

1 March 2012

To:

AIDS 2012 Convenor:

International AIDS Society Attention: Bertrand Audoin

By fax: (+41) 227 100 899
By e-mail: info@aisociety.org

AIDS 2012 Local Organising Partners:

District of Columbia Department of Health Attention: Dr Mohammad N Akhter

By fax: (+1) 202 442 5955 By e-mail: doh@dc.gov

The White House Office of National AIDS Policy

Attention: James Albino

By e-mail: AIDSpolicy@who.eop.gov

The Black AIDS Institute Attention: Phill Wilson

By e-mail: PhillWilson@blackaids.org

U.S. Positive Women's Network Attention: Cynthia Carey Grant

By e-mail: ccarey-grant@womenhiv.org

National Institutes of Health Attention: Dr Francis S Collins

By fax: (+1) 301 496 8276

HIV Medicine Association of Infectious Diseases Society of America Attention: Judith A Aberg

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By fax: (+1) 703 299 8766 By e-mail: info@hivma.org

AIDS 2012 International Organising Partners:

UNAIDS

Attention: Michel Sidibé

By e-mail: sidibem@unaids.org

International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS

Attention: Patricia Perez

By e-mail: info@icwglobal.org

International Council of AIDS Service Organizations

Attention: Mary Ann Torres

By e-mail: maryannt@icaso.org

Global Network of People Living with HIV

Attention: Dr Kevin Moody

By fax: (+31) 20 423 4224

By e-mail: infognp@gnpplus.net

Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition

Attention: Ian McKnight

By fax: (+1) 876 631 7219

By e-mail: imcknight@cvccoalition.org

Sidaction

Attention: Pierre Bergé

By fax: +33 1 53 26 45 75

By e-mail: sidaction@sidaction.org

Dear Sirs / Mesdames

Participation by Al Jazeera English ("Al Jazeera") in the International AIDS Conference, 2012

- 1. SECTION27 is a public interest law centre which, inter alia, campaigns for the right to health. We have a particular focus on HIV/AIDS and ending unfair discrimination on the basis of HIV status.
- SECTION27 acts for MR, a South African citizen living with HIV. We are assisting MR in claiming relief against Al Jazeera and the State of Qatar ("Qatar") arising from severe human rights violations by Al Jazeera and the Qatar. In January 2011, Al Jazeera dismissed

MR, and co-operated with Qatari government officials in effecting his detention and deportation, solely because MR is living with HIV.

- 3. In October 2010, MR accepted a position as a Senior Editor with Al Jazeera and relocated to Doha. Two months after his arrival, he was sent for a battery of medical tests. He was not informed which medical tests were being conducted. He did not consent to being tested for HIV. He was also not informed of the results of any of these tests. Numerous government officials and Al Jazeera employees were informed of MR's HIV status in order to effect his detention, dismissal and deportation. MR only discovered his HIV status on his return to South Africa.
- 4. SECTION27 has requested the South African delegation to the International Labour Organisation to lodge a complaint against Qatar of serious non-compliance with its international law obligations not to discriminate against people living with HIV. A copy of this request is attached as "A".
- 5. On 14 February 2012, SECTION27 organised a picket outside the offices of Al Jazeera in Johannesburg to protest the severe human rights violations by Al Jazeera. We handed over a memorandum to the Bureau Manager, Mr Thembisa Fakude, demanding the reemployment of MR and a formal acknowledgement of the violations of MR's rights.
- 6. A copy of this memorandum is attached as "B".
- 7. Our intention is that, should these demands not be met by Al Jazeera by 1 June 2012, we will approach the organising partners of the International AIDS Conference with a request that Al Jazeera be barred from participating in the Conference in any way whatsoever.
- 8. Please do not hesitate to contact me by fax on (+27) 11 339 4311 or by e-mail on stein@section27.org.za should you require any further details.

Yours faithfully

Nikki Stein Attorney SECTION27