

Federal Ombudsman of Belgium  
Catherine de Bruecker  
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Leuvenseweg 48  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

VA-5621/0001-INT/2013

Vienna, 23 March 2016

Dear Colleague,

We have been deeply shocked and filled with profound sadness when we learned about the horrible terrorist attacks which hit the city of Brussels yesterday and took the lives of so many innocent citizens.

On behalf of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to those suffering in the wake of this catastrophe and our deep sympathy goes out to those who have lost loved ones during these brutal attacks.

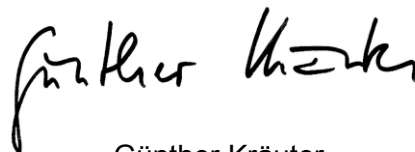
The images of the Paris attacks are still very vivid in our minds, which is why it is all the more devastating that the fear of new attacks, that haunted us after Paris, has become the sad truth for the citizens of Brussels.

It is however once again impressive to see that the Belgian people stand their grounds united and show their strength despite these horrible occurrences. It is difficult times like these that remind us of the importance of democracy, tolerance and international solidarity.

On behalf of the international Ombudsman community, we would like to express our solidarity with the citizens of Brussels and the Belgian people and to offer all support that is within our possibilities. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the IOI General Secretariat whenever we can contribute to your efforts during these times of crisis.



Adv. John R. Walters  
IOI President



Günther Kräuter  
IOI Secretary General