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RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED FORMS OF INTOLERANCE, FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

**Written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
(ODVV), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[18 February 2008]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

According to resolution 60/251 which established the HRC, peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system, interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and form the foundations for collective security and well-being.

In our view, respect for everyone's human rights and protection of the rights of the persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities constitute a firm basis for these 3 pillars and also peaceful coexistence, dialogue, mutual understanding and tolerance among the society and international community.

Today one of the significant manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is Islamophobia. In this regard, adoption of some governmental policies such as anti-terrorism measures has aggravated this situation and has escalated the risk of promoting and legitimizing Islamophobia.

Also the abuse of new communication technologies including the Internet for the purpose of disseminating ideas based on superiority and incitement to racial hatred, is continuing and needs to be managed properly.

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) believes that combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance which affect millions of people who are subjected to the horrors of discriminatory treatment, requires conviction, consistency, perseverance and determination of all members of the international community and also international civil society.

The ODVV renews its commitment to the full implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Durban Declaration and Program of Action.

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