

The Honorable David Malpass  
President  
The World Bank  
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Mr. President:

*Re: Justice for American Taxpayers and a \$16 Billion World Bank Whistleblower*

We urge you to utilize your authority to redress American taxpayers whose generosity has been taken for granted and who have been scammed \$16 billion by the World Bank, and appeal to your sense of justice to ensure that the whistleblower, Dr. Yonas Biru is made whole for the injustice he suffered for exposing the scam. In February, Dr. Biru was hospitalized after 36-days of hunger strike in protest of what Dr. Ben Carson called a manifestation of “President Jim Yong Kim’s Lack of Humanity.”

We represent a broad cross-section of conservative, pro-family and taxpayer protection organizations. We are contacting you as a man of integrity and moral character with confidence that you will exercise your authority as the president of the World Bank to take appropriate action. Our demands are two: Justice for American taxpayers and Dr. Biru whose race the World Bank used as a target to destroy his career and life beyond repair.

### ***Refund the \$16 Billion to American Taxpayers***

Just recently, Duke University researchers were caught using fake data to win federal research grants to the tune of \$112.5 million in violation of the False Claims Act that prohibits using falsified data to win or keep US government grants. The University agreed to return the money to the Federal government. It also paid \$33.75 million to the whistleblower who exposed the scam.

The \$112.5 million is a chump change compared to the \$16 billion the World Bank defrauded American taxpayers using fake data. The World Bank fraud started with grossly underestimating China’s and India’s GDP figures. As established by Princeton professor Angus Deaton (Nobel Laureate) and professor Alan Heston of the University of Pennsylvania, the World Bank shrank China’s and India’s GDP by 40 and 36 percent, respectively. The huge drops in China’s and India’s GDP estimates led to an inflated global poverty data. At the snap of a figure, 629 million people were fabricated and added to the global poverty rank, bringing the total to 1.2 billion.

This was followed by an aggressive campaign for increased international aid, with high-profile reports proclaiming “[the Developing World is Poorer Than we Thought](#)” and “[Even Higher Global Inequality Than Previously Thought](#).” The world is full of abject poor people and the income gap between rich and poor countries is even worse, was a perfect marketing pitch that was echoed by the international media. The Obama administration increased America’s aid to Multilateral Development Banks, including the World Bank, by \$2 billion a year for 8 years.

As of December 2018, [American taxpayers owe China \\$1.12 trillion in debt](#) and we owe [India over \\$145 billion](#). These are countries that the World Bank fraudulently made paupers in need of billions of dollars in low interest rate loans subsidized by American taxpayers.

If Duke University is forced to return the ill-gotten \$112.5 million to American taxpayers, there is no reason why the World Bank should keep the money it scammed from us. In 2018, its [financial statements show](#) it has \$43.5 billion in “usable equity.” It is financially capable and legally obligated to return the money in full.

### ***2. Fully Redress the Injustice Dr. Biru Suffered***

The US Treasury and the US Board of Director to the World Bank have “extensively reviewed” Dr. Biru’s case and concluded he is a whistleblower. Mr. Ken Cuccinelli, the former Attorney General of the State of Virginia and Dr. Biru’s lawyer, has a revealing article in [\*The Washington Examiner\*](#), providing compelling evidence including:

- (1) A signed statement from a senior Asian Development Bank official who revealed a World Bank Russian economist “demonstrated” to him data fabrication software that he was using to produce the World Bank’s global economic data.
- (2) The above-noted unofficial data fabrication software was used to produce the data for China and India instead of the Bank’s data compilation software that is foolproof. The official software was abandoned because it registers the ID of the person who tampers with the basic data, and timestamps all changes, including the nature and extent of the changes and the methodology used in calculating global estimates.
- (3) Though Dr. Biru was in charge of the data production team, he was denied access to the data and the unofficial data production software, after he reported the scam to the Bank’s Chief Ethics Officer and Ombudsman. The World Bank is on the record admitting that he was denied access to the data after the data was removed from the Bank’s official server to the Russian’s laptop where the unofficial data production software was stored.
- (4) China’s and India’s figures were published despite the objection of the Chair of the Bank’s Technical Advisory Group (Professor Alan Heston) who found their estimates “seriously misleading.”
- (5) Professor Heston’s and Dr. Biru’s concerns were echoed by Professor Deaton, who wrote: “I continue to be worried about the long-term impact of the results for India and China ... It is simply not feasible to run a world poverty measurement system where hundreds of millions of people who were previously out of poverty are suddenly dumped back in.” More recently he added: “The Bank’s main task was fighting poverty, and its very existence depended on its own poverty measures. I think they have some institutional bias towards finding more poverty rather than less.”

