



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

July 18, 2014

OHCHR REGISTRY *

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)
Palais Wilson
1211 Geneva

22 JUL 2014

Recipients :
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To the attention of:

Ms. Frances Raday, Chair-person Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice

Mr. Mutuma Reteere, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance

Ms. Rashida Manjoo, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Thank you for your letter dated May 6, 2014. The United States fully supports the mandates of the Chair-person Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to this inquiry.

Ms. Marissa Alexander's conviction and sentence were overturned by a Florida Court of Appeals in 2013, and a new trial is currently scheduled for December. The United States does not comment on cases that are currently in litigation. It is noted, however, that the Governor of Florida, Mr. Rick Scott, signed into law amendments to the State of Florida Statutes relevant in several respects to the threatened use of force in self-defense, including amendments to Florida's "Stand your Ground" law and to certain mandatory sentencing laws, on June 20, 2014. It will be for the Florida courts, however, to determine the impact of these new provisions on Ms. Alexander's case.

• **THE FIRST SECTION**

THE SECOND SECTION

THE THIRD SECTION

THE FOURTH SECTION

THE FIFTH SECTION

THE SIXTH SECTION

The U.S. government assures you that the fullest consideration will continue to be given to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith M. Harper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith M. Harper

Ambassador

U.S. Representative to the United

Nations Human Rights Council