



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

17 June 2016

OHCHR REGISTRY

Mr David Kaye
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection
of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

17 JUN 2016 SPD

Recipients : ...S...L...d...ame
.....(Encl)
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Mr Michel Forst
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Enclosure

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10

Dear Mr Kaye and Mr Forst,

**JOINT COMMUNICATION FROM SPECIAL PROCEDURES AL SGP
2/2016**

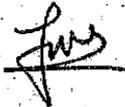
We refer to your joint communication of 9 June 2016 (Reference AL SGP 2/2016). It refers to the civil defamation suit filed against Mr Roy Ngerng Yi-Ling (“Mr Ngerng”) by Singapore’s Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong in his personal capacity.

In your joint communication, you have requested information on the legal grounds for holding Mr Ngerng liable for defamation and for the award of damages imposed on Mr Ngerng, the compatibility of the legislation on defamation with the permissible restrictions to freedom of expression, the measures taken to guarantee Mr Ngerng a fair and impartial judicial procedure as provided by international human rights standards, and the legal grounds for the dismissal of Mr Ngerng from his job and its compatibility with international human rights norms and standards.

We are puzzled as to why the Special Rapporteurs continue to request more information and clarification on the case. Singapore has already given detailed explanations on the legal grounds for the case brought against Mr Ngerng in our responses dated 23 December 2015 and 24 March 2016. The responses, which are attached, provide comprehensive information on the grounds of the decision for Mr Ngerng's civil defamation suit and the award of damages imposed on Mr Ngerng, and the grounds for Mr Ngerng's dismissal from his job. You may wish to refer to our responses to address the queries that you have raised in your joint communication.

As we have stated in our responses of 23 December 2015 and 24 March 2016, Singaporeans have constitutionally protected rights to freedom of speech and expression. As recognised by other nations, and under international human rights law, these are not unqualified rights. For example, limits on these rights are recognised, including those prescribed by law and which may be necessary for the respect of the rights of others, or for protection of national security, public order or public health or morals. Singapore continues to respect the fundamental human rights enshrined in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and takes all necessary steps to ensure conformity with our applicable international law obligations.

Yours *Sincerely,*



Foo Kok Jwee
Ambassador and Permanent Representative