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14 March 2008

Excellency,

I write to inform you that, on 5 March 2008, during its 72<sup>nd</sup> session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reviewed the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Gambia in the absence of a report.

The Committee regrets the interruption of the dialogue with your Government since 1980. In accordance with article 9 of the Convention, it urges your Government to submit as soon as possible, in one combined document, its second to fifteenth periodic reports, due from 1982 to 2008. In this regard, the Committee wishes to draw attention to its revised reporting guidelines (CERD/C/2007/1) attached herewith.

In order to initiate a dialogue on the measures adopted by Gambia to implement the Convention, the Committee decided to send to your Government a list of questions which I also attach to this letter. I would be very grateful if written responses to this list of questions could be provided to the Committee at the latest by 30 September 2008. In the absence of any response from Gambia by that date, the Committee will proceed with the adoption of concluding observations on Gambia under its review procedure.

The Committee further wishes to draw the State party's attention to the possibility of availing itself of the technical assistance offered under the advisory services and technical assistance programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Allow me to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue a constructive dialogue with your Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Dah'.

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

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