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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/44/Azerbaijan/49

10 August 2011

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the fourth periodic report of Azerbaijan at the Committee's forty-fourth session, held in July-August 2009. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/4). You may recall that in paragraph 48 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Azerbaijan to provide, within one year, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 16 and 22 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the information submitted by Azerbaijan on 28 December 2010 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/4/Add.1), with a four-month delay.

At its forty-ninth session, held in July 2011 in New-York, the Committee examined the information provided by Azerbaijan. The Committee considered that some recommendations have been partially implemented and the others have not been addressed.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, within one year, additional information on:

- a) Any progress achieved in amending the Family Code in order to equalize the minimum legal age of marriage for women and men to 18 years;
- b) Whether the Law on Domestic Violence contains provisions criminalizing sexual violence within the family;
- c) Concrete examples of public awareness campaigns to combat violence against women and girls, including through the media and education programmes;

.../...

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- d) The number and capacity of adequate shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, their geographic distribution and occupancy rates, as well as information on the funding of such shelters;
- e) Any research undertaken on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and on its results;
- f) The number of cases of violence against women and girls where protection orders have been issued by the competent authorities;
- g) The availability of legal aid for victims of gender-based violence, including in rural areas and the number of complaints filed by victims, prosecutions and the sentences imposed on perpetrators of such violence over the past four years;
- h) Concrete examples of training for the judiciary and law enforcement personnel on the strict application of criminal law provisions and on adequate gender-sensitive support to women victims of violence;
- i) Any steps taken to review the legal definition of rape in the Criminal Code , with a view to basing it on lack of consent rather than on the use of force.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Azerbaijan on the implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šimonović  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women