



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Syria/62

14 December 2015

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 second periodic report of the Syrian Arab Republic, at the Committee's fifty-eighth session, held in July 2014. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 53 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Syrian Arab Republic to provide, within one year, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14, 16, 27 and 30 of the concluding observations, namely:

“14. The Committee recalls its General Recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures and its General Recommendation No. 30 (2013) and urges the State party to:

(a) Revive the peace negotiations; ensure the meaningful and inclusive participation of women holding different political views at all stages of the peace process and in all reconstruction initiatives as well as in transitional justice processes, in particular at the decision-making level, at the national and local levels, and to that end, adopt temporary special measures, such as quotas, in conformity with article 4 (1) of the Convention. In this context, develop capacity-building programmes for women seeking to participate in such processes.”

“16. The Committee calls on the State party to urgently complete the internal process to withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 15 (4) of the Convention. It also calls upon the State party to review its remaining reservations to the Convention, taking into consideration the Committee's statement on reservations (adopted at the nineteenth session, in 1998) with a view to withdrawing all of them.”

“27. In line with the Convention and its General Recommendation No. 30 (2013), the Committee urges the State party to:

(c) Investigate, prosecute and punish all cases of violence against women, including cases of sexual violence perpetrated by Government forces and affiliated militia and non-State armed groups;

His Excellency
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Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
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(d) Immediately issue command orders to the Government forces prohibiting sexual violence and hold perpetrators in their ranks accountable, in compliance with Security Council resolution 2106 (2013); and abolish legislative provisions that grant state officials immunity from prosecution, in particular Decrees 14/1969 and 69/2008, in line with recommendations made during the Universal Periodic Review of the State party (A/HRC/19/11, para. 104.7).”

“30. The Committee urges the State party to:

(c) Prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish attacks and other forms of abuse perpetrated against women activists and take effective measures to end impunity for such acts.”

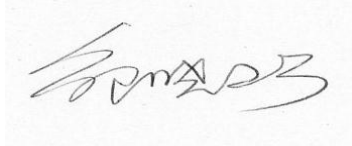
Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2015, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government’s response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **4000 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. 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 of reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of follow-up reports by States parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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