

## Introduction

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk<sup>1</sup> is the premier site attempting to justify the Watchtower's 10-year membership with the United Nation's Department of Public Information (DPI). This article addresses the information presented at that site.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk lends its support to statements in the official Watchtower letter, released October 22 2001 (shown below), where it attempts to justify its association with the United Nations, The site also argues against comments that have been made by former Jehovah's Witnesses stumbled over the Watchtower Societies actions.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

October 22, 2001

Letters Editor  
*The Guardian*  
e-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk

Dear Sir,

Stephen Bates' articles in *The Guardian* of October 8 and 15 substantially misrepresents the background to Jehovah's Witnesses registration with the United Nations and contains a number of factual errors.

In 1991 one of our legal corporations registered with the United Nations as a NGO (non-governmental organization) for the sole purpose of getting access to the extensive library of the United Nations. This enabled a writer who received an identification card, to enter their library for research purposes and to obtain information that has been used in writing articles in our journals about the United Nations. There was nothing secret about it.

At the time of the initial application no signature was required on the form. Years later, unbeknown to the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, the United Nations published "Criteria for Association", stipulating that affiliated NGO's are required to support the goals of the United Nations.

After learning of the situation, our membership as NGO was withdrawn and the ID card of the writer was returned.

Sincerely,

Paul Gillies  
Press Officer for Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain

P.S. Please do not publish my e-mail address.

Watch Tower Society, The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN  
Contact: Paul Gillies, telephone 020 8906 2211;  
Fax: 020 8371 0051

<sup>1</sup> Quotations from Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk and un.org are as of 19th May 2010.

At initial glance, jehovahsjudgment.co.uk is attractively presented. However, the rhetorical style should quickly alert readers that the quality of the information is poor, filled as it is with fallacies and common techniques used to mislead, such as red herrings, emotional pleading, and straw-man arguments.<sup>2</sup> Ad hominem attacks fill every section, referring to anyone that does not agree with the Watchtower's actions as "crack pots", "conspiracy theorists", "apostates [that] lie", "accuers", "hopelessly wrong authors" and "opposers".

The first page alone contains the following ad hominem attacks and generalizations:

- See how the apostate's own 'evidence' proves the Society to be completely right, leaving the **apostates** looking completely **stupid**.
- We show direct evidence that such a **conspiracy theory** is nonsense.
- This brochure changed over the years, but **apostates lie** and quote from the current version, hoping you won't notice.
- London Bethel wrote to the Guardian correcting their **horribly inaccurate journalism**. However **crackpots** now claim Bethel's letters of explanation are a "cover-up".

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk is tediously long through the inclusion of unnecessary information and contradictory viewpoints. Certain important but inaccurate statements are repeated constantly, as if reiterating the same point often enough will add weight. Condensed, jehovahsjudgment.co.uk contains two predominant lines of reasoning, both of which are easily shown to be incorrect:

1. The 1991 application process did not require the Watchtower Society as an affiliated NGO to *support* the ideals of the United Nations
2. Affiliation with the United Nations did not violate Watchtower principles

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk constantly argues from contradictory angles by focusing on technicalities. As an example, it claims in "Know your NGO's":

*There is not even a resolution that NGOs must share the ideals of the UN charter.*

In "The Changing World of NGO's" it states:

*In 1994, the NGOs must simply share the same ideals. ... Does the Watchtower Society and Jehovah's Witnesses share those same ideals?*

Why spend time discussing there is no "resolution" to share the ideals, when later admitting that NGOs do agree to share the ideals, and then arguing is nothing wrong in doing so? This makes much of what is presented appear to have been included as padding to confuse the reader, rather than for the purpose of making any valuable contribution to the discussion.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk argues against some dubious statements that "apostates" apparently have made. I cannot speak for what other people may or may not have said, so in what follows I simply address the facts regarding the Watchtower and its association with the United Nations.

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<sup>2</sup> For a full discussion on rhetorical fallacy see [jwfacts.com/watchtower/rhetorical-fallacy.php](http://jwfacts.com/watchtower/rhetorical-fallacy.php)

**Straw Man** – To misrepresent a persons point of view and then prove the misrepresentation wrong  
**Red Herring** – To introduce a point that is not relevant in order to misdirect the argument  
**Emotional Pleading** – To use emotions to sway a person from considering the facts  
**Ad Hominem** – To attack the person in order to undermine their argument

## Why Affiliation Stumbles

To help make sense of it all, the reader needs to keep in mind what the key points really are:

1. The Watchtower is very clear that anyone indicating support of an organisation that goes contrary to Bible principles disassociates themselves by their actions.

Concerning those who renounced their Christian faith in his day, the apostle John wrote: "They went out from us, but they were not of our sort; for if they had been of our sort, they would have remained with us." (1 John 2: 19) Also, a person might renounce his place in the Christian congregation by his actions, such as by becoming part of a secular organization the objective of which is contrary to the Bible and, hence, is under judgment by Jehovah God. (Compare Revelation 19:17-21; Isaiah 2:4.) So if a person who is a Christian chooses to join those who are disapproved by God, it would be fitting for the congregation to acknowledge by a brief announcement that he has *disassociated himself* and is no longer one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Such a person would be viewed in the same way as a disfellowshipped person.

*Organized To Accomplish Our Ministry* (1983) p.151

"As Jehovah's Witnesses they value their relationship to God and Christ above everything else. Were they to identify themselves as giving unquestioning support to any political arrangement... Any act on their part that would indicate otherwise, therefore, would be an act of disloyalty. Such an act would be taking away from God and Christ their rightful due and would be worship to the "wild beast." No matter how insignificant the act required may seem, a Christian's engaging in such worship would mean his being disloyal to God and Christ." *Watchtower* 1976 October 15 pp.632,636

2. Such support can be indicated by a membership card or association with the United Nations

YMCA

"We have long recognized that the YMCA, though not being a church as such, is definitely aligned with the religious organizations of Christendom in efforts to promote interfaith... In joining the YMCA as a member a person accepts or endorses the general objectives and principles of the organization. ... Membership means that one has become an integral part of this organization founded with definite religious objectives, including the promotion of interfaith. Hence, for one of Jehovah's Witnesses to become a member of such a so-called "Christian" association would amount to apostasy." *Watchtower* 1979 Jan 1 pp.30,31

Malawi

"In the 1960's and the 1970's, the Witnesses' neutrality underwent brutal tests in connection with the demand that all citizens of Malawi buy a card signifying membership in the ruling political party. Jehovah's Witnesses saw it as contrary to their Christian beliefs to share in this. As a result, they were subjected to persecution that was unprecedented in its sadistic cruelty. Tens of thousands were forced to flee the country, and many were in time forcibly repatriated to face further brutality." *jv* p.195

3. The Watchtower has made clear the United Nations goes contrary to Bible principles and is considered part of Satan's political arrangement. It labels the United Nations as the "disgusting thing" and the "scarlet colored wild beast that descends into the abyss."

