



OHCHR REGISTRY

- 9 SEP. 2013

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Mr El Hadji Malick Sow
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Office of the High Commissioner for
Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 GENEVE 10

Strasbourg, 4 September 2013

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of 2 August 2013 addressed to Judge Spielmann, President of the European Court of Human Rights, regarding the future work of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. You have submitted a questionnaire in this connection.

Having consulted on the matter, and given the nature and focus of the questions, the President considers that it would be more appropriate – and hopefully more useful to the Working Party – to provide you with an up-to-date description of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights on deprivation of liberty. The Court's judgments referred to in the enclosed guide can be consulted on-line (<http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home> under HUDOC case-law). These judgments reflect the basic principles which the Contracting States to the European Convention on Human Rights have undertaken to respect when it comes to the arrest and detention of individuals. I am confident that the principles will provide the Working Party with a sound point of departure.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Yours faithfully,

Lawrence Early
Jurisconsult

Enc.