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ACTION IO-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 WHA-00 SRPP-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 EUR-00 UTED-00 H-01 EAP-00 EB-00 NEA-00 DCP-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OPIC-01 L-00 PRS-00 P-00 SS-00 TEST-00 SP-00 STR-00 PC-01 DRL-02 G-00 SAS-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 SA-00 PRM-00 /008W

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UNCLAS GENEVA 000255

FOR IO/SHA, H/LRR, DRL/MLA

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1

FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM CHAIRMAN-RAPPORTEUR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION

- MISSION HAS RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION DATED JANUARY 22, 2002, FROM THE CHAIRMAN-RAPPORTEUR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION IN THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
- BEGIN TEXT OF COMMUNICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR,

THE ATTENTION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO THE SITUATION OF PERSONS WHOSE DETENTION IS RELATED WITH THE INVESTIGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN INITIATED FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN YOUR COUNTRY ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2001.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE SITUATION OF PERSONS DETAINED UNDER THE "PRISONER OF WAR" STATUS - WHO ARE COVERED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 - DOES NOT FALL WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE **REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD** DATE/CASE ID: 03 NOV 2004 200303827

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WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION (RESOLUTIONS 1991/42 AND 1997/50 OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS).

HOWEVER, WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WORKING GROUP, YOUR GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THESE PERSONS DO NOT FALL INTO THE "PRISONER OF WAR" CATEGORY, AND THUS, THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO THEM.

WE WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR GOVERNMENT TO INVITE THE WORKING GROUP FOR A VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY IN ORDER TO EXAMINE IN SITU THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED AND THE PROBLEMS THIS SITUATION INVOLVES, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH YOUR AUTHORITIES AND IN KEEPING WITH THE GROUP'S MANDATE.

GIVEN THE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES DUE TO TERRORISM THAT YOUR COUNTRY FACES, AND IN LIGHT OF THE VERY BROAD SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE WORKING GROUP WOULD TAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTO CONSIDERATION THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 4 AND 15 PAR. 2
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS,
TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS A PARTY, IN ORDER TO
BE THE MOST RIGOROUS AND OBJECTIVE POSSIBLE.

I REMAIN AT YOUR ENTIRE DISPOSAL SHOULD YOU WISH TO CONTACT ME FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF SUCH A VISIT.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. AMBASSADOR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.

3. MISSION WILL TRANSMIT BY FAX A COPY OF THE COMMUNICATION TO 10/SHA, ATTENTION MIRTA ALVAREZ.
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