



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 November 2009

Dear Ms. Smith,


I would like to thank you for your letter of 29 September 2009 expressing interest in issues relating to women and sport generally and your specific concern for the situation of the South African athlete, Ms. Caster Semenya.

The United Nations shares your deep commitment to promoting the involvement of women and girls in sport. The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace regularly deals with the issue of women and sport. Furthermore, a 2007 publication focusing on "Women, gender equality and sport", was produced by the Division for the Advancement of Women (within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), and has been very well received around the world by Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations and sports organizations.

With regard to the situation of Ms. Caster Semenya, I wish to inform you that I have referred the matter to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, who will determine the appropriate course of action. I have sent a similar letter to Mr. Andrew Nisker.

I would like to express my appreciation for the important role your Association plays in promoting the active involvement of women and girls in sport and physical activity. I wish you success in your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,


BAN Ki-moon

Ms. Nicole Smith
Chair
Canadian Association for the Advancement
of Women and Sport and Physical Activity
Ottawa

Nicole Smith
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