

(PORTUGAL)

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Item 6: Portugal UPR

Ms. Omek leila Enayati

Mr. President:

In the process of reviewing the situation of human rights in Portugal in December 2009, two key issues which constituted most of the recommendations by state parties, were the situation of minorities and some aspects of discriminations against them, specially about Roma community, and also the concern about some sort of domestic violence.

As a non-governmental organization, active in different areas of human rights, we ask the government of Portugal besides intensifying its efforts to create a culture of tolerance in society, tries to:

First) Improve efforts to strengthen programs, projects and other measures to prevent discrimination against vulnerable groups, including some Roma women, asylum-seekers and migrants. Also we believe the government should try by all means to expand and strengthen the training of law enforcement officials and to enhance public awareness in relation to respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of immigrants, refugees and ethnic minorities. In this regard we propose the Portuguese officials to prepare and implement a national strategy to ensure better integration of the Roma in society.

Alongside with those, we suggest the government to improve living conditions of minorities, especially Roma, and enhance the opportunities of the population in general and also in areas such as housing, education, employment and health care.

Second) Consider strengthening efforts to combat violence against women, including domestic violence and trafficking in persons, specially women and children, by, inter alia, ensuring the full implementation of related laws and legislation and also through the continued provision of adequate funding and the creation of a monitoring mechanism.

Thank You