"The "disgusting thing" of Jesus' prophecy is clearly identified by Scripture as the United Nations organization today. It is the same as the "scarlet-colored wild beast" of Revelation chapter 17." *Watchtower* 1979 Feb 1 p. 26

The Watchtower has condemned association with the United Nations.

“So all the **kings associated with** the scarlet-colored wild beast give their power and authority to it, and even the other nations that are not members of the United Nations are also cooperating with the beast in this opposition to God’s kingdom.” *Watchtower* 1967 Mar 15 p. 183

It has also shown that support for the United Nations goes against strict neutrality.

“Interestingly, the resolution of this world conference of churches did not express recognition of God’s Kingdom as the only means to bring lasting life and peace. In fact, it did not even mention God’s Kingdom. Instead, the resolution followed the traditional position taken by **Christendom’s churches in support of the United Nations** organization and other human endeavors. It stated: “As further measures we urge: 1. The upholding and extension of the authority of the United Nations, international law and support to full implementation of the Helsinki agreement.” And, giving “guidelines for action by the churches,” it appealed to them to “support politicians and governments in plans to develop strategies for peace and systems of common security.” How different was the position taken by **Jesus Christ, who taught strict neutrality** in worldly political affairs and instructed his disciples to look to God’s Kingdom as the only means of establishing lasting world peace!” *Awake* 1984 Nov 8 p.13

Watchtower support and association are two terms that appear repeatedly in the discussion that follows.

# Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk Response

## In the Beginning

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk's introductory section briefly mentions that in 2001 the Guardian identified the Watchtower as registered with the United Nations. The Watchtower thanked them for identifying the registration requirements had changed and withdrew.

The tone for the discussion is then set, making an ad hominem attack on people not content with that explanation by referring to them as “disgruntled Jehovah's Witnesses and other opposers” and lying “conspiracy theorists”. An emotional plea follows:

“... implore you set aside all prejudice and any other emotions, to fairly and dispassionately consider the other side of the argument without any preconceived ideas ... A truly humble person would do so.”

As the *Awake* 2000 highlights, this type of emotional pleading is a propaganda technique.

“Even though feelings might be irrelevant when it comes to factual claims or the logic of an argument, they play a crucial role in persuasion. Emotional appeals are fabricated by practiced publicists, who play on feelings as skillfully as a virtuoso plays the piano.” June 22 p.6

## Know your NGOs!

The main premise in this section is that UN comprises two departments to which an NGO can apply - the DPI or ECOSOC. Apparently, Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk feels it was acceptable for the Watchtower to apply to the DPI, but it would have been unacceptable to apply to ECOSOC, as ECOSOC allows the NGO more consultative power. This is a flawed premise, as association as an NGO with either department of the United Nations violates Watchtower principles.

Most of the discussion in this section explains the role of ECOSOC, but since the Watchtower did not associate with ECOSOC it is of little relevance. Since the Watchtower applied to the DPI, what is relevant is that the DPI requires associated NGO's to “... undertake to support the work of the United Nations”, terminology from Resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

In the 1994 DPI *Handbook*, page 1 shows the importance of its NGO partners by stating, “The United Nations is privileged to have NGO's as partners in our common quest for peace, democracy and development. As a vital link between the people of the world and the United Nations, about 20,000 NGO's are active in all aspects of the work of the United Nations.”

## Did we agree to praise the UN?

Tricky turn of phrase is used in this section to detract from relevant arguments. For example, the heading is a red herring, as it is phrased to change the emphasis of the issue. The Watchtower was not required to “praise” the United Nations; but its application required agreeing to provide information annually regarding its “activities related to United Nations issues”.

The site continues with a straw man argument, stating that:

Conspiracy theorists claim that the Watchtower Society agreed to meet special criteria to “become an NGO”.

The claim is not that that Watchtower had to meet special criteria to “become an NGO”, as by definition they are one. Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk heads down a sidetrack to prove this fact. The real point made is that they applied to “become an **associated** NGO” with the DPI and as part of the application process there were specific criteria that required being fulfilled.

The site then claims it is a lie that the Watchtower had a requirement to “... “print articles praising the UN” to “keep their NGO status”.

This is another argument over semantics to detract from the issue. The Watchtower did not have to agree to specifically “praise” the United Nations or “print articles”. The requirement to keep its NGO status was to submit information on an annual basis to the DPI to review. If the information provided was not supportive of the DPI they had the option to revoke membership. The Watchtower could not submit articles to the DPI describing it as the “beast reserved for destruction”, so had an obligation to print articles that display the UN in a positive light.

The site continues with the ludicrous line of reasoning that:

Jehovah's Witnesses and the Watchtower Society never said, “I agree to meet your criteria” because they could not. They never signed something saying “We will meet your criteria”, because no NGO can determine that for themselves, only the DPI office can.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk makes a number of such claims, each worded slightly differently. Since this section and subsequent sections makes the multiple claims that the Watchtower Society never agreed to support or praise the United Nations, it is important to clarify from the start exactly what they agreed to.

Please note that the association of your Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the Department of Public Information (DPI) requires that you provide us with proof of your organization's non-profit status and with an annual report on its activities related to United Nations issues.

#### APPLICATION FORM FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Excerpt from 1991 application form

“The principal purpose of association of non-governmental organizations with the United Nations Department of Public Information is the redissemination of information in order to increase public understanding of the principles, activities and achievements of the United Nations and its Agencies. Consequently, it is important that you should keep us informed about your organization's information programme as it relates to the United Nations, including sending us issues of your relevant publications. We are enclosing a brochure on the “The United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations”, which will give you some information regarding the NGO relationship.”

1992 Letter to newly approved associated NGO's

The 1991 application form above shows a report was to be submitted annually and the approval letter shows there was a requirement for “redissemination of information in order to increase public understanding of the principles, activities and achievements of the United Nations...” Information on un.org and in its brochures also state this is a requirement. No doubt, these articles are expected to be of a positive nature; otherwise they would not constitute support of principles of the United Nations.

The document at [www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/pdf/guidelines.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/pdf/guidelines.pdf) shows that since its inception in 1945, DPI NGO's commit to spread information supporting the United Nations.

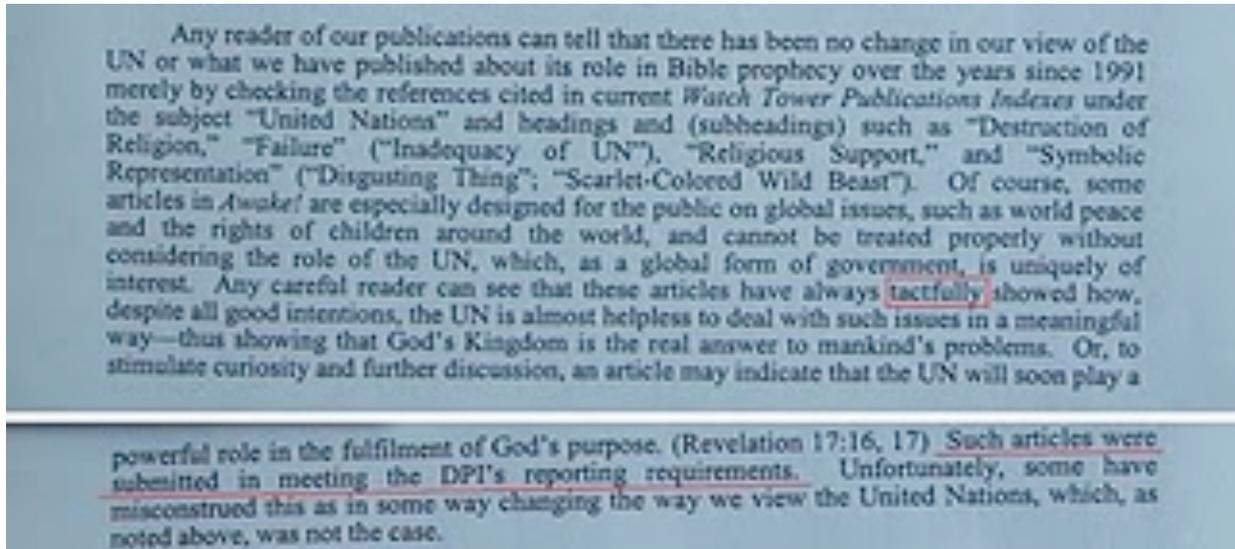
#### **"What are the responsibilities of NGOs associated with DPI?"**

Since the founding days of the United Nations in San Francisco, NGOs have made valuable contributions to the international community by drawing attention to issues, suggesting ideas and programmes and publications, disseminating information and mobilizing public opinion in support of the UN and its Specialized Agencies. Association with DPI constitutes a commitment to that effect. Associated NGOs are expected to devote a portion of their information programmes to promoting knowledge of the United Nations' principles and activities. In addition, they are expected to keep the DPI/NGO Section abreast of their activities by regularly providing samples of their information materials relating to the work of the UN.

A 1968 Resolution continued the concept that an NGO was to support the work of the United Nations.

"In 1968, the Economic and Social Council, by Resolution 1297 (XLIV) of 27 May, called on DPI to associate NGOs, bearing in mind the letter and spirit of its Resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, which stated that an NGO "...shall undertake to support the work of the United Nations and to promote knowledge of its principles and activities, in accordance with its own aims and purposes and the nature and scope of its competence and activities".  
<http://www.un.org/en/civilsociety/1297.shtml>

A personal letter from Bethel to a Witness requesting answers also acknowledges they had a requirement to submit articles it had written to the United Nations to fulfil its reporting requirements.



**It is beyond question that the Watchtower agreed to show support for the United Nations by distribution of information about it. This fact undermines a large portion of what follows on [Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk](http://Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk).**

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk next dismisses the idea that the Watchtower joined the United Nations for reasons other than access to the library as ridiculous.

Some conspiracy theorists say that the Watchtower Society's "real motive" was to gain prominence in the eyes of the UN and other governments, particularly where there is persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses. However, is it not a ridiculous idea that having DPI passes to access the UN's research materials could have such a benefit?

However, in the section "Follow it To The Letter", [Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk](http://Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk) states the Watchtower was involved in more than just accessing research materials and attended conferences on such topics as the holocaust. These conferences and association with the United Nations can help legitimise the cause of the Watchtower.

Furthermore, it is not ridiculous, as the concept comes from Watchtower representatives. In an interview immediately following the Guardian article, the Watchtower spokesman in Portugal stated that United Nations registration was to assist gaining recognition in developing countries. In a newspaper Interview on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2001, the Watchtower's Portuguese representative stated:<sup>3</sup>

"Registration as a Non Governmental Organisation was only done because you can give humanitarian aid and protect human rights in various countries around the world," says the PUBLIC Pedro Candeias, spokesman for the Association of Jehovah's Witnesses in Portugal. In Portugal, however, a relaxation of registration is not yet known officially by the AJW, which represents nearly 50,000 believers.

The official says the religious group to which he belongs has had an "important role" in helping the populations of countries like Angola, Bosnia, Georgia, Rwanda and other African or Latin

<sup>3</sup> <http://web.archive.org/web/20011119221025/http://jornal.publico.pt/2001/10/20/Sociedade/S05.html> - translated with the assistance of Google Translate.

American. "Reaching out to these countries was complicated and therefore it was necessary to register" the WTBTs in the United Nations. But this registry, he says, did not compromise the Jehovah's Witnesses to "any political involvement" with the UN.

It was 2 days after this interview that the Watchtower changed its official position by releasing the October 22<sup>nd</sup> letter contradicting the above statements and claiming it only applied for library access.

## Please Sign Nowhere

As the section title suggests, it is made to seem important that the 1991 application did not require a signature, a statement that appears on the Watchtower letter of October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001. The relevant information is that an application form was filled out, not whether or not it required a signature.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk next claims an annual review was not required, quoting that it was not until 2001 that the United Nations "has instituted a review process for the first time". This must be a different review process than the one referred to in the 1991 application form, as the 1991 form specifically states the review is annual.

Anyway, the whole premise for this section falls completely apart when we learn a few paragraphs later that an annual Accreditation Form was required to be *signed annually*.

“... the Society (and other NGOs) certainly did have to sign the previous version of the Accreditation Form every year.”

Now that we finally have an admission of an annual signature requirement, the discussion takes a different direction:

No where on those forms is there anything which would compromise the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses.

It is not the specific questions on the form that compromises Watchtower beliefs, it was the intent of the form to be associated with the United Nations that was the compromise.

The 1991 form asked for an annual report and Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk admits that there was a yearly Accreditation Form to sign and lodge. So when Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk then argues that a new review process was implemented in 2002, a year after the Watchtower stopped its association, it hardly seems relevant, as it already was shown the Watchtower actively thought about and renewed its association with the United Nations on an annual basis.

**YEAR 2000 ACCREDITATION FORM  
FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Please fill out (please type) and return NO LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER 1999 to:  
DPI/NGO Resource Center  
Room L-13-31  
United Nations, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.  
Fax: (212) 963-2819  
Tel: (212) 963-7233/7234/7078

Name of Organization (Full Name): \_\_\_\_\_  
Headquarters Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
President or Chief Admin. Officer (Name): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Representation at United Nations Headquarters in New York**  
(Please list one main representative and one alternate representative)

**Main Representative:**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Representative:**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate who in your organization should receive the monthly mailing sent by the DPI/NGO Resource Center. (Check only one):  
 Editor of your publication       President  
 Main representative       Alternate representative

(continued on back)

Address (if editor): \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your organization's main area (s) of interest (e.g. development, disarmament, religion, environment, human rights, conflict resolution, women, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description (no more than 1-2 sentences) of your organization's main area(s) of work:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form should be used to confirm your currently accredited representatives and/or to authorize newly appointed representatives. Please note that designations must be signed by the Chief Administrative or Executive Officer of the Organization. Representatives should telephone (212) 963-7233/7234/7078 to arrange for grounds passes, which must be obtained in person.

Please return this form as soon as possible. We require this information in a timely manner in order to update our database and Directory.

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: 31 DECEMBER 1999**

## The changing world of NGOs

This section makes the point that the requirements of the DPI have changed over time and that the requirements from 1991 did not violate Watchtower principles. This is an invalid premise, as it was not the specific requirements placed on an NGO, but the act of associating with the United Nations that was the violation.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk attacks “critics” as deliberately lying when they quote from the 2005 DPI booklet instead of the 1994 or 1991 booklets regarding the requirements for an NGO.

*“What are the Criteria for NGOs to become associated with DPI? The NGO **must support and respect the principles of the Charter of the UN** and have a clear mission statement that is consistent with those principles...”*

Apostates often use the above quote, and repeat it endlessly as “proof” of the Watchtower Society's support of the UN. Yet this appears in the 2005 brochure, do we know if it appears in the older brochures? We already stated that we have a copy of the 1994 brochure, so does that phrase appear there? No, not at all.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk highlights that the 2005 booklet requires an NGO “**support** and respect the principles of the Charter of the UN” whereas in 1994 they only specified an NGO “**share** the ideals”.

Notice the difference. In 2005, NGOs must *support the principles of the UN Charter*. In 1994, the NGOs must simply *share the same ideals*.

For some reason, the site feels the Watchtower would be wrong to support the principles, but to share the ideals is acceptable. There is little difference between the two concepts, so it is a mute point to argue.

Anyway, the whole point is invalid, as page 7 of the 1994 DPI Handbook *does* say an NGO must “support” the ideals.

A photograph of a document page with a red underline. The text reads: "can prove, during the initial two years of association with DPI, that they support the United Nations by featuring U.N. information in their publications and outreach activities;"

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk continues that critics lie about there not being changes:

claim that this requirement was in place since before 1991, and has remained unchanged ever since. Is this claim true?

No. The critics are lying.

He quotes the 53rd General Assembly as proof of changing requirements with the United Nations:

*"...the United Nations has entered a new era in its relations with NGOs and other civil society actors. **The Economic and Social Council recognized this changed relationship when it adopted resolution 1996/31.** Many agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system have followed suit. The Secretariat, for its part, has tried to adapt to this new situation in creative and innovative ways and will pursue its efforts in this field. The United Nations is committed to seek the participation and contribution of NGOs in its work. New approaches, attitudes, methods and responses are required throughout the United Nations system if we are to meet this challenge effectively"*

This creates a straw-man argument, making the focus that there has been changes in requirements over the years. Yet the claim is not that requirements have never changed, but that the core goal to support and respect the principles of the Charter has always been in place.

As quoted earlier, since its 1945 inception the United Nations has required its associated DPI NGO's to be "in support of the UN" and its ideals. This was reiterated at the 1968 Economic and Social Council.

"In 1968, the Economic and Social Council, by Resolution 1297 (XLIV) of 27 May, called on DPI to associate NGOs, bearing in mind the letter and spirit of its Resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, which stated that an NGO "...shall undertake **to support** the work of the United Nations and to promote knowledge of its principles and activities, in accordance with its own aims and purposes and the nature and scope of its competence and activities".  
<http://www.un.org/en/civilsociety/1297.shtml>

This requirement has continued unchanged, such as shown at <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/res/1996/eres1996-31.htm> and <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/pdf/res96-31.pdf>, and formed part of the acceptance letter.

## Following it to the Letter

This section repeats much of what has been previously stated, such as that no signature was required on the application form. The main point of the section is that the Watchtower did not lie when stating the reason for applying for associated NGO status was to obtain library access. However, the reasoning used is constantly contradictory.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk admits that letters from the UN show that the library is "accessible to absolutely anyone", so we again seem to be taken down another pointless discussion when he continues to argue that it was not accessible to anyone:

... we wonder why the 1994 NGO brochure stated that:

*"For NGOs associated with DPI, the United Nations provides: ... use of the Dag Hammarskjold Library."*

If absolutely anyone could use the entire facilities, we wonder why the brochure advertises use of that library as a perk of being a DPI NGO.

This reasoning does not follow, as the document is simply making a marketing statement of benefits. If I sign up for AVG anti-virus software, both the free version and the paid version list virus protection as a feature of their software. By including virus protection as a feature of the paid version it does not imply virus protection is not also part of the free version.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk next takes a somewhat contradictory line when he then reasons that the Watchtower possibly did apply because they thought they needed a library card, likely due to incorrect advice from incompetent UN staff.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk back-flips yet again by starting to prove that more than library access was sought. This becomes somewhat of a double-edged sword.

