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بعثة مصر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
جنيف

urgent

28 November 2008

S.E-2008-094.

H.E. Ambassador Martin Uhomoibi  
President of the Human Rights Council

Dear Martin

With reference to the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Special Session on the DRC scheduled to commence at 1500 today, I would like to inform you, in my capacity as Coordinator of the African group for Human Rights matters, that the Group has learned that the two ministers who were to represent the DRC in the said session have been denied entry visas to Switzerland due to the time needed for the processing of the requested visas by the Swiss authorities, despite the fact that they explicitly stated that they were coming to attend the special session of the Human Rights Council.

The African Group would like to express its deep disappointment and dismay at this decision which effectively prevents the participation of the representatives of the Government of the DRC in the special session. This unfortunate development proves the wisdom of the previous request by the African group for giving more time to ensure the participation of representatives of the DRC and hence for the deferral of the holding of the Special Session. The participation of the DRC at this high level, being the concerned state, would have allowed it to present its views on the evolving situation in one of its provinces and to enrich the deliberations of the Special Session. We find it regrettable that the request of the African group was not heeded and that the Council will nevertheless proceed with the holding of the special session.

Sincerely,

Ambassador

Hisham Badr

CC: the Coordinators of the Regional Groups