



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 101st session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination received information concerning the situation of the Dungan minority in Kazakhstan. The Committee has since considered this information under its early warning and urgent action procedure.

The information received by the Committee alleges that ethnic-based violence against persons belonging to the Dungan minority was committed by non-Dungan persons in the villages of Masanchi, Sortobe, Bular-Batyr, and Aukhatty, Korday District, Jambyl Oblast in Kazakhstan, between the 7th and 8th of February 2020.

The information alleges that almost two hundreds persons belonging to the Dungan minority living in these villages have been injured and their properties set on fire, forcing an estimate of several thousands of Dungan persons to flee to the neighboring country.

The information also alleges that public forces did not provide effective protection to the Dungan minority. The information further alleges that public authorities committed acts of intimidation and conducted unlawful prosecutions against persons belonging to the Dungan minority and their defendants, including by denying them legal assistance. Moreover, the information alleges unhealthy conditions of detention and a pervasive practice of torture. Furthermore, the information alleges the absence of a transparent investigation and the refusal to allow independent observers entering into the Korday district.

The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice

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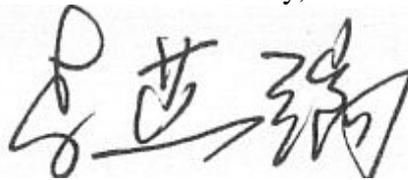
system and its previous concluding observations (CERD/C/KAZ/CO/6-7). Accordingly and on the basis of the information received, the Committee requests the State party to provide information on the allegations mentioned above and on the measures taken to:

- (a) Conduct effective, impartial and transparent investigations of the events of February 7 to 8 February 2020 in the Dungan villages in the Korday district, including the publication of the results of the investigations;
- (b) Ensure effective protection to the Dungan minority, including measures to prevent any future violence against Dungan communities;
- (c) Ensure adequate, effective and prompt reparation, including health and psychological support to victims;
- (d) Guarantee access to independent observers, including international organizations and non-governmental organizations to the Korday district and the villages where members of the Dungan minority live.

In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee would be grateful to receive a response to the above allegations before 30 October 2020.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Kazakhstan, with a view to assisting it to implement the Convention effectively.

Yours sincerely,



Yanduan Li
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination