



## **SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION GENEVA**

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Ref: 03/2026

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organisations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to the Joint Communication: ref. AL ZAF 1/ 2025 dated 16 May 2025 from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa wishes to transmit the appended response from the Government of the Republic of South Africa to the Special Procedures' communication.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organisations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 05 January 2026



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
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1211 Geneva 10  
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**MINISTRY OF POLICE  
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**Reference Number: 3/9/9/1(308)**

The Secretariat  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

Email: [ohchr-registry@un.org](mailto:ohchr-registry@un.org)

Dear [REDACTED]

**JOINT LETTER FROM THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS ON THE SITUATION OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

The Ministry of Police of the Republic of South Africa acknowledges receipt of the joint communication from the Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council concerning the situation of [REDACTED] a human rights defender [REDACTED]

The matter was referred to the South African Police Service (SAPS) for urgent attention and verification. Following an investigation by the Provincial Commissioner [REDACTED] the National Commissioner of SAPS has reported the following:

There is currently no concrete evidence indicating that [REDACTED] life is under threat, nor that any contract has been taken out against [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was telephonically interviewed and confirmed that [REDACTED] has not opened any criminal cases relating to threats allegedly linked to [REDACTED] advocacy against proposed mining operations in the area. However, [REDACTED] did acknowledge that the situation remains tense due to opposition by certain community members to the opening of the mine.

SAPS [REDACTED] remains actively aware of and engaged in the matter. The police are monitoring the situation and continue to respond to any complaints or incidents reported, in line with their constitutional mandate to ensure safety and security for all.

**JOINT LETTER FROM THE SPECIAL RAPORTEURS ON THE SITUATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

The South African Police Service remains committed to upholding the rights and safety of all human rights defenders, in accordance with both domestic law and international human rights obligations.

Should further relevant developments arise, this Ministry will continue to engage and report accordingly.

Yours sincerely,



**MINISTER OF POLICE  
MR F CACHALIA**

Date: 9/12/25