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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

TÉLÉCOPIE • FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE: 28 June 2022

A/TO: Dr. Richard Basset
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Head, Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University

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DE/FROM: Beatriz Balbin
Chief
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REF:

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OBJET/SUBJECT: **Letter from the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**

Please find attached a letter from the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.



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Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

28 June 2022

Dear Prof. Bassed,

I am writing in my capacity as United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to express my gratitude for the invaluable support offered to my mandate by Monash University's Global Research Initiative on Forensic Medicine and Human Rights (GRIFM), including for the preparation of the report which I presented to the Human Rights Council on 22 June 2022.

The report, which examines the role and capacity of medico-legal and forensic services worldwide for investigations into unlawful deaths, is based on unprecedented research on the performance of medico-legal death investigations vis a vis international human rights standards, including the Minnesota Protocol for the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016). It illustrates the principal issues and shortfalls, as well as opportunities for improving medico-legal death investigations and it offers a set of practical recommendation on this regard.

I have no doubt that this report stands as a milestone and will contribute to improving medico-legal death investigations in many contexts. I also hope that the report will catalyse further interest and garner support for furthering academic research into this fascinating field and thus contributing to improving human rights protection worldwide.

I am especially grateful to the GRIFM's participants, including the Michael Kirby Centre for Health and Human Rights, the Victoria Institute of Forensic Medicine, Eleos Justice and your own Department at the Medical School; and particularly so to Professors Beatrice Loff, Stephen Cordner, Mai Sato and yourself, among other distinguished participants. Please make extensive to them all my expressions of sincere gratitude.

I very much look forward to continuing this fruitful cooperation with Monash University.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Special Rapporteur.

Morris Tidball-Binz
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Dr. Richard Bassed
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Deputy Director and Head, Academic Programs
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