

**Subject:** The UN risks financial collapse & you are all guest in New York City.  
**From:** "Theo Chino - Social Democrats of America" <socdemsamerica@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 1/31/2026, 8:20 AM  
**To:** "Theo Chino" <theo@socialists.us>

Dear Theo,

Frankly, I tried to hint at what was coming, but you have shown an astonishing disregard for anything I attempted to signal. **So let's be clear.**

The United Nations risks financial collapse, **yet you do not invite the people who actually pay for the American portion of its budget.**

As you may have realized, I do not do diplomacy. I do politics and activism. Diplomacy is for elected governments; activism is for party members. **And as the leader of the Socialist faction inside the Democratic Party, I do politics.**

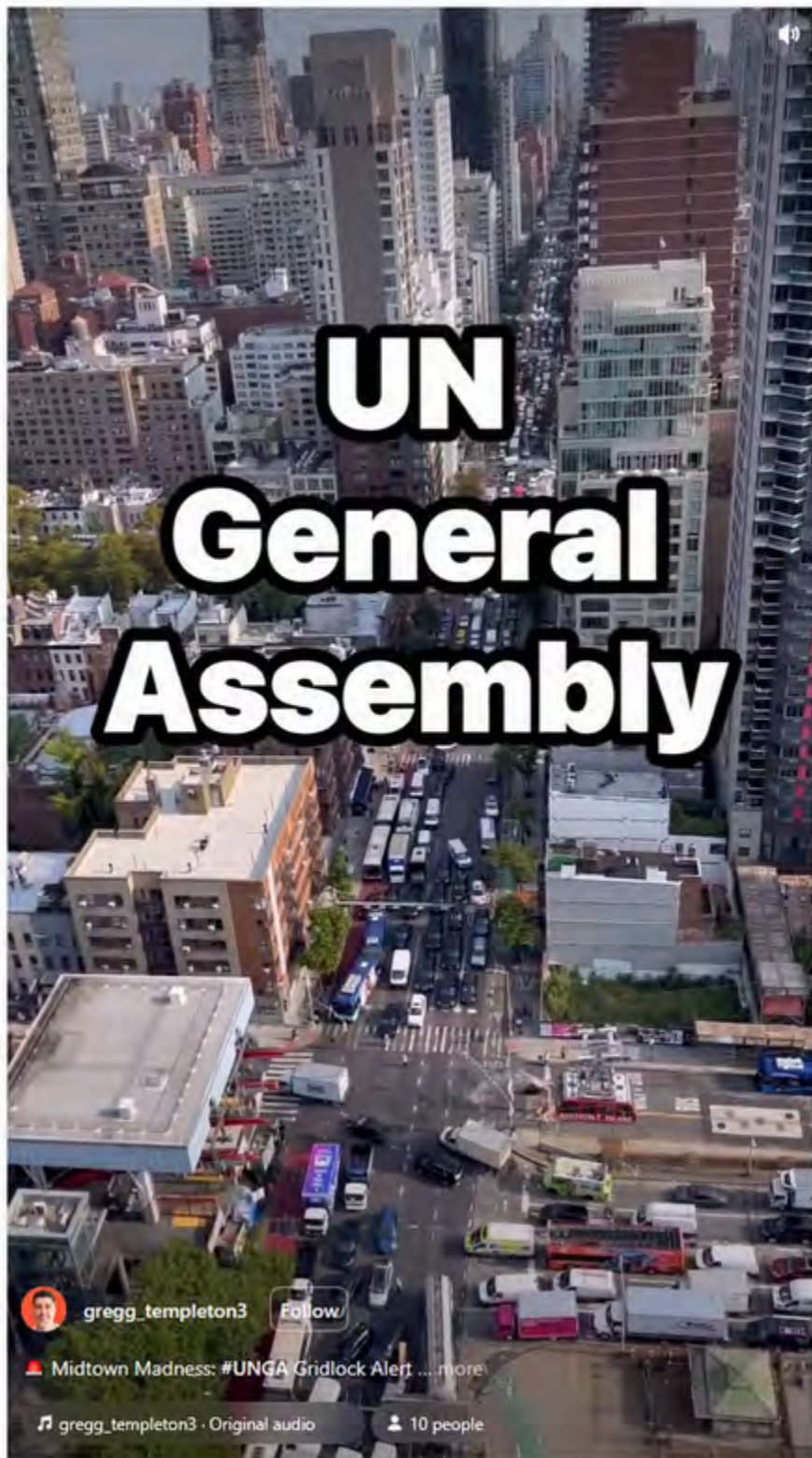
## The United Nations risks 'imminent financial collapse', secretary-general Antonio Guterres warns



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For Americans, the UN increasingly looks like a distant world where American female interns feel uncomfortable and no longer want a career there. Naive as they may be, they want to make the world a better place—only to later tell me it is a sexist cesspool.

