

Noted the return record
Regional Group/RS
Ms. Patricia O'Brien
Under-Secretary-General Legal Counsel
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations Headquarters, S-3427B
New York, NY 10017

Ger
03 March 2009

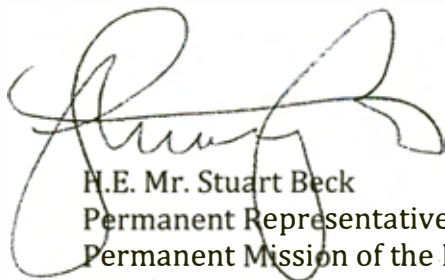
Dear Ms. O'Brien:

Yesterday, staff from the Palau Mission assisted several Taiwanese women in attempting to obtain passes to attend the Fifty-third Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

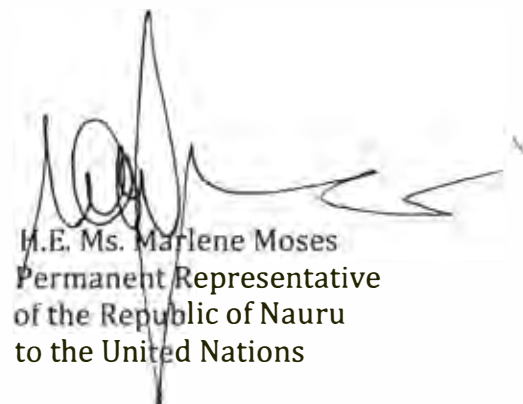
These women traveled internationally, specifically for these meetings, after obtaining Letters of Confirmation issued by the Commission on the Status of Women. Despite this, all were denied access to the United Nations and told by Mr. Steve Earley, of United Nations Security, that Taiwanese passports are not official documents for the purpose of verification of identity. Moreover, the presence of a United States visa, with photograph, was also deemed inadequate for entrance, as it was affixed to a Taiwanese passport.

Mr. Earley said that the Office of Legal Affairs was responsible for denying access, and we seek clarification. May we know on what authority these women have been wrongly excluded? Please respond to this note at your earliest convenience. We would like to meet with you on the matter.

Very truly yours,



H.E. Mr. Stuart Beck
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic
of Palau to the United Nations



H.E. Ms. Marlene Moses
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Nauru
to the United Nations



H.E. Ms. Janine Elizabeth Coye-Felson
Charge d'affaires
Permanent Mission of Belize
to the United Nations

cc: Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General

Mr. Sha-Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

By hand delivery.