



立法會
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Urgent by Hand)

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24 March 2009

Mr WONG Yan-lung, SC, JP
Secretary for Justice
4th floor, High Block
Queensway Government Offices
Hong Kong

Dear Secretary,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Immunity from Prosecution

The Government's statement that Mrs Grace Mugabe, wife of the Zimbabwe President, will not be prosecuted for what was blatantly an assault committed in Hong Kong has raised wide public concern for the rule of law. I should be most obliged if you and your colleagues could attend the forthcoming meeting of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on Monday, 30 March 2009, to discuss the important issues raised with members.

Although you briefly touched on the matter in the Legislative Council yesterday, a fuller explanation with proper opportunity for members to discuss the relevant issues with the Administration is clearly called for. I am advised that the confused impression left among the community that Mrs Mugabe enjoys immunity from prosecution as diplomatic personnel has no basis in law: neither Hong Kong statutes nor international treaty applicable to the Special Administrative Region applies to Mrs Mugabe. In referring to Annex III of the Basic Law, you seem implicitly to take this view as well. However, this needs to be spelled out and discussed.

Confusion and concern that the rule of law is not or cannot be maintained by the Special Administrative Region Government should not long be left unaddressed. If 30 March is not convenient to you, we should be happy to call a special meeting at your earliest availability.

With best regards,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margaret NG'. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'M'.

(Margaret NG)

Chairman

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

c.c. Members of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services