

Mark Heywood,  
Executive Director,  
SECTION 27

CONFIDENTIAL

Monday, April 30, 2012

Dear Mr Heywood,

We thank you for your letter of March 1<sup>st</sup> concerning the case of MR's dismissal by Al Jazeera English online and his subsequent deportation by the Qatari government.

The international AIDS Society as you know takes the issue of discrimination on the basis of a personal HIV status very seriously. You will no doubt be aware that the International AIDS Society has been and continues to be a vocal opponent of travel entry bans based on HIV status and that lobbying on our behalf eventually led to an overturning of such a ban by the Obama Administration, making it possible for the International AIDS Conference to return to the USA after a regrettably long absence.

The International AIDS Society takes very seriously all the points that SECTION 27 has raised in its letter to both the IAS and the international AIDS Conference partner organisations concerning the case of MR and as a result we have also written in our capacity as the AIDS 2012 convenor to Al Jazeera English online management seeking clarification on many of the issues that SECTION 27 has indeed raised, before considering any further action that we may take.

We will be glad to share any responses we may receive from Al Jazeera English with you and ask in the meantime that if SECTION 27 does in fact receive its own response from Al Jazeera English management that it also communicates that with us.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Elly Katabira  
President  
International AIDS Society