



OHCHR REGISTRY

- 8 APR 2013

26 March 2013

Recipients : *SPD*

Dear Sirs, Madams,

Reference is made to your communication dated 10 January 2013 concerning attacks and threats against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights defenders in Kosovo, including members of the organizations Kosovo 2.0 and Libertas.

UNMIK was requested to transmit to the Kosovo authorities a joint letter from four Special Rapporteurs, namely the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

I have the pleasure to inform you that UNMIK has transmitted the letter and has received four sealed envelopes containing what we understand to be Prime Minister, Mr. Thaci's response as per the attached copy.

Please accept the assurances of UNMIK's relentless efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights and cooperation with international human rights bodies.

Yours sincerely,

*for Farid Zarif*

Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Mr. Frank La Rue  
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Mr. Maina Kiai  
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Ms Margaret Sekaggya  
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Mr. Christof Heyns  
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights  
Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, Palais Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland



**Republika e Kosovës**  
**Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo**  
*Qeveria - Vlada - Government*  
*Zyra e Kryeministrit -Ured Premijera-Office of the Prime Minister*

**Dear all,**

Prishtinë, 8 March 2013  
Ref. 130 /13

We would like to thank you for enabling us to answer your questions and we want to assure you that we fully share your concerns.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo is strongly committed to protecting the rights of all its citizens. These rights are guaranteed by our Constitution and all forms of discrimination are forbidden and punishable by Law. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has condemned the incident and treated the issue seriously and competently.

In general, we can confirm that your summary is accurate. We would however like to emphasize that the police officers that were initially present at the venue have followed the Standard Operating Procedures and immediately required backup. Although the response at the time of the initial incident may not be fully adequate, we believe that the subsequent response from the Special Police Forces recruited was satisfactory.

Kosovo Police has also established a task force following the incident of 14 December 2012, which has carried specific actions in respect to identification of the perpetrators of these incidents. The appropriate support and protection has been offered to all victims reporting to be threatened and Kosovo Police has been at their service providing close and psychical protection as well as ensuring the appropriate measures are taken in order to prevent eventual incidents in the future.

We have immediately started the process of investigation and treated this issue with utmost importance. We would like to inform you that Kosovo Police has pressed criminal charges for 7 (seven) defendants and the investigations are still ongoing. Furthermore, specific cyber crime unit within the Kosovo Police is actively involved in identification of all videos and comments in social media with hateful and abusive content.

Communication between the Office of Good Governance within my Cabinet as well as the Kosovo Police with the LGBT Community is in satisfactory level and we are in constant communication with them.

Once again, I would like to assure you that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has taken all the available measures to investigate this incident. We have also taken all the necessary precautions to prevent the occurrence of these incidents in the future.

Hashim THAÇI

Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

**Frank La Rue**

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

**Maina Kiai**

Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and the association

**Margaret Sekaggya**

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

**Christof Heyns**

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions