



THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN GENEVA

August 27, 2019

Mr. David Kaye

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection  
of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 2018, concerning the sentence imposed on Ms.  
Reality Winner.

Please find enclosed a U.S. response to your letter.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Kronenfeld

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Human Rights Counselor

**SUBJECT: U.S. Response Regarding Ms. Reality Winner**

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 2018, which asks about the basis for the sentence imposed on Ms. Reality Winner on August 23, 2018, for unlawful retention and transmission of national defense information, a charge to which she pleaded guilty. We decline to discuss the details of the case, but assure you that the United States holds its international obligations and commitments regarding freedom of expression in the highest regard. U.S. law provides extraordinary protections for freedom of speech, and our criminal justice system provides extensive protections for criminal defendants. Details regarding the charge and the basis for the sentence are set out in publicly available documents associated with the case, which are attached hereto.