

UNITED NATIONS

Ethics Office



NATIONS UNIES

Bureau de la déontologie

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

Reference: 2006/230

4 February 2008

Dear Mr. Koumoin,

Reference is made to the letter dated 25 January 2008 from your then co-counsel, Ms. Karen Gray of the Government Accountability Project (“GAP”) regarding your complaint of retaliation pursuant to ST/SGB/2005/21. This response is addressed to you directly based on your email of 1 February 2008 advising our office that GAP’s assignment as co-counsel has ended with immediate effect.

The Ethics Office has taken due note of the points made by Ms. Gray concerning the scope and application of the ST/SGB/2005/21.

However, at this time, I wish to reiterate the position articulated in my previous correspondence of 15 January 2008 to the GAP that the Ethics Office does not have jurisdiction over staff of UNDP.

Please note that until the promulgation of ST/SGB/2007/11, staff of UNDP, who wished to allege retaliation, had to avail themselves of the existing internal appeals remedies provided for by the Staff Rules, which you have done; that is, the staff member would submit a request for administrative review and appeal of the decision pursuant to Staff Rule 112.1.

As explained in prior correspondence addressed to you directly as well as to the GAP, your case is already being dealt with by an appropriate internal justice mechanism. Please note that it is our understanding that the Joint Appeals Board will most likely convene a panel to address your appeal next month.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Benson".

Robert Benson  
Director  
Ethics Office