



UK Mission
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Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

UN Human Rights

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10

25 October 2018

Dear Professor Ní Aoláin,

Thank you for your letter of 3 September about the torture and mistreatment of detainees following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.

The UK Government strongly supports the work of the United Nations to promote human rights around the world. As you recognise in your letter, the UK unreservedly condemns the use of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. The UK does not participate in, solicit, encourage or condone the use of torture for any purpose. We work closely with the United Nations and other international partners to eradicate this abhorrent practice.

You refer to the UK Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee inquiry into detainee mistreatment and rendition. The Government is considering the Committee's reports and will respond formally in due course. Careful consideration will also be given to the separate calls for another judge-led inquiry. We will keep you informed.

The Government has also invited Sir Adrian Fulford, the Investigatory Powers Commissioner who has formal oversight of the UK's Consolidated Guidance – under which UK intelligence and Armed Forces personnel operate – to make proposals on how it could be further improved. The Commissioner launched a public consultation on this last month.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for highlighting that you will be leading a follow-up study to the 2010 "Joint Study on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism". We look forward to learning more about and engaging with this work.

Yours sincerely,

JULIAN BRAITHWAITE