



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

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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Tunisia/55

27 August 2013

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 honour to refer to the examination of the combined fifth and sixth report of Tunisia, at the Committee's forty-seventh session, held in October 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/TUN/CO/6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 68 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Tunisia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 13 and 27 of the concluding observations, namely:

“13. The Committee urges the State party to withdraw its general declaration and reservations to the Convention, particularly in view of the fact that they may no longer be necessary in the light of recent legislative developments and of the delegation's assurance that there is no contradiction in substance between the Convention and Islamic law. The Committee recommends that the State party accompany the withdrawal of its general declaration and reservations with appropriate awareness-raising measures so as to counteract “ideological block” identified by the State party.”; and

“27. The Committee urges the State party to give priority attention to combating violence against women and girls and to adopting comprehensive measures to address such violence, in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women. Such measures should include the expeditious adoption of a comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, marital rape and sexual violence. Such legislation should also ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, a sufficient number of safe shelters, and to legal aid. The measures should also include the setting of targets, benchmarks and time lines for the implementation of the “National

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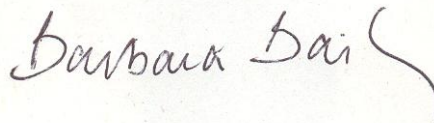
strategy for the prevention of violence within the family and society”. In this regard, the State party should speed up the creation of the national database on violence against women so as to provide reliable statistics on all forms of gender-based violence. The Committee also urges the State party to amend articles 218, 227 bis and 239 of the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of violence against women do not unduly benefit from their acts of wrongdoing. The State party should raise public awareness and conduct education programmes about the fact that all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape, are unacceptable.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in October 2012, 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 Tunisia 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 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 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