

HE, Remigiusz A. Henczel
President of the Human Rights Council
Office of the President
Human Rights Council

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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30 October 2013
TIGO-IOR-40-2013-099

Excellency,

RE: APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATE-HOLDERS AT THE NEXT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSION (MARCH 2014)

Amnesty International writes on behalf the undersigned organizations, we would like to share with you our concern regarding the inability of members and State observers of the Human Rights Council to adequately address the challenge of selecting candidates for the appointment of 18 special procedures mandate-holders at the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014.

The system of Special Procedures is a key element in the United Nations human rights system. Great care went into designing the Institution Building Package (IB) procedures and criteria, as contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and General Assembly resolution 65/281, to ensure the appointment of the very best independent experts capable of fulfilling the mandates of the Special Procedures.

The Consultative Group is central to the selection process for the mandate-holders, and it is essential that it be able to work under the best possible conditions. We note that in your letter of 22 October 2013 to regional coordinators you reflect the prevailing view that the Consultative Group can only start the work on the March appointments in early January 2014.

We are concerned that an early January start of the work of the Consultative Group will not allow sufficient time to apply the rigorous IB process for the selection of an unprecedented number of candidates best suited to meet the required criteria for each mandate. Amnesty International is concerned that intense time pressure will compromise the selection process, with a likely negative effect on the system of Special Procedures.

Amnesty International and the undersigned organisations urge Council members and observer States to work under your leadership to find promptly a solution that allows the Consultative Group to begin its work without delay to tackle the unprecedented task upon it of fulfilling the requirements of resolutions 5/1 and 65/281 in nominating candidates for the eighteen mandates to be filled in March.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Splinter', written in a cursive style.

Peter Splinter
Representative to the United Nations in Geneva
Amnesty International

Amnesty International
Association for the Prevention of Torture
ATD Fourth World
Civicus
Forum-Asia
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Geneva Office
Geneva for Human Rights
International Commission of Jurists
International Service for Human Rights
World Organisation Against Torture

c.c. Geneva Permanent Missions,
Eric Tistounet, Chief of Human Rights Council Branch
Jane Connors, Chief of Special Procedures Branch