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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered, at its 72nd session held from 18 February to 7 March 2008, the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Denmark (CERD/C/DEN/CO/17/Add.1) pursuant to rule 65 (1) of its rules of procedure.

The Committee welcomed the submission of information, as requested, on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11, 13 and 15 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/DEN/CO/17) adopted by the Committee following the consideration at its 69th session of the 16th to 17th periodic reports of Denmark, submitted in one document.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity thus provided to continue its dialogue with the State party. In this spirit, the Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on action taken on these issues be included in the 18th and 19th periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document due on 8 January 2009:

- **Paragraph 11 of the concluding observations:** While expressing its appreciation for the information provided, the Committee regrets that the reply does not comment directly on the specific recommendations contained in paragraph 11. Consequently, the State party is requested to comment on (i) the recommendation to increase efforts to prevent racially motivated offences and hate speech and to ensure that relevant criminal law provisions are effectively implemented; (ii) the recommendation to take resolute action to counter any tendency to target, stigmatize, stereotype or profile people on the basis of race, colour, descent, and national or ethnic origin, especially by politicians; and (iii) the request to remind public prosecutors and members of the prosecution service of the general importance of

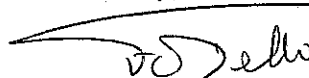
H.E. Mrs. Marie-Louise Overvad
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prosecuting racist acts, including minor offences committed with racist motives.

- **Paragraph 13 of the concluding observations:** The Committee welcomes the information on the composition and procedure of the Refugee Board and requests to receive up-to-date statistics of the decisions of the Refugee Board. Noting that procedural matters may be brought before ordinary courts, the Committee asks for specific information (i) on the types of issues that may be brought before ordinary courts; (ii) on the number of cases which have been brought before the ordinary courts; and (iii) on their outcome. The Committee values the information on the situation in asylum centres and requests the State party to supply further information on the new programme to support rejected asylum seekers who voluntarily return to their country of origin. Finally, the Committee takes note of the distinction between rejected asylum seekers who may be forcibly returned and others who may only be asked to leave voluntarily. The Committee requests the State party to supply information on the criteria for deciding if an asylum seeker may be forcibly returned or not.
- **Paragraph 15 of the concluding observations:** The Committee welcomes the extensive information provided, even though the Committee is not fully convinced of the arguments in favour of the provisions and policy in force in Denmark. With respect to the 24 year condition for spousal unification, the State party is requested to carry out further research (i) as to whether this condition actually does limit the number of forced marriages and (ii) on the impact which this rule may have on the various minorities in Denmark. The State party is further requested to supply information on the number of persons under 24 who have been granted stay permits for purposes of spousal unification. In addition, the Committee would appreciate research on (i) how widespread the practices of re-education and of waiting as long as possible to bring a child to Denmark are, and (ii) how damaging such practices are in fact for integration. Furthermore, the Committee requests information (i) as to why the age of 15 has been chosen and (ii) on the number of children between 15 and 18 that have been granted family reunification.

Allow me to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue its constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's observations and request for further information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoria Dah
Chairperson of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination