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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 75th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Israel, pursuant to Rule 65(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 20, 22, 25 and 34 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/ISR/CO/13) adopted in February 2007, following consideration of the State party's tenth to thirteenth 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 fourteenth to sixteenth periodic reports to be submitted in a single document on 2 February 2010.

Paragraph 20 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee welcomes the information provided and requests to be provided with updated information on the status of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Provision), also in light of the recent petitions brought against the constitutionality of the Law before the High Court of Justice. The Committee notes that some amendments have been made to the Law, but nevertheless expresses its concern about its ongoing extension. It reiterates its recommendation that the Law be revoked and urges the State party to take measures necessary to facilitate family reunification to the residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

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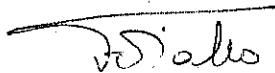
Paragraph 22 of Concluding Observations. The Committee encourages the State party to continue the promotion of intercultural education and understanding. In light of the continuing existence of separate Jewish and Arab communities, the Committee recommends that mixed towns like those mentioned in the State party's follow-up response be further promoted and supported. The Committee would also appreciate to receive more detailed explanations in response to allegations that the existence of separate Jewish and Arab sectors has resulted in instances of unequal treatment and funding.

Paragraph 25 of Concluding Observations. The Committee encourages the State party to continue the project for the legal regulation of Bedouin towns and requests to be provided with additional information in this regard. Having taken note of the resolution establishing a new authority in the Ministry of Construction and Housing dealing with the development of the Bedouin Sector, expansion of towns and provision of housing solutions for all Bedouins, the Committee expresses its concern that the resolution does neither expressly mention the recognition of existing villages nor the question of free and informed consent by the affected communities. However, the Committee welcomes the envisaged participation of Negev Bedouin in the Council to be appointed to the Authority and asks the State party to provide information on their voting rights or other means of exercising influence in relevant decision-making processes.

Paragraph 34 of Concluding Observations. The Committee strongly reiterates its recommendation that restrictions on the freedom of movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories should not be systematic and not be applied in a discriminatory manner. The Committee welcomes the revoking of the Order on Movement and Travel of 19 November 2006, and asks the State party to provide examples of the efforts made to relieve the local population and of reasonable alternatives for the movement of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, as mentioned in paragraph 64 of the State party's response.

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

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah
Chairperson of the Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination