



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

7 September 2018

Dear Senator Rubio,

I wish to thank you for your joint letter of 15 August 2018, regarding the three journalists from Russia – Orkhan Dzhemal, Kirill Radchenko and Alexander Rastorguyev – who were found dead in the Central African Republic on 31 July 2018. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) has been providing technical assistance and support to the competent Central African authorities in their investigation of this incident, consistent with its mandate under United Nations Security Council resolution 2387 (2017) of 15 November 2017. We understand that an investigation team from the Russian Federation is also looking into the incident and is currently in the Central African Republic. The Russian authorities have not approached MINUSCA with any request for information or assistance at this time.

With regard to reports in the press that MINUSCA was involved in coordinating the movements and selecting a driver for the journalists, MINUSCA has neither received information nor found any evidence of contact between United Nations personnel and the journalists.

I also take note of your request for the United Nations to activate investigative mechanisms. As noted above, MINUSCA efforts are currently focused on supporting the investigative efforts of the competent authorities of the Central African Republic, who have the primary responsibility to investigate such cases. This support is provided to ensure that the national investigations are undertaken in accordance with international standards. Should any information otherwise come to the attention of MINUSCA which might assist these national investigations, such information will be provided to the competent authorities in accordance with United Nations policies and practices.

The Honourable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

I fully share your concern regarding the need for accountability for these crimes, as well as for all violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights throughout the country. Allow me to also take this opportunity to convey my continued concern for the overall security situation in the country, where civilian lives are being lost, despite some progress in the peace process under the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic.

In addition to the efforts by MINUSCA to implement its Security Council mandate, the continued and increased support of all regional and international partners to the Central African Republic to help build national capacity and extend State authority throughout the territory of the Central African Republic, is key to our collective contribution to the stabilization of the country. I will continue to encourage close coordination and transparency among all partners of the Central African Republic.

A similar response has been sent to the Honourable Christopher A. Coons.

Yours sincerely,

with my warmest regards



António Guterres