



DEFENDERS

SPECIAL ISSUE: 16th HRC

winter 2011



**Human Rights
Violations**

Services to University Students

The ODVV has developed library facilities, especially those who conduct research in the field of human rights.

DEFENDERS

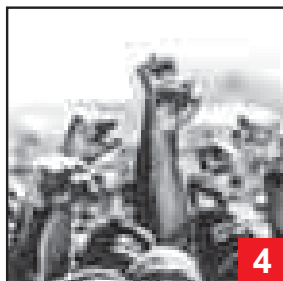


DEFENDERS

SPECIAL ISSUE: 16th HRC - Winter 2011

C o n t e n t s

NGOs
and the United
States UPR



4



8

ODVV Submission for
UPR United States of
America – November
2010

Panel on Human
Rights and
Islamophobia



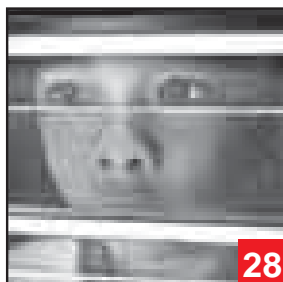
12



20

Panel on the
violation of Human
Rights on the Pretext
of War on Terror

ODVV Written State-
ments Submitted to
the 16th Session of
the HRC



28



40

HUMAN RIGHTS
DEVELOPMENTS

- **Published by:** The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)
- **ODVV Director:** Siavash Rahpeik
- **Defender's Managing Director:** Maghsoud Naeemi Zaker
- **Complied by:** Farzane Mostofi-far
- **Board of editors:** Haroot Azarian, Dr.Mahmoud Reza Golshan Pazhooh, Dr. Mohammad Javad Javid, Stephen Sheehi, Dr. Amir Saeed, Dr. Abbas Ali Kadkhodae Dr. Seyed Bagher Mir Abbasi, Biro Diawara, Majid Feizikhah, Hamideh Aboutorabi.
- **Design:** Mohammad Taheri

The articles and papers published in the Defender,s News-
letter do not necessarily reflect the views of the ODVV.
The Editor welcomes your suggestions and comments on
the articles.

All letters should be addressed to: The Defenders, News-
letter
P.O.BOX 14155/5957 , Tehran-Iran

Tel:+98 21 88 95 49 28

Fax: +98 21 88 96 30 91

Email: int@odvv.org

Website: <http://www.odvv.org>

Those interested in receiving Defenders, Newsletter
should contact the Distribution Section of the ODVV at the
above- mentioned address.

Editorial

The 9th session of the UPR that was held in November last year showed a new chapter in the quality and quantity presence of civil society institutions in the Human Rights Council, a sign of which is the number of NGOs that participated in the presentation of the UPR on the United States of America, and also the sheer volume of sideline events that took place at the time. Perhaps it can be said that the fast growth of the participation of NGOs and national human rights institutions although was due to the importance of the UPR on the USA, but certainly the lasting effect on the volume and quality of the presence and also promotion of the self confidence of civil society institutions for participation in international conferences and presentation of their views. A look at sideline events of the 16th Session shows that this new process is growing and becoming more stable.

As a human rights NGO, the ODVV has over the last decade steadily and actively participated in the Commission on Human Rights and its successor the Human Rights Council sessions. The ODVV will participate with in the 16th Session of the HRC with a busy schedule. This issue of Defenders is dedicated to the upcoming Session and the sideline events that the ODVV is going to hold.

The holding of two technical panels on two current human rights issues, “war on terror and its effects on human rights violations” and religious discrimination one of important examples of which is “Islamophobia”, will be held on 14 and 16 March in the Human Rights Council, with the attendance of Iranian and international experts. For this reason the major part of this issue has been dedicated to the contents of these two panels. Alongside these events as usual the ODVV has also submitted written statements to the Council on items 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9, which have been included in this issue.

Considering the coinciding of the printing of this issue with conclusion of the UPR on the United States, a research article has been written on the volume and quality of the participation of NGOs in the information dissemination process regarding human rights violations in the United States for the UNHCHR stakeholders. While categorising the subjects of human rights violations mentioned by NGOs, the research also does an overall assessment of the quality of the involvement of NGOs in this process. The report that the ODVV submitted to the Council for the United States UPR is also included in this issue of Defenders.

Defenders would like to take this opportunity and call for the assistance and cooperation of all NGO activists and experts by presenting articles and or suggestions to the board of editors.

Editorial



By:Dr. Mahmoud
Reza Golshanpazhooh

The holding of the United States of America's UPR on the fifth of November 2010 was one the turning points in the history of United Nations human rights. On principle the fact that a country such as the United States lets its human rights situation to be investigated by the international community may seem in itself a positive step forward. As we saw in the days following the public release of the United States country report on its human rights conditions, the report itself by America (which according to America's commitments as a state party to the Human Rights Council, is seen as something routine and natural), started many sensational debates within the country. In this article two groups for and against the report present their reasons, the study of which by a foreign observer, particularly a writer like me who's an Iranian and whose country is constantly accuse of grave human rights violations by America and a number of other countries, was something that was very interesting. In this debate those against have 5 main arguments against their government's decision to present a report to the Human Rights Council which are:

NGOs and the United States UPR



a) America itself is a forerunner and flag bearer of human rights and to present a human rights report to an international organization is below America.

b) It is disgraceful to present a report to an institution which has member states with appalling human rights records.

c) In most instances the report has explanatory annotations, accepts shortfalls, and accepts mistakes, none of which are in the interest of US national interests. In this regard critics specifically highlight the differences between the Federal Government and Arizona with regards to the immigration bill, and they call it a domestic dispute which has been dragged into the international arena.

d) Obama believes that contrary to all the realities, by being a member of an international body that its structure can be changed from within, something that is impossible and wrong.

e) The submission of this report is an insult to the people of the United States, where often times the States want more rights from the Federal Government in legislations for their own territories.

Set against this, those that are for the report, see this as a hopeful step towards their government being obliged to improve its human rights conditions. They believe by America shedding its narcissistic mentality towards itself will pave the way for real improvement of conditions and for America to become a genuine role model for other countries. They believe pointing out human rights shortfalls in minorities, racism, unemployment, poverty, homelessness, natives, immigrants, women and children, criminal justice, police treatment and other concerns, not only speak truths, but bring about an opportunity for American authorities to while learning about their weaknesses, to pave the way for improvements.

The US official country report was presented to the Council on its UPR day. The thing that is as significant as this is the sheer number of NGOs that were present on the day. Several months



Nevertheless it seems that the reflection levels of NGOs views towards the existing human rights shortfalls in America was in displayed proportionately in the final report. And this is perhaps why a large number of NGOs sent their views in the form of written reports to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

prior to compiling its report the US Government had undertaken to hold several meetings with NGOs and civil society institutions in various States to be better informed of human rights violation cases, and resulted in the writers of the country report to be faced with a vast amount of demands and requests. Nevertheless it seems that the reflection levels of NGOs views towards the existing human rights shortfalls in America was in displayed proportionately in the final report. And this is perhaps why a large number of NGOs sent their views in the form of written reports to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. A summary of these reports which ultimately made in 10 pages regarding Us Stakeholders was presented to the UNHCHR. It has interesting statistics of the participation and more importantly the views and assessment of the American civil society institutions of the real human rights situation of their country.

This report which was published on UNHCHR website on 20 August 2010 is a summary and summing up of the written observations of 103 American governmental and nongovernmental organizations with regards to the human rights situation. This number in comparison with 235 NGOs report on Cuba and the 70 on the UPR on Iran seems to be pretty proportionate. Neverthe-

less the interesting point was the main volume of these organizations (around 77) were American based in the United States, 10 from Iraq, 5 from Switzerland, 2 from the United Kingdom, 2 from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and one from Belgium which were the stakeholders in preparing material for the report to the UNHCHR.

The presentation of report in a partnership was very highlighted in this session, almost 25 reports were prepared by 2 or even 10 NGOs.

In the collective of the reports there were a number of important and common points with regards to the real human rights situation in the United States. These points which are ten in all are as follows:

- Several references are made about the United States not being party to human rights mechanisms and conventions that include: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child (only the United States and Somalia have not joined the convention), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the US government has signed the Convention but not ratified it), International Convention for the Protection of all Individuals against Enforced Disappearances, the International Criminal Court statute (Rome Statute), the Vienna Treaties Laws Convention, American Commission on Human Rights, and other regional mechanism, International Convention in Support of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families, the Cluster Bombs Ban Treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty), ILO conventions, and finally the first and second protocols to the Geneva Conventions.

- Following 9/11 the United States passed four acts that are contrary to human rights principles which are: the Patriot Act, the Real ID Act, the Clear Act and the Military Commission Act. American NGOs believe that these acts define

terrorism in a very fluid and exploited way. These acts give US security officials to violate the rights and fundamental freedoms of the citizen extensively. Instances such as the confiscation of property or indefinite shutting down of some charity organizations suspected of terrorist activities, excessive surveillance operations, indefinite and without being charged detentions, the existence of a vast network of secret detention centres inside and outside the country, and the holding of military tribunals to try civilians were all some of the criticisms that NGOs highlighted in their reports as US laws shortfalls.

- The NGOs raised United States violations of the international standards set for capital punishment, such as the execution of mentally ill criminals, execution of under 18 year olds, discrimination and arbitrary execution of people based on race and their economic levels, being kept in death row for a long time.

- US government's violation of human rights which have been raised by NGOs include many cases of violation of the Geneva Four Conventions and their protocols, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan and also military operations in Pakistan. Numerous International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Torture Ban Committee and other international human rights institutions are all full of documented cases of the United States government violating rights during armed conflict.

- The United States government human rights violations with regards to prison conditions and how prisoners and detainees are treated, which in a lot of cases has resulted in death. Excessive use of force by prison guards such as using solitary confinement, the use of guard dogs to hurt the prisoners, sleep deprivation, death threats, the use of prohibited methods of interrogation, exploitation of women prisoners, improper keeping of prisoners which are dangerous, are all cases that NGOs have claimed in their report to the UNHCHR.

- The United States government human rights violations with regards to economic, social and cultural rights that include the unprecedented rise in the number of homeless in the American society, the treatment of migrants, lack of safety for the general public, not observing public health principles, the weakening of the family's foundation, the continuation of the deprivations of people that live in natural disaster hit areas, lack of access of a part of America's society to enough food, the rising unemployment particularly following the recent economic crisis.

- The human rights situation in the United States with regards to the unpleasant conditions of some refugees and migrants. There are several reports of deaths of illegal migrants who were trying to cross the borders into the United States from land and water, and also the inhuman and bad conditions that migrant workers are kept in, as well as the unpleasant human trafficking phenomenon, alongside the discrimination against migrants and denying them access to fair justice are all put in the NGO report to the UNHCHR.

- The shortfalls in the elections system of the United States and presentation of examples of human rights violations of individuals in complex and specific processes.

- The United States government discrimination against minorities and natives. In this regard, many NGOs point out the unpleasant conditions and blatant inequality in areas such as housing, employment, education, health and medical treatment, and even justice system's discrimination.

- The final point includes the vast number of criticisms towards the justice system in the United States which are seen in the laws and the application of the laws. In their reports many NGOs referring to evidence claimed the criminal justice system of America is unfair and discriminatory, particularly the existence of different criminal laws in different states which have different sentences for the same crime.