As you can see in the comments from this American, he is fed up with the gridlock, and as a politician, I intend to capitalize on that sentiment.



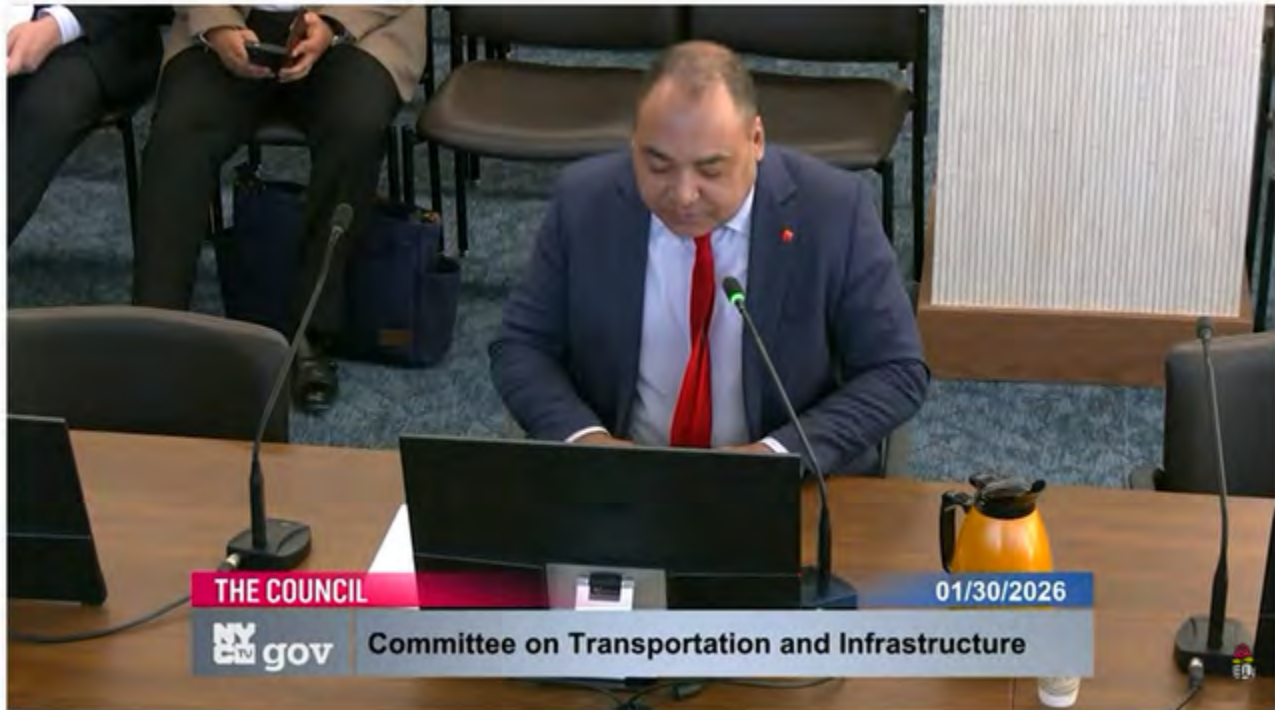
So when I feel disrespected, I let things collapse—but not without trying first. I tried. Now I will work to convince my neighbors to move you to Europe. I personally do not care.

As a member of the Socialist family—where Americans were part of the first meeting of the Second



Socialist International in 1901—and as the grandson of a Japanese Socialist in the 1940s, I believe the world is one. That complex can be located anywhere in the world and, with today's technology, does not need to be here.

As a politician, I see that area as land that could be used to house mixed low-income New Yorkers and revitalize the surrounding neighborhoods.



If you want American money, you must invite low-level American politicians. I wrote about this and provided a list of the 2,000 people who can make it happen.



I have said hello to all of them. Now, I am going to convince people that the UN needs to move to Geneva.



I am a politician running for Congress. Listening to my people is the only way I can get elected. My job is not to make excuses for my guests—especially when we are expected to bend over backward only to be disrespected.



