

Re: PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

REILLY Emma

Wed 02/12/2020 15:47

Sent Items

To: ilze.brandskehris@un.org <ilze.brandskehris@un.org>;

Cc: [REDACTED] SWANSON Ben <swanson1@un.org>; AG [REDACTED]

3 attachments (972 KB)

Dear Ms Brands Kehris,

I thought I would follow-up on my email below. I had hoped when you took on your role in March that criminal complicity of OHCHR in international crimes by passing names of dissidents to the Chinese government would interest you, and strike you on something on which you may want to receive further proof. I am disappointed that you declined to speak or meet with me.

Many more of those whose names were handed over have now publicly commented on the danger to which their families were exposed. These include He Geng (wife of Gao Zhisheng, who wrote a book on the torture to which he was subjected), Dolkun Isa (who submitted a witness statement to the Tribunal about the treatment of his family and the utter falsity of the OHCHR press release), Dr. Yang Jianli, Rebiya Kadeer (30 of her family members are in the camps. Prior to sessions of the Council, she would often receive calls telling her to stop her advocacy, sometimes with sounds of family members being tortured in the background), Asgar Can, etc., etc., etc.

The whole and entire argument of OHCHR before the Tribunal is exactly as it has always been (see attached emails from 2013 and 2016) - the list of names is somehow public (it is not) and therefore OHCHR cannot resist China's request. There is no credible claim that any security threat is checked. The only security assessment is the security of diplomats from these individuals. For example, once I realised all those emails and meetings in 2013 were for my benefit and that some of the emails I was sent in 2012 (in order to have a stash to consult when I took over the NGO role in 2013) actually contained names being handed over, I found two. Check the times on which the request from China is received and answered. What kind of security assessment is OHCHR publicly claiming exactly?

I tried everything to resolve this without impacting on the reputation of OHCHR, but there is absolutely zero evidence that this has stopped. OHCHR defends it in court, at great taxpayer expense, as an ongoing practice. As the official responsible for dealing with reprisals, you should be deeply concerned and incredibly keen to speak with me to ensure the Office stops actively placing people in danger. Only two officials from the time remain with OHCHR - me and the person I reported. You ignore me, so guess where **all** of your information, and those 13 contradictory public positions that I am sure are now beginning to cause the embarrassment they should, have come from?

You should speak to me, and you should order an external, independent investigation. Nobody would be happier than I if my reports had worked and this had actually stopped. There is no evidence whatsoever to support that contention. Read the first email in that chain - names were initially given orally. What's your guess as to why, for example, the people on China's list in September 2019 (lots and lots of Tibetans) were so different from the lists for the same session in 2018 and 2020 (no Tibetans). The request from China not to accredit the individuals was received before this was announced: <https://tibet.net/highlighting-human-rights-situation-in-tibet-cta-delegation-advocates-at-the-un/>

The only facts of which you can be sure are:

1. My reports of the practice were all, at every stage, found to be accurate;
2. Eric Tistounet personally lied about this on at least seven different occasions, internally and externally (in case you speak French, the theory that *his own actions* are somehow part of a right-wing conspiracy against the UN remains my personal favourite: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmxNji05ZJg>, from about 39 minutes);
3. All the information you have ever received about the practice is from Eric Tistounet.

I copy the Secretary-General, hoping that his new initiative on civil society space may finally convince him to act to stop this dangerous policy.

Regards,
Emma Reilly

From: REILLY Emma
Sent: 02 March 2020 17:23
To: ilze.brandskhehris@un.org
Cc: Emma Reilly; SWANSON Ben
Subject: PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Ms Brands Kehris,

First of all, welcome to your new role.

I am once again going to report serious wrongdoing, in the hope that you may take action to stop it. Prior to sessions of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR provides China – and only China – with advance information on whether named human rights defenders are coming. This has directly led to reprisals such as Chinese police attending the homes of their family members still in China to force them to call their relatives to tell them not to come, and even torture of their relatives. The most high-profile case of such torture is Gao Zhisheng, who was forced to call his wife, He Geng. I attach the email in which her name was transmitted to the private email of a Chinese diplomat while he was held in secret, arbitrary detention, only days after the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention had sent a letter in his case. This practice has never been investigated (I copy Ben Swanson at OIOS, who can confirm – OHCHR will lie about this).


You may think OHCHR would immediately stop such an egregious practice, consistent with the duty to protect. In fact, OHCHR is currently defending it before the Tribunal in my cases relating to the seven years of retaliation to which I have been subjected for reporting this. OHCHR quite literally argues – *in public hearings* – that I am “unreasonable” to believe that a practice amounting to complicity in the international crime of torture (analysis attached) could be a problem. The judge who initially heard the case was removed with less than 24 hours’ notice between closing arguments and verdict, despite remaining on the payroll for another three weeks.

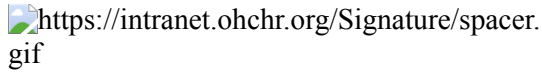
You may already have been briefed on me, likely by people who are directly named in my complaints of harassment. I know your predecessor calls me “obsessive,” but I’m of the opinion that when the UN is directly complicit in torture of human rights defenders, it’s probably worth trying to stop that on more than a single occasion. With what is happening in Xinjiang, and the fact that yet another parent of an individual whose name OHCHR transmitted died in the camps *only last week*, you may add complicity in genocide to the analysis. It is a disgrace that OHCHR continues to defend this practice, but its entire legal argument is based on it not having stopped (if I’m “unreasonable” to think it’s a problem, why would my reports bring it to an end?). All the circumstantial evidence points to it continuing (the lists received from China before each session match accredited individuals plus [REDACTED], a simple search of the registry will amply demonstrate this). As the senior official on reprisals, I appeal to you to finally investigate the practice itself and make sure it stops. OHCHR, when asked publicly, denies it ever happened, noting the danger. In court, OHCHR argues a right to publicly lie about me and about the practice, on the basis that UN rules do not expressly prohibit deliberately misleading statements and defamation of UN staff to the press, public, member states and NGOs.

Given your background, I hope you may take this more seriously than your predecessor. OHCHR managers have refused to meet me for seven years, but I did meet the SG last week. OHCHR refused to implement his direct instructions to resolve my case back in 2018.

This will eventually come out (I avoided press coverage until the removal of the judge who heard my case, now I’m exercising my rights to respond to questions: https://www.theepochtimes.com/un-gave-china-names-of-dissidents-then-persecuted-whistleblower_3222972.html), so I would suggest it would be good for OHCHR to switch its position to one of defending human rights and stopping retaliation against the only staff member to actually report this obviously egregious practice. It’s quite an indictment that everyone who simply followed instructions and transmitted names has been promoted and protected, while I remain the only OHCHR staff member absent from the organigram, for the simple reason that I was forcibly transferred to a non-existent post and have no functions. I look forward to hearing from you. I copy my personal email, and you may reach me on my personal mobile: [REDACTED]

Very best,
Emma

 Office of
the United
Nations High
Commissioner
for Human
Rights

 <https://intranet.ohchr.org/Signature/spacer>.
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Emma Reilly

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<< image001.gif (4.0KB) image002.gif (0.3KB) Report of possible UN complicity in international crimes.pdf (42.2KB) Email transmitting names of He Geng and Dolkun Isa.pdf (163.2KB) (209.7KB) >>