

Dragana Scepanovic

58

**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other international organizations**

**Geneva, 2 May 2014**

**UPR 2 Cycle, Review of Brunei Darussalam**

**Statement by H.E. Zorica Maric Djordjevic- Ambassador of Montenegro to the UN HRC Montenegro**

Montenegro warmly welcomes distinguished (head of delegation) and the Delegation of Brunei Darussalam.

Montenegro recognizes the efforts made by the authorities to improve the institutional and legislative framework for human rights.

However, we noted that there are a huge number of international human rights treaties that Brunei Darussalam is not a party to. At the same time there is neither an extended standing invitation to special procedures, nor the available information from the relevant treaty bodies. We ask the delegation to elaborate what reasons influenced such policy and lack of cooperation with UN treaty bodies. Has the Government of Brunei Darussalam initiated accession processes to any additional core document (except CEDAW and CRC) or does it have any plan to improve its human rights policy in regard to cooperation with international human rights mechanisms?

Several stakeholders have reported on significant restrictions of freedom of speech and press. Thus, UNESCO recommended that Brunei Darussalam implement reforms to bring its laws and practices in line with international standards for freedom of the press and freedom of expression. Could you please further elaborate on the position of your Government on this issue and action taken in that regard?

Montenegro makes following recommendations to the Government of Brunei Darussalam:

- to abolish the death penalty for all crimes;
- to enact legislation to prohibit explicit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home, schools and alternative care facilities.

Thank you!