



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/HRC/9/NGO/13
28 August 2008

ENGLISH ONLY

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Ninth session
Agenda item 9

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.

[23 August 2008]

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

The UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 adopted on 15 March 2006, Acknowledges “that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being, and recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,”

The respect of the rights of all humans and the protection of the rights of individuals that belong to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities groups, is the solid foundation and basis for these pillars, and also causes the peaceful coexistence, dialogue, mutual understanding and promotion of tolerance among domestic and international communities.

The preamble of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (GA Resolution 1904, 20 November 1963) states, “*Convinced* that all forms of racial discrimination and, still more so, governmental policies based on the prejudice of racial superiority or on racial hatred, besides constituting a violation of fundamental human rights, tend to jeopardize friendly relations among peoples, co-operation between nations and international peace and security.”

Article 1 of this declaration also states, “Discrimination between human beings on the ground of race, colour or ethnic origin is an offence to human dignity and shall be condemned as a denial of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among nations and as a fact capable of disturbing peace and security among peoples.”

The things that we witness based on the above definition, are new examples in the third millennium further than the discrimination between whites and blacks.

One of the blatant examples of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerances that we see today is the Islamophobia phenomenon. The policies and actions of some governments such as the anti-terror actions of some governments such as the fingerprinting of Muslims at airports in the United States and Europe, the refusal of entrance of Muslim women dressed in the Islamic Hijab to universities and government offices in some countries, have made the conditions worse and the danger of the encouraging and legitimisation of Islamophobic measures have increased.

According to the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the prohibition of racial discrimination has been accepted as an international law standard, and it cannot be violated. Therefore as a legal issue, the fundamental commitment towards fighting racial discrimination is the duty of all states.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action states, emphasizes that “poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and contribute to the persistence of racist attitudes and practices which in turn generate more poverty;”. Therefore the reduction of this phenomenon must not be limited to the legislation of laws, but the serious will of the international community is called for to eradicate the causes and factors of this phenomenon.

In its new procedure the Human Rights Council refers to the fight against racial discrimination and calls upon all states to legislate laws and observe non-racial discrimination.

In his report to the 4th Session of the Human Rights Council, the UN Special Rapporteur on Racism and Racial Discrimination, Mr. Doudou Diène, expressed his concern towards the renewal of racism and xenophobia, which is as a result of reaction towards migration and asylum-seeking, and the punishment of national minorities and insult to religion, particularly towards Islam. The Sixth Session of the Human Rights Council also refers to the phenomenal growth of Islamophobia.

Despite the expression of the abovementioned facts and the adoption of several resolutions and conventions in this regard , we're still witnessing the increase in racial discrimination and racism throughout the world.

As a nongovernmental, nonpolitical human rights organization, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) believes that the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, which have all affected the lives of millions of innocent people, requires a serious, committed and a universal will of all members of the international/human community.

The ODVV also believes that the use of the capabilities of all the international players such as international organizations, governmental organizations and NGOs in the education of the The Durban Declaration and Programme, and the respect and observation of cultural diversity and the establishment of the balance of freedom of religious and expression, can be effective methods to establish better understanding and further cooperation of different cultures and religions.

- - - - -