Of course, if we look carefully we can see that the Watchtower Society did not say they merely wanted access to the "main library". Bethel said that it was "necessary to present an authorized pass to gain access to those *specific areas*". Yes, Bethel never claimed it needed a pass to access the Library itself, but to "specific areas" of that library and specific "library facilities". A quick investigation reveals that there is far, far, more to the United Nations libraries than simply a main library full of books — and far, far, more than simply the *Dag Hammarskjold* building.

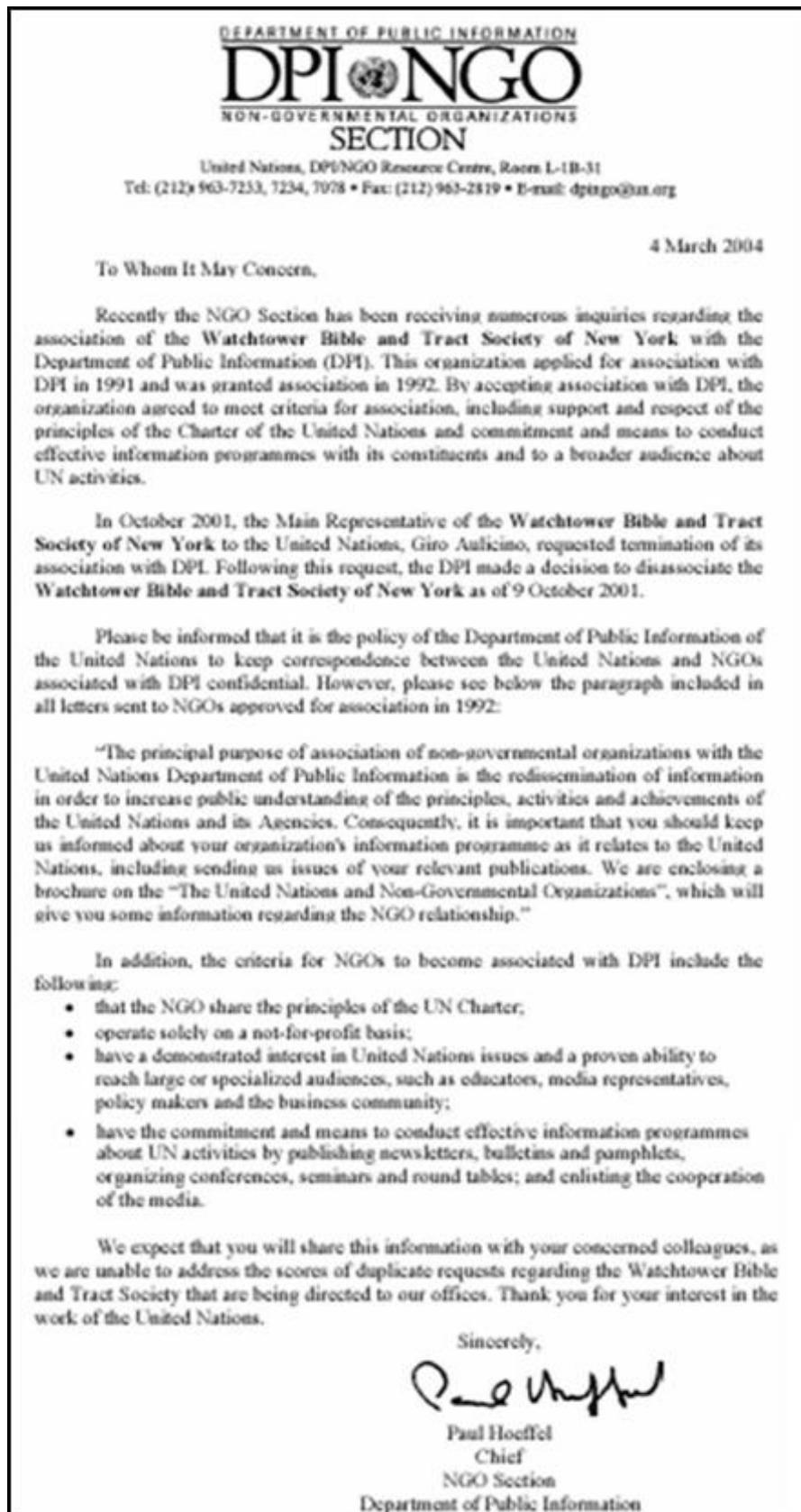
Some of these other areas include conferences:

Some have uncovered records of Watchtower representatives attending a conference on the holocaust for NGOs. They quote this as "proof" that Bethel was "lying" and that there was really more to their NGO membership than merely a "library card". On the contrary, such a conference is exactly the kind of facility requiring DPI NGO status. Conferences on subjects such as the holocaust are part of the "extensive library facilities" on offer by the DPI to representatives of its NGOs.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk here helps uncover what the Watchtower really was after. Does this breach Watchtower standards? How would elders treat a publisher that started to attend Catholic or Republican Party conferences?

## Hail to the Chief

This chapter attempts to address the letter that appears on the United Nations website at <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/pdfs/watchtower.pdf> and signed by Paul Hoeffel, which confirms the Watchtower was an associated NGO and outlines what was expected of NGO's during the 1990's.



A similar letter had also been released in 18<sup>th</sup> March 2002.



United Nations

Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS—SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017  
TEL: 1 (212) 963-1234 - FAX: 1 (212) 963-4879

18 March 2002

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

In reply to your letter dated 19 February 2002, please be informed of the following:

1. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., an NGO, had been associated with the DPI since 1992 and requested to terminate its association in 2001. The request was granted on 9 October 2001. According to the website [www.watchtower.org](http://www.watchtower.org), the organization is "a legal organization in use by Jehovah's Witnesses."
2. The United Nations does not force or "trick" any NGO to be associated with DPI.
3. The criteria for association for NGOs have not been changed since 1991.

We are also attaching a copy of response from our office to inquiries about the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

Sincerely,

Lyutha Al-Mughairy  
Chief  
Public Liaison Service  
Department of Public Information

cc: S. Tharoor  
T. Gastaut  
P. Hoeffel

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk admits, "**This seems like pretty damning evidence**", in which case he is correct. From there on, the section collapses into petty slander and illogical or inaccurate arguments.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk starts by accusing Paul of lying and the DPI of "**trying to cover-up their own ineptness.**" He continues that "**The chief of the DPI is being misleading — either by intentionally trying to cover his department's failings or from simply making an honest mistake.**"

Once again, the misleading statement follows that "**As we saw earlier, in no place on any of the forms signed by the Society was anything said about "support and respect of the principles" of the UN charter.**" We already know support has been conditional for associated NGO's since 1945, and was stated in the 1992 acceptance letter from the UN. Therefore, Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk's Blockbuster illustration does not apply and his continual arguments that we need to see the 1992 brochure and not the 2004 one is a pointless diversion.

Paul was not lying in his letter. The following 1992 United Nations press release verifies exactly what he stated.

# United Nations

## Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

NGO/208  
PI/755  
14 February 1992

### DPI/NGO ORIENTATION COURSES TO BE HELD AT HEADQUARTERS, 20-21 FEBRUARY

#### Thirty-seven Organizations Granted Association Status with DPI

The annual DPI/NGO Orientation Course, for newly accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations, will take place at Headquarters from 20 to 21 February, during which senior officials will discuss current activities of the United Nations and provide an introduction to United Nations information resources.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) accepted, on 28 January, 37 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking association with it. Among them are: the American Cancer Society (USA), the Centro Unesco de Galicia (Spain), the Confederación Latinoamericana de Cooperativos de Ahorro y Crédito (Panama), Doctors Without Borders/Médecins sans frontières (USA/France), the Ford Foundation (USA), the Foreign Policy Association (Russia), the Foundation for Amity and National Solidarity (India) and the Russian-American University (Russia). A complete list is available from DPI.

The Department failed to approve the applications submitted by 13 organizations, and terminated the association of 14 others that were inactive.

The NGOs officially recognized by DPI cooperate with the United Nations to help build public understanding and support for United Nations programmes and goals. Over the past five years, the number of NGOs associated with DPI has nearly doubled, to more than 1,300.

To be granted association with DPI, NGOs must have national or international standing, support the Charter of the United Nations, have a broadly based membership and possess the resources necessary for effective outreach.

The two-day orientation programme will begin with a report on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, presented by Jean-Claude Faby, Director, New York Office, of the Conference secretariat. Key energy concerns will be addressed by Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Coordinator, New

(more)

After so much repetition that the Watchtower never agreed to support the United Nations, this section ends with the incongruous question:

"In what way can true Christians share the ideals of the UN charter, and if the Society did agree to support the UN, would that compromise our beliefs?"

This is strange reasoning indeed, and addressed in the next section. If it is not a compromise, why did Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk take so much time inaccurately trying to prove they never agreed to support the United Nations?

## Principle Support

This section repeats the incorrect point from "The Changing world of NGO's" that the Watchtower did not agree to "support and respect the principles of the Charter of the UN" but rather "share the ideals".

So the requirement clearly changed from happening to share the same ideals as the charter, to active support of the principles of the charter.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk then introduces a new line of argument that support of the United Nations is not actually wrong.

Let's pretend we have evidence that the Society did indeed sign a document where they agreed to support the UN and the principles of the UN's charter....

Do we or do we not support and give "approval" to these principles? If you do not support those principles, what kind of person would you be? Indeed, if Jehovah's Witnesses as a religion did not support and approve of those principles above, what kind of horrible religion would we be members of?

This is a pointless discussion, as it suggests that because the Watchtower supports some UN ideals, then associating with it does not conflict with Watchtower doctrine. If you follow this line of reasoning, then there is no reason a Witness should not be involved with other religions or political affiliations, provided they agree with some of their ideals as well. That is certainly contrary to what the Watchtower actually teaches. For example, the Watchtower agrees with most of the principles of Christianity, such as love of God and neighbour, yet refuses to support or join world church committees or days. Many Witnesses will not even enter a Church.

The key point is that the Watchtower does not support the fundamental basis for the United Nations. The Watchtower *does not* share the United Nation's principle ideal of attempting to improve world conditions through mankind's efforts, as this is something the Watchtower teaches only Jehovah can do. Because of this ideal, the 1999 book *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy* describes the United Nations as the modern day "disgusting" counterfeit of God's Kingdom" and the "the scarlet-colored wild beast" bound for the abyss.

"Thus **the disgusting thing**" foretold by the angel—the United Nations—was put in place." dp 15 p. 269

"The United Nations is actually a worldly **confederacy against Jehovah** God and his dedicated Witnesses on earth." *Watchtower* 1987 Sep 1 p.20

"And now the United Nations, the successor of that League, has been called the best means for peace, yes, even more than that, the "last hope for peace." So today we can see in actuality what the apostle John saw in symbol, that that **scarlet-colored wild beast is "full of blasphemous names."** Those expressions of admiration for it turn false religionists, not to the worship of Jehovah God the Creator, but to idolatry of a man-made creation, the worship of a political image, the worship of an international organization for world peace and security." *Watchtower* 1963 Nov 15 p.697

There are specific principles in the charter that the Watchtower does not support, such as using armed forces when considered "in the common interest." ([www.un.org/en/documents/charter/preamble.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/preamble.shtml))

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk then continues off on another dangerous tack:

Did not Paul appeal to Rome when he was being persecuted? Yes — did he not use the legal system of a government which later proved to be the foretold "disgusting thing", to advance true worship?

I discuss this issue in more detail later. Paul did use the legal system to advance true worship, as the Watchtower has on many occasions. The issue regarding the United Nations is not whether it is *Scripturally* acceptable for Witnesses to be involved in governmental affairs, but whether it is allowed under Watchtower doctrine. The hypocrisy is the Governing Body conforming to a different set of standards to which it enforces upon its members that is at question.

The section conclusion is therefore incorrect on two accounts when stating:

If the Society agreed to support the UN and the principles of it's charter — which they did not — it would not violate bible principles.

## Did we hypocritically ‘ride the wild beast’?

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk introduces a red herring by explaining the United Nations is one of the “superior authorities of Romans 13.

If an apostate or other opposer doesn't want to regard the United Nations as a government which comes under the “superior authorities”, then that is their businesses and their business alone. Jehovah's Witnesses are not to be judged on the basis of someone else's mistaken beliefs.

There is an attempt to show that it was acceptable to become a DPI NGO, as it the United Nations one of the “superior authorities” we need to obey. Now I am confused. If this is the case, why the website, why are Witnesses leaving over it and why did the Watchtower rapidly break its ties as soon as the Guardian magazine brought their association to light? It is a red herring because the issue is not whether they are a superior authority, but how closely aligned Watchtower doctrine allows it to be.

