

The Amuta for NGO Responsibility

R.A. # 580465508

7 May 2017

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Gianni Magazzeni
Officer-in-Charge
Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dear Mr. Magazzeni,

I am writing to follow-up to your letter of 18 April 2017 in response to our complaint filed 29 March 2017 against Special Rapporteur Michael Lynk. In his most recent report to the Council, Special Rapporteur Lynk promoted as a Human Rights Defender, and in violation of UN standards, a woman who has disseminated incitement to violence and virulently antisemitic content on social media.

In your letter, you stated that “we have shared your concerns” and that the “information you have provided has been taken seriously and the reference to Manal Tamimi will be removed from the edited version of the report.”

However, as of 7 May 2017, the original version of Mr. Lynk’s report has not been revised and the offending material remains on the OHCHR website where it may be downloaded and widely disseminated. On 27 April, I wrote via email to Tal Steiner of the Middle East and North Africa Section (the OHCHR employee who transmitted your letter to me) relaying my concerns that Lynk’s report had not been revised, asking that the offending version be immediately removed, and asking for a date as to when the corrected version would be uploaded. Ms. Steiner never responded to my email.

That Mr. Lynk’s original report remains online is not in keeping with the spirit of your correspondence. Claims that the report will be edited at some unspecified future date, while at the same time allowing the offending report to remain online, indicates that OHCHR does not take seriously this matter involving incitement to violence and antisemitism. In fact, it could be said that by failing to take immediate action to remedy Mr. Lynk’s egregious behavior, OHCHR is providing a “stamp of approval” to it.

I ask that Lynk’s original report be immediately removed from each place it is posted on OHCHR’s website and that we are informed as to when specifically the corrected report will be uploaded.

Sincerely,

Anne Herzberg
UN Liaison, Amuta for NGO Responsibility

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cc:

H.E. Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli, President, Human Rights Council
Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, High Commissioner for Human Rights
H.E. Nikki Haley, US Ambassador to the United Nations
H.E. Aviva Raz Shechter, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva
H.E. Julian Braithwaite, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, UK Mission to the UN and Other International Organisations, Geneva
H.E. Peter M. Sørensen, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva
H.E. Deborah Lyons, Canadian Ambassador to the State of Israel
Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein, European Union Commission Coordinator for Combatting Antisemitism

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