

27 August 2025

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OIA 30313

Personal details removed for proactive release

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I would like to request, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, a copy of the Advice to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - US Sanction on UNSR Francesca Albanese - Letter to UN Human Rights High Commissioner (17 July 2025"

Please see attached response to your request for the advice to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy and;
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

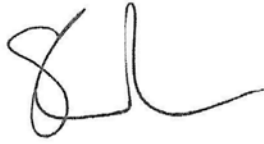
Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

From:s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Advice to MFA - US Sanction on UNSR Francesca Albanese - Letter to UN Human Rights High Commissioner [SEC=RESTRICTED]

Thanks ^{s9(2)(g)(ii)} – we are happy with you proceeding as planned below.



s9(2)(g)(ii)

Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) | Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister for Racing | Minister for Rail

s9(2)(a)

[restricted]

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

- US Sanction on UNSR Francesca Albanese - Letter to UN Human Rights High Commissioner [SEC=RESTRICTED]

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

RESTRICTED

Kia ora s9(2)(g)(ii),

Following [last weeks' announcement](#) that the US has placed sanctions on UN Special Rapporteur in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Francesca Albanese, Palestine has requested that countries sign-up to the attached letter to the UN High Commissioner to Human Rights. GVA Formal Messages below also refer. Geneva has requested a decision by COB today NZT.

The letter outlines concerns with the unilateral sanctions placed on the Special Rapporteur and the precedent that this sets; rejects the "disinformation and baseless allegations of antisemitism, violence, terrorism and financial misconduct against the mandate holder;" and urges UN Member States to engage substantively and constructively with independent special rapporteurs rather than resort to punitive measures.

While New Zealand broadly supports the sentiment of the letter (particularly the concerning precedent being set with respect to the sanctioning of an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council), the letter itself includes language that goes beyond what we've previously supported s6(a)

Our recommendation is to not sign-up to the letter, s6(a)

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or queries.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

