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REFERENCE: JS/follow-up/42/Bahrain/48

8 February 2011

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the combined initial and second periodic report of Bahrain at the Committee's forty-second session, held in October-November 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2). You may recall that in paragraph 47 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Bahrain to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 30 and 38 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the information submitted by Bahrain on 12 November 2010 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2/Add.1), in a timely fashion.

At its forty-eighth session, held in January-February 2011 in Geneva, the Committee examined the information provided and noted that Bahrain had responded to most recommendation contained in paragraphs 30 and 38. The Committee considered that those recommendations on which it had received a response had been partially implemented by Bahrain.

The following observations are made by the Committee in respect of the State party's replies:

- a. With regard to the information provided concerning the draft amendment to the Nationality Act that would grant Bahraini citizenship to children of Bahraini mothers and non-citizen fathers, the Committee notes that, while concrete measures have been taken to facilitate the entry and residence of children of Bahraini mothers and non-citizen fathers, the draft Act has still not been passed.

.../...

Ms. Muna Abbas RADHI
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- b. The Committee notes the absence of information concerning the withdrawal of the State party's reservation to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention.
- c. While acknowledging the information on the adoption in 2009 of an Act on Sunni family matters, the Committee notes the enactment of a unified family law equally applying to Sunni and Shia, which would provide women and men with equal rights, has not yet been achieved. It also notes the absence of information on steps taken to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls from 15 to 18 years.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Bahrain on the implementation of the Convention and, in that context, to receiving further information on the measures taken by Bahrain to address the concerns indicated in sub-paragraphs a)-c) above in the State party's next periodic report due on 18 July 2011.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Šimonović". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Dubravka Šimonović
Rapporteur on Follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women