No. 001-15

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), and sends the attached responses to Mr. Juan E. Mendez, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment and Mr. Mads Andenas, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in answer to the October 10, 2014 request for information on the case of Mr. Sharif Mobley, a U.S. national detained in Yemen.

The Permanent Mission of the United States avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of OHCHR the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America,
Mr. Mads Andenas  
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention  
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)  
Palais Wilson  
1211 Geneva

Dear Mr. Andenas:

Thank you for your inquiries concerning Mr. Sharif Mobley, dated July 10 and October 20, 2014. One of the most important tasks of the U.S. Department of State is to provide assistance to U.S. nationals who are incarcerated or detained abroad. The Department of State takes its responsibility to assist U.S. nationals abroad seriously, and, in cases where U.S. nationals are detained overseas, the Department works to provide all appropriate consular assistance. Consular assistance may include attempting to ensure that the detained U.S. nationals receive a fair and speedy trial with the benefit of counsel; visiting detained U.S. nationals in prison to ensure that they are receiving humane treatment; and, with the individual’s permission, facilitating communications with the families of detained U.S. nationals.

We appreciate your interest in Mr. Mobley’s case; however, under the Privacy Act of 1974, we are barred from providing additional information about an individual without his or her written authorization.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Harper  
Ambassador  
U.S. Representative to the United Nations  
Human Rights Council
January 7, 2015

Mr. Juan E. Mendez
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)
Palais Wilson
1211 Geneva

Dear Mr. Mendez:

Thank you for your inquiry of July 10, 2014, concerning Mr. Sharif Mobley. One of the most important tasks of the U.S. Department of State is to provide assistance to U.S. nationals who are incarcerated or detained abroad. The Department of State takes its responsibility to assist U.S. nationals abroad seriously, and, in cases where U.S. nationals are detained overseas, the Department works to provide all appropriate consular assistance. Consular assistance may include attempting to ensure that the detained U.S. nationals receive a fair and speedy trial with the benefit of counsel; visiting detained U.S. nationals in prison to ensure that they are receiving humane treatment; and, with the individual’s permission, facilitating communications with the families of detained U.S. nationals.

We appreciate your interest in Mr. Mobley’s case; however, under the Privacy Act of 1974 we are barred from providing additional information about an individual without his or her written authorization.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Keith M. Harper
Ambassador
U.S. Representative to the United Nations
Human Rights Council
January 12, 2015

Mr. Ariel Dulitsky
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)
Palais Wilson
1211 Geneva

Dear Mr. Dulitsky:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning Mr. Sharif Mobley, dated October 20, 2014. One of the most important tasks of the U.S. Department of State is to provide assistance to U.S. nationals who are incarcerated or detained abroad. The Department of State takes its responsibility to assist U.S. nationals abroad seriously, and, in cases where U.S. nationals are detained overseas, the Department works to provide all appropriate consular assistance. Consular assistance may include attempting to ensure that the detained U.S. nationals receive a fair and speedy trial with the benefit of counsel; visiting detained U.S. nationals in prison to ensure that they are receiving humane treatment; and, with the individual’s permission, facilitating communications with the families of detained U.S. nationals.

We appreciate your interest in Mr. Mobley’s case; however, under the Privacy Act of 1974, we are barred from providing additional information about an individual without his or her written authorization.

Sincerely,

Pamela K. Hamamoto
Ambassador