

**Annex II – Standard letter sent by the Director  
of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs  
to the authors of communications  
examined under 104 EX/Decision 3.3**

On behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of ..... alleging violations of human rights. In so far as your communication concerns human rights falling within UNESCO's competence in the fields of education, science, culture or communication, it can be examined under the procedure approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO on 26 April 1978 in 104 EX/Decision 3.3, a copy of which is attached for your information.

It must be stressed that in no case is UNESCO an international court nor can it become one. The rights falling within UNESCO's spheres of competence are essentially the following:

- the right to education (Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights);
- the right to share in scientific advancement (Article 27);
- the right to participate freely in cultural life (Article 27);
- the right to information, including freedom of opinion and expression (Article 19).

These rights may imply the exercise of others, the most noteworthy of which are set out below:

- the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 18);
- the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers (Article 19);
- the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production (Article 27);
- the right to freedom of assembly and association (Article 20) for the purposes of activities connected with education, science, culture and information.

In accordance with 104 EX/Decision 3.3, I wish to draw your attention to the conditions governing admissibility, which must be met before UNESCO can take action on your communication. They are listed in paragraph 14(a) of 104 EX/Decision 3.3. In order to enable the Director-General to complete the file on your communication, you are invited to fill in the enclosed form and to return it to UNESCO, duly signed by yourself, as soon as possible.

The allegations should be set out in a concise statement, specifying which of the human rights is/are considered to have been violated and which of UNESCO's fields of competence is/are concerned. The date of the decisions complained of and the authority which took them should be clearly indicated, including, in

particular, whatever legal remedies have been used (for instance, recourse to the courts in the country concerned) and the results of such action. There should also be an indication as to whether another international procedure has been used and, if so, before what body, the date on which the matter was referred to it and any results of this procedure.

You will notice that you are asked whether you have any objection to your name being divulged and to your communication being brought to the notice of the UNESCO Executive Board Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, after it has been transmitted to the government concerned. Failing an affirmative answer from you on this point, no action on your communication can be taken by UNESCO under the aforementioned decision.