



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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30 August 2018

Excellency,

I refer to your letter of 19 June 2018 addressed to the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In that letter, you invited the Committee to make an urgent appeal to the Government of the United States of America, to cease its “zero tolerance” migration policy, which has had the effect of separating children from their families upon crossing the US-Mexico border and to guarantee an unrestricted access to the detained parents and children.

The Committee would like to inform your Excellency, that the Committee’s Early warning and urgent action procedure does not aim at taking up and considering situations submitted by States against other States parties to the Convention. Neither, has it been set up to settle disputes arising between States parties to the Convention. Rather, article 11 of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination establishes a procedure to address disputes arising between States parties on the interpretation or the application of the Convention.

Therefore, the Committee is not competent to address your request under the Committee’s Early warning and urgent action procedure.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with Mexico, with a view to assisting it to implement the Convention effectively.

Yours sincerely,

Nouredine Amir  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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