In retaliation of his daring whistleblowing, the World Bank terminated Dr. Biru. To top it off, it “retroactively downgraded” his professional record. The criminal act included deleting his title and leadership role from the Bank’s publications and websites and posting irreparably damaging false and defamatory personnel remarks on its website. The objective was two: (1) Discredit him to mitigate the impact of his whistleblowing; and (2) justify the Bank’s decision not to promote him and terminate him.

In 2014, under enormous pressure from US lawmakers, the Bank’s Lead Personnel Officer (Mr. Fons Marcelis) sent Dr. Biru a memo to inform him redacted parts of his management and leadership record “will be scanned into your [internal] record.” In regard to restoring his title and leadership roles that have been deleted from the Bank’s publications, Mr. Marcelis’ written response was “There will be no comments from my side on Bank publications.”

Correcting the public record was up to the Bank’s General Counsel. As documented in *The Hill Newspaper*, the General Counsel refused to make the corresponding correction on the Bank’s website, deeming Dr. Biru’s official record “too good to be true for black” and upholding the Bank’s decision to credit his accomplishments to white managers.

Senator Van Hollen’s 73-page report enclosed “copies of Dr. Biru’s original performance record and the redacted version, as well as a list of the damaging citation that remains on the World Bank’s website that contradicts his personnel record.”

In 2014 and 2015, Dr. Biru filed two appeals with the World Bank Tribunal to instruct the Bank to correct the public record to make it consistent with his internally corrected official record. Each appeal was based on Staff Rule 2.01 that requires the World Bank to correct “false or misleading” personnel record to mitigate public reputational damage to current or former staff members.

Each time, the Tribunal requested the World Bank to respond why it refused to correct the defamatory public record after it corrected the record internally. At the time, President Kim was telling American lawmakers that there was nothing he could do because the Tribunal had closed the case. The Tribunal’s decision to reopen the case, not once but twice, gave the World Bank opportunity to settle the matter. Instead, he instructed his General Counsel to file a motion to dismiss the appeal, asserting the Tribunal lacked jurisdiction to review his defamation claims. In the meantime, the Bank made it clear that it will not honor Staff Rule 2.01 in Dr. Biru’s case.

In 2015, the Tribunal dismissed both appeals without reviewing their merits, conceding the Bank’s jurisdictional challenge. As Senator Van Hollen stated in his report “the Tribunal advised Dr. Biru in 2016 that it would not hear any further appeals or requests from him, advising that it no longer has jurisdiction.” Despite this, the World Bank willfully misled the US government in 2017 and 2018, falsely stating if Dr. Biru has an outstanding case, he can file a complaint with the World Bank Tribunal for a review.

As Mr. Cuccinelli has rightly noted in a letter to the Bank’s General Counsel, “The Tribunal has done what the Bank asked of it in Dr. Biru’s case – namely, they have cut off that avenue of recourse. Given the Bank’s contention that the Tribunal lacks jurisdiction to review Dr. Biru’s defamation and disenfranchisement cases and given the Tribunal’s decision that it will not accept any complaint from him, the only viable option for Dr. Biru’s claims is either an agreed settlement or external arbitration.”

### ***In Conclusion***

As Dr. Ben Carson rightly said the Bank’s treatment of Dr. Biru “shows President Jim Yong Kim’s lack of humanity.” We express our confidence that you will usher in a new era that will end the Bank’s culture of lies and inhuman impunity and lead it to live up to its moral and legal obligations to conduct its business within the four corners of the law. The law of justice and the morality of commitment to public duty call for redress to American taxpayers and Dr. Biru.