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REFERENCE: GH/ST

27 August 2010

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 77th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Russian Federation, 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 16, 18, 23 and 26 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/RUS/CO/19), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 18th and 19th periodic reports in October 2009. 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 actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 20th to 22nd periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 6 March 2012.

Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee commends the State party for its efforts to cooperate with various voluntary non-governmental organizations in the combat of ethnically motivated hate speech in the media and on the Internet. It encourages the State party to strengthen the work of community councils to assist the competent authorities. The Committee respectfully requests the Russian Federation for clarification on trainings for judges, procurators, the police and law enforcement officers on the application of article 282 of the Criminal Code and the other relevant criminal law provisions cited in its response, to be included in its next State party report.

H.E. Valery Loshchinn
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
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Paragraph 18 of Concluding Observations. The Committee wishes to thank the State party for the extensive information provided and commends the efforts undertaken to collect, record, synthesize and analyze information on extremist crimes and recommend more efforts in order to obtain disaggregated data. It notes with satisfaction the cases provided by the State party regarding educational programmes as well as extra-curricular activities and notes with interest the different working groups set up at the local level to analyze inter-ethnic relations and combating extremism.

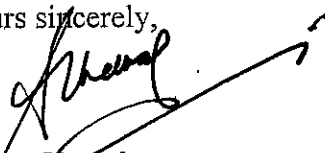
The Committee encourages the State party to continue its diverse initiatives to combat racially motivated violence integrating human rights effectively in legislation and State policy and practice and establishing the promotion of justice as the aim of the rule of law. In this regard, the Committee welcomes the attention paid to training programmes covering the safeguarding of human and civil rights and freedoms and recommends that the State party continue to carry out these programmes, including training of judges, procurators and the police. Finally, the Committee reiterates its request for information on whether judges, procurators and the police take into account the motive of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or enmity as an aggravating circumstance in any proceedings under criminal law provisions.

Paragraph 23 of Concluding Observations. The Committee wishes to thank the State party for the information provided noting that information was provided on the simplified procedure for acquiring Russian citizenship as well as the voluntary resettlement in the Russian Federation of ethnic Russians living abroad but regrets that the State party does not elaborate on the concern of the Committee, namely, residence registration for those persons unable to prove that they were permanent residents of the Russian Federation before 6 February 1992. The Committee respectfully requests to be provided updated information in regard of the situation of those former Soviet citizens who cannot prove residence registration, as per the Federal Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens on 1 November 2002.

Paragraph 26 of Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the extensive information provided and notes with interest the efforts undertaken to improve the situation of the Roma. It respectfully requests further clarification on ways in which Roma representatives are able to participate in discussions regarding new developments of areas where they are to live or be resettled. The Committee commends the fact that the State party is paying much more attention to education in those entities of the Federation where there are high concentrations of Roma, improving the quality of education available to the Roma and building up cooperation between Roma voluntary organizations, the authorities and the expert community in order to meet students' ethnic and cultural needs. It respectfully requests that the results of the studies carried out by the State party in this regard be included in its next periodic report, specifically describing the strategic plan mentioned..

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Russian Federation, 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', written over a horizontal line.

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