



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

19 JAN 2017

 Recipients : *SPB*
J. GAZIYEV

Special Rapporteur Mr Michel Forst
 Office of the High Commissioner for
 Human Rights
 GENEVA

The Hague,
 29 December 2016

Dear Mr Forst,

Dear Mr. Forst

Thank you for your letter of 29 November to Ambassador Van Schreven, in which you bring the case of Ms Nada Kiswanson to the Netherlands' attention and request clarification.

Threatening or intimidating human rights defenders, wherever it occurs in the world, is always unacceptable. That this should take place in the Netherlands is a matter of great concern. Reports of threats to human rights defenders in this country are taken very seriously, and where necessary the police initiate a criminal investigation. A criminal investigation was in fact initiated in response to Ms Kiswanson's case, and appropriate security measures were taken.

I will provide a full response to your questions in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to pay a visit to the Netherlands, so that the government bodies and authorities concerned can give you a detailed briefing. The Dutch authorities will be glad to assist you in every way possible in carrying out your important mandate, and to provide you with as complete a picture as possible of the instruments available in the Netherlands to effectively address threats to human rights defenders.

Yours sincerely,

Yours,

Bert Koenders
 Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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