A Witness is allowed to use a public library and the Watchtower's October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001 letter implies that simple use of a United Nations library had been acceptable, *until* they realised it meant support of the United Nations. However, a Witness cannot join a political party and for years were not allowed to vote. The real issue of contention then is whether becoming an associated NGO meant it had aligned too closely with this superior authority.

This section had the potential to be an interesting debate on exactly what Watchtower policy is towards political association. The Watchtower stance is confusing, as no clear principle exists as to quite what is and is not acceptable. A Witness cannot sing an anthem or join a political party, but can work for a council or public school and take advantage of public services such as the police. Where and why do they draw these lines, and how is this Scriptural when the Bible shows that God's followers in the past, such as Joseph and Mordecai, were high governmental figures? Sadly, how the Watchtower or its followers know where to draw the line is not examined in any depth. To do so would uncover the flawed logic of the Watchtower's political stance.

The illustration is then introduced that for the Watchtower to have ridden the wild beast it would need to have consultative power.

So what does it mean to ride the wild beast? Really it is pretty simple to reasoning persons. A rider of a horse, for example, tries to control the horse and direct it where he wants to go. ... Riding the UN means that religions extoll it as the last hope for man. Jehovah's Witnesses have never done that. Riding the beast means influencing and directing it in accord with their political aims and goals. Jehovah's Witnesses do not do that. Riding the beast means becoming NGOs associated with the ECOSOC so that they can have consultative status with the UN. The Watchtower Society was never an NGO associated with the ECOSOC.

The illustration of riding a horse is pretty simple, actually too simple. Maybe I could change it to riding an elephant. I have ridden an elephant with my wife, but I did not have control over it, its trainer was the one with the reigns. Riding the United Nations is not like riding a horse, because we are not discussing a one on one relationship. So again we need to come back to the point by asking, “is a Jehovah's Witness allowed to associate themselves as part of a religious or political group?”

## Awake to Propoganda?

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk moves on to another red herring by discussing “secret deals”.

As part of the alleged “secret deals” with the United Nations, the conspiracy theorists say, the Watchtower Society “agreed” to write “propaganda” for the UN. They claim a series of articles published in the *Awake!* during the 1990's were simply written to fulfill their NGO requirement — their “end of the bargain”.

The idea that “conspiracy theorists” talk about “secret deals” to write propaganda has already be discussed in “Did We Agree to Praise the UN”. It was shown under that section that this was a normal requirement as part of the application process (of course taking with a grain of salt Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk's sensationalist terms “secret deals” and “propaganda”).

There are no alleged “secret deals”. The Watchtower filled in the standard application form advising the NGO was to submit a yearly report on its pro-UN activities. The Watchtower, along with all NGO's, openly

agreed as part of the standard application form and acceptance letter to promote the UN and its' ideals. 1990's *Awake* magazines showing the UN in a positive manner are freely available to be examined. Although it cannot be proved that the Watchtower wrote these articles specifically as part of the requirement to report them to the United Nations, they are conspicuously different to articles from preceding decades.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk then states that “one of the requirements of any organization wishing to be a DPI NGO and have access to the DPI's vast resources, is that the organization makes full use of them.” “Make full use”, whatever that is supposed to mean, is not a requirement of an NGO. The next comment is even more bizarre:

There is nothing wrong with this — it proves the Society was indeed making use of the resources, and not abusing them by promoting values contrary to that of the UN charter, such as Nazism, racism,

This extreme argument plays on the emotions, but is hardly relevant. The application required active promotion of the UN. It does not discuss what is not allowed, such as Nazism and racism, as these illegal activities are taken as a given within most organizations.

This section goes on to produce graphs to show that in the 1990's the number of references to the United Nations *did* increase. These graphs simply support what others have noticed. To counteract this, Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk implies that the increase is coincidental, showing that other topics also saw increased mention in the 1990's.

Coincidence or not, the increase in positive mention of the United Nations allowed the Watchtower to fulfil its annual reporting requirement to retain associated status.

## Self-condemnation?

This section attempts to dismiss arguments showing the Watchtower was hypocritical for joining the DPI. Two arguments are regularly drawn upon; one regarding the Watchtower's stance regarding the YMCA and the other regarding Catholic NGO's. Conspicuously absent from this section and Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk's article is any mention of Malawi. The Malawian Witnesses that died because they were not to hold a political card is very relevant, and one of the darkest blights on Watchtower history.

## YMCA

Association with the United Nations violates Watchtower principles, as it is the same principle applied to the YMCA, as explained in the *Watchtower* 1979 Jan 1 pp.30,31

“In joining the YMCA as a member a person accepts or endorses the general objectives and principles of the organization. He is not simply paying for something he receives, such as when buying things being sold to the public at a store. (Compare 1 Corinthians 8:10; 10:25.) Nor is his membership merely an entry pass, as when a person buys a theater ticket. **Membership means that one has become an integral part of this organization...**”

I have to state that the reasoning in the above Watchtower is quite ridiculous. Joining a YMCA gym does not make a person an integral part of the YMCA any more than a membership to Gold's Gym makes one a shareholder of Gold's Gym. Yet if the Watchtower enforces this type of reasoning on its members then it too should abide by the same principles. If membership with the YMCA makes a person an integral part of the organization, then associated NGO status with the United Nations for “library access” made the Watchtower an integral part of the United Nations.

Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk attempts to reason that membership to a gym is different to UN association for three reasons, none of which are relevant:

1. Gym membership is like baptism.
  - a. There is no comparison. A Witness is comprehensively questioned to ensure they agree completely with Watchtower doctrine. A YMCA member does not have to share the same beliefs as the organisation to use its gym
2. YMCA membership makes a person an integral part of the organization.
  - a. That simply is quoting the Watchtower, but is incorrect. A YMCA gym member can only use the gym. They have no voting rights and are under no obligation to share the organisations ideal or beliefs.
3. YMCA is a religious organization.

- a. That is true, but the same Watchtower principle applies to both religious and political organizations. Witnesses are not to be part of either, as both are doomed for destruction at Armageddon.

A YMCA gym pass and association with the UN are close analogies in that both are renewed on a subscription basis for access to the organizations facilities. In fact, joining a YMCA gym gives a member less influence over the YMCA than being a DPI NGO gave the Watchtower Society.

### **Catholic NGO's**

The *Watchtower* 1991 June 1 condemned the Catholic Church for being "represented at the UN" and that its leaders "visited the international organisation" (page 17). [Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk](http://Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk) tries to say this is different because some Catholic NGOs are part of ECOSOC. However, the Watchtower article made no such distinction in its criticism, simply stating it was wrong for it to be represented at the United Nations.

