



Genève

A200

Mrs High Commissioner,

Allow me to thank you for your answer dated April 12, 2012, regarding the noticed-presence of the Head of the MENA Section in a side event hostile to Morocco organized on the margins of the last session of the Human Rights Council.

I also wish to thank you for commending the positive steps taken by Morocco towards ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights, as evidenced at the international and United Nations levels by the strengthening of its partnership with your Office.

I also share your view on the public and democratic nature of side events, as well as on the importance for your staff of attending them in order to hear all parties impartially.

The impartiality, neutrality and independence of your Office and your staff are principles that Morocco has regularly upheld before the Human Rights Council.

However, I do regret the fact that, unlike his predecessor, this official has never been impartial towards Morocco since he was appointed at the head of the MENA Section nearly three years ago. I had indeed expressed my concern to his superior, the Head of the Field Operations Division.

The relationship between The Permanent Mission of Morocco and the MENA Section has indeed been marred by repeated incidents ever since this official came into office, the last one being his attending the said side event. In the meantime, during the same session of the HRC, he did not deign attend the event organized on 14 March by the National Human Rights Council on "the Constitutional guarantees for promotion and protection of human rights", or the event organized on 22 March by our Mission on "The Governance in autonomy statutes: a comparative analyses with the Moroccan Initiative for the negotiation of an Autonomy status for the Sahara Region" (see flyers attached).

Just as our Mission has always ensured respect for the mandate of the OHCHR, it expects professionalism and impartiality from the officials of the Office, avoiding all manners of political posturing or activism. These principles indeed lie at the heart of the mandate of the OHCHR.

The Kingdom of Morocco attaches great importance to the strengthening of the partnership with your Office, that you personally helped develop, which my country warmly welcomes. For this reason, my country does count on your leadership and authority to ensure such incident does not happen again, lest it may compromise the cooperative relationship based on mutual respect between Morocco and your Office.

Please accept your Excellency, Mrs High Commissioner, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Omar Hilale

Mrs Navanethem Pillay
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson,
52, rue des Pâquis
1202, Genève - Suisse

