



Téléfax: (41-22)-917 9029
Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Téléx: 41 29 62
Téléphone: (41-22)-917 9193
Internet: www.ohchr.org
E-mail: ghabtom@ohchr.org

Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: GH/ST

12 March 2010

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 76th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Sweden, 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 15, 16 and 20 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, August 2008), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 17th and 18th periodic reports. The Committee thus appreciates the opportunity provided to continue the 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 action taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 19th to 21st periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 31 July 2012.

Paragraph 15 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee wishes to thank the State party for information provided and commends its new efforts to combat hate crimes, in particular those related to training courses for police officers and prosecutors. At the same time, the Committee expresses its concern that while the State party views hate crimes very seriously, the lack of harmony through a common definition between the judiciary, the prosecution authority and the police force, may hamper its efforts at fully realizing the objectives of laws and policies in practice. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party introduce a common definition of hate crime to be used by all authorities involved in combating racially motivated offences and hate speech.

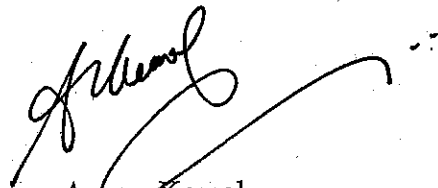
H.E.Mr. Hans Dahlgren
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UNOG
Rue de Lausanne 82
1202 Geneva
Fax: +41 22 908 08 10

Paragraph 16 of Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided and commends the gradual increase in the share of employees with foreign backgrounds in the Swedish Court, the Swedish Prosecution Authority and the National Police Board as a result of the State party's active efforts. Although maintaining that the report entitled "Discrimination in the Criminal Justice Process" may only be used as an indication of discrimination during the legal process, on those grounds alone, more active measures are needed to strengthen programmes aimed at eliminating discrimination among the judicial and law enforcement systems. The Committee encourages the State party to continue in these efforts.

Paragraph 20 of Concluding Observations. The Committee wishes to thank the State party for the information provided and makes note of the decisions by the Swedish Courts and the European Court of Human Rights. The Committee urges the State party to continue to encourage negotiations based on recognition and reconciliation, in good faith, and that it examine ways and means to address problems arising out of land disputes between Sami and Non-Sami, including through the establishment of an institute to investigate and mediate disputes and land claims in the reindeer grazing area.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anwar Kemal', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Anwar Kemal
Chairperson of the Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination