



REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Djibouti/56

15 November 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 initial to third periodic report of Djibouti, at the Committee's forty-ninth session, held in July 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/DJI/CO/1-3) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 44 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Djibouti to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 and 21 of the concluding observations, namely:

“19. The Committee recalls its general recommendations No. 14 (1990) on female circumcision and No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, as well as the recommendations addressed to the State party during the universal periodic review of Djibouti (A/HRC/11/16, paras. 67.18, 67.25, 68.3 and 68.8) and by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/DJI/CO/2, para. 56), and urges the State party to:

(a) Effectively enforce article 333 of the Criminal Code on female genital mutilation, which provides for a penalty of five years' imprisonment, by prosecuting and adequately punishing perpetrators as well as those complicit in or failing to report the crime, and to provide to the Committee information on the number of reports, prosecutions, convictions, and on the sentences imposed on perpetrators of female genital mutilation;

(b) Intensify its awareness-raising campaigns and training efforts targeting families, practitioners, communities, traditional and religious leaders, health workers, judges and magistrates, including those in personal status courts, prosecutors and police officers, with the support of civil society organizations, in order to explain that female genital mutilation is a form of gender-based discrimination and violence and to eradicate it and its underlying cultural justifications;

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(c) Educate families, communities, practitioners, teachers, and health workers on the harmful effects of female genital mutilation on women's and girls' reproductive health"; and

"21. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee calls on the State party to:

(a) Prosecute all acts of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, upon complaint by the victim or ex officio, and adequately punish perpetrators;

(b) Consider amending the Criminal Code, with a view to criminalizing marital rape and decriminalizing abortion in cases of rape;

(c) Provide mandatory training to judges, prosecutors and the police on the strict application of the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code;

(d) Encourage women and girls who are victims of violence to report cases to the police, by raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts, destigmatizing victims and training law enforcement and medical personnel on standardized, gender-sensitive procedures for dealing with victims and effectively investigating complaints;

(e) Ensure that the draft National Gender Policy under preparation by the Ministry for the Promotion of Women prioritizes combating violence against women;

(f) Strengthen victim assistance and rehabilitation by providing free legal aid, psychological counselling, opening shelters for battered women and supporting women's rights organizations assisting victims, including but not limited to UNFD;

(g) Ensure the physical security of refugee women and girls in the Ali Adeh camp by increasing the number of law enforcement personnel in the camp and providing free legal assistance to victims of sexual and other forms of violence;

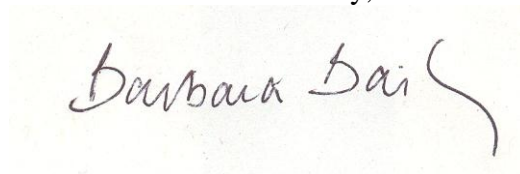
(h) Collect sex-disaggregated data on the number of complaints, prosecutions and convictions, as well as on the sentences imposed on perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence, and provide such data to the Committee."

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2013, 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 Djibouti 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,



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