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REFERENCE: GH/cbr

2 September 2011

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 79th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Slovakia, pursuant to Rule 65(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 and 20 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/SVK/CO/6-8), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 6th to 8th periodic reports in February 2010. The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 9th to 10th periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 28 May 2012.

Paragraph 12 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided and requests additional information on the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the laws, decrees and orders mentioned. It welcomes the State party's efforts to combat and prevent racially-motivated violence by police officers, including by providing them instruction and methodology trainings. Nevertheless, the Committee takes note of the continued reports of racist attacks and reiterates its recommendation in full. Furthermore, the Committee also notes that information on similar awareness-raising efforts geared towards the population as a whole in order to prevent racially motivated offenses, in particular violence against Roma, Jews, and non-EU migrants was not presented. The Committee requests information on education and awareness-raising campaigns, including in the media, to combat prejudices against the aforementioned communities and to promote inter-ethnic dialogue and tolerance within the whole society. to be presented in Slovakia's next periodic report.

The Committee takes note with interest of the establishment of the department and sub-departments of extremism and spectator violence. It also acknowledges the existence of the Control and Inspection Service Section and requests clarification on how complaints against members of the police force in cases involving individuals of different national or ethnic origin are examined and investigated. The Committee wishes to reiterate its recommendation that Slovakia strengthen its efforts to combat racist attacks committed by law enforcement personnel, particularly against Roma, since it is aware that despite the existence of the aforementioned Section, continued reports of racist attacks and lack of adequate compensation for the victims exist.

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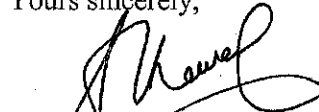
The Committee welcomes the updated statistical data provided by the State party but notes that the data does not reflect the number of convictions nor the sentences and is only disaggregated by age of offenders. Therefore, the Committee reiterates its request for data on the number and nature of reported hate crimes, prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed on perpetrators disaggregated by age, gender and national or ethnic origin of the victim.

Paragraph 20 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided but notes that such information is insufficient to demonstrate the State party's commitment to follow up its recommendations in Individual view No.31/2005. It encourages the State party to carry out the effective and timely implementation of the Committee's recommendation and to provide updated information thereon.

The Committee also notes that persistent discrimination faced by the Roma with regard to housing and that the issue of discrimination against Roma with regard to the right to housing has been repeatedly raised by the Committee under its early warning and urgent action procedures in the case examined during the 77th and 78th sessions (Roma residing in Plavecky Stvrtok under threat of eviction). The Committee would like to inform the State party that a letter on this particular issue will also be sent to the State party in its 79th session.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Slovakia, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Anwar Kemal

Chairperson of the Committee
on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination