

THE
METROPOLITAN
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J. FRANÇOIS GIULIANI
PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Mrs. Nahed Fouad
59 Drayton Gardens
Flat 10
London, SW 10
United Kingdom

August 26, 2003

Dear Nahed,

I am devastated by the news of Nadia's death in Baghdad. I share in your pain, horror and shock and I want to extend to you and your whole family my deepest condolences. Coming on top of both your parents' recent passing, this tragedy is unspeakably cruel.

As you may know, Nadia and I were close and loving friends. She of course had joined me in the spokesman's office in 1981 under Secretary-general Perez de Cuellar. We worked closely and almost round the clock for almost 12 years after that; right up to the time when Boutros Boutros-Ghali dissolved our partnership and disrupted Nadia's career. Our association had in fact begun much earlier when we were both beginning our UN careers in the just created French press section. We shared memories of those ludicrous times again recently and had quite a few laughs.

But it was in the spokesman's office that Nadia gave full measure of her intelligence, acute political sense, understanding of the U.N and unflagging loyalty to those colleagues she was fond of. I was privileged to be one of them and her humour, sarcastic view of the human condition and kindness to those she loved often resulted in exciting and

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sometimes riotous times for both of us. Our "after- curfew" parties in the spokesman's office in times of tension are still legendary to this day. A similar vision of the world and shared pleasure in puncturing many pretenses and myths did not always bring us popularity and but it cemented our friendship in a very fundamental way. As you know she was not easily deceived by phonies and could be fiercely critical and dismissive of hypocrites and self- servers. But she was also kind and attentive and the funniest and liveliest of companions. To say that I shall miss her does not begin to represent how I feel in the face of such devastating loss. I was already rejoicing that she would soon return to New York and finally resume the kind of life she enjoyed best and was entitled to. What a waste and what a blow just at the time when things were working out so well for her at last.

I am greatly troubled by the circumstances of Nadia's death. I have written to the secretary-general to protest both the bureaucratic failures which delayed her return to headquarters and the criminal lack of security for the U.N staff in Iraq. In the end they cost them their lives and caused all this grief for those who loved them. Please forgive me for evoking so many personal memories when I should try to find the right words to help you in your loss and pain. I fear unfortunately that such words do no exist at times as terrible as these. In any case, I cannot find them.

May I ask you to pass on my condolences and expressions of sympathy to the rest of your family. If I can be of service to you at any time in the future, please do not hesitate to call on me.

With best wishes,

Francois Giuliani



J.Francois Giuliani
146 Warren Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201