



Association mondiale des Amis de l'Enfance

To: His Excellency Mr. Kofi ANNAN
Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation
UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017
USA

4 September 2003

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I was struck with dismay upon hearing of the attack on the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad, which took the lives of twenty-two UN staff.

In my capacity as President of the World Association of Children's Friends (AMADE) and on behalf of all members of our organisation, I would like to express my most sincere condolences to you and the United Nations, and kindly ask you to convey our heartfelt sympathies to the families and loved ones of the victims of this unspeakable act of violence.

The world has suffered a great loss in this terrible tragedy, with the death of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, High Commissioner of Human Rights and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Iraq, whose personal commitment to the global fight for a better recognition of human rights was widely acknowledged and highly valued.

Mr. Vieira de Mello had recently accepted to lend his support to a major programme by AMADE aimed at obtaining that the gravest crimes committed against children be qualified as crimes against humanity. His contribution to this project will be greatly missed.

At this difficult juncture, I would like to express the solidarity of AMADE with the United Nations staff. Our thoughts are with them all.

Renewing the adherence of our organisation to the core values and principles of the United Nations and wishing Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva every success with his difficult task, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

The Princess of Hanover
President of AMADE