Assessment

Approximately from ten months prior to the UPR on the United States, through various campaigns and setting up an internet network, the American NGOs began work on collecting documents and information about human rights violations in the country. Perhaps in view of the quality and quantity of the reports submitted by these organizations – university experts such as Berkley and the Native Americans Programme of Arizona University – this claim can be made that the reports collective draws an accurate, real and unbiased picture of the human rights conditions in the United States. Aside from the fact that United States always wants to introduce herself as a main example of the promoter of human rights in the world, it seems that for the first time nongovernmental organizations, particularly American ones, found the opportunity like the little hero in Hans Christian Anderson's book the Emperor's New Clothes can daringly say: the Emperor has no Clothes!





ODVV Submission for UPR United States of America – November 2010

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence [ODVV] is a non-governmental, non-profit Organization based in Iran [Tehran] since 1988, in Special Consultative Status to the ECOSOC, active in different fields of human rights and humanitarian activities. The Organization is an associate NGO to the United Nations Department of Public Information [UNDPI], and cooperates, in a variety of issues with the local and international NGOs. During the last years, ODVV has actively participated in different HRC sessions and has delivered numerous oral and written submissions in council.

This report has been provided by ODVV according to sections C and D as stipulated in the General Guidelines for the Preparation of Information under the Universal Periodic Review.

C. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the Ground

Torture, Cruel, inhuman and other ill-treatment

1. ODVV is deeply concerned about numerous incidents of torture and other cruel behavior in the guise of War on Terror. As reiterated in the report of the committee against torture, notwithstanding the statement by the State party that “every act of torture within the meaning of the Convention is illegal under existing federal and/or state law”, the Committee reiterates the concern with regard to the absence of a federal crime of torture, consistent with article 1 of the Convention, given that sections 2340 and 2340 A of the United States Code limit federal criminal jurisdiction over acts of torture to extraterritorial cases. ODVV also regrets that, despite the occurrence of cases of extraterritorial torture of detainees, no prosecutions have been initiated under the extraterritorial criminal torture statute.

2. ODVV is also concerned by allegations that the US has established secret detention facilities, especially in Afghanistan (in Bagram air base & near Kabul) which are not accessible to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Detainees are allegedly deprived of fundamental legal safeguards, including an oversight mechanism in regard to their treatment and review procedures with respect to their detention. Unfortunately, the “no comment” policy of the US administration regarding the existence of such secret detentions has hindered any act to resolve this situation.

3. According to the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions there is now no doubt that detainees at Guantanamo were subjected to torture and coercion; senior Government officials have publicly admitted as much and non-governmental organizations and counsel for individual detainees have provided credible accounts of cruelty and mistreatment.

4. According to the first National Survey of Youth in Custody, released by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1 in 10 youth in state juvenile facilities and large non-state facilities reported sexual victim-



ization by staff. In the very worst facilities, 20 to more than 30 percent of all youth reported abuse.

Discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion and etc

1. The overlap between poverty and race in the United States creates structural problems that go far beyond patterns of income. Rather, it interacts with a number of mutually reinforcing factors, such as poor educational attainment, low-paying wages and inadequate housing, which create a vicious cycle of marginalization and exclusion of minorities. The overrepresentation of minorities in inferior schools, more vulnerable neighborhoods, the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system are to a large extent linked to their overall socio-economic situation. At the same time, these trends also contribute to reinforce prejudices and stereotypes, such as an association of minorities to criminality or to poor educational performance.

2. ODVV is concerned of Instances of direct discrimination and concrete racial bias which still exist and are most pronounced with regards to law enforcement agencies. As it mentioned in 2009 Report of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Despite the clear illegality of racial profiling under the fourteenth amendment, recent evidence shows practices that still prevail in law enforcement, such the disparity in the rate of arrests of minority and white drivers stopped by the police.

In the educational system, evidence also shows racial bias in the type of disciplinary action given to white or minority students. In the justice system, evidence of racial bias in conviction rates and length of sentences of both juvenile and criminal courts exist. ODVV is concerned of direct discrimination which is found in many studies that used paired testing techniques, particularly in the areas of housing and employment. While these cases do not directly involve discrimination by state agents, strong enforcement of human rights is required.

3. The U.S. minority groups face discriminations in education. According to a report issued by the U.S. Bureau of Census in 2009, 33 percent of the non-Hispanic white has college degrees, proportion of the black was only 20 percent and Hispanic was 13 percent.

4. ODVV has been informed that in United States ethnic hatred crimes are frequent. According to statistics released by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation on November 23, 2009, a total of 7,783 hate crimes occurred in 2008 in the United States, 51.3 percent of which were originated by racial discrimination and 19.5 percent were for religious bias and 11.5 percent were for national origins. Among those hate crimes; more than 70 percent were against black people. In 2008, anti-black offenses accounted for 26 persons per 1,000 people, and anti-white crimes accounted for 18 persons per 1,000 people.

5. As indicated in the Report of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial



Disproportionately poor, unemployed, incarcerated, victimized by crime, by every measure, even in mortality Indigenous Peoples in the United States continue to rank at the bottom of every scale of economic and social well-being

Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (April 2009), in 2005, African Americans comprised nearly 42 percent of the number of death row inmates but only around 12 percent of the general population. The key factor that shows evidence of racial bias in the death penalty, according to many organizations, is the race of the victim. Nationwide, even though the absolute number of murders of blacks and whites is similar, some 80 percent of people on death row have been convicted of crimes against white victims.

6. Women have difficulties in finding a job and suffer from low income and poor financial situations. According to statistics from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), workplace discrimination charge filings with the federal agency nationwide rose to 95,402 during Fiscal Year 2008, a 15 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. Charge of workplace discrimination because of a job applicant's sex maintained a high proportion.

7. According to statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau in September 2009, the median incomes of full-time female workers in 2008 were 35,745 U.S. dollars, 77 percent of those of corresponding men whose median earnings were 46,367 U.S. dollars, which is lower than the 78 percent in 2007. ODVV is especially concerned that these women in US have no legal guarantee of paid parental leave.

8. As confirmed by report of the special rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, throughout the history of the United States, many different kinds of non-citizens have been made subject to mandatory detention. People with lawful permanent resident status (or green card holders), including those who

have lived lawfully in the United States for decades, are subject to deportation. So are other legal immigrants - refugees, students, business people, and those who have permission to remain because their country of nationality is in the midst of war or a humanitarian disaster. Undocumented non-citizens are also subject to mandatory detention and deportation regardless of whether they have committed a crime.

Right to life of Indigenous People

1. The United States perpetuates a constitutional and legal system that legitimizes discriminatory practices towards Indigenous Peoples by failing to protect their rights to property, religious freedom and practice, despoiling spiritually significant areas, denying Indigenous Peoples' control and management of resources and self-determination even on their own lands. ODVV is deeply concerned on situations that the federal government, acting through Congress and the executive, continues to take tribal lands and resources, in many cases without payment and without any legal remedy for the tribes.

Congress frequently deals with Indian property and Indian claims by enacting legislation that would be forbidden by the Constitution if it affected anyone else's property or claims. Because of the federal government's essentially limitless power and constant intrusion under the plenary power doctrine, Indian governments cannot function properly to govern their lands or to carry out much-needed economic development. Constantly under threat of termination or worse, this denial of simple justice has long served to deprive Indigenous Nations of a fair opportunity to advance the interests of their communities. No others in the country are in such an untenable and insecure position. Disproportionately poor, unemployed, incarcerated, victimized by crime, by every measure, even in mortality Indigenous Peoples in the United States continue to rank at the bottom of every scale of economic and social well-being.

Right to Adequate Housing

1. In 2007, about 22 per cent of the 36.9 million rental households in the United States were spending more than half their income on rental costs. At the same time, about 8.8 million renter house-



US should prepare any necessary grounds to limit and define exactly the legal term of “Torture” to prevent any current and future misuse of this inhuman act in its judicial system

holds with low incomes were spending more than half of their income for housing. The number of households facing serious affordability constraints increased by 33 per cent between 2000 and 2007, and the poorest and most vulnerable people face the heaviest burdens in terms of housing costs. Nearly two thirds of the low-income households that face severe housing-cost burdens have family members who are children, elderly, or persons with disabilities.¹³ About 12.7 million children – more than one in six – in the United States live in households spending more than half their incomes on housing.

2. ODVV has been informed that on October 2008, 12-state survey revealed that a growing number of families with children in US were becoming homeless. In the period from June 2007 to the same month in 2008 the number of requests for shelter doubled. In March 2009, it was reported that one in every nine U.S. mortgage-holders was behind on home loan payments or in some stage of foreclosure at the end of 2008, as mounting job losses exacerbated the housing crisis. More than 2.3 million homes were seized during 2008, an increase of 81% from 2007 and up 225% from 2006.

Right to Employment

1. Since December 2007, the estimated number of unemployed people has risen to 13.1 million – 5.6 million more than at the start of the recession. In this regard, ODVV concerns that minorities situation are worse and they have been disproportionately affected by declining employment prospects. As of March 2009, unemployment among blacks, Hispanic and white populations increased by 4.4%,

5.2% and 3.5%, respectively, reflecting longstanding trends in inequality, particularly in the areas of education, employment and access to justice. As of June 30, 2009 these increases were reflected in national unemployment rates that stood at 14.7%, 12.2% and 7.8%.

2. ODVV believes the unemployment crisis underscores the reality of a system that does not recognize or guarantee essential social or economic rights. Because access to education, food, health-care and housing are generally a function of one’s access to a job, being unemployed has tremendous repercussions on an individual or family’s ability to access basic necessities. The U.S. has the second lowest unemployment benefits among OECD countries; almost two-thirds of these offer double or more unemployment benefits – plus social assistance – than does the U.S.

D. Recommendations for action by the state under review

1. The United States has an obligation under international law to provide detainees with fair trials that afford all essential judicial guarantees. ODVV believes that no state may derogate from this obligation, regardless of whether persons are to be tried for crimes allegedly committed during peace or armed conflict.

2. US should prepare any necessary grounds to limit and define exactly the legal term of “Torture” to prevent any current and future misuse of this inhuman act in its judicial system.

3. There is now no doubt that detainees at Guantanamo were subjected to torture and coercion; senior government officials have publicly admitted as much and non-governmental organizations and counsel for individual detainees have provided credible accounts of cruelty and mistreatment. ODVV recommends that US administrative formally accept its responsibility in this regard and after closing Guantanamo camps as soon as possible, tries to compensate the victims in an appropriate manner.

4. US administration should pay more attention on rising events of Islamophobia in this country and tries to increase the level of religious tolerance in its society.

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence intends to hold 2 sidelines panels during the 16th Session of Human Rights Council, on Islamophobia and war on terror. The following are summaries of articles that are going to be submitted in these panels by the panellists:



Panel on Human Rights and Islamophobia

Islamophobia and the Right to Morality in the West

Islamophobia is a phenomenon that is a discrimination against Muslims and negative propaganda and creation of hatred against them. This stance against Muslim minorities in the west at times results in open hatred towards Islam which is due to the aggressive approaches that exist, particularly within the media. Islamophobia



By: Dr. Mohammad Javad Javid

is what the western governments have made up and want, just like the term anti-Semitism is credited to the West. Considering this presumption, it must also be presumed that unlike the latter terminology, the former is not a type of casual approach and a protective umbrella for a religious minority group in the West but on the contrary Islamophobia in concept and practice is a nega-



tive approach in the way of the development of Islam and Muslims with a focus in Europe and some Western countries has been escalated.

