



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | GENEVA

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

24 May 2019

Mr Surya Deva
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of human rights
and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Mr Felipe González Morales
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Ms Urmila Bhoola
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and
consequences

Ms Maria Grazia Giammarinaro
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

Dear Mr Deva, Mr González Morales, Ms Bhoola and Ms Giammarinaro,

I refer to your letter dated 27 March 2019 [Ref: AL SGP 1/2019] on an alleged case of human trafficking and forced labour suffered by Indian migrant workers at the India-based timber company, Accurate Industries, which operates in the Gabon Special Economic Zone (GSEZ) of Nkok. We understand from your letter that the GSEZ is a partnership between the Gabonese Government and a Singapore-based private company, Olam International, with the support of the Africa Finance Corporation.

The Singapore Government has no information on the allegations raised in the letter, which includes unverified and non-adjudicated information without citing the sources. The Singapore Government does not control, nor are we responsible for, the activities of private commercial entities such as Olam International. In this regard, you may wish to direct your queries regarding the alleged activities in question to the authorities within the relevant jurisdiction.

The Singapore Government has publicly urged Singapore-based companies and businesses to abide by the laws of the jurisdictions in which they operate. The Singapore Government also works with relevant stakeholders to encourage Singapore-based companies to promote responsible and sustainable business practices that meet local and international standards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Foo Kok Jwee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Foo Kok Jwee
Ambassador and Permanent Representative