



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

February 9, 2021

Tomoya Obokata  
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including  
its causes and consequences

Githu Muigai  
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of human rights  
and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Felipe González Morales  
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Joseph Cannataci  
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy

Mama Fatima Singhateh  
Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including  
child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material

Dubravka Simonovic  
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Meskerem Techane  
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against  
women and girls

Dear Special Procedures Mandate Holders,

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 19, 2020. Please find enclosed the U.S. response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DKronenfeld", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel A. Kronenfeld  
Human Rights Counselor

**SUBJECT: U.S. Response Regarding Alleged Role of U.S. Companies in Facilitating the Enslavement, Trafficking, and Forced Labor of Domestic Workers**

Thank you for your letter dated June 19, 2020 requesting information regarding the alleged role of companies based in the United States in facilitating the enslavement, trafficking, and forced labor of migrant domestic workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. We are grateful for the work you do across the globe to promote respect for human rights, and for the opportunity to provide the below information concerning U.S. law, policy, and practice.

The United States affirms our support for human rights and fundamental freedoms and firmly condemns the trafficking, ownership, buying, or selling of any human being. Human trafficking and related offenses are federal crimes in the United States. We also affirm our obligations under the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and our support for the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Pursuant to these commitments, we regularly engage with U.S. businesses to discuss human rights due diligence and to highlight heightened risks of causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts in various countries and regions. In addition, the United States continues to advocate for dismantling systems that make it easier for traffickers to operate, including the Kafala or sponsorship-based labor policies, which allow employers to control where workers live, how they access their money, whether they can change employers, and even if or when they can leave the country. Reforming the sponsorship system and decoupling the ability to work from a specific employer will ultimately benefit workers and employers and help prevent human trafficking.

We urge the Governments of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to adhere to and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for victims of trafficking. In the 2020 U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report, the United States recommends that Kuwaiti officials proactively screen for trafficking indicators among vulnerable populations; continue to strengthen enforcement of the domestic labor law to ensure domestic workers' rights are protected; continue to convene the official governmental committee and strengthen implementation of the national anti-trafficking strategy; and expand efforts to raise anti-trafficking awareness, particularly among vulnerable populations, including migrant workers. Likewise, the United States recommends that Saudi officials continue to increase efforts to prosecute, convict, and sentence traffickers to significant prison terms under the anti-trafficking law; expand usage of the specialized Public Prosecutor's Office sub-units to detect potential trafficking cases across the country; and continue to conduct countrywide public awareness campaigns on all forms of trafficking.

The U.S. Department of State will contact the U.S. companies identified in your report to inform them about your concerns. We have also referred this issue to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Justice has also been advised of the referral.