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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Kyrgyzstan/50

4 November 2011

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for 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 third periodic report of Kyrgyzstan at the Committee's forty-second session, held in October-November 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/KGZ/CO/3). You may recall that in paragraph 50 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Kyrgyzstan to provide, within one year, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 20 and 22 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report submitted by Kyrgyzstan on 23 May 2011 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/KGZ/CO/3/Add.1). At its fiftieth session, held in October 2011 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 20** of the concluding observations to "launch extensive public awareness-raising campaign against violence in the family": the State party provided information on the joining of the Secretary-General's campaign entitled "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" in spring 2010. It also mentioned the role of the media and indicated that special awareness-raising campaigns were planned. The Committee considered that this recommendation **had been implemented**.

.../...

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Regarding the recommendation on the “effective application, in particular by law enforcement personnel, of existing legal framework in the context of violence against women in the family”: the State party indicated that the Ministry of Internal Affairs had developed a practical manual to help internal affairs personnel prevent domestic violence; the Centre for Research into Democratic Processes monitored the implementation of the Social and Legal Protection against Domestic violence Act; and a new instruction on the activities of the internal affairs unit was issued on the basis of the Centre’s findings. The State party also provided data on the number of cases of domestic violence registered and the number of cases resulting in criminal proceedings. However, the State party failed to provide information on the impact of these measures on the effective application by law enforcement personnel of existing legal framework on violence against women in the family. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation to “strengthen training programmes for the police”: the State party indicated that the Ministry’s academy had introduced into its programmes courses entitled “gender policy in the activities of internal affairs departments”, “the psychological specificities of internal affairs work with victims of domestic violence”; and “the work of internal affairs to prevent domestic violence”. However, the State party failed to provide information on the strengthening of training programmes for policemen in service. Therefore, the Committee considered that the recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation on the “effective use or strengthening by the judiciary of the existing mechanisms to ensure that the rights of victims of domestic violence are properly protected”: while describing the activity of the procuratorial bodies in monitoring the implementation of the law, the State party failed to provide detailed information on the effective use and strengthening by the judiciary of the existing mechanisms to ensure that the rights of victims of domestic violence are properly protected. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

Concerning the recommendation on “allocation of an adequate State budget for programmes to combat violence against women”: the State party did not provide information. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had not been implemented**.

The Committee requested additional information on the efforts undertaken by the State party to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women committed during the ethnic violence in June 2010, as well as on the support provided to women victims of such violence. While indicating that the local authorities ascertained the scale of gender violence, the State party failed to provide information on the result of this study. In addition, while the State party stated that psychological assistance had been provided and individual consultations had been held for women in yurt encampments in densely populated areas of the city of Osh, no information has been provided on efforts undertaken to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence committed against women during the ethnic violence in June 2010. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on:

a) Improvement in the implementation, in particular by law enforcement personnel, of existing legal framework on violence against women in the family;

b) Strengthening of training programmes for policemen in service;

c) Effective use or strengthening by the judiciary of the existing mechanisms to ensure that the rights of victims of domestic violence are properly protected; and

d) Allocation of an adequate State budget for the programmes to combat violence against women; and

e) Prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators of violence committed against women during the ethnic violence in June 2010.

With regard to the recommendation made **in paragraph 22** of the concluding observations on the “full respect of the laws penalizing polygamy”: The State party indicated that, in 2010, the Ministry of Internal Affairs made a proposal to make the penalties for polygamy more severe, but it did not provide information on the measures taken for an effective enforcement of this law. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

Concerning the recommendations on “full respect of the laws penalizing bride abduction and forced marriage”: while the State party indicated that, in 2010, the Ministry of Internal Affairs made a proposal to make the penalties for polygamy more severe, it did not provide information on the measures taken for an effective enforcement of the laws penalizing abduction, forced marriage and polygamy. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had not been implemented**.

Concerning the recommendation on “recording, investigation and prosecution, even in the absence of a formal complaint, of all cases involving bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy”: while the State party indicated that three persons were subject of criminal proceedings for offences relating to coercion of a person under 16 years of age to enter into an actual marriage relationship, it failed to provide information on cases of bride abduction and polygamy and on the measures taken to increase the recording, investigation and prosecution of cases involving bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation to “take urgent and effective measures, including the training of the judiciary and law enforcement officials and constant and large public awareness-raising campaigns, to eliminate the practices of bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy and take into account the role of the media”: while the State party indicated that seminars on “International standards and national legislation relating to gender equality” are provided for local judges, these seminars do not focus on the practices of bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy, and no information has been provided on training to law enforcement officials in this regard. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had not been implemented**.

With regard to the recommendation to “conduct research on the causes for the existence and reinforcement of bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy, in order to better understand what would be the most adequate measures for their eradication”: no information has been provided. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had not been implemented**.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on:

a) Full respect of the laws penalizing bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy;

b) Recording, investigation and prosecution, even in the absence of a formal complaint, of all cases involving bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy;

c) The measures taken, including the training of the judiciary and law enforcement officials and constant and large public awareness-raising campaigns, to eliminate the practices of bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy;

d) Conducting research on the causes for the existence and reinforcement of bride abduction, forced marriage and polygamy, in order to better understand what would be the most adequate measures for their eradication.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Kyrgyzstan on the implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Šimonović". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue rectangular background behind it.

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