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**INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND
THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women,
its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk**

Addendum

Communications to and from Governments *

* The summary of this report and the confidential information form (see appendix) are being circulated in all official languages. The report itself is contained in the annex to the summary and is being circulated in the languages of submission only.

Summary

At its fifty-ninth session, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2003/45, encouraged the Special Rapporteur to respond effectively to reliable information that comes before her. It requested all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of her mandated tasks and duties, to supply all information requested, including with regard to implementation of her recommendations, and to respond to the Special Rapporteur's visits and communications. The Commission furthermore invited the Special Rapporteur to continue to cooperate with other special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of the working groups of the special procedures of the Commission, including, where appropriate, undertaking joint missions, joint reports, urgent appeals and communications.

A standard reporting form is available for documenting alleged instances of violence against women (see appendix). In this connection, it should be emphasized that, in accordance with her mandate, the Special Rapporteur is in a position only to process cases of alleged violence or threats of violence directed against women because of their sex. The definition of violence against women used by the Special Rapporteur is taken from the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/104.

The Special Rapporteur wishes to inform the Commission that during the period under review she transmitted communications to the Governments of: Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay. In addition the Governments of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, China, Egypt, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Mexico, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay provided the Special Rapporteur with replies on cases and reports submitted during the year under review, whereas the Governments of Australia, China, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka did so with respect to cases submitted in previous years.

This report contains, on a country-by-country basis, summaries of general and individual allegations, as well as urgent appeals transmitted to Governments, and their replies thereto. Observations by the Special Rapporteur have also been included where applicable. The names of some of the victims whose cases are presented in this report have been replaced by initials, in order to respect their privacy and to prevent further revictimization. The full names of all victims have been provided to the Government concerned.

China

Communications sent to the Government

23. By letter dated 8 July 2003, sent jointly with the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Special Rapporteur advised the Government that she had received information on the following individual cases.

24. L.X. (f) was reportedly arrested in January 2000 by police officers from the Wuzhan town police station, where she allegedly was kept for several months. Although

she was reportedly five months pregnant and expecting twins, she was reportedly severely beaten by the Chief of the police station, dragged by the hair and kicked. She was reportedly released just before she gave birth and after she had paid 5,000 yuan.

25. **J.Z.** (f), a pregnant woman, was reportedly arrested in January 2000 and taken to Hengyang City Detention Centre, where she was allegedly severely beaten. As a result, she reportedly had a miscarriage and her health allegedly deteriorated to the point where she was eventually released and later put under house arrest.

26. **L.Y.** (f) was reportedly arrested in January 2000 in Beijing because she allegedly practised Falun Gong, and taken back to her home town, Fengcheng city. According to the information received, as she was pregnant, the chief of the Fengcheng city police station reportedly ordered a forced abortion, which was reportedly carried out in a hospital.

27. **L.M.** (f), a resident of Sichuan province, was reportedly arrested in February 2000. The police allegedly slapped her and her baby daughter at the time of arrest. According to the information received, on the night of 19 July 2000, policemen from local police station took her from her home to the police station, where her hands were allegedly shackled behind a tree and her mouth sealed with tape for a prolonged period, to the point where her clothes became soaked with her milk. She was reportedly kept at the detention centre for 15 days, during which she was not allowed to breastfeed her baby.

28. **W.S.** (f) and her husband were reportedly arrested on 15 February 2000, after they allegedly went to Beijing to appeal on behalf of Falun Gong. They were both reportedly taken to the Shekou Detention Centre. Wang Shaona was six months pregnant and was allegedly forced to abort in order to make her detention legally valid. According to the information received, the couple was detained again on 30 June 2000. W.S. was reportedly forced to abort a second time and was subsequently taken to the Nashan District Detention Centre, Shenzhenc city, Guangdong province.

29. **W.X.** (f) was reportedly arrested on 19 February 2000 in Beijing after she allegedly appealed on behalf of Falun Gong. She was reportedly beaten during interrogation at the Linhe city police station. On the following day, she was reportedly transferred to Hohhot City Women's Labour Camp, where, despite being three months pregnant, she was allegedly forced to perform hard labour and to stay in awkward positions for prolonged periods, she was also subjected to electric shocks and reportedly hung from her handcuffed wrists for entire days. On 30 July 2000, when she was eight month pregnant, she was reportedly taken back to the Linhe city police station, where she was allegedly subjected to an attempted forced abortion. According to the information received, one month after she gave birth, she was forced to leave her home as she allegedly refused to give up Falun Gong.

