MONGOL-AMERICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
50 Louis Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 (732) 297-1140 (Tel. & Fax)
WWW.MACA-USA.ORG

May 20, 2024

Her Excellency Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite (by email hrc-sr-independencejl@un.org)
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
OHCHR-UNOG, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix,
1211 Geneve 10, Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 917 9006

Your Excellency Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite,

We write you as an organization that seeks the best interests of our beloved country of Mongolia. First, we extend our gratitude to you for your report issued after your visit to Mongolia last autumn. Your efforts have emphasized the critical need to secure judicial independence and uphold human rights in Mongolia. We cannot agree more with your recommendations.

The Mongol-American Cultural Association is a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Mongolian culture. We also have a strong humanitarian and charitable focus (see our website for information www.maca-usa.org). As such, we are troubled by certain aspects of the state of democracy, civil rights, and the independence of the judiciary in Mongolia. Specifically, recent reports indicate concerns with the electoral process, attacks on the press and journalists, and the stifling of dissent and public discourse. We fear that these are signs of a deteriorating democracy. We urge your office to closely monitor the political and social situation in Mongolia, and to take steps to draw international attention to these worrying indications:

1. political interference of the judiciary,
2. oppression of journalists and the press,
3. declining transparency and accountability,
4. failure to uphold the rule of law.

We close by raising the case of Mr. Munkhbayar Chuluundorj, a journalist whose unjust imprisonment is an example of how the judicial system has been weaponized to stifle dissent. He was a strident critic of government policies. Mr. Chuluundorj was arrested, tried and imprisoned in a secret proceeding.Two attorneys representing Mr. Chuluundorj have had their law licenses revoked, without due process, terminating their ability to earn a living in their profession. This is an egregious example of misuse of the judiciary. We urge you to advocate for Mr. Chuluundorj's immediate release.

Sincerely yours,

Sanj Altan
President

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