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TÉLÉCOPIE • FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE: 19 April 2021

A/TO: Dr. Richard Basset  
BDS, PhD, DipForOdont, FFOMP (RCPA)  
Deputy Director and Head, Academic Programs,  
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine,  
Head, Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University

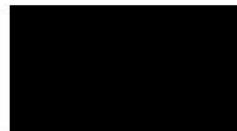
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OBJET/SUBJECT: **Letter from the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**

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**

19 April 2021

Dear Dr. Bassed,

I am writing to thank you for your kind letter and the work you and your Department are doing to support my Mandate as the new United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. This is highly appreciated.

As you know, I was honoured about a year ago to be appointed by Monash University as an Adjunct Professor in your Department, so it has been particularly gratifying to see the real and valuable academic support that you can provide to assist me in my new capacity.

You have established a special Research Unit in which you have already engaged a post-doctoral research fellow. We have agreed that this fellow will concentrate in the first instance on carrying out a review of available forensic capacity globally that can be called upon by States to help fulfil their obligations to investigate potentially unlawful deaths.

We have spent considerable time together already on virtual meetings planning additional areas to carry out research into what would advance topics of interest to the Mandate. You confidently expect that additional research capacity will be developed as we progress. In addition, apart from your own contributions personally, you have given me access to Associate Professor Bebe Loff (and the Michael Kirby Centre) and Emeritus Professor Stephen Cordner, whose knowledge and experience will be indispensable in the coming years.

As I start discharging my new responsibility as Special Rapporteur, it is already apparent that a strong research-base will be required to substantiate the numerous communications and reports on thematic issues which I hope to publish during my Mandate, including before the Human Rights Council and the U.N. General Assembly, aimed at strengthening the protection of the right to life worldwide.

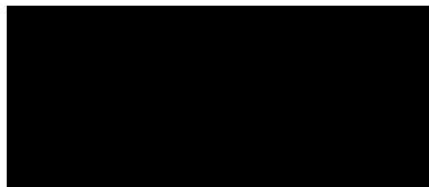
Particularly, in my capacity as the first medico-legal expert to ever hold the Mandate, I believe that there is rich and substantive ground to cover with research in this domain, to help ensure that higher standards of forensic practice are put into practice

Dr. Richard Bassed  
BDS, PhD, DipForOdont, FFOMP (RCPA)  
Deputy Director and Head, Academic Programs,  
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine,  
Head, Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University

where necessary, for improving death-investigation systems globally and fulfil States' duties to investigate all potentially unlawful deaths.

I am therefore truly grateful to you, Monash University and the Research Unit that you have kindly established to support my Mandate, with the synergy and participation of distinguished academics such as Prof. Loff (and the Michael Kirby Centre) and Prof. Cordner; and I look forward towards a fruitful collaboration during the coming years.

Yours sincerely,



Morris Tidball-Binz

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions