

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2011 9:07 PM
To: H
Subject: Mediation support

Below is a note written to me by a staffer of mine along with a staffer in IO:

The Specter Letter somewhat misunderstood the purpose of the UN's Mediation Support Unit (MSU). The MSU provides technical experts who can give support UN mediators, not the mediators themselves. Essentially, the MSU has on-call outside experts (academics, think tanks, etc.) in things like constitutional drafting, revenue sharing mechanisms, etc., so that when a UN mediator needs technical expertise to finish brokering a deal between two parties, he has someone/someones to turn to.

In the UN system, mediation itself is generally done by a Secretary-General appointed Special Representative, Special Envoy, or other individual (eg, al-Khatib); it is that individual who calls on the MSU when needed. These Representatives are the kinds of individuals with the stature and title clout to actually broker deals.

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