



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

January 2, 2024

Balakrishnan Rajagopal
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard
of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context
Geneva, Switzerland

Mathew Gillett
Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Special Procedures Mandate Holders,

Please find enclosed the U.S. response to your letter UA USA 10/2023 dated April 28, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Branka Bell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Branka Bell
Acting Deputy Permanent Representative
Human Rights Delegation

**U.S. response re. allegations of human rights abuses in connection with the NEOM
development project**

Thank you for your April 28 letter regarding allegations of human rights abuses in connection with the NEOM development project in Saudi Arabia, and for requesting further information on the U.S. government's actions to investigate the matter. We share your deep concerns regarding these reports. Indeed, in our 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, we cited the sentences issued against members of the al-Huwaitat tribe, and we continue to follow this issue closely. We take seriously our duty to protect human rights and expect businesses to respect human rights in line with internationally recognized frameworks such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct.

We are grateful for your correspondence and have relayed your request for information to the appropriate U.S. government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security.