## NATIONS UNIES HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



## UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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27 August 2009

## Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, I have the honour to refer to the examination of the initial report of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Committee's 88<sup>th</sup> session, held in October 2006. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in the final paragraph 27 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide within one year further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 8, 14, 19 and 23 of the concluding observations.

On 21 December 2007, the State party provided information on these paragraphs. The Committee noted that the information provided was incomplete. On 17 January 2008, my predecessor wrote to your Permanent Mission requesting additional information as to the progress achieved in relation to these matters. During the 94<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee, held in Geneva in October 2008, the Special Rapporteur met with a representative of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations in Geneva to discuss and obtain further clarification on a number of issues arising under the above-mentioned paragraphs.

On 1 November 2008 and 4 March 2009, the State party provided further information on these paragraphs. At its 95<sup>th</sup> session, held in March 2009 in New York, the Committee noted that the information provided was still incomplete.

.../...

Her Excellency Ms. Emina KEČO-ISAKOVIĆ Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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On 29 May 2009, my predecessor wrote to your Permanent Mission requesting additional information on the above mentioned paragraphs, in particular on (a) the constitutional reform with a view to amend the provision excluding "others" (persons who do not belong to one of the State party's "constituent peoples") from being elected to the House of Peoples and to the tripartite Presidency, bearing in mind that Law on Amendments to the Election Law of the State party appears not to be related to these bodies (paragraph 8); (b) the current functioning of the Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the establishment of a central database on missing persons, and a fund for the support of the families of missing persons (paragraph 14); (c) the results of the improvement measures for Entity police establishments and prisons, the progress made with regard to new constructions, and whether the State party intends to improve the conditions in the Sokolac Psychiatric and Zenica Prison Forensic Psychiatric Annex, as well as on training and hiring of qualified staff (paragraph 19); and (d) on access by members of the Roma community to legal remedies and compensation (including the provision of legal aid and advice) with regard to their relocation and on the progress made with regard to the construction of adequate alternative housing for all Roma inhabitants of the settlement at Butmir (paragraph 23).

During its 96<sup>th</sup> session, held in July 2009, the Committee noted that no such information had been received.

I therefore seize this opportunity to remind the State party to submit at its earliest convenience additional information on the issues outlined above. A Word electronic version of the report should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (Ms. Carolin Schleker, <u>cschleker@ohchr.org</u>, copy to Ms Nathalie Prouvez, <u>nprouvez@ohchr.org</u>).

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of the Covenant, and, in that context, to receiving your response to my enquiry at your earliest convenience.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Abdelfattah Amor Special Rapporteur Follow-up on Concluding Observations

Human Rights Committee