



FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UN GENEVA

12 January 2016

Mr Karim Ghezraoui
Chief a.i.
Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10

Interim response to Joint Communication from Special Procedures on undue restrictions on human rights defenders and journalists for reporting conditions of immigration detention

Dear Mr Ghezraoui

I refer to the letter of 12 November 2015 from the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, regarding concerns about undue restrictions on human rights defenders and journalists documenting and reporting on immigration detention facilities.

There will be short delay in providing Australia's response to this communication, which was due today, Tuesday 12 January 2016. This is due to staff absences over the Christmas-New Year period and associated summer holidays in Australia, which has slowed finalisation of Australia's response.

A response will be provided by Friday 15 January 2016. I apologise for any inconvenience which may arise as a result of this delay.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian McConville'.

Ian McConville
Chargé d'Affaires