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AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

No.156/POLII/X/2017

Geneva. October 2017

Dear Special Procedure Mandate Holders (SPMHs),

I would like to acknowledge receipt of a joint communication with reference no. AL IDN 6/2017 dated 8 September 2017 sent by the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Minority Issues; SR on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression; SR on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association; and SR on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders regarding the case of alleged excessive use of force by police officers against villagers in Oneibo Village, Tigi District, Deiyai Regency, Province of Papua, Indonesia.

On such note, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly is guaranteed by the Indonesian 1945 Constitution and such guarantee applies to all Indonesian citizen, inclusive to those in the Papua and West Papua provinces. However, it should be clearly differentiated between a peaceful assembly and an armed mob which happened to be the case in the conflict between the villagers in Oneibo and the employees of PT. Dewa Krisna as well as the police officers who were in charge of taking control of the situation,

With regards to the alleged facts, chronology of the incident and the dynamic of the situation, I would like to inform the SPMHs that the concerns pertaining to all of these elements as stated in the joint communication have been transmitted to relevant authorities for their perusal. Rest assured that I will update you on the allegations once they have been verified.

- 1. Mr. Fernand de Varennes, Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
- 2. Mr. David Kaye, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression
- 3. Ms. Annalisa Ciampi, Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association
- 4. Mr. Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, Geneva Fax: +41 22 9179008, Email: registry@ohchr.org

In the meantime, I would like to thank the SPMHs for engaging in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Indonesia regarding the case without prejudging the accuracy of the information as received by the SPMHs.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,