It must be considered that Islam is a religion in which privacy and publicly it is very intertwined. Taking a look at Islamic laws it becomes clear that being religious in Islam cannot just be limited to privacy. Particularly when studying Islamic criminal laws shows that more than 90 percent of Islamic punishments are for Muslims who commit crimes in the public sector. And in line with that, the religious values in the social arena is not only not weakened but on the contrary is very sensitive. The failure to understand the situation of practicing Muslims has unfortunately over the last two decades resulted in Muslims being discriminated against and their religion defamed in the west, and over the last year this has been unprecedented. It is unprecedented because discrimination and inhuman treatment is taking place in societies that see themselves as the flag bearers of human rights and religious freedom in the world France, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and the United States openly on the excuse of protection of human rights they have all violated the human rights of their Muslim citizens. Muslim minorities in West and particularly today's Europe have fallen victim to the silence holocaust, where no kind of justice apart from the exploitation of western human rights principles takes place.

Reports indicate that the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights in often cases dismissing Muslim plaintiffs in favour of governments. The majority discriminations are in contrast to universal human rights principles and the constitutions of European countries regarding freedom of religion and worship in society. This article attempts to show how Muslims' religious beliefs and their codes such as the Hijab are considered as part of the religious conscience of Muslims, which cannot be forced on one and neither can it be forcefully prohibited.

Recently despite the confessions of relevant legal centres, these sorts of discriminatory laws are being adopted in today's Europe. Perhaps there is still no proper understanding of Islam and Is-



lamic beliefs. Perhaps there is a mix up between Islamic beliefs and Christianity and Judaism in the West, and perhaps mostly Islam is thought of in a negative way. Therefore this article insists on the belief that Islamophobia and its continuation is the result of a form of slackness within western governments in not doing anything about defamatory and inhuman treatment of Islam and the Muslim community in the west. These types of treatments are often in the shape of: spreading hatred against Muslims, promoting national identity against religious identity, refusing to put a distinction between terrorism and Islam, promotion of Islamophobia, portraying Muslims as aliens or foreigners, the preferential definition and application of human rights and democracy. In any event, what is certain is that until such time when a Muslim citizen in the west lives in fear because of his religion, this assumption arises that European governments illegally and through their actions in inactions help fuel the Islamophobia notion by escalating crises such as the Hijab, Muslims' employment and education, and remaining silent towards those that defame and insult Islam. And these measures are contrary to human principles and international documents.



The Media and its Role in the Promotion in Islamophobia

By: Dr. Amir Saeed
Department of Media and Cultural Studies
University of Sunderland

“With skilful manipulating of the press, they’re able to make the victim look like the criminal, and the criminal look like the victim.”

Malcolm X

February 14th 1965 Speech

Los Angeles Times 18th of September 2006

The truth is that there is every reason to believe that a terrifying number of the world’s Muslims now view all political and moral questions in terms of their affiliation with Islam. This leads them to rally to the cause of other Muslims no matter how sociopathic their behavior. This benighted religious solidarity may be the greatest problem facing civilization...

(Harris, 18/09/06)

Introduction.

On September 11 2001 (commonly referred to as “9/11”), four commercial aircrafts were hijacked and crashed into symbolically targeted buildings in the heart of the USA: the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York and the

Pentagon. These attacks promulgated the American government in conjunction with its allies to engage in a global “war on terror”. The Western media followed suit to cover the attacks as “war”. This ‘war’ that commenced in September 2001 is prevalent 10 years on.

The media played a major role in information and dis-information dissemination post 9/11 especially in its constructions of Islam, Muslim and so called Islamic terrorism. To highlight the importance of these misrepresentations it will look at how anti-Muslim sentiment has spread across Europe and give media examples of how European media continually attempt to misrepresent Islam. It will be suggested that much of this moral panic around Islam is created due to the commercial nature of the corporate media in the West (Karim, 2002; Saeed, 2004). The paper will be grounded in academic theory but will attempt to stress the practical and social/cultural implications of these misrepresentations namely increased racism faced by Muslim communities especially in the West.

“Clash of Civilizations” or War for Profit?

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the US on September 11th 2001, a long-standing preoc-

cupation with the problem of Islam resurfaced in much Western culture. (Said,1978, 1981, 1985) Drawing upon Samuel Huntington's theory of a 'clash of civilisations' was the idea that Islam posed a threat to the enlightened Western way of life, its culture and its values. In the days, weeks, months and years after 9/11 this anti-Islamic discourse acquired new efficacy particularly among politicians, journalists and commentators in the US and the UK.

Huntington's thesis, which first appeared in 1993 under the title 'Clash of Civilizations?' became an instant bestseller post-9/11 (albeit in full-length book form and minus the question mark). It could be argued that the mainstream media in the West have adopted Huntington's argument into the classical Orientalist framework of "Us and Them." Nevertheless the danger inherent in Huntington's tendency to divide the world into 'the West and the rest' was perhaps more evident in the foreboding conclusion to his book *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World* (1996):

The underlying problem for the West is not Islamic fundamentalism. It is Islam, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the Superiority of their culture and are obsessed with the inferiority of their power. (cited in Sardar& Davies 2002)

The 'Clash of Civilisations' discourse was to become a key ideological component of the explanatory framework established to justify the War on Terrorism launched by the Bush administration in September 2001. For example sixty prominent academics, led by Huntington, ThedaSkocpol, Michael Waltzer, Francis Fukiyama and Amitai-Etzioni, have signed a 10-page petition endorsing the war on terrorism on the grounds that it defended 'American values', 'our way of life', and the 'achievements of civilization'.