30. **A.G.** (f), detained at Masanjiia Labour Camp, was repeatedly beaten and subjected to electric shocks after journalists visited the camp in February 2000. Toothpicks were

also allegedly inserted under her fingernails. She was also allegedly forced to uncover her breasts and walk from one cell to another and was hung upside down until her face turned red and her eyes bulged.

31. **Y.P.** (f) was reportedly arrested in March 2000, when she allegedly went to Beijing to appeal on behalf of Falun Gong. She was allegedly pregnant at the time of her arrest and subjected to a forced abortion. She was reportedly initially detained at the Zhonghualu police station and later at the Caidian police station, both in Wuhan city.

32. **Z.W.** (f) and her husband were reportedly severely beaten and kicked in April 2000 by at least 22 policemen. She was reportedly four months pregnant at the time. According to the information received, one month later, an officer from the Cuizhu police station ordered her to be sent to the 102 Military mental hospital to have an abortion. It was alleged however, that the forced abortion failed and that she eventually gave birth. On 8 February 2001, she and her husband were reportedly arrested again. During the arrest, the baby was allegedly injured on the head and legs.

33. **B.L.** (f), **C.S.** (f) and **Z.B.** (f) had reportedly been detained at the women's labour camp in Shijiazhuang city since May 2000. According to the information received, detainees had been held in a room that was about 40 degrees Celsius for a whole day, during which they were allegedly prohibited from going out or even using the toilet. Many detainees were allegedly subjected to sexual abuse by guards, such as rubbing their genitals and hitting them on their breasts. B.L. is believed to have lost her hearing after she was allegedly slapped on the face with a shoe. C.S. reportedly sustained many scars on her body from being scratched. Z.B. was allegedly hung up with only her toes slightly touching the ground for an extended period of time.

34. **D.J.** (f) was reportedly arrested in June 2000, when she went to Beijing to appeal on behalf of Falun Gong, and taken to Beishan Detention Centre in Lianzhushan town, where she was allegedly forced to load heavy bricks although she was pregnant. According to the information received, that resulted in a miscarriage.

35. **L.N.** (f) and **W.X.** (f), along with other female Falun Gong practitioners, were reportedly arrested and sent to Jingxing County Detention Centre in Hebei province at the end of July 2000. According to the information received, during their detention, policemen stripped all female Falun Gong practitioners naked, beat them and subjected them to electric shocks. W.X. was reportedly given electric shocks to her mouth and vagina. Policemen allegedly applied electric shocks to L.N.'s breasts, despite the fact that she still had scars from an operation to remove a tumour. She was also reportedly subjected to electric shocks on her genitals and perineum.

36. **L.Y.** (f) was reportedly arrested in October 2000 and taken to the Yingtaoyuan police station in Weifang city, allegedly for appealing on behalf of Falun Gong. Although she was allegedly pregnant at the time of her arrest, she was reportedly severely beaten by the deputy chief of the police station, who allegedly also stuffed cigarettes into her nose and kicked her back.

37. **Y.J.** (f) was reportedly arrested on 6 October 2000, when she went to Beijing to appeal on behalf of Falun Gong, and was sent to the Sanhe city police station. She was reportedly beaten, kicked, slapped on the face and pulled by the hair according to the information received. She was allegedly lifted into the air and violently thrown onto the ground. A policeman allegedly whipped her numerous times and subjected her to electric shocks. He reportedly threatened to scald her body with boiling water and to order men to rape her. She was ordered to take off her clothes, and was sexually abused when she refused.

38. **L.S.** (f) was reportedly arrested on 30 November 2000 and taken to the Haidan branch of the Beijing police. It is alleged that the police stripped off her clothing except for her underwear and put her in a cell where she was reportedly severely beaten by other inmates, allegedly instigated by a police officer. Her hair was allegedly pulled and her head knocked against a wall and a towel tied tightly around her throat until she lost consciousness. Her eyelids, face, breasts and chest were allegedly pierced with a ballpoint pen. She was also allegedly subjected to electric shocks. L.S. reportedly went on a hunger strike to protest against this treatment. According to the information received, she suffered from vaginal bleeding and part of her body remained numb for a year. When she was released one year later, she was reportedly unable to walk normally.

