

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

57th Session 2000

ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

the ICA / community

It is with great pleasure that I address the Commission on the Status of Women for the first time in my capacity as the United Nations Human Rights Council Special Representative on Violence against Women. The causes and consequences of violence against women among the different communities on women's rights is becoming increasingly alarming. It is essential to ensure that our initiatives contribute towards an integrated and holistic approach for the

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly inform the Commission of my recent

have undertaken official missions to 15 countries. At the seventh session of the Human

rights Council, I will report on my country visits to Algeria, Egypt and the

month where I received invaluable support and cooperation from the authorities. I will be submitting a report on my country visits to the Commission and I am confident that my recommendations along with those of the CEDAW Committee, which was

The Human Rights Council special procedures communication procedure, which also applies to the violence against women mandate, is a crucial mechanism at the international level through which women's rights violations across the globe can be brought to the attention of governments for redress. Unlike the complaint mechanisms attached to some treaty bodies, the special procedures mechanism does not require

Madam Chairperson,

As a rapporteur, I also prepare annual thematic reports for the Human Rights Council that address key issues with respect to women's rights and violence against women. Last year

I have argued that such discourses, whether in the form of cultural relativism or cultural human rights, divert attention from the system of gender inequality that underlie the occurrence of systematic violence against women.

In March of this year, I will be presenting my report on indicators on violence against

women. The report also includes indicators that make the data understandable for non-specialist decision-makers and allow

The report focuses on three types of indicators

namely, grave violence, femicide, the murder of women, and social tolerance with

local and policy frameworks on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and protection, prevention and training. The proposed indicators are rooted in the human rights obligations of States, notably the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Although considerable work needs to be done to move from proposals to implementation,

