Report to Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) about the situation of indigenous woman in Tunisia.

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* The State concerned: Tunisia
* This submission can be posted on CEDAW website.

Tunisia adopted the Universal Declaration on Human rights as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of discrimination against Women, by the way the women’s rights on Tunisia are so advanced but Indigenous women still suffer from her situation as well as women coming from rural areas.

According to the new constitution of 2014, it was mentioned the equality between men and women but as the constitution didn’t provide the Amazigh component of the Tunisian people, Amazigh women still excluded from the society and especially from the special procedures concerns women in Tunisia.

First of all as Amazigh women we still suffer from the Hate speech from the national media as naming us with “barbar women” and this name in Arabic has a bad meaning that described the brutality and barbarity.

Second, as the situation of all Amazigh people in Tunisia the state still recognize us as minority only and not indigenous people as well and this situation exclude a big part of Amazigh people and Amazigh women from identifying themselves as indigenous women since the state considers only the Amazigh speakers as Amazigh so that they are a minority.

Third, most of Amazigh speakers are concentrated in rural and mountainous areas they live in bad conditions and have bad situations comparing with the situation of Tunisian women in general. This distribution made Amazigh women lacking the most basic social and economic rights in addition to the cultural rights.

Amazigh women still excluded from the special procedures concerning employment and education and all procedures that encourage women to participate in public society.

According to the educational system in Tunisia that didn’t recognize Amazigh language Amazigh women found many difficulties in raising their children especially that she uses the mother language in that.

Amazigh women still suffer from the right of practicing her citizenship she still have not the right to give her new born an Amazigh name because of the law of giving names to the new borns forbidden the names that have not meaning in Arabic language.

In addition to that, the Amazigh women faced a kind of discrimination when the state consider Tunisian women as arabe women in her official declarations and didn t respect the existence of Amazigh ones and this make her refuse to integrate in all kinds of programs that concerns arabe women in since those programs didn t respect her existence.

Amazigh women still marginalized especially in employment, education, health, culture. The exploitation of Amazigh women in many fields especially in crafts, agriculture and also in service works makes her lacks of social coverage. They are exposed to the danger of accident in agriculture sector which is a form of violence suffered by this marginalized category. Amazigh women don’t have any social or legal protection guaranteeing her protection against exploitation. The majority of Amazigh women especially in mountainous and rural areas work without acts of engagements or weekly holiday.

The majority of Amazigh women lack of trainings in addition to their low school level which is results of the difficulties they found when they reached school as they speak their mother language which is not recognized, this poor training make them concerns with traditional industries and crafts ,the sector in which also the are marginalized.

So, according to this situation I make these recommendations to the Tunisian State about this situation:

1. the recognition of Amazigh women as indigenous women and respect the international declarations and conventions .
2. cancellation of laws that enshrine racial discrimination and allow Amazigh women to practice their citizenship especially the law of giving names
3. the recognition of Tamazight language as a mother language in Tunisia and facilitate learning it.
4. Cancellation of all forms of violation and discrimination on rural woman and Amazigh women
5. Create an Amazigh cultural center in which Amazigh women can have training courses for building capacities
6. Take specific measures for the situation of Amazigh women to avoid their exploitation
7. Take some special procedures in purpose of inclusion