The forum was three hours long—in Spanish: <https://youtu.be/-klqnh1fEdU> and here is my Socialist presentation: <https://youtu.be/usr5L8STdw4>.



If the UN closes its doors, you will have only yourselves to blame. But perhaps that is what you want after all. If so, let's make it quick, so we can organize a real estate collapse and use that land to build something for New Yorkers.

All you have to do to keep the money flowing is invite the people I am greeting and convince them that the United Nations still has a role to play. **I am here to help.**

You know where to find me—convincing my fellow New Yorkers that they need to send me to Washington, D.C. You can find my draft newsletter at its usual URL: <https://socialists.substack.com/p/my-draft-sda-january-newsletter-701>.



In Solidarity,  
Hasta la victoria, ¡siempre!  
Theo

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Theo Chino  
First National Secretary of the Social Democrats of America  
Committee of the Second Socialist International  
<https://socialists.us> - (202) 455-0510

— Attachments: —

20260130-CityCouncil-TestimonyPackage.pdf

756 KB



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## **New York City Council testimony on committee on Transportation and Infrastructure – January 30, 2026**

My name is Theo Chino. I am the First National Secretary of the Social Democrats of America, the socialist faction within the Democratic Party.

I am here today to request that intro 0165-2026 bill be amended to formally include **United Nations Week** as part of the Open Streets holiday calendar.

Over the years, I have repeatedly reached out to my Portuguese socialist comrade, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, to encourage the inclusion of local Democratic and Republican County committee members in drafting mitigation proposals for UN Week.

The purpose of this outreach has been to alleviate both the disruption and the financial burden that the United Nations' presence places on the residents of New York City during the General Assembly.

The goal has always been simple: to reduce disruption to New Yorkers and to address the significant financial and social costs imposed that week on our city residents.

As a socialist who believes wholeheartedly in the mission of the United Nations—an institution led by a fellow socialist—it pains me to say this; but when the security of international delegates is consistently prioritized over the daily lives of New Yorkers, we must speak honestly about the consequences.

UN Week places a heavy burden on our city, and visa denials imposed by our president routinely prevent full delegations from attending, reducing the effectiveness of UN Week when hosted here.

At the same time, New York City absorbs enormous costs through NYPD overtime, extensive street closures, and economic losses to local businesses. These impacts extend well beyond the boundaries of Community Board 6.

As elected officials and civic leaders, our responsibility is first and foremost to the residents of this city.

While global diplomacy is important, it cannot come at the ongoing expense of New Yorkers' mobility, livelihoods, and quality of life.

The United Nations' Geneva campus offers a secure, enclosed environment that allows diplomacy to proceed without visa discrimination, without excessive security disruptions, and without imposing costs on our residents.

If New York is to continue hosting UN Week, it must be done in a way that respects the people who live and work here.

That is why it is essential that **Intro 0165-2026** explicitly recognize UN Week as an Open Streets holiday.

This would allow the city to plan proactively, manage traffic responsibly, support businesses across the tri-state area, and reduce the burden placed on residents during this period.

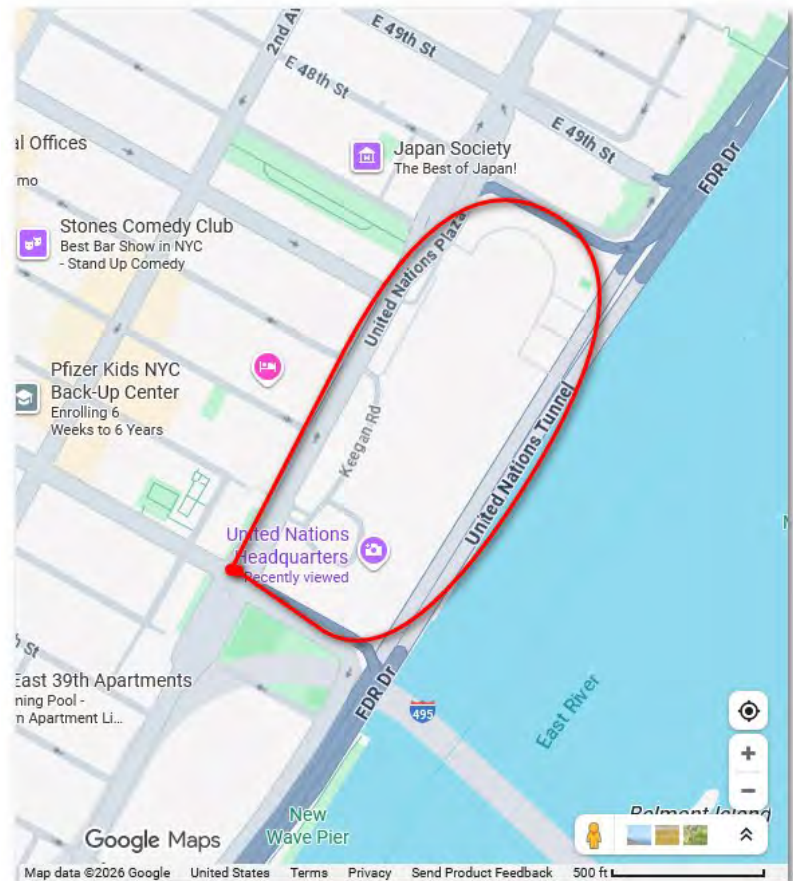
We invite any person that want to discuss this topic to visit our website at <https://socialists.us/policies> and click on the document **"Divesting NYPD resources from the United Nations General Assembly and ending street closures in Manhattan and Queens during UN Week"**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration of this amendment.



# Scaled comparison map of United Nations compounds

## New York City



## Geneva







(202) 455-0510 - [info@socialists.us](mailto:info@socialists.us) – <https://socialists.us>

## **Divesting NYPD resources from the United Nations General Assembly and ending street closures in Manhattan and Queens during UN Week**

Draft Proposal by Theo Chino, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Every year in September, the United Nations convenes its General Assembly in New York City under a security model that operates in near-total isolation from the city itself.

This approach generates extraordinary overtime costs for the New York Police Department, placing an excessive and recurring burden on the New York City budget and on Upper East Side residents who bear the brunt of the disruption.

The situation has reached an unacceptable level.

In 2026, conditions deteriorated to the point that the President of France was physically blocked by the motorcade of the President of the United States—an incident that symbolized the dysfunction and absurdity of the current system.<sup>1</sup>

Since the terrorist attacks of 2001, security measures surrounding the General Assembly have expanded continuously without proportional accountability. As a result, street closures now affect not only Manhattan but the entire metropolitan region, with cascading consequences for working- and low-income families as far away as Pennsylvania.

For residents of the affected neighborhoods, this annual event has become a suspension of normal civic life: blocked streets, disrupted public transportation, restricted access to homes and businesses, and a level of police presence that extends far beyond ordinary crime prevention.

In 2022, the Social Democrats of America formally reached out to António Guterres, as well as to the President of the Socialist International, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, seeking dialogue on how to bridge the widening gap between local residents and this international institution. No response was ever acknowledged.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000010416097/french-president-stopped-trump-motorcade.html>

*We are Socialists; therefore, we believe in Free Education, Universal Health Care, Anti-Death Penalty, Pro-Abortion, Universal Basic Income, the Right to Unionize, the sanctity of the Separation of Church and State, and the belief that the Government should make life bearable for all and ensure citizens' Liberties.*

We are therefore calling on our Mélenchonist and Progressive International comrade, Mayor Zohran Mamdani, to initiate a public discussion with the community boards most directly impacted by the United Nations General Assembly.

This discussion must address two immediate issues: first, ending New York City's practice of providing and funding NYPD services beyond regular public safety patrols for foreign delegations; and second, refusing the routine closure of public streets to accommodate diplomatic motorcades.

If the United Nations is unable—or unwilling—to conduct its General Assembly without imposing extraordinary costs and disruptions on New York City residents, a viable alternative already exists. A sister United Nations compound has been built in Geneva, and the organization is fully capable of holding its 2026 General Assembly there.

New York City should not be required to indefinitely subsidize an international institution at the expense of its own residents.



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**Theo Chino**

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Monday, July 02, 2024

**His Excellency António Guterres,**

United Nations Secretary  
405 E 42nd St  
New York, NY 10017  
United Nations

Your Excellency,

I want to request that you invite the 2,000 members of the New York City County Committee at the United Nations to present the upcoming 2024 General Assembly agenda.

These 2,000 low-level Democrats and Republicans represent every neighborhood in the city. To them, the only thing the United Nations represent is inconvenience.

The United Nations have yet to reach out to them to explain why it is essential for them to be inconvenienced. These 2,000 New Yorkers have a great deal of influence on the national policies of the United States.

As the leader of the Social Democrats of America, I think it's essential for your institution to reach out to them and present your agenda.

In solidarity,  
Hasta la victoria, ¡siempre!

Theo Chino

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