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December 18, 2017

United States Senate
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), we write to urge you to oppose the confirmation of Jay Patrick Murray to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Founded over a century ago to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure fair and just treatment to all, ADL advocates for the civil rights of all people and combats discrimination and hate across the world. Although ADL does not frequently weigh in on diplomatic nominations, we are deeply disturbed by the nomination of Mr. Murray and have serious doubts as to his suitability to serve as a senior American official with responsibility for sensitive diplomatic matters.

Whatever the U.N.'s flaws, the men and women that represent the interests of the United States at the General Assembly or other U.N. bodies must be individuals of highest credentials and characters. In our opinion, Mr. Murray's extreme views and reckless rhetoric in his published articles as well as his social media posts raise serious concerns as to his judgment and disqualify him for such a leadership role.

After the March 2016 terrorist attacks at the Brussels airport and metro killed over 30 civilians and injured over 300, Murray demonized the city's entire Muslim community, asserting that "At worst they're planning to kill their infidel neighbors, at best they protect and harbor those who are doing the killing."¹ He has also characterized Muslim refugees fleeing to Europe as an "invasion," loaded language that portrays desperate civilians fleeing hardship as malicious aggressors.²

According to *CNN*, Murray posted numerous messages on his Facebook account expressing praise for Milo Yiannopoulos,³ a misogynistic, racist, xenophobic, transphobic provocateur⁴ who used his position as a *Breitbart* editor to attempt to launder Nazi and white nationalist ideas into the mainstream.⁵ Murray was evidently so enthusiastic about Yiannopoulos's work that he reportedly posted such comments on Facebook as "Milo rocks," "preach, Milo!" and

¹ [Jay] Patrick Murray, "Political Correctness Leads to More Attacks," *Newsmax*, Mar. 22, 2016, <https://www.newsmax.com/patrickmurray/democrats/2016/03/22/id/720282/>

² [Jay] Patrick Murray, "Small US Mideast Role Strengthens ISIS," *Newsmax*, Feb. 22, 2016, <https://www.newsmax.com/patrickmurray/europe-wmd/2016/02/22/id/715577/>

³ Andrew Kaczynski and Chris Massie, "Trump Pick for Top UN Position Praised Milo Yiannopoulos, Shared Inflammatory Memes on Facebooks," *CNN*, Dec. 4, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/04/politics/kfile-murray-un-position/index.html>

⁴ Anti-Defamation League, "Milo Yiannopoulos: Five Things to Know," Jan. 31, 2017, <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/backgrounders/milo-yiannopoulos-five-things-to-know>

⁵ Joseph Bernstein, "Alt-White: How the Breitbart Machine Laundered Racist Hate," *BuzzFeed*, Oct. 5, 2017, https://www.buzzfeed.com/josephbernstein/heres-how-breitbart-and-milo-smuggled-white-nationalism?utm_term=.xtjBWY0aj#.dhqLV2emJ

ADL Community Support Center

Anti-Defamation League, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-3560 T 212.885.7700 www.adl.org

“clone this guy.”⁶ In one of the articles reportedly shared on social media by Murray, Yiannopoulos wrote that “Muslims... get a bit bombay in the presence of gays, a bit rapey in the presence of women who wear skirts shorter than their ankles and generally a bit hostile and violent around anyone who doesn't have their bum in the air five times a day.”

Murray has shown rigid intolerance toward those with whom he disagrees, a problematic trait for a potential U.S. diplomat at the United Nations. According to *CNN*, he posted an image on Facebook “that suggested being a Democrat was a ‘mental illness’.”⁷ Similarly, he wrote in a November 2016 column that “Back in the day, the Greek philosopher Diogenes could be found pacing the streets of Athens, lantern in hand, in search of an honest man. Today we might find him in Washington, D.C., up on Capitol Hill, looking for an honest Democrat. Just one.”⁸

There is no place in America's delegation to the United Nations for a person who spreads Islamophobia, tolerates hate, and spews invective at those with whom he disagrees.

In our view, the Senate's role in the confirmation process is equally as important as the president's responsibility to nominate suitable U.S. officials. For the above reasons, we urge you to reject the nomination of Jay Patrick Murray to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Greenblatt
CEO

⁶ Andrew Kaczynski and Chris Massie, “Trump Pick for Top UN Position Praised Milo Yiannopoulos, Shared Inflammatory Memes on Facebooks,” *CNN*, Dec. 4, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/04/politics/kfile-murray-un-position/index.html>

⁷ Andrew Kaczynski and Chris Massie, “Trump Pick for Top UN Position Praised Milo Yiannopoulos, Shared Inflammatory Memes on Facebooks,” *CNN*, Dec. 4, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/04/politics/kfile-murray-un-position/index.html>

⁸ [Jay] Patrick Murray, “By Supporting Hillary, Democrats Trash Their Integrity,” *Newsmax*, Nov. 2, 2016, <https://www.newsmax.com/PatrickMurray/base-conservative-obamacare/2016/11/02/id/756573/>