

Ms. Maryam Safari

ONG 1

**Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims**

**Item 6: Norway UPR**

Mr. President,

This Institute would like to thank the Norwegian government for its active and full participation and cooperation with the Universal Periodic Review. Violence against women is a global phenomenon which does not recognise social class, race, nationality, religion and ideological beliefs.

According to the Norway's national report, a nation-wide survey conducted in 2005 showed that approximately 9 per cent of women of the age of 15 had been the victims of serious violence perpetrated by their present or former partner once or several times in their lifetime.

Mr. President,

According to the SSB website, in January 2008, the government committee estimated that each year between 8000 and 16000 women fall victims to rape in Norway. These figures show that there are no national comprehensive studies in this regard and only a small portion of the crimes are reported to the police. The lack of comprehensive statistics information of the numbers of rapes and measures taken for the victims shows the lack of prioritisation of dealing with gender based violence for women in Norway.

It is necessary to state that in comparison to other crimes, lesser rape case files are fully investigated. Between 2003 and 2005 thirty-five percent of rape cases were acquitted.

The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims believes that aside from the human costs for women which prevents them to take part in social and public life also weakens the economic welfare of societies, and recommends the following to the Norwegian government:

- To facilitate women's access to the justice system, emergency centres to be set up for abused women in police stations.
- To hold special training courses for the police, judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers, legal advisors and other individuals who deal with abused women.

Thank you