



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

20 January 2012

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to write to you to provide information on the support provided by the United Nations to the League of Arab States (LAS) observation mission to the Arab Republic of Syria.

I received communications from the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Dr. Nabil Elaraby; in particular letters dated 19 December 2011 and 10 January 2012 in which he requested the United Nations to dispatch, "as a matter of extreme urgency", a team of experts to assist LAS in fulfilling the mandate issued by the Council of Ministers of the League to develop and prepare the modalities and mechanisms to provide protection for the Syrian civilian population. In response, and after consultations, the High Commissioner replied to Dr. Elaraby on 11 January 2012 to confirm the readiness of her Office to deploy a team of human rights and protection experts to provide training on human rights monitoring for this purpose.

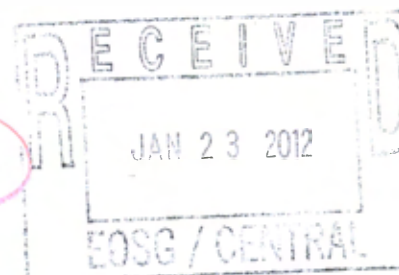
OHCHR regularly provides human rights and protection training upon request from Governments to law enforcement officials and other actors as part of its technical cooperation programme and it has developed standard training modules to this end. Such assistance is contemplated by cooperation agreements between LAS and the United Nations Secretariat, and is specifically requested in operational paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of General Assembly resolution 65/126.

His Excellency
Mr. Baso Sangqu
President of the Security Council
New York

12-00646

EXR/12/05E

POL/03/004

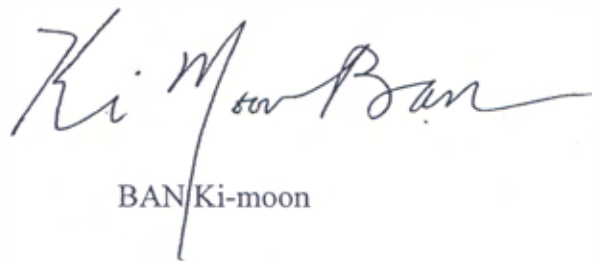


The formal communications to and from Dr. Elaraby were accompanied by working-level contacts between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the League in order to determine the precise modalities for the training. OHCHR proposed, and LAS agreed, that a team of four trainers and experts would travel to Cairo on 16 January 2012 to provide a two-day training on human rights monitoring to the members of the Observer Mission. At the request of the League, it was envisaged that the training would focus on applicable principles and methodology for human rights monitoring, particularly with respect to visits to persons in detention centres, release of political prisoners, monitoring of demonstrations and cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances of individuals.

At the request of the League, the mission was postponed on 15 January 2012, before its deployment, until further notice pending a decision of the League on the future of the Observer Mission at the meeting scheduled for 19 January 2012. OHCHR was subsequently informed that the meeting has been rescheduled for 22 January 2012.

OHCHR has informed LAS that its team of trainers and experts remains on standby to travel to Cairo to undertake this training.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN/Ki-moon

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

! URGENT

To: Mr. Nambiar,

As per DCDC's request, please find attached a revised draft letter, for your approval and SG's signature, addressed to the SC President explaining UN support to the activities of the League of Arab States.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Haysom', followed by a horizontal line.

Nicholas Haysom
20 January 2012

Cc: KWS

PRIORITY

Handwritten initials 'b7' in dark ink.

12-00646

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

As requested by DCDC, please find attached a draft letter, for your approval and SG's signature, addressed to the SC President explaining UN support and activities to the League of Arab States.

Note that the letter concentrates on the formal requests from the LAS. However, please be aware that there has been considerable informal communication between OHCHR and the LAS on possible assistance stretching back to November including a mission from the Head of OHCHR's MENA Section to Cairo at the end of November. The draft letter, therefore, conveys a record of interaction that is somewhat less reflective of the full picture.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Haysom'.

Nicholas Haysom
19 January 2012

Cc: KWS

12-00646

Think,
I think it better to
refer to the GA resolution
that gave the mandate
to support LAS if
requested. 20/Jan/12
JW