39. **Shi** (f), from Jilin province detained at Heizuizi labour camp, was reportedly subjected to electric shocks in early winter 2000. Her menstrual periods reportedly ceased as a result.

40. **H.Q.** (f) was reportedly arrested on 20 December 2000. She went to Tiananmen Square in Beijing to appeal on behalf of Falun Gong and was taken to a police station where, according to the information received, her face, breasts, genitals and other parts of her body were seriously burned and injured with electric batons. She reportedly became unconscious as a result of the severe beatings. She was reportedly told that she would only be released if she agreed to state that the burns had been self-inflicted.

41. **L.X.** (f) was reportedly taken to a labour camp in Harbin city, Heilongjiang province, in December 2000, after she went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. She was reportedly denied drinking water for nine days, and police allegedly stomped on her back. She was reportedly later escorted to a detention centre in Chibi town, where she was believed to have been held for 20 months, during which she was allegedly subjected to ill-treatment. According to the information received, she was never allowed a family visit or a full night's sleep; she was severely beaten and kicked and forced to kneel on the ground for 12 hours. On one occasion, she was allegedly taken to the hospital, where she was allegedly forcibly injected with a substance that caused internal bleeding. She was allegedly released after she went on a hunger strike. However, she was reportedly still closely monitored at home and reportedly arrested again once her health had improved.

42. **GX.** (f) was reportedly arrested on 22 December 2000 in Beijing, where she had gone to appeal on behalf of Falun Gong, and taken to the Pingshan county police station in Shijiazhuang city, Hebei province. She was allegedly severely beaten on various

occasions. Policemen allegedly covered her eyes and force-fed her with hot pepper powder, poked her body with pins, stripped off her clothes and sexually harassed her.

43. **GP.** (f), her husband and her 6-month-old baby were reportedly arrested in January 2001 in Beijing for appealing on behalf of Falun Gong. She was reportedly repeatedly subjected to electric shocks. Her husband was reportedly sent to a labour camp in Boading. According to the information received, when she appealed for his release, she was taken to a mental hospital, where she was allegedly forced to take drugs that had a mentally debilitating effect.

44. **C.Y.** (f), as well as other Falun Gong practitioners detained at the Wanijia labour camp, were reportedly locked in so-called "iron chairs" for 28 days and then hung up by their wrists on their cell door between 18 and 20 June 2001. C.Y. was also reportedly subjected to electric shocks. A guard was reported to have grabbed her by her breast and to have shouted obscenities at her. To protest against this treatment, she allegedly went on a 39-day hunger strike.

45. **W.H.** (f) was reportedly arrested on 7 June 2001 by police officers from Lanzhou University police station, allegedly on the grounds that she refused to stop practising Falun Gong. She was reportedly sent to the Taoshuping detention centre in Lanzhou city, where she allegedly underwent a hunger strike to protest against her detention. She was reportedly pregnant at that time and forced to undergo an abortion by the police.

46. The Xinglong town local government reportedly arrested **Xu** (f), a resident of Xinglong town, Sichuan province, in late July 2001. Although she was nursing a 9-month-old baby at the time, she was allegedly separated from her baby in the government building where she has kept. According to the information received, she was hung by her handcuffed wrists and beaten.

47. **W.Y.** (f) was reportedly arrested by Cuijiagu town police officers for hanging up Falun Gong banners in August 2001. She was allegedly pregnant at the time of her arrest. She was reportedly severely beaten by the officers and allegedly suffered a miscarriage as a result.

