

OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES À GENÈVE
HAUT COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME
CENTRE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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Reference: G/SO 214 (S-3-7)

Mr Watts

Rec'd 7/8. For action for

Tommy L.

1 August 1997

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/41 of 4 March 1994, as renewed by resolution 1997/23 extending the mandate for a further period of three years.

The mandate set forth in resolution 1997/23 requests the Special Rapporteur, *inter alia*, to inquire into any substantial allegations transmitted to him and to report his conclusions thereon.

Pursuant to this mandate, I would like to bring to your Government's attention the following serious allegations:

1) According to information which I recently received, it is alleged that lawyer Rosemary Nelson has been the victim of numerous death threats due to her activities as a lawyer. Ms. Nelson represents Colin Duffy who is charged with the murder of two Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officers. In connection with her representation of Colin Duffy, Ms. Nelson has reportedly been denied the opportunity to be present when her client was being interviewed and interrogated by the police and the opportunity to present to the RUC her client's alibi statement at the time that he was charged. It is further alleged that Colin Duffy was charged without the presence of Ms. Nelson, despite her request to be present. In addition, the source also reported that detective Constable P 121 [REDACTED] had stated to Colin Duffy that he was guilty of committing the crime and that Rosemary Nelson was very proud of him for committing those crimes. Concerns were expressed by the source that Ms. Nelson is being associated with the cause attributed to her client by the RUC.

H.E. [REDACTED]
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