects of HIV/AIDS Related stigma and discrimination in their educational and other settings. The briefing also looked at how young people can serve as agents of change in the "prevention revolution" and ultimately lead the way to "Getting to Zero".
5. This was the final briefing for 2011. They indicated that the NGO Resource Center was newly renovated. Youth oriented documents are now available at the Resource Center. The new redesigned DPI/NGO Website will be launched in 2012 and should be utilized by all NGOS. They outlined the conferences planned for 2012.

The again stated that young people aged 15-24 constitute approximately 18 percent of the world's population or some 1.2 billion people. In many African countries they comprise over 70 percent of the population. These young people are among the most valuable yet still under utilized resources of any country and must be utilized.

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