Both these Watchtower principles apply directly to the Watchtower and [Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk](http://Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk)'s attempt to highlight a difference does nothing to appease the reader in this regard.

### **Consider the Source**

This section is not worth addressing as it is nothing more than an ad hominem attack on the *character* of people that disagree with the Watchtower's NGO association. In particular it is directed at a single individual – Robert King – but levels the following at people in general that were stumbled by the Watchtower's actions:

Nowadays, most of those former brothers and sisters cannot lower themselves to attend meetings at the Kingdom Hall, because there might be something "spiritually unclean" there — as they are far too oh-so holy to take part. Yet, amongst these supposedly spiritually pure "Christians", is pure spiritual filth.

It is poor debating technique to make such a generalization about a vast number of people never even met. Even the Watchtower has highlighted this.

"Another very successful tactic of propaganda is generalization. Generalizations tend to obscure important facts about the real issues in question, and they are frequently used to demean entire groups of people. ... Some people insult those who disagree with them by questioning character or motives instead of focusing on the facts. Name-calling slaps a negative, easy-to-remember label onto a person, a group, or an idea. The name-caller hopes that the label will stick. If people reject the person or the idea on the basis of the negative label instead of weighing the evidence for themselves, the name-caller's strategy has worked." *Awake* 2000 June 22 p.4-8

Issues such as the Watchtower UN status should be evaluated on the merits of the information provided, not attributes of the person providing the information. Although a former member may have an alternate agenda, this does not automatically discredit the information, it just means more care should be taken in evaluation of the information.

### **Conclusion: A Not-Guilty Verdict**

The last section concludes by playing with the reader's emotions.

Since there is no real proof of deceitfulness or lying on behalf of the Bethel, and the evidence supports their version of events, should we not, if we call ourselves Christians, give our brothers the benefit of the doubt and not impute or imply bad motives? **If you wish to judge them in a condemnatory way that is your right, but be aware that you are insisting your brothers are lying — no matter what explanation they offer and even though, when examining the facts, it becomes clear that they are not lying after all.**

Once you strip away the personal attacks, emotional pleas and shallow reasoning, [Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk](http://Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk) does little to help the cause of the Watchtower. In fact, in a number of areas it highlights the contradictory nature of Watchtower policy.

Constant repetition that the Watchtower never agreed to support the United Nations undermines the integrity of the site. The author seems determined that people should believe and trust the Watchtower Society regardless of all the proof to the contrary, and pleads for readers to do the same.

There is no doubt that the Watchtower broke its own principles. The Watchtower forbids affiliation with any religious or political body for its followers. United Nations documentation shows that to obtain and retain its affiliated status the Watchtower had to indicate it actively supported and promoted the cause of the United Nations on a yearly basis. For a 10-year period the Watchtower actively violated principles it applies to its members and only changed after public admonition. If an individual Witness were to behave in the same manner they would most likely be disfellowshipped. The question is not whether it did, but how active members should view such actions. As a minimum, it needs to be accepted that the Watchtower Society is not beyond question and God does not direct its actions.

Rather than gloss over its actions in a letter justifying library access as excusable, they should have had the integrity to publically apologise. Better still, it is time for the Watchtower to admit their stance against political involvement is incorrect. There are enough Biblical examples to support that it is acceptable for God's people to be part of ruling governments. The Watchtower has already shown it is willing to become deeply involved with the legal arm of politics through the numerous battles it took to the Supreme Court. They have shown by attendance as an NGO at events such as OSCE gatherings that they recognise the need to become politically aligned, in order to become a relevant religion. In 1996, active military service became a conscience matter, as did voting in 1999. I believe it is only a matter of time before policy changes allow the Watchtower and its members even more leeway in political matters.

## Summary of Jehovahsjudgment.co.uk

Section	Premise	Conclusion
<b>In the beginning</b>	The Watchtower cut their association once shown the requirements for NGOs had changed.	<b>Incorrect</b> , as the requirements have remained fundamentally unchanged
<b>Know you NGO's</b>	There are two departments, and the Watchtower only agreed to associate with the DPI, not ECOSOC	<b>Irrelevant</b> , as both departments are part of the United Nations
<b>Did we agree to praise the UN?</b>	Process did not require the Watchtower "to meet special criteria".	<b>Incorrect</b> , as an NGO the Watchtower needed to show yearly proof of actively promoting the United Nations
<b>Please Sign Nowhere</b>	The application form did not require a signature and did not require "support" of UN ideals.	<b>Irrelevant</b> whether a signature was required on the application form. <b>Incorrect</b> , as the introductory letter of acceptance states "support" is required.
<b>The Changing World of NGO's</b>	The process and requirements for associated NGO's constantly changed since 1991 and only in recent years became unacceptable by Watchtower standards.	<b>Irrelevant</b> minor procedural changes do not change the fact that the Watchtower has always condemned support of the United Nations.
<b>Following it to the Letter</b>	Explains that the Watchtower letter is accurate, as it <i>implies</i> UN status was for more than just a library card.	<b>Irrelevant</b> what the reason for joining was. Justification provided is dubious.
<b>Hail to the Chief</b>	Accuses the UN of lying when it claims the Watchtower agreed to support UN ideals.	<b>Incorrect</b> . NGO support of UN ideals has been clearly specified for decades.
<b>Principle Support</b>	Claims it is ok to share UN ideals as long as not showing support. Then claims support is acceptable.	<b>Incorrect</b> and contradictory discussion of semantics.
<b>Did we hypocritically 'ride the wild beast'?</b>	Argues that it was acceptable to be a UN NGO as the UN is one of the "superior authorities".	<b>Incorrect</b> reasoning. If it was acceptable, why did the Watchtower quit on being discovered?
<b>Awake to Propaganda</b>	Claims there was no agreement to promote the UN.	<b>Incorrect</b> . This was a primary clause in the application form.
<b>Self Condemnation</b>	Claims YMCA principle does not apply to Watchtower	<b>Incorrect</b> reasoning. The principles align closely.
<b>Consider the Source</b>	Makes an Ad hominem attack on Robert King	<b>Irrelevant</b> what one person now believes.
<b>A Not Guilty Verdict</b>	Emotional plea to come back to Jehovah	<b>Irrelevant</b> . There is a difference between following an organization and following God