

UNITED NATIONS



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

10 September 2014

Dear Mr. Calí Tzay,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I wish to thank you for your letter dated 27 August 2014, drawing his attention to Decision 1(85) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures concerning the situation in Iraq.

I note that the Decision was taken in the context of the consideration by the Committee of the twenty-first periodic report on Iraq, a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination since 1970, and the appalling violations of international human rights law being committed in its territory.

The Secretary-General and the United Nations system fully share the serious concerns of the Committee regarding the grave human rights and humanitarian situation in Iraq. The consideration of Iraq by the Committee came at a timely moment, like the convening of the Special Session on Iraq, as called for in Decision 1(85), by the Human Rights Council on 1 September 2014.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the work of the United Nations treaty bodies in human rights protection and promotion globally, as recognized also by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/2 of 9 April 2014. I encourage the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and other treaty bodies to continue engaging with the United Nations system in your important undertakings.

Yours sincerely,



Susana Malcorra
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. José Francisco Calí Tzay
Chair of the Committee on the Elimination
of Racial Discrimination
Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Geneva

14-07798

POL/06/001

HR/04/005





To: CDC (through ¹DSG),

Attached please find for approval a draft letter from you, on behalf of the SG, to the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Mr. Cali Tzay, in response to his letter dated 27 August. That letter informed the SG of the Committee's decision on Iraq of 22 August under its early warning and urgent action procedure, and which called on the SG to submit a suggestion to the SC on the deployment of a "peace force" as a temporary emergency measure in the plain of Niniveh, Iraq. This was the first time that a formal communication from CERD to the EOSG on a decision implicating the SG was submitted, and it was therefore felt that an acknowledgement was relevant.

Political Unit
10 September 2014

Received in ODSG

10 September 2014

Seen by:

ER

Julie Dabo
ADP ST Model

RECEIVED

NATIONS UNIES
DROITS DE L'HOMME
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

AUG 27 2014

14-07798

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REFERENCE: CERD/85th/EWUAP/GH

ACTION *AG*

27 August 2014

COPY *DSG*
cde
Fellman
Lachaux
Seura Soaris
OHCHR NYO
UNHCR L.O.

Excellency,

I wish to draw your attention to Decision 1(85) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted on 22 August 2014 under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures.

Specifically, the decision urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit to the Security Council a suggestion to set up a UN peace force as a temporary emergency measure, in order to create a safe zone in the plain of Niniveh, enabling the free return of the displaced persons and the protection of the communities traditionally living in the area. The full text of the decision is attached for your attention.

In addition, the Committee has also considered during the current session the 15th to 21st periodic reports of Iraq and held a constructive dialogue with a high-level Iraqi delegation. The concluding observations on this process will be issued on 29 August 2014.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

José Francisco Calí Tzay
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

POL/06/001; #RT/04/005

Advance unedited version

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Eighty-fifth session
11–29 August 2014

**PREVENTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING EARLY WARNING AND
URGENT ACTION PROCEDURES**

Decision 1 (85)

Iraq

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, meeting in Geneva at its eighty-fifth session from 11 to 29 August 2014,

Acting under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures and taking into account its Declaration on Genocide (2005),

Alarmed by information and testimonies from various sources and having also considered the 15th to 21st periodic report of Iraq, a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD),

Appalled by the massacres, atrocities and other human rights abuses against civilian populations, inter alia on ethnic and ethno-religious grounds, committed by the terrorist armed group calling itself the “Islamic State (IS),”

Deeply concerned by the mass killings, the ethnic cleansing, the massive forced displacement of populations, the violence against women and children and the other crimes against humanity, which constitute blatant violations of the ICERD and increase the risk of genocide,

Mindful of the need to encourage the ongoing humanitarian responses required from the international community to preserve life and dignity of the populations affected,

Fully aware of the serious long-term consequences of the conflict in Iraq for peace and security in the Middle East and in the World:

1. Requests the Human Rights Council to convene a special session on the human rights situation in Iraq, with the view to consider establishing a commission of inquiry to examine the causes of the conflict, the origins and actions of the “IS,” the forces and problems involved, and to present its findings and recommendations, including with regard to those responsible for crimes against humanity and the ways to prosecute and punish them,
2. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit to the Security Council the suggestion to set up a UN peace force as a temporary emergency measure, in order to create a safe zone in the plain of Niniveh, enabling the free return of the displaced persons and the protection of the communities traditionally living in the area.

2313th meeting
22 August 2014