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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/44/LBR/50

4 November 2011

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, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of Liberia, at the Committee's forty-fourth session, held in July-August 2009. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/LBR/CO/6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Liberia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13 and 21 of the concluding observations, namely:

"13. The Committee urges the State party to take immediate steps to ensure the publication of the Convention in order to make its provisions directly applicable. It calls on the State party, as a matter of priority, to incorporate into appropriate national legislation a definition of discrimination against women in conformity with article 1 of the Convention. The Committee further calls on the State party to incorporate the principle of equality between women and men in line with article 2 of the Convention into the Constitution, which is currently under review."

.../...

H. E. Mr. Dudley McKinley THOMAS
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“21. The Committee urges the State party to enact without delay and as a matter of priority legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation and to ensure that offenders are prosecuted and punished in accordance with the severity of this violation. The Committee also calls on the State party to immediately stop issuing permits to practitioners, as is currently being done by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It encourages the State party to extend and accelerate implementation of programmes designed to sensitize and provide alternative sources of income for those who perform female genital mutilation as a means of livelihood. It urges the State party to strengthen its awareness-raising and educational efforts, targeted at both women and men, including Government officials at all levels, chiefs and other traditional and community leaders, and *zoes*, to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation and its underlying cultural justifications.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in August 2011, 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 Liberia on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder. Please send a Word electronic version of the information to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šimonović
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women