PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
IN GENEVA

NOTE VERBALE

063190/2018-CHSM1-0092841

The Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to latter's communication No. UA SVK 1/2018 dated 2 March 2018 submitting to the Slovak Republic a joint urgent appeal sent by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, has the honour to transmit herewith the information of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on the case as referred to in the above-mentioned communication.
Dear special Rapporteurs,

A murder of a couple of young people is a huge tragedy. That is also why Slovakia is making every effort and using all its means to investigate this crime. The SR Police Force and the Office of Prosecutor General as a supervisory body are carrying out the most comprehensive and broadest investigation in the history of Slovakia. Also the broadest and most numerous investigative team in the history of Slovakia has been formed in an enormously short time. Hundreds of police officers and investigators are working 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to investigate this double murder.

We have also invited foreign security forces to come to the assistance, out of which, for example, the Europol, FBI or Scotland Yard can be mentioned, as well as the colleagues from the Czech Republic or Italy and at the request of the General Prosecutor's Office an international investigative team was formed. The investigators are working hard on several possible versions of the murder, including the one with the motive linked with the job of the investigative journalist. The Minister of Interior is not a law enforcement authority, so I do not have any information on details of this investigation and I cannot intervene in it.

However, I believe that the effort made by the investigators and prosecutors in recent days has been enormous and it is only a question of time when the perpetrator and possibly also the ordering person (if existing) are brought to justice. For a period of many years and worldwide, we have been taking prominent positions in the field of security. These results have been reached both in the number of road accident victims, or in the field of daily criminality by which the Slovak inhabitants are troubled most. The murder of the journalist Ján Kuciak and his friend is a brutal and contemptible crime and therefore it is necessary to find the perpetrators and to bring them to justice. This does not mean Slovakia is now less secure. It was an excess and just the apprehension of the murderers and possible ordering persons will be the best response of how to confirm that the Slovak Republic is a secure country.

Yours truly

Ms.
Agnes Callamard