



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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To: Mgr. Jakub Macak, MJur, MPhil
DPhil Candidate in Public International Law
E-mail: kubo.macak@some.ox.ac.uk

Dear Sir,

Responding to your letter of 20 June 2011 to the Latvian Embassy regarding the Latvian position in respect of the distinctions of rights applicable to international and non-international armed conflict, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honour to convey for your attention the following information.

Latvia does not distinguish between international and non-international armed conflicts applying the law of armed conflicts. In accordance with Article 28 in conjunction with Article 24 of the Treaty on European Union Latvia is taking part in military operations only under the terms set out in the decision of the Council of the EU. Prior the entrance in the EU, Latvia never had participated in the unilateral military operations. Thus, the terms of reference had been approved by the United Nations.

Latvia is a state-party to the Second Protocol of the Geneva Conventions, thus the Government of Latvia considers that the protection of civilians and other victims of the hostilities should be secured, regardless the status of the belligerent parties. Moreover, common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions provides the minimum of protection which is provided for persons not taking active part in the hostilities.

Sincerely yours,



Elita Kuzma
Acting Under-Secretary of State
Ministry of Foreign Affairs