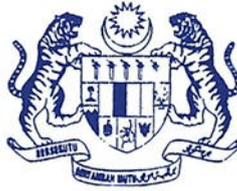


PERUTUSAN TETAP MALAYSIA

KE PEJABAT BANGSA-BANGSA BERSATU  
DAN BADAN-BADAN ANTARABANGSA  
DI GENEVA

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MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA MALAISIE

AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES  
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS  
INTERNATIONALES À GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL CENTER COINTRIN (ICC)  
1<sup>ER</sup> ÉTAGE, BLOC H  
20, ROUTE DE PRÉ-BOIS  
CASE POSTALE 1834  
CH-1215 GENEVA 15

12 January 2024

Ms. Mary Lawlor  
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite  
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Mr. José Francisco Cali Tzay  
Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Government of Malaysia refers to the Joint Communication from Special Procedures, reference number AL MYS 4/2023 dated 22 December 2023 ("the Communication") concerning the alleged attempted killing of Ms. Siti Kasim on 21 July 2023.

Without prejudging the accuracy or otherwise of the allegations summarised in the Communication, the Government of Malaysia's initial response to the Joint Communication are as follows:

The Government of Malaysia is always committed to promote and protect human rights for all. The Government of Malaysia takes its engagement with the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures Mandate Holders very seriously.

Since the case was reported, the Malaysian authorities has been pursuing a systematic and thorough investigative process. The Government of Malaysia will continue to work closely with all agencies and parties involved to ensure that the investigation is carried out judiciously.

The Government of Malaysia wishes to underline that the Government recognises the role of human rights defenders and upholds their rights and responsibilities as outlined in the "UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Safeguard Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms". The Government of Malaysia also values the work carried out by human rights defenders and strongly condemns instances of harassment, intimidation, smear campaigns and violent attacks against them and their family members.

The Government of Malaysia attaches the highest importance to the safety and security of every individual citizen, including human rights defenders. In this regard, the Government of Malaysia assures that it will continue to make its best endeavour in promoting and protecting human rights for all.

Please accept, Sir/Madam the assurances of my highest consideration.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadzirah', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

**DATO' NADZIRAH OSMAN**  
Ambassador / Permanent Representative