

Secretary-General Guterres
The United Nations
New York, NY 10027
United States

27 July 2026

Re: Serious Misconduct by Special Rapporteur Tlaleng Mofokeng

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

We urge you to take immediate action against grave violations and serious misconduct by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, that brings the United Nations into disrepute.

1. UN Rapporteur Declares Political Candidacy While Still Holding UN Post

Two days ago, on July 25, 2026, while still serving as UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng [declared](#) her “deployment” as candidate for Mayor of Johannesburg on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), the radical left-wing revolutionary party headed by Julius Malema, a convicted criminal who [leads chants](#) calling for the killing of white farmers.

As you know, Dr. Mofokeng was [appointed](#) Special Rapporteur on [July 17, 2020](#), and as she herself has [indicated](#), her first three-year term commenced [in August 2020](#). Pursuant to HRC Presidential Statement [8/PRST/2](#), and absent any objection based on persistent non-compliance with the Code of Conduct, her second three-year term commenced in August 2023 and concludes in August 2026. No resignation letter has been posted on the HRC extranet—as occurred, for example, when Paulo Pinheiro [resigned](#) from the Syria inquiry in May 2026—and the UN website [continues to list](#) Dr. Mofokeng as Special Rapporteur.

This is a shocking conflict of interest. By declaring her candidacy for elected political office while continuing to serve as Special Rapporteur, Dr. Mofokeng has blatantly violated the duty of independence required by Article 3 of the [Code of Conduct](#) for Special Procedures Mandate Holders. Even if she had resigned just beforehand, the immediate transition from an independent UN mandate to partisan political office would still raise serious questions about her independence and impartiality as a Special Procedures mandate holder.

When assuming office, Dr. Mofokeng solemnly undertook to:

“perform my duties and exercise my functions from a completely impartial, loyal and conscientious standpoint, and truthfully, and that I shall discharge these functions and regulate my conduct in a manner totally in keeping with the terms of my mandate, the Charter of the United Nations, the interests of the United

Nations, and with the objective of promoting and protecting human rights, without seeking or accepting any instruction from any other party whatsoever.”

Yet while still bound by that UN undertaking, Mofokeng went on stage with convicted criminal Julius Malema, on July 25 in Limpopo, South Africa, where she publicly accepted her EFF “deployment” as their candidate for Mayor of Johannesburg, and made [political pledges](#) to the party, referring to Malema as “Commander-in-Chief.”

Excellency, allowing a UN human rights official to present herself as a disciplined servant of a party’s collective revolutionary project brings the United Nations into disrepute. This conflict is one that Dr. Mofokeng herself expressly acknowledged when applying for the mandate. In her [application](#), she answered “Yes” to the question asking whether she complied with paragraph 46 of the Annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1. Paragraph 46 provides:

“Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity.”

Few actions could more fundamentally undermine public confidence in the independence of the Special Procedures system than a sitting Special Rapporteur openly seeking elected political office. We urge you to strongly denounce Dr. Mofokeng’s conduct that has brought the United Nations into disrepute.

2. False Claim of UN Functional Immunity by Special Rapporteur Tlaleng Mofokeng

Dr. Mofokeng has also advanced a false claim of United Nations immunity before the High Court of South Africa, asserting that the [Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations](#) shields her from liability for personal social media insults that plainly fall outside her official functions.

In January 2025, Dr. Mofokeng [tweeted](#) that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should “F**k off.” After I called for her to be disciplined for this inappropriate conduct, she responded with a racist tirade, [referring to me](#) as an “evil scum” “white man.”

Despite the United Nations taking no disciplinary action, the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) [found](#) Dr. Mofokeng guilty of misconduct for “using abusive and inappropriate language on social media and for bringing the medical profession into disrepute.” Rather than accept responsibility, she [dismissed](#) the Council’s findings, accusing critics of “weaponizing” medical ethics.

On April 17, 2026, Dr. Mofokeng filed an application before the High Court of South Africa (Johannesburg) seeking to set aside the HPCSA’s finding of misconduct and the accompanying sanction. Her principal argument is that the HPCSA lacked jurisdiction because she enjoyed immunity under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities

of the United Nations. Although she acknowledged that her posts were “plainly critical, angry, and in some respects intemperate,” she claimed they were made in her capacity as Special Rapporteur. South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation likewise advised the HPCSA that she enjoys diplomatic immunity.

As you know, Special Procedures mandate holders enjoy only **functional** immunity as “experts on mission.” The [Manual of Operations](#) explains that mandate holders are entitled to immunity from legal process only with respect to words spoken or written “in the course of the performance of their mission,” consistent with Article VI, section 22, of the Convention. That immunity exists solely to ensure the independent exercise of their official functions. Article 23 further makes clear that these privileges are granted in the interests of the United Nations, not for the personal benefit of the individual concerned.

Dr. Mofokeng is effectively arguing that telling the Prime Minister of Israel to “F**k off” and referring to me as an “evil scum” “white man” were acts performed in the discharge of her mandate as Special Rapporteur on the right to health. They plainly were not. Whatever one's view of their tone, these personal insults bear no relation to the performance of her official functions or to advancing “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”

Nor was this an isolated incident. Dr. Mofokeng has repeatedly used social media to insult, disparage, and curse individuals with whom she disagrees. Below are several examples of her statements that she alleges were made in performance of her UN mandate on the right to health:

1. **“Take ALL your imaginary respect and shove it up your ass”** [to someone who disagreed with her on experimental vaccines] ([@drtlaleng X, June 27, 2021](#))
2. **“I said in October 2023, fuck all the bullshit world leaders we supposedly have...”** ([@drtlaleng X, May 29, 2024](#))
3. **Calling the British Prime Minister “drunk.”** (“Nidakiwe”) ([@drtlaleng X, December 8, 2023](#))
4. **Calling the British Prime Minister “You filthy thing”** [“Your filthy nje wena” means “You filthy thing, you”] ([@drtlaleng X, July 1, 2024](#))
5. **“[W]hat a disgusting elder”** ([@drtlaleng X, October 8, 2024](#))
6. **“That hoe talking to herself in my mentions and so are y’all.”** ([@drtlaleng X, October 9, 2024](#))
7. **“Fuck him”** [Prime Minister of Israel] ([@drtlaleng X, January 19, 2025](#))
8. **“The absolute nerve to still be harassing UNRWA at this stage is astounding. You are an evil man you bastard. Then they gloat about presenting to the Swiss to ensure they defend as punishment UNRWA. Evil scum. Enjoy your testimony”** ([Screenshot of @drtlaleng X, January 20, 2025](#))

9. **"If you know that white man** who is presenting to a Swiss house about defunding UNRWA, tell him to **get my name out of his filthy mouth**" ([Screenshot of @drtlaleng X, January 20, 2025](#))
10. **"A bad reality show"** [in response to Trump's press conference] ([@drtlaleng X, February 23, 2025](#))
11. **"stay home?!"** [in response to a tweet asking what message President Cyril Ramaphosa should deliver to Donald Trump] ([@drtlaleng X, May 19, 2025](#))
12. **"Juju in the Oval Office and [...] he is a fascist?: YES (umnikazi nodding), all happened months apart. 2025 what a long long year!!!"** ([@drtlaleng X, November 23, 2025](#)). In this post, Dr. Mofokeng celebrated EFF leader Julius Malema—affectionately calling him "Juju"—becoming the focus of an Oval Office meeting, while also endorsing the characterization of the U.S. President as a "fascist." Her subsequent acceptance of the EFF mayoral "deployment" makes the post especially troubling: it suggests that, while serving as an ostensibly independent UN expert, she was already publicly identifying with and promoting the leader of the political party she would soon represent.

Excellency, surely you will agree that such personal attacks and politically partisan posts in express violation of the UN Code of Conduct fall completely outside the scope of the Special Rapporteur's mandate on the right to health, and cannot properly be regarded as official acts protected by functional immunity. To suggest otherwise would undermine both the purpose of the Convention and the reputation of the United Nations.

We therefore respectfully request that you confirm that Dr. Mofokeng's social media posts at issue were not made in the performance of her official functions and accordingly are not protected by the Convention. Such clarification is essential to safeguarding both the integrity of the Convention and the reputation of the United Nations.

Sincerely,



Hillel Neuer
Executive Director