



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

August 30, 2021

Irene Kahn
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection
of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Special Rapporteur:

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 14, 2021. Please find enclosed the U.S. response.

Sincerely,

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

Daniel A. Kronenfeld
Human Rights Counselor

U.S. Response to UN Special Procedures Regarding Allegation of Human Rights Violations During January 6, 2021 Washington, DC Protests

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 14, 2021. 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 investigation of the events at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, remains ongoing. Accordingly, we are unable to comment upon it other than to indicate that our law enforcement officials are working hard to identify and hold accountable those who engaged in violence and other criminal activity on that day. For further information, please see <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/capitol-breach-investigation-resource-page>.

The rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and the press are enshrined in American jurisprudence and anchored in the U.S. Constitution. The United States fully supports and protects the exercise of these constitutional rights. We will not tolerate violence, including violence committed by those who may attempt to use the guise of First Amendment-protected activity to engage in violent criminal acts.

The Administration has made clear that domestic terrorism has no place in our society. On June 15, President Biden released the first-ever National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism, demonstrating his steadfast commitment to addressing the most significant and persistent terrorism-related threat to the United States today. The strategy embraces the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties as a national security imperative and is carefully tailored to address violence and reduce the factors that lead to violence, threaten public safety, and infringe on the free expression of ideas. Combatting and preventing domestic terrorism is a critically important civil rights issue, as the domestic terrorism threat is mainly directed against communities of color and often based on their perceived race, religion, or perceived immigration status. The multi-faceted strategy includes collaboration between the federal government and critical partners in state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and in civil society, the private sector, academia, and local communities, as well as with our allies and foreign partners.