

April 18, 2013

United Nations Committee against Torture
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

By email: cat@ohchr.org

RE: Supplementary Information on the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Scheduled for Review by the U.N. Committee against Torture during its 50th session (6-31 May 2013)

Honorable Committee Members,

The attached shadow report is intended to supplement the periodic report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia (hereinafter Bolivia) which is scheduled for review by the U.N. Committee against Torture (hereinafter the Committee) during its 50th session (6-31 May 2013). The report, co-authored by Women's Link Worldwide¹ and FUNDERES,² aims to further the work of the Committee by providing relevant information concerning the rights protected in the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (hereinafter CAT).

It has four central objectives: first, to highlight the systemic problem of sexual violence in educational institutions in Bolivia. Secondly, it argues that girl-children in educational establishments in Bolivia must be accorded a higher level of protection from acts falling within the ambit of torture or ill-treatment based on the special protection that must be afforded to them by reason of their physical and mental immaturity and in order to develop their full potential as well as the fact that educational establishments are where the State is obliged to ensure that it progressively realizes the right to education. Thirdly and finally, this report opines that when girl-children are sexually violated in the very

¹ Women's Link Worldwide is an international human rights non-profit organization with regional offices in Europe (Madrid, Spain) and Latin America (Bogotá, Colombia) which strives to advance women's rights through the implementation of international human rights standards around the world. Women's Link has six lines of work: International Gender Crimes, Intersectional Discrimination, Trafficking of Human Persons, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Migrant Women's Rights and a Gender Justice Observatory. See <http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/wlw/new.php>

² Funderes is an independent and not-profit organization dedicated to promote and protect human rights through strategic litigation before national and international courts and offers free multidisciplinary support for human rights violations victims in Bolivia. Is dedicated to use all the legal resources in order to achieve the consolidation of justice for human rights violations and contribute to build a just and equitable society in order to prevent, judge and not allow the repetition of human rights violations.



place where they should be able to access means to elevate their social and economic situation, the elements of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment ((hereinafter ill-treatment or CIDTP) are without doubt fulfilled and combined with the breach of this heightened obligation of protection, it entails a violation by the State and its actors of the right to be free from torture, as distinct from ill-treatment. Finally, the report highlights the case of Patricia Flores, a ten year old girl who was sexually and physically violated and murdered in her public school, and respectfully requests that the Committee takes note of the case as a violation of the prohibition against torture and make appropriate recommendations to the State.

It is our hope that this information is useful to the work of the Committee. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the first three undersigned.

Sincerely,

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