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New York, March 14, 2012 – The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) today sent a letter to Francis M. Deng thanking him for his dedicated work as UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

On January 25, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced that Dr. Deng's term as Special Adviser would <u>come to an end</u>, as planned, on July 31.

For the past five years, AIPR has enjoyed a solid and increasingly close relationship with Dr. Deng and his staff at the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), and we look forward to cooperating with his successor.

From the start of his term as <u>Special Adviser</u>, Dr. Deng has supported the work of the Auschwitz Institute. In 2008 he wrote a letter urging UN member states to send officials to participate in AIPR's Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention. Members of his staff served as instructors for the first time in 2009. The Auschwitz Institute became an official <u>Civil Society Partner</u> of the OSAPG in 2011, and the Joint Office of Special Advisers on Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect was co-organizer of AIPR's <u>2011</u> <u>Lemkin Seminar</u> for government officials, as well as sending two instructors.

The Auschwitz Institute takes this opportunity to invite Dr. Deng to serve as a member of our International Advisory Board when he concludes his term with the OSAPG at the end of July. His expertise and commitment would give an invaluable boost to our work, and we hope that he will join us.

The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR): Building a worldwide network of leaders with the personal and professional commitment to prevent genocide. To learn more, go to <u>www.auschwitzinstitute.org/what we do</u>.