



# TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL | USA

May 12, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We are deeply disturbed by UNESCO's announcement that it intends to award a science prize, funded by and named after Teodor Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea. UNESCO's acceptance of two million Euros from President Obiang has been a subject of heated debate in UNESCO and was supposedly under review by the UNESCO Executive Board. Notwithstanding promises of review, UNESCO announced that it was accepting applications for the prize and intends to award it in June.

President Obiang is reported to be one of the most corrupt African leaders leaving his country at the bottom of the TI Corruption Index and with one of the highest levels of poverty in Africa. The country ranks near the bottom of the UN human development index, notwithstanding the millions of dollars it earns from oil. In February 2010, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded that President Obiang's son "was able to move over \$100 million in suspect funds into or through the U.S. financial system" and news reports indicate that the son is being investigated by the Department of Justice.

Given U.S. leadership and your strong support for the anti-corruption agenda, it is vital that the United States roundly condemns UNESCO's action. We urge you to direct the U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO to register disapproval and seek to rescind this initiative.

Sincerely,

Nancy Boswell  
President & CEO

Cc: Dr. Esther Brimmer, Assistant Secretary of State for International Affairs  
Ms. Nerissa J. Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau for International Affairs