

*(Translated from Chinese)*

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of communication AL CHN 7/2018, of 6 April 2018, from the Chair of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Government of China wishes to make the following reply:

Lawyers are an important force for the comprehensive and lawful administration of the country and an important element in the ranks of those working for the socialist rule of law. In recent years Chinese lawyers have played an increasingly important role in economic and social development and the establishment of a democratic rule of law. While China is committed to ensuring the right of lawyers to carry out their work, it at the same time attaches great importance to establishing professional ethics and discipline in the profession. Like the overwhelming majority of countries in the world, China has a comprehensive system of standards for the practice of the legal profession. Judicial associations may, in accordance with the law, issue disciplinary sanctions against lawyers who violate the profession's self-regulation, and those who violate the law or regulations are subject to administrative penalties that can be imposed by judicial administrative bodies. The sanctions imposed on Sui Muqing and a very small number of lawyers who have violated the law or regulations protect the interests of the overwhelming majority of Chinese lawyers who practice their profession in accordance with the law, and they can guide Chinese lawyers so that they regularly practice law faithfully, creating a favourable environment for the practice of law and promoting the rapid and healthy development of the profession in China.

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