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REFERENCE: HDI/follow-up/42/MMR/46

25 August 2010

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the examination of the combined second and third periodic report of Myanmar, at the forty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), held in October/November 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/3). In follow-up to those concluding observations, the Committee requested Myanmar to provide, within one year, written information on steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 29 and 43 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the information submitted by Myanmar under CEDAW's follow-up procedure on 14 June 2010 (CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/3/Add.1) but it regrets the delay in its submission.

At its forty-sixth session, held in July 2010 in New York, the Committee examined the information provided and noted that Myanmar had responded to some of the elements contained in the recommendations while others had not been implemented. The following observations are made by the Committee in respect of the State party replies:

a) With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 29, the Committee notes the information provided in the follow-up replies with regard to some awareness-raising programmes. However, the Committee regrets that the State party has not provided information on any measures aimed at the promotion of women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of public, political and professional life or the use of temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, in order to accelerate such participation.

.../...

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The Committee is particularly concerned that the State party has not provided information on any progress achieved with respect to the formulation of its new electoral law or information on whether the State party has considered the Committee's recommendation to use the formulation of this law as an opportunity to include women, in accordance with the provisions on non-discrimination in its Constitution, and to increase women's political participation. The Committee considers that its recommendations were only partially implemented and it requests the State party to provide such information, within one year, that is in July 2011.

b) With regard to the recommendation contained in paragraph 43, the Committee notes the limited information provided by Myanmar in respect of measures taken to improve the access of women and girls in Northern Rakhine State to primary health care and basic education. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on concrete measures taken to alleviate the heavy restrictions on the movement of residents within Northern Rakhine State, especially women and girls, and to lift the orders concerning marriage authorization and restriction of pregnancy. The Committee reiterates that these restrictions constitute a violation of the Convention. The Committee considers that its recommendations were not implemented and it requests the State party to provide information, within one year, that is in July 2011, on measures taken to address such concerns.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Myanmar on the implementation of the Convention, and, in that context, it would appreciate receiving your response, within one year, to the Committee's serious concerns. A Word electronic version of the information should be sent to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org

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



Dubravka Šimonović
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