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Diplomat to Challenge Dismissal by U.N. After Afghan Vote

By [JAMES GLANZ](#)

[Peter W. Galbraith](#), the American diplomat who was dismissed by the [United Nations](#) after exposing voter fraud this fall after the Afghan presidential election, has decided to challenge his dismissal, the United Nations said in a statement on Thursday.

At the time of the Aug. 20 election, Mr. Galbraith was serving as the No. 2 United Nations official in [Afghanistan](#). He came into conflict with his boss, the Norwegian diplomat Kai Eide, over how to handle the fraud allegations. Mr. Galbraith has publicly attributed his dismissal to his feud with Mr. Eide.

The New York Times reported Thursday that senior United Nations officials charge that Mr. Galbraith also proposed a confidential [mission to enlist the White House](#) in a plan to replace the Afghan president, [Hamid Karzai](#), with someone more palatable.

Mr. Galbraith disputes that characterization, saying that he and his staff merely had internal discussions on what to do if a runoff for the presidency were delayed as a result of the fraud problems and other matters.

In an e-mail message to The Times on Thursday, Mr. Galbraith indicated that he had begun what he called “legal action” against the United Nations over his dismissal. The United Nations has an internal justice system under which such challenges can be lodged.

“I was terminated for no reason at all and this is the reason I am taking legal action,” Mr. Galbraith said in the e-mail message. “The U.N. has never given me any reason for my termination and has never offered any public explanation. After I was proven correct in what I said about election fraud, U.N. officials attempted to damage

my reputation with unfounded and untrue allegations such as those made in an Oct. 12 press conference that I proposed an unconstitutional solution to Afghanistan's election crisis.”

On Friday, Martin Nesirky, spokesman for the United Nations secretary general, [Ban Ki-moon](#), said the reason Mr. Galbraith “was terminated was that the secretary general determined that such action would be in the interests of the organization.”

“Further elaboration would not be appropriate at this time,” the spokesman added, “since Mr. Galbraith has chosen to challenge the termination of his appointment.”