

In a strongly worded letter on 15th August 2013 Louis Bloch, a member of the Executive Committee of B'nai B'rith Europe, writing to Bundesrat Didier Burkhalter, Switzerland's Foreign Minister, asked that the nomination of Professor Jean Ziegler to the Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Organisation should be withdrawn.

Bloch puts forward a number of powerful arguments in support of his demand:

- He questions whether Ziegler has the professional know how about human rights, an independence and neutrality to meet the criteria for this position.
- He was severely criticised for his work in the Right to Food programme of the UN.
- He has openly supported organisations and people who have abused Human Rights, such as Colonel Mengistu, Robert Mugabe, Saddam Hussein and others.
- He supported Hisbollah whom he refused to name as a terrorist group.
- He was involved with Gaddafi in Lybia
- He supported the Holocaust denier Roger Garaudy.

Louis Bloch reminds the Foreign Minister of the numerous personalities who have protested at Ziegler's activities during the last few years.

- Kofi Annan condemned him for comparing Israeli soldiers with concentration camp guards
- Seventy US members of Congress accused him of anti-Semitism
- The Canadian government made an official protest about him
- In 2008 various Parliamentarians of the European Union protested about Ziegler
- In 2011 the organisers of the Salzburger Music Festival withdrew their invitation to Ziegler due to his relations with Gaddafi.

The credibility of this important international Human Rights body could be damaged by this nomination, concludes Louis Bloch. It must be withdrawn.