



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Cameroon/64

10 August 2016

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 combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of the Republic of Cameroon, at the Committee's fifty-seventh session, held in February 2014. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 47 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Cameroon to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17 and 19 of the concluding observations, namely:

“17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Put in place, without delay and within a clear time frame, a comprehensive strategy, in conformity with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention, to eliminate stereotypes and harmful practices that discriminate against women, such as child and forced marriages; female genital mutilation; breast ironing; the stigmatization of widows and widowhood rites; and the kidnapping of children, especially young girls, for the sale of organs or magic/religious practices; and, in collaboration with civil society, the media, health, education and social systems and other relevant professional groups, and traditional leaders, raise awareness about the adverse effects of harmful practices, targeting women and girls as well as men and boys at all levels of society;

(b) Undertake an assessment of the impact of the measures taken in order to identify shortcomings and improve them in a clear time frame;

(c) Ensure the effective implementation of article 356 of the Penal Code criminalizing perpetrators of forced or early marriages; adopt legal provisions specifically criminalizing female genital mutilation, breast ironing and discriminatory widowhood rites; and include adequate sanctions for perpetrators of such acts;

(d) Arrest, prosecute and punish perpetrators of kidnapping of children, including young girls, for the sale of organs or magic/religious practices.”

His Excellency
Mr. Anatole Fabien Nkou
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
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“19. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To ensure the effective implementation of the national strategy to prevent and combat violence against women;

(b) To effectively investigate all cases of violence against women and prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators;

(c) To adopt a comprehensive law on violence against women; ensure that domestic violence, including marital rape, is criminalized; prohibit sexual harassment at school and in the workplace and provide for adequate sanctions; and repeal the legal provision exempting rapists from punishment if they subsequently marry the victim;

(d) To ensure that women victims of domestic violence have full access to protection orders and legal remedies instead of mediation;

(e) To provide assistance to victims of gender-based violence, including medical and psychological support, as well as shelter, counselling and rehabilitation services, throughout the territory of the State party;

(f) To remove the policy on “indecent dressing”;

(g) To provide training for the police and other law enforcement officials, health and social workers, and the judiciary on the application of legal provisions aimed at combating violence against women.”

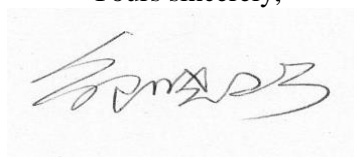
Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2016, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government’s response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Republic of Cameroon 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