48. **Y.D.** (f) and **Z.J.** (f) were reportedly arrested in December 1999 and taken by the Security Section of the Fourth Machinery Company to a detention centre, where they were allegedly subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment before being released 15 days later. Officers of the Yulukou police station reportedly detained them for another 15 days in July 2000. In October 2001, they were reportedly arrested again and detained at the Yulukou police station. Y.D. was reportedly subjected to sleep deprivation and other forms of ill-treatment. According to the information received, after eight months of detention, she was sentenced to one year in the second brigade of the Shayang labour camp for allegedly refusing to give up the practice of Falun Gong. In the camp, she was allegedly forced to work for long hours. It is reported that she was frequently forced to sit on small stools for the entire day. Z.J. was allegedly not allowed to sleep for several nights. She was reportedly handcuffed for about a fortnight and subjected to severe ill-

treatment. She allegedly started a hunger strike to protest, and as a result, she was allegedly force-fed. After eight months of detention, she was reportedly sentenced to one year in a forced labour camp in June 2002, and sent to the ninth brigade of the Shayang labour camp. In the camp, guards, together with other inmates, reportedly beat her and did not allow her to sleep. On the day she was released, a group of inmates reportedly threatened to kill her, slapped her face with slippers and stuffed her mouth with a dirty cloth, which made her face swell and bleed. Z.J. was reportedly taken to the Shashi re-education centre on 31 October 2002. One month later, she was reportedly detained in a detention centre for another two months. On 21 February 2003, she was reportedly transferred to the Wuhan re-education centre, where she was allegedly subjected to daily ill-treatment by four inmates for at least 20 days.

49. On 11 June 2003, the Special Rapporteur sent a joint urgent appeal with the Special Rapporteur on torture concerning **W.X.** (f), a student who was reportedly arrested on 11 May 2003, along with a dozen other students and teachers of Chongqing University and China Southwest University of Political Science and Law. They were reportedly arrested for hanging banners and balloons commemorating 13 May, the anniversary of the introduction of Falun Gong. According to information received, on 13 May 2003, several policemen took her to a cell in Baihelin detention centre in Shapingba district and forced two female inmates to strip her. One of the uniformed policemen reportedly pushed her to the ground and raped her as the other inmates watched. Police reportedly botched a violent attempt to force-feed her when she went on hunger strike, seriously injuring both her trachea and esophagus, leaving her unable to speak. On 22 May 2003, she was reportedly transferred to the Southwest Hospital in Chongqing city, but her condition was not known at the time of writing the urgent appeal.

50. On 17 November 2003, the Special Rapporteur sent a joint urgent appeal with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special Rapporteur on torture concerning **L.Q.** (f), who was reportedly taken away from her home in Shanghai on 1 November 2003 by members of the National Security Bureau from Suzhou city and Shanghai city. Since then, her whereabouts have reportedly remained unknown. She was reportedly arrested in connection with her alleged practice of Falun Gong.

51. On 14 November 2003, the Special Rapporteur sent a joint urgent appeal with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health concerning four female Falun Gong practitioners. On 27 September 2003, **Y.F.** (f) was reportedly taken to Xihuanlu detention centre, where she allegedly went on a hunger strike. She allegedly vomited blood and lost consciousness several times after being force-fed. It was reported that the 610 Office ordered her to be secretly transferred to Shijiazhuang city, but her whereabouts were allegedly unknown. **Y.F.** and **her 16-year-old daughter** had allegedly been arrested and subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment in the past. **T.L.** (f) was reportedly beaten by the head of the 610 Office in Weihai city and four other officers on 22 May 2002. She was reported to have also been severely beaten at Weihai police station before

being transferred to Weihai detention centre, where she was allegedly forced to sit in an iron chair (a torture device) and exposed under the sun until her body was completely numb. As a result, she allegedly lost consciousness and became paralyzed. She was reportedly subsequently released. **C.Y.** (f) was reportedly arrested on 8 August 2003 by Jiaxing city police and taken to a local detention centre on 13 September 2003, where she went on a hunger strike. She was allegedly force-fed while being handcuffed and tightly tied to a bed. On 26 September 2003, she was reportedly sent to the Zhejiang province prison hospital for further force-feeding. It was alleged that as a result, her entire body convulsed with pain and she vomited blood. It was reported that when she was untied from the bed, she was too weak to walk, her face was very pale, her hands and feet were ice cold, her arms were swollen and bruised and her blood could not circulate properly. Needles were allegedly inserted into her bruises. She was reportedly released on bail on 13 October 2003.