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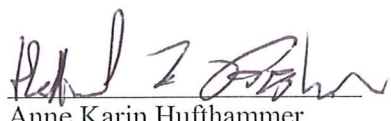
Response to your letter concerning Julia Pastrana

The Norwegian National Committee for the Evaluation of Research on Human Remains thank you for your questions and for your engagement with issues pertaining to Julia Pastrana's remains.

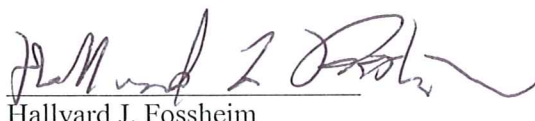
The Norwegian National Committee for the Evaluation of Research on Human Remains sees as very important the protection of human dignity in connection with the treatment of human remains in relation to research and collections. Regarding the case of Julia Pastrana, the committee has been made aware that dialogue has been initiated between the Mexican Ambassador in Copenhagen and the University of Oslo. The committee sees this as a promising initiative towards an ethically responsible conclusion. The committee sees burial of Julia Pastrana's remains as ethically correct, and a nationally coordinated return to Mexico for her remains as a sound and decent manner in which to ensure this result.

During its meeting of 8 May this year, the Norwegian National Committee for the Evaluation of Research on Human Remains discussed four addresses made to the committee regarding the remains of Julia Pastrana. In addition to your letter and the letter enclosed within your address to the committee, from the Governor of Sinaloa, there were also letters from Silvia Isabel Gámez (journalist in the newspaper *Reforma*) and from the Institute of basic medicine at the University of Oslo. In order to present the committee's views and conclusions in a synoptic and orderly manner, it was therefore decided that a document be produced where the main issues are treated together. Please find this statement enclosed with the present letter. The committee hopes that you will find that the arguments and conclusions in this document address your further concerns.

On behalf of the Norwegian National Committee for the evaluation of Research on Human Remains,

for 

Anne Karin Hufthammer
 Chair, National Committee for the evaluation of
 Research on Human Remains



Hallvard J. Fossheim
 Director, NESH/ National Committee for the
 evaluation of Research on Human Remains

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