

June 11, 2020

Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
Annie S. Khan, South Asia Researcher & Representative
Christen Dobson, Senior Project Lead & Researcher
Betty Yolanda, Asia Regional Manager

Via email: khan@business-humanrights.org; dobson@business-humanrights.org; yolanda@business-humanrights.org

Dear Ms. Khan, Ms. Dobson and Ms. Yolanda

We appreciate your outreach to Marriott International regarding the Aloft Kathmandu Thamel hotel, received on June 1, 2020. As stated in our Human Rights Policy, Marriott International acknowledges and respects the principles contained in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are committed to conducting our business in a manner consistent with these principles and to respect human rights within the company's sphere of influence.

As you may know, Marriott International acquired Starwood Hotels and Resorts in September 2016. The franchise agreement between Starwood Hotels and Resorts and the owners of the Aloft Kathmandu hotel was signed in 2014, predating Marriott International's involvement in the project. Based on the records, it is our understanding that legal due diligence was conducted through outside counsel in Nepal prior to Starwood's commitment to this project.

In the legal opinion from counsel in Nepal, the land rights conversion with respect to this project was deemed valid. In addition, the government provided the appropriate permitting and permissions to move ahead with the project.

We appreciate you bringing this matter to our attention. After additional research, we became aware that there are civil lawsuits involving conversion of Guthi land into Guthi Raitani Numbari Land, which are currently awaiting decisions from the Supreme Court of Nepal. We do not know whether these lawsuits pertain to the land on which the hotel is built.

Marriott intends to comply with local laws in all jurisdictions where we do business. We will monitor the litigation and the upcoming Supreme Court decision. We will assess carefully any impact the decision may have on this hotel and our involvement in the project. Thank you again for your outreach and opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



Rajeev Menon
President
Asia Pacific (Excluding Greater China)