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Rosemary Nelson
 8 William Street
 Lurgan
 Co Armagh
 BT66 6SA

7th October 1996

STRICTLY PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Rosemary,

Thankyou very much for your kind hospitality last week; it was very nice to get to know you better.

I was very sorry - but by no means surprised - to hear about the abuse you have suffered in the course of your work. I enclose a copy of the report by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights that we discussed. They are bringing out a second report next Monday, and you should be able to get a copy from CAJ.

As I told you, British Irish RIGHTS WATCH has made a number of reports to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers concerning attempted intimidation of defence lawyers in Northern Ireland, and we are continuing to monitor the problem. We made extensive submissions to the Lawyers Committee on both their visits to Northern Ireland, and their reports are based to a large degree on information we gave them, in addition to interviews with affected lawyers. Our reports to the UN run into hundreds of pages, but I enclose the most recent one (minus the huge appendices) to give you some idea of their content. We shall be making another report to him during November of this year.

I hope that you will consider making a note of any future abuse you may encounter, and perhaps letting us have a copy in strictest confidence. We would not make any use of such material without first obtaining your express permission, and would only ever do so anonymously even then.

Finally, allow me to express my admiration for your continuing to pursue your profession to the highest standards regardless of these threats and abuse. I know that you will say that you have no choice, but other lawyers have chosen not to take contentious cases, or not to strive too hard on account of certain clients, and I know that it takes courage to carry on as you have.

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It goes with out saying that if there is anything that we can do to assist you should you continue to experience abuse, you have only to say the word.

With all good wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Jane Winter,
Director.