Good riddance to Qaddafi’s pal at the U.N.

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You may have seen some of the recent over-the-top comments on the food crisis from Jean Ziegler, a Swiss sociologist and the U.N.’s special rapporteur on the right to food (thankfully, a largely ceremonial position). If not, here’s a [sampling](http://www.reuters.com/article/gc08/idUSL2069830020080424):

* “We have a herd of market traders, speculators and financial bandits who have turned wild and constructed a world of inequality and horror.”
* “Hunger has not been down to fate for a long time — just as (Karl) Marx thought. It is rather that a murder is behind every victim. This is silent mass murder.”
* Multinational corporations are practicing a form of “structural violence” and “monopolizing the riches of the Earth”
* Biofuels are a “[crime against humanity](http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/green-living/production-of-biofuels-is-a-crime-398066.html)“

In previous years, Ziegler said the United States is an “[imperialist dictatorship](http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/012/198ikivt.asp)” that is committing “genocide” in Cuba and that Gaza is “an immense concentration camp.” Not exactly the most constructive comments, but par for the course for a guy who was [nominated for his position by Libya and Cuba](http://www.forward.com/articles/1729/). Perhaps Ziegler’s finest moment was in helping to launch the “Muammar Qaddafi Human Rights Prize” in 1989.

The good news? Ziegler’s mandate ends today. The bad news? He’s [still going to be an advisor](http://www.righttofood.org/spip.php?article2) to the U.N. Human Rights Council.