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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 Elizka Relief Foundation, 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.

[7 February 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



## **Violations Against people of African Descent in the United States of America and European Countries**

Three African players experienced racial abuse on social media after they missed penalty kicks against the Italian national team that caused England to lose the Euro 2020 final, which was a turning point that drew the world's attention to the human rights violations that African people are regularly subjected to. In separate regions of the world, especially in Europe and the United States of America, African people are subjected to a great deal of racist abuse and hate crimes in European societies, particularly in Germany and Spain. Voices of human rights defenders continue to warn of the escalation of the unequal access of African people to economic and social rights in American society, but these voices are not heard. Estimates confirm that students of African descent are three times more likely to be expelled from school than white students and that the wealth of white families is 20 times the wealth of African families. Moreover, The United States of America government acts in an unfair and discriminatory manner with regard to the provision of health services to African citizens compared to other groups of the community. This is in addition to the deterioration of the service infrastructure in African neighborhoods 1. Several facts confirm that the United States of America security services treat African people in a less equitable manner than other classes of society, resulting in many human rights crimes. Accordingly, this report by Elizka Relief Foundation highlights the human rights violations suffered by African people in Europe and the United States of America.

### **Racial abuse against African people in European stadiums**

The fans racial abuses against African players in European stadiums have become the norm, especially when a football team and nation suffers a loss, which reveals the entrenchment of deadly hatred and racism against all African people, regardless of their status in society. No African individual can avoid hateful abuse. In this regard, the England national team player J. B. was subjected to racial abuse on the Instagram in March 2021 because of his African origin. In June 2021, the Italian football player of Ethiopian origin, S. V., committed suicide in his home in southern Italy due to his constant subjection to racial discrimination because of his African origin. Prior to his suicide, S.V. shared a message on social media explaining the suffering that prompted him to end his life.

### **European societies are no longer safe environments for African people**

The abuse faced by African people are no longer confined to European stadium, but they extended to reach the daily practices of ordinary citizens. In Spain, one in three African people is subjected to racial discrimination when searching for residential house 2. Furthermore, the suffering of African people in German society has exacerbated, as they face blatant discrimination in accessing social and economic rights, such as the right to housing and food, in addition to their subjection to widespread racist practices. The best example of such is what a Nigerian man suffer from while having a picnic with his daughter; a woman shouted racist insults at him and spat his face. Although this woman was arrested, many racist crimes are not reported in the country. The security services in various European countries are often involved in systematic violations against African people, which is revealed by the arrest and beating of African teenagers in Milan in June 2021. Therefore, we need to confront crimes of racism and hatred in European societies more than ever before.

### **The situation of people of African descent in the United States of America**

People of African descent face unfair discrimination in accessing economic and social services in American society, in addition to the unequal treatment by the police, which results in human rights crimes, most of which are extrajudicial killings. African people are most likely to suffer from poverty more than others. They also earn lower wages, hold lower skilled positions and do not have access to adequate housing, quality medical care or education. Estimates also indicate that African students are three times more likely to be expelled from

school than white students and white household wealth is 20 times that of African households 3. African women receive a lower wage compared to other groups in American society, even in neighborhoods where there is a large presence of Africans 4. . Furthermore, African families record higher rates than families of different social groups when exposed to natural disasters, epidemics and diseases. For example, 51% of African families lost their homes during the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic, compared to 39% of white families. They also receive less epidemic vaccines than other social groups 5.

Moreover, the police continue to practice extreme violence against African people. In August 2020, a white officer in the Kenosha Police Department shot J. B., an African man, a shot that paralyzed him, which led to the outbreak of protests against this abuse 6. In April 2021, an African individual was killed by a police officer. As a result of the protests, the police officer was taken to court and initially convicted for manslaughter. These examples represent a fraction of the discrimination faced by African people at the hands of the American police.

### **Recommendations:**

Based on the foregoing, Elizka Relief Foundation recommends the following:

- The need to put an end to the widespread racist crimes against African players and for the FA and the FIFA continue their measures to combat this phenomenon.
- The need to eliminate the causes of racial discrimination against African people in European societies.
- The need to provide services in the African neighborhoods in American society.
- The need to train law enforcement officials to respect African people and to investigate all crimes against them to help countering the deep hatred in American society.

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1(RACIAL JUSTICE. <https://bit.ly/3pLWpc8>)

2(Report: Discrimination worsens in Spain. <https://bit.ly/3zjOqWX>)

3(Ibid)

4(Black Women and the Wage Gap. <https://bit.ly/3HqIK1a>)

5(Disparities in Health and Health Care: 5 Key Questions and Answers. <https://bit.ly/3pNF02O>)

6(Timeline: How Law Enforcement Fueled Violence in Kenosha. <https://bit.ly/3eK3zY4>)