It is in this context of the War on Terror – which saw the US and the UK invade and occupy Afghanistan and then Iraq; continually support Israel; and detain (often without trial) Muslims suspected of terrorism-related offences either at home or in Guantanamo Bay –that has come to be seen by some Muslims as a war on Islam.



The underlying problem for the West is not Islamic fundamentalism. It is Islam, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the Superiority of their culture and are obsessed with the inferiority of their power

Clearly such policies had a disproportionate effect on Islamic people across the world and were accompanied by an upsurge in anti-Muslim rhetoric in the USA, UK and elsewhere.

The Imperial discourse of "West and Rest"

Ideologically, these constructions can be traced back the expansion of Western imperialism where a dichotomy of 'West' versus 'East' was constructed (Said 1978).

The forces of Western globalisation occupy and re-invent cultures and discourses of racial superiority in order to safeguard the economic interest of power. Thus economic group such as the IMF, WTO, G8 etc are seen as almost preserving white cultural domination through economic subjugation. This ideology at times is clear and brutal but is maintained through hegemonic control. Thus the privileged position of the Western nations is seen as natural and due to greater political pluralism and democracy not the continued exploitation of other parts of the world or other peoples. Thus the invasion of Iraq mirrors this process. Bush/Blair were bringing 'democracy' to Iraq in much the same manner that missionaries brought civilisation to the 'dark' parts of the world in the age of empire. 'Race' and imperialist thinking

here is intrinsic but not overt.

Media Examples

Various studies have examined the specific relationship between media and Islam (Ahmed 1993; Runnymede Trust 1997); the representations of Muslim minorities in the West (Allen 2005; Poole 2002) and other on Muslims/Islam in the global media (Poole and Richardson 2006; Zelizer and Allan 2002).

These findings that assert that the media overwhelmingly associate Muslims/Islam with negative connotations have been reproduced in research throughout Western media. Karim (2002) notes that negative and distorted images of Islam dominated US media since the Iranian revolution of 1979. The Council on American Islamic Relations (2002) noted that media distortion of Islam had led to an increased number of 'hate crimes' on Muslims throughout the USA. Gerges (1999, 51) notes:

"According to Professor Richard Bulliet of Columbia University, Americans have quite readily accepted the notion that acts of violence committed by some Muslims are representative of a fanatic and terroristic culture."

Allen and Neilsen (2002, 47), on research on the 15 European Union states, summarises that "The media's role cannot be overlooked, and it has been identified as having an inherent negativity towards Muslims and Islam."

Likewise

'The U.N. Commission on Human Rights... expressed... "deep concern that Islam is frequently and wrongly associated with human rights violations and with terrorism."' (Black Journalism Review, 2004).

Islamophobia

Elizabeth Poole (2002) describes how this contemporary manifestation of this Orientalist discourse and constructions of the 'other' as mentioned previously has been defined as 'Islamophobia'.

The word 'Islamophobia' has been coined

because there is a new reality which needs naming: anti-Muslim prejudice has grown so considerably and so rapidly in recent years that a new item in the vocabulary is needed. (Runnymede Trust 1997, 4)

It could be argued that Islamophobia came about because of a desire, by Western powers, to prolong the ideology of white supremacy:

[...] claims that Islam is totally different and other often involve stereotypes and claims about 'us' (non-Muslims) as well as about 'them' (Muslims), and the notion that 'we' are superior. 'We' are civilised, reasonable, generous, efficient, sophisticated, enlightened, non-sexist. 'They' are primitive, violent, irrational, scheming, disorganised, oppressive.

(The Runnymede Trust 1997, 6)

In order to show how these media representations of Islam and Muslims are highlighted in the Western media the paper will look at how the American media debated the proposed building of a Muslim mosque near ground zero and how even the Christian President of the USA (Barack Obama) was the subject of anti-Muslim sentiment.

In conclusion, this article has attempted to show that the media constructs ethnic minorities as the 'other'. This construction is rooted in ideological thought (Orientalism) and manifests itself in a 'new racist' thinking (Islamophobia) that suggests that Muslims (regardless if they are fundamentalists or not) are still tied to 'foreign' culture (backward?) of Islam.

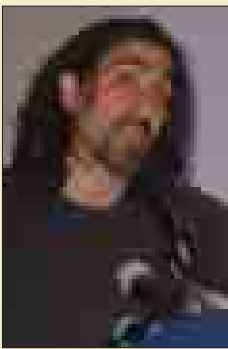
The role of the media and elite powers such as the USA/UK in representing Muslims/Islam is crucial to how Muslims are treated as world citizens.

Cottle (2000, 2) eloquently summarises the connection between representations and belonging,

It is in and through representations, for example, that members of the media audience are variously invited to construct a sense of who 'we' are in relation to who 'we' are not, whether as 'us' and 'them', 'insider' and 'outsider' ... 'the west' and the 'rest'.



American Islamophobia as a Cultural Ideology



By: Dr. Stephen Sheehi - University of South Carolina, USA

Islamophobia is not a political ideology in itself nor is it an isolated dogma just as Islam itself is not a political ideology. Islamophobia does not have a platform or even a political vision. Islamophobia is something more substantive, abstract, sustained, ingrained and prevalent. Islamophobia is an ideological formation. This does not mean that it is the purview of any particular political party. Rather, an ide-

ological formation is created by a culture that deploys particular tropes, analyses and beliefs, as facts upon which governmental policies and social practices are framed. Islamophobia appears as a new ideological formation that has taken full expression since the collapse of the Soviet Union. It does not originate in one particular administration, thinker, philosopher, activist, media outlet, special interest group, think tank, or even economic sector or industry though indeed, these actors are collectively responsible for the virulent dissemination of anti-Muslim and anti-Arab stereotypes and beliefs, circulated in order to naturalize and justify US global, economic and political hegemony. The Bush administration officials and supporters unabashedly wore its disdain for Muslims and Arabs on its sleeve from the first day of the administration. Much to the embarrassment of progressive Americans, the Obama administration (and before it that of Clinton) is rife with Islamophobic paradigms and acts that couple with a similarly imperial American

outlook. Indeed, we have witnessed the unprecedented mainstreaming of Islamophobia since 9/11. An extremist flake such as Robert Spencer, for example, has authored two vitriolic, racist screeds on Islam that became New York Times bestsellers while Bruce Bawer's incendiary and hackneyed *The Enemy Within* was nominated by the prestigious National Book Critics Circle for the best book of criticism.

Rather than understanding Islamophobia as a series of actions and beliefs that target Muslims and arise from a generic misunderstanding of who Muslims are and what Islam is, it is an ideological phenomenon which exists to promote political and economic goals, both domestically and abroad. The effects of Islamophobia can be a series of acts institutionalized by the United States government ranging from war to programmatic torture to extrajudicial kidnappings, incarcerations and executions to surveillance and entrapment. The effects of Islamophobia are experienced in the daily lives of Muslims who encounter harassment, discrimination and hate speech in the street, anti-Muslim rants on nationally syndicated television and radio shows, and hate acts such as mosque bombings. These effects, however, will only be understood as scattered albeit tangentially related acts if they are not seen to be located in a complete paradigm or discourse of Islamophobia that permeates American culture and society.

The fact that we today are still discussing "what is Islam," who are Muslims, "why do they hate us," and so forth is shocking especially as scholarship of eminent Orientalists such as Jacques Berques, Maxime Rodinson and Albert Hourani demolished the idea of Islam as a singular religion without any internal variations between

peoples, times, and geographies. Too many good studies of Islam have been published to justify what continues to be not an inquiry but an inquisition into Muslim identity and faith. Such a phenomenon indicates that Islam is not only a religious practice but that, in the global era, it has taken on a larger status—particularly in light of the fact that Islamist forces seem to be offering the primary resistance to the direct incursion of American or proxy forces into the Muslim homelands. Arguably as a result, Islam has been involved in the formation of Muslim “identity politics” in the post-industrial era. However, Islam as an identity marker means different things for different people in different places. For example, for all its obsession with the “veil,” the media and mainstream commentators have ignored the contexts of why and when Muslim women wear the Hijab. Had they asked why Egyptian women might have adopted it under the rule of an authoritarian “secular” regime, they might have better understood the mass uprising against that regime in the January 25th Revolution.

Just as Islam takes on meanings within a construct of identity politics informed by local political and social contexts and conditions, Islamophobia is deployed with particular ideological intent and effects that differ depending on specific and varying social, political, historical and economic conditions. It is not a universal condition or a monolithic ideological construct. For example, European and American Islamophobias are two separate socio-political phenomena just as I would argue that right wing Christian Arab Islamophobia, whether expressed by Maronites, Orthodox, Chaldeans or Copts, is a separate phenomenon. Likewise, while equally abhorrent, a mosque burning in Indonesia and a mosque attack in the United States or Germany are not the same ideological act. The tradition of North American Islamophobia differs from its European counterpart. Recent European documentaries like the BBC’s “Generation Jihad” exude anxiety that arises from Britain’s colonial past. Muslim immigrants are seen as a pariah community, whose anti-assimilationist philosophy makes them vulnerable to the threat of “Islamic” radicalization. Europe’s fear of Muslims is rooted in its paternalism towards non-Western peoples at a time when that unchallenged paternalistic authority no longer exists. The colonial centers have always had historical discomfort with interacting with brown people as equals, especially those they presented themselves as mandated to civilize. But also, European Islamophobia finds its origins in the anxiety about and hatred of its own European others, namely European

Jewry. Hence, in the post-Holocaust and post-Israel era, Europe’s propensity to anti-Semitism and its hatred of Jews was displaced onto its new Muslim immigrants. Additionally, the displacement of anti-Semitism onto Muslim communities in Europe is a transposition of feelings of loss, resentment, and anger that the former imperial powers of Europe no longer enjoy their global empires while still having to bear the social, cultural and economic burden and responsibility of their colonial past. As a consequence, the rise of Islamophobia in Europe has expressed itself in terms of fears of the “Islamification” of Europe, the degeneration of institutionalized secularism, the bankrupting of the welfare state and the “demographic bomb.”

Likewise, understanding Islamophobia as an ideological formation within the context of American Empire allows us to remove it from the hands of “culture” or from the myth of a single creator or progenitor, whether it be a person, organization or community. Islamophobia as an ideological formation must be distinguished from previous forms of racism and bigotry, including Orientalism. This, however, does not exonerate Orientalism and previous versions of Arab-hating from their pernicious past. Indeed, Orientalism has existed since the dawn of the colonial era. Edward Said’s monumental work reveals how the Orient and the “Oriental” subject were constructed through scholarship in the colonial metropolises. The scholarship set the discursive foundation for the justification of colonialism, for the civilizing mission, for colonial policies and for the reorganization of the Arab world. Said shows us that Orientalism is not a unified, seamless, and timeless phenomenon. With the transformations of geo-political and economic conditions, it has experienced many variations and modulations.

Orientalism does not involve a hate of the East although many Orientalists have had disdain for Arabs. In fact, many Orientalists were Arabophiles. Orientalism, instead, pervaded the thinking of the West as it structured the way in which “we” think about the East. It created the East, the Muslim world, the Middle East, and the Orient as objects of study, objects of control, objects of reform, fantasy, fascination and disdain. It created the East to distinguish the West from their neighbouring, Semitic Others.

Hollywood shows us how fear and hatred of Muslims was really one more variation of racist hatred of Arabs. Since the dawn of cinema, Arabs have always been exoticized. They were dashing Bedouins, oversexed barbarian camel jockeys, noble savages. Eventually the represen-

tations of Arabs would change into secular, radical leftist extremists, Communist allies, or oil-shaykhs. In the 1980s, the images were slowly transformed into those of the Muslim-Arab extremists, which still were contrasted by Rambo's heroic Muslim mujahidin. Arab-Americans, both Muslim and Christian, have always been cognizant of these representations and scholars have published many good studies regarding the stereotypes of Arabs in Hollywood, print and TV. But more important than studying the pernicious stereotypes of Arabs, works such as *Covering Islam* or *Epic Encounters* have shown the direct ideological effects and the intent of the deployment of Arab demonization. The insights of the study of Orientalism and the stereotyping and profiling of Arabs provide us with the tools to understand how Islamophobia serves similar ends for American political designs. Orientalism is however not the same as Islamophobia. Islam was but one cultural, even racial, trait considered in a larger protocol of studying and defining the Arab Orient. Orientalism's paradigms are fundamentally ethnically and racially oriented. In this respect, Arabs, Persians, and Turks are seen as distinct groups. According to eminent founding Orientalists such as Ernest Renan, that they are all Muslims is practically a historical vagary. With the fall of the Soviet Union and the rise of the United States as the unchallenged global hegemony, the pre-existing forms of Orientalism and Arabophobia were blended into new forms of political Islamophobia. Indeed, Arabs (both in North America, Europe and the Arab world) are still identified as the source of all things malevolent within Islam. However, the difference between previous strains of Orientalism and contemporary Islamophobia is that the sins of Arab Muslims are now visited on all Muslims. Now all Muslims are saddled with the failures, irrationalism, and backwardness that Orientalists previously defined as particular to the Semitic Arab culture and history. Islamophobia in North America is Orientalism on steroids and upgraded to its new post-modern 3.0 version. Where previously brown Arabs were the pariah, the view of Muslims has been integrated into America's racial unconscious. Black Muslims have long been targeted and stereotyped by mainstream America, despite the fact that Black Muslim organizations, including the Nation of Islam, have diligently worked for the empowerment of impoverished black communities and have been at the forefront of fighting against the infiltration of drugs, alcohol and gang activity in their communities. Black Muslim organizations and individuals have been a self-

policing and self-educating force in African American communities and also a positive presence in the "rehabilitation" of many in the prisons where Black Americans are disproportionately represented. Previously, the demonization of Black Muslims was linked to the demonization of the Black power movement. It came as a reaction against any successful empowerment of Black people who overtly refused assimilation and whitewashing as a solution to historic racist inequities. However, more recently, mainstream America has begun to demonize Black Muslims as a potentially seditious minority within a minority. In particular, journalists, pundits and activists have created the image that America's prison system is the epicentre for the radicalization of Black America. Indeed, the thought does not occur to these commentators that no such threat would exist if the United States did not lock up one out of every eight black men in their 20s. Rather, the assertion in mainstream criminology venues is that America's gulags are now a recruiting and training hub for radical Islam. Even the Rand Corporation has issued a report warning of the dangers of radicalization of Black inmates inside America's prisons. The way in which the threat of Black liberation is folded into the threat of Muslim conquest speaks to the racial anxiety that underlies Islamophobia. After all, the first Muslims in the United States were African slaves. Several powerful studies have demonstrated that the historic journey of Arab and Muslim Americans has not been easy. While the tribulations of African Muslim slaves overshadow any suffering of their Arab counterparts, Arab immigrants into the United States, who were mostly Christian, were subjected to a battery of racist legislation, social abuse, prejudice and harassment. This included lynchings in the Jim Crow South and prosecution for miscegenation. The issue of race cannot be separated from Orientalism, Arab-hating or Islamophobia. What distinguishes the racist violence and paradigms, however, are the political conditions and contexts in which Islamophobia has been mobilized. Like American white supremacist racism against Blacks and Latinos, Islamophobia is part of larger ideological formations within US culture and politics. Islamophobia came together as an ideological amalgam within the politics and culture of the 1990s, accompanying globalization and the rise of the US Empire. Indeed, Islamophobia is the latest ideological construct deployed to facilitate American power; in its particular case, American power in its "unipolar moment."

Panel on the violation of Human Rights on the Pretext of War on Terror

War against Transnational Terrorism in the Light of International Humanitarian Law



By: Dr. Seyed Bagher Mir Abbasi
Tehran University

Terrorists' activities are contrary to the most basic human rights like right to life, security, and freedom which should trace their roots in lack of rule of law, violation of human rights, various forms of discrimination, non active participation in political, economic, and social affairs of society.


Despite of polarity of definitions about terrorism, it should be stated here that threats of terrorism shows very important issues which one of them is challenges in legal order in the line of combating terrorism.

In this article we try to consider theoretical bases of doctrine of war against terrorism and its critics and lastly it is intended to answer this question if United States

has observed main principles of international humanitarian law in the conduct of war against terrorism?

Firstly, foundations of war against terrorism theory in the light of doctrine of self-defense and theory of just war are studied. Meanwhile, some practical challenges in face of application of war against terrorism are referred. Uncertainty on border line between human rights system and humanitarian law system, unlimited time of war, vagueness in legal status of combatants and high numbers of targeted states in war against terrorism are some topics which are stated in this article.

Accordance with bulk of terrorists activities and kind of arms that they use in their operations there are three alternatives for enforcement of specified legal regime on this phenomenon: Some of the authors are believe in that Article 3 of four Geneva Conventions dated 1949 presents the most suitable legal regime for determination of rights and obligations of both



two sides of war against terrorism. Other theorists insist that international law applicable on armed conflicts would be cited in this operations and the last group of international lawyers prefer to apply human rights regulations on the matter. As it is seen in the full text of the article it is proposed that international law