



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Special Rapporteur Maina Kiai
Special Rapporteur Michel Forst
Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights

Your ref.:

Our ref.: 14-13276

Date: 22 September 2015

**Joint Communication from Special Procedures concerning investigation of
Human Rights Organization Global Network for Rights and Development
(GNRD) and its President**

Dear Special Rapporteurs,

I refer to your joint communication of 24 July addressed to Ambassador Mr. Steffen Kongstad.

Firstly, we would like underscore that Norway is a strong advocate for the UN human rights system and the safeguards it represents.

The Norwegian National Authority of Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime (ØKOKRIM) is in charge of the case against the GNRD and Mr. Loai Deeb. ØKOKRIM is the central unit for investigation and prosecution of economic and environmental crime, and the main source of specialist skills for the police and the prosecuting authorities in their combat against crime of this kind.

Based on information from ØKOKRIM, I would like to make some clarifications. The investigation is related to financial matters. The human rights work of GNRD and Mr. Deeb is only of interest to the extent that it may clarify the financial aspects.

Normal procedures according to the Criminal Procedure Act were followed in this case. There was no 'urgent procedure' and no judge on 'night duty'.

The passage of time from the search warrant was issued to the search was carried out was according to what is normal in cases like this. The search of Mr. Deeb's house was

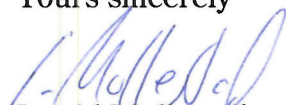
conducted by three police officers, two accountants and a computer technician. Seizures were properly documented and a list of confiscated items were given to Mr. Deeb's defense lawyer. Four police officers, one computer technician and two financial investigators searched the headquarters of GRND. Later, five persons from the immigration unit came to control the employee's identification documents.

The accountant handed out the required information after a court order. Thus, there was no search of the accountant's office.

At no point were the 10-year old child of Mr. Deeb detained or questioned by the police or held in police custody.

As the Special Rapporteurs surely know, Norwegian authorities put no restrictions on the work of human rights defenders. On the contrary, we endeavor to involve and consult civil society organizations as much as possible, including when preparing for examinations before the treaty bodies and the UPR, which is all in line with the progressive role Norway is playing in the UN in order to secure the rights of human rights defenders.

Yours sincerely



Ingrid Mollestad

Director, Section for Human Rights and Democracy

c.c. Ambassador Steffen Kongstad, Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN, Geneva