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Kendi E Williams 04/01/2004 09:12:38 AM From DB/Inbox: Kendi E Williams

Cable Text:
UNCLAS SECSTATE 71780
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ACTION: PSA
INFO: LA IRM IEA DCM PA USIS RMA PSAH PC AMB

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TO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1694
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SR ON ESA EXECUTIONS

1. Response of the United States of America to letters from Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions Asma Jahangir to the Secretary of State dated May 12, 2003 and May 20, 2003

this is the reference it needs to be in the letter

The Government of the United States of America takes the opportunity to respond to the above-referenced letters that contain allegations regarding the ongoing military operations of the United States in its role as an occupying power in Iraq. The United States respectfully submits that inquiries related to military operations conducted by the United States in Iraq do not fall within the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, which does not extend to the laws and customs of war.

Although, as noted above, the issues raised and assertions contained in the letters do not fall within the Special Rapporteur's mandate, the United States is providing this reply in order to correct the record. Restoring security in Iraq is vital to the reconstruction of Iraq. U.S. military personnel are operating under Rules of Engagement that protect American servicemen and women in accomplishing their mission, while also ensuring appropriate protection for the civilian population. The Rules of Engagement in effect in Iraq are carefully drafted and comply fully with the law of war.

For the reasons discussed above, the Government of the United States of America respectfully requests that the Special Rapporteur discontinue her consideration of the issues raised in the above-referenced letters.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER
DATE/CASE ID: 10 DEC 2004 200303827

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