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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

REFERENCE: OL G/SO 214 (89-15)
KGZ 1/2013

6 February 2013

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 16/7.

In this connection, I would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information I have received with regard to a new bill signed by President Almazbek Atambaev that increases criminal penalty for bride kidnapping from three to seven years, which I consider to be an important and positive step for the protection of women from violence. In this regard I would be most grateful if you could send me a copy of the bill, preferably in English, and additional details on this initiative including plans to implement this new legislation.

I would also wish to make reference to the recommendations contained in my report that I presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2010 upon visiting your country (A/HRC/14/22/Add.2). In particular, I wish to reaffirm the importance of increasing the criminal penalty for bride abduction and coercion into marriage, withdrawing the possibility of imposing only a fine and providing stringent penalties for conspiracy and aiding and abetting in this crime. I would also like to recall that institutional measures must be put in place for the effective implementation of the law.

In this context, I thank you for your letter dated 7 March 2012 which provided information on some of the specific recommendations I made following my visit to the country in October 2009. I would like to take this opportunity to enquire about any further steps that your Excellency's Government has taken to implement the recommendations contained in my mission report. Information on the follow-up to my country visits is very valuable to me as I endeavour to examine how States have exercised due diligence in their efforts towards the elimination of violence against women.

I remain at your disposal through Mr. Pol Planas (tel. +41.22.917.96.57, pplanas@ohchr.org) from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for any question you may have in this regard.

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

Rashida Manjoo
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences