



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

20 August 2010

Dear Ms. Belhassen,

I wish to thank you for your letter dated 6 August 2010, with regard to my announcement of the launch of a Panel of Inquiry on the flotilla incident of 31 May 2010. In your letter, you raised concerns regarding the appointment of former President Alvaro Uribe to the Panel.

The launch of the Panel is an unprecedented development which followed intensive consultations with the leaders of Israel and Turkey, who have exhibited the spirit of compromise. Let me assure you that I have full confidence that all members of the Panel will exercise their functions impartially and professionally.

I hope that the Panel will fulfil its mandate in the light of the Presidential Statement of the Security Council and with the fullest cooperation of the relevant national authorities of the two countries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ban Ki-moon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ban" being the most prominent.

BAN Ki-moon

Ms. Souhayr Belhassen
President of the International Federation
for Human Rights
New York