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REFERENCE:
YOUR COMMUNICATION

23 May 2005

Dear Mr. Amaan,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated on 14 April 2005.

I should like to inform you about the 1503 procedure which is a complaints (communications) procedure dealing with alleged gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms committed by any Member State of the United Nations. The basic resolution governing the procedure is Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/3 (see enclosed). Please find also attached a booklet about the complaint procedures serviced by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In brief, when the 1503 procedure is followed, a copy of the communication is sent to the authorities of the country concerned, and a summary of its contents is submitted in confidence to the Working Group on Communications. Because of the confidentiality of the procedure, the outcome of the examination of the communications by the Commission and the Working Groups established under the procedure will not be communicated to the authors.

~~There are no rules as to the form and contents of a communication. The communications received are screened by the Secretariat and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Communications. For the sake of clarity, it is advisable to present a clear statement of the claims and to substantiate each claim with relevant facts/examples. Authors should inform us whether or not their names may be divulged.~~

Communications for the 1503 procedure should be addressed to:

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1503 procedure, Treaties and Commission Branch, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Communications may also be sent by e-mail. The postal address of the organization or the individual submitting the complaint should, nonetheless, be given.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Tistounet'.

Eric Tistounet

Secretary of the Commission on Human Rights

Mr. Adhiy Amaan
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