

11 September 2017

Ms Bennoune
Ms Izsák-Ndiaye
Professor Deva
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

Your Ref: AL OTH 13/2017

By post and e-mail:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

VERY URGENT

Dear Ms Bennoune, Ms Izsák-Ndiaye and Professor Deva,

Joint communication from Special Procedures (Reference AL OTH13/2017)

I refer to our letter from our Chief Executive, Helen Gordon, to you dated 18 August 2017 ("Our Letter"), a copy of which is attached for reference.

I note that we have not received a substantive reply to Our Letter, which was sent in response to your letter dated 21 July 2017 ("Your Letter").

It is our understanding that one of you will be appearing on behalf of the UN on the Channel 4 News programme on Tuesday 12 September 2017, the purpose of which is to be interviewed regarding the matters stated in Your Letter in respect of the proposed redevelopment and Compulsory Purchase Order process of a site at Seven Sisters, London. Please clarify by return.

If our understanding is correct and the interview is scheduled to be held, and this is being done with your approval, then we are very surprised that you could sanction and/or otherwise permit or condone such an action in the present circumstances. On the reasonable assumption that the tenor of an interview would accord with the matters detailed in Your Letter, this would be based on a number of unfair and baseless allegations, as well as a number of matters which are simply factually incorrect, for the reasons that were set out comprehensively in Our Letter.

We have already recorded (in Our Letter) our serious concern that, on at least two occasions to date, you have publicised the misconceived allegations in Your Letter without considering our response and in non-compliance with your Code of Conduct. If you were to do so again, by agreeing to conduct an interview with a national television news channel without: (i) having replied in full to Our Letter; (ii) having carried out an impartial and thorough assessment to verify the facts as set out in Our Letter; and (iii) affording us a fair and reasonable opportunity to consider and comment upon your response to Our Letter, this would be deeply unprofessional, highly prejudicial and against all principles of fairness and natural justice. It would also represent further non-compliance with your Code of Conduct. You would be responsible for the public promulgation of materially false information, which is likely to be unfairly damaging to our reputation and potentially defamatory.

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We are engaging in this matter in an open and transparent manner. It is not unreasonable for us to expect that you would also adopt a fair, measured and just approach in your conduct of this matter. We therefore urge you not to engage in the interview or any similar publicity regarding the matters corresponded upon unless and until: (i) you have addressed the points specified in detail in Our Letter; (ii) a fair investigatory process has been conducted between ourselves; and (iii) we are given a fair and reasonable opportunity to consider and comment upon your response.

We expressly reserve all legal rights we may have now or in the future against you which may arise in connection with this matter and in particular any such interview.

Please confirm by return:

(A) that you or any other representative of yours will not be participating in the interview, nor any other public disclosure of the matters set out in Your Letter and/or otherwise relating to the proposed development and Compulsory Purchase Order process at Seven Sisters, London unless and until (i) - (iii) above have been satisfied; and

(B) by when you will provide us with a full and formal reply to the matters specified in Our Letter.

Yours sincerely



Adam McGhin
Group General Counsel

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