Washington, 17 Juin 2013

A Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération
-Rabat-

DESTINATAIRE PRINCIPAL : CABI - DG/7/6
DESTINATAIRE CC : SG
TRANSMISSION : Normale
OBJET : Lettre adressée à Monsieur le Ministre de la Justice et des Libertés

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, une lettre adressée à Monsieur le Ministre de la Justice et des Libertés, Mustapha Ramid, par M. John Benner, avocat américain, concernant la détention de M. Hussein Bah et 5 autres Saharaouis, incarcérés depuis le 4 Mai 2013 dans la prison de Laayoune.

Dans cette lettre, M. Benner se dit « inquiet par les méthodes de torture » que subit le nommé Hussein Bah et les cinq autres prisonniers. L'avocat Américain demande au Ministère de la Justice de mener une enquête complète et équitable sur ces allégations.

P.J. : 1
June 5, 2013

Mustafa Ramid
Ministry of Justice and Liberties
Place El Mannouna—BP 1015
Rabat, MOROCCO

Your Excellency:

On May 15 a 17-year-old boy named El Hussein Bah was placed in jail in Laayoune, Western Sahara. This happened after the Crown Prosecutor overruled an order by an investigative judge to release him on bail. In addition, five other Sahrawi men were arrested on May 9 in connection with a May 4 protest.

I have received disturbing news about the treatment of these detainees. El Hussein Bah has been beaten, threatened with rape, and suspended by his knees during interrogation. He and the others told the investigative judge about this torture. Bruises and other injuries consistent with torture have been reported.

I am therefore writing to ask you to immediately conduct a full and impartial investigation into these allegations of torture and ill-treatment. The results of your inquiry should be made public, and those found responsible must be brought to justice. Any “confessions” extracted by torture should be inadmissible in any proceedings against these detainees.

Please also take steps to ensure that these detainees are protected from any further ill-treatment, and provide them with access to all necessary medical care. Their family members should also be permitted to visit them. In the case of El Hussein Bah, you should make certain that he is treated in accordance with Article 37(b) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which your nation ratified two decades ago.

Thank you in advance for your prompt and careful attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Benner
Attorney at Law

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