



REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Indonesia/59

25 November 2014

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of the Republic of Indonesia, at the Committee's fifty-second session, held in July 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/IDN/CO/6-7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 52 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Indonesia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 22 and 48 of the concluding observations, namely:

“22. In line with its general recommendations No. 14 (1990), on female circumcision, No. 19 (1992), on violence against women, and No. 24 (1999), on women and health, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Withdraw the regulation of the Ministry of Health issued in November 2010 (Regulation No. 1636/MENKES/PER/XI/2010) authorizing “female circumcision” when performed by medical practitioners; restore the 2006 Circular Letter of the Director General of the Medical Service of the Ministry of Health, which banned the practice of “female circumcision”; and adopt robust legislation that will criminalize all forms of female genital mutilation, including female circumcision, and provide sanctions against offenders;

(b) Raise awareness among religious groups and leaders and the population in general about the fact that all forms of female genital mutilation, including female circumcision, is a violation of the human rights of women and about the criminal nature and harmful effects of this practice;

(c) Sensitize and collaborate with religious groups and leaders who advocate “female circumcision” on the harmful effects of the practice, and encourage those groups to engage in comparative studies with other regions and/or countries which do not have this practice.”

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“48. The Committee recalls article 16 of the Convention as well as its general recommendation No. 21 (1994), on equality in marriage and family relations, and urges the State party to:

(a) Develop an effective strategy with clear priorities and timelines to eliminate all discrimination against women in the areas of marriage and family relations;

(b) Review, within a clear time frame, the provisions of the Marriage Act of 1974 as well as all provisions relating to family life that are discriminatory against women, to bring them in line with the Convention and ensure that the legal provisions: (i) prohibit polygamy; (ii) set the minimum age of marriage for women and men at 18 years; (iii) exclude differences on the role of men and women in the household; (iv) provide protection to women undertaking inter religious marriage, (v) guarantee equal inheritance rights to women as daughters and as spouses; and (vi) include the option of availing civil marriages to all women;

(c) Repeal, without delay, the discriminatory laws adopted in Aceh province that severely discriminate against women in family relations;

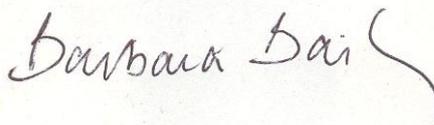
(d) Undertake awareness-raising activities throughout the country on the negative effects of early marriage for girls, with a view to eliminating the practice.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2014, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government’s response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Republic of Indonesia on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. Please also send a Word electronic version of the information requested to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org. For ease reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by State parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women