



**Conseil Économique
et Social**

Distr.
GÉNÉRALE

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/37
14 août 2001

FRANÇAIS
Original: ANGLAIS

COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Sous-Commission de la promotion et de la protection
des droits de l'homme
Cinquante-troisième session
Point 6 de l'ordre du jour

AUTRES QUESTIONS RELATIVES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

Note verbale datée du 10 août 2001 adressée au secrétariat de la Sous-Commission de
la promotion et de la protection des droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente
de l'Iraq auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

La Mission permanente de la République d'Iraq auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations à Genève présente ses compliments au secrétariat de la cinquante-troisième session de la Sous-Commission de la promotion et de la protection des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui communiquer ci-joint le texte de la déclaration de la délégation de la République d'Iraq intitulée «Terrorisme et droits de l'homme».

La Mission permanente de la République d'Iraq saurait gré au secrétariat de la Sous-Commission de bien vouloir faire distribuer cette déclaration* comme document officiel de la cinquante-troisième session de la Sous-Commission au titre du point 6 de l'ordre du jour intitulé: «Autres questions relatives aux droits de l'homme».

* La déclaration est reproduite telle quelle, en arabe et en anglais seulement.

Annex

Human rights and terrorism

Mr. Chairman,

Although terrorism is nothing new, having existed throughout history, in our present day and age its scope has widened, transforming it from local into international terrorism.

The present age of increasing globalization is also an age of increasing decadence, which is undermining social solidarity and inducing extremist groups to intensify their opposition and adopt terrorism as a means to further their interests. The far-reaching revolution in communications, as well as the amazing technological developments and trade liberalization, may also have helped to expand the scope of terrorism notwithstanding the numerous international instruments and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights condemning terrorism as an activity detrimental to human rights and fundamental freedoms. Moreover, the endeavours that have been made to combat terrorism have not yet been sufficiently developed at the international and regional levels. The adoption of unilateral and even bilateral measures may not be enough to counter the threat that is facing the entire world and, therefore, international cooperation and coordination are of considerable, even vital, importance in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Iraq's position on the question of terrorism is illustrated by its signature and ratification of many of the conventions prohibiting terrorism. It has condemned all forms of terrorism and the Iraqi Penal Code promulgated in Act No. 111 of 1969 prescribes severe penalties for the perpetrators of criminal acts of terrorism.

Iraq has called for the formulation of a clear and precise definition of international terrorism which would be acceptable to the international community and has declared itself in favour of the holding of an international conference, under United Nations auspices, to study terrorism and the need to ensure that the right of peoples to self-determination and decolonization through legitimate struggle to achieve their freedom and independence is not confused with any form of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

In the face of the international community's concerns and the dangers that terrorism entails, reference must be made to the modern means, some of which are highly technologically advanced, to which some States resort in order to damage and impair the infrastructures and vital utilities of States for political ends, nor should we forget the operations in which political movements are being funded, supported, armed and encouraged to engage in acts of rebellion and sabotage against, or in the territory of, other States in order to subject them to destabilizing pressures.

In this regard, my country's delegation wishes to point out that Iraq is still being targeted by terrorist groups which are receiving financial and political support from States claiming to be promoters of human rights and democracy, and particularly from the United States of America. It is noteworthy that, in 1998, the United States Congress passed the so-called "Iraq Liberation Act" under which \$97 million were allocated to fund a group of mercenaries, hirelings of the United States intelligence services, so that they could carry out acts of terrorism and sabotage inside Iraq with a view to disrupting its order and security and killing its innocent civilians.

United States and British aircraft are carrying out daily raids and acts of aggression on the pretext of protecting the so-called "air exclusion zones" in northern and southern Iraq where they are targeting peaceful residential areas and destroying civilian infrastructures. As a result of this aerial bombardment of civilian areas, more than 350,000 civilians, mostly women, children and aged persons, have been killed and thousands injured.

The deplorable international terrorism to which the people of Iraq are being subjected by the United States of America and the United Kingdom merits condemnation and a demand for its immediate cessation since it is undermining the international endeavours and resolutions seeking to eliminate the phenomenon of terrorism.

Thank you.
