



UNITED STATES MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN GENEVA

July 18, 2014

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

Mr. Juan E. Méndez  
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel,  
inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment  
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner  
for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)  
Palais Wilson  
1211 Geneva

22 JUL 2014

Recipients : S.P.B.  
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Dear Mr. Méndez

Thank you for your letter dated August 20, 2013. The United States fully supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and we appreciate the opportunity to respond to this inquiry.

The alleged practice of excessive use of solitary confinement and other alleged abuses at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Pelican Bay State Prison are currently the subject of a lawsuit against the CDCR in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

The United States does not comment on cases that are currently in litigation. However, the U.S. government assures you that the fullest consideration will continue to be given to this matter.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Harper  
Ambassador  
U.S. Representative to the United  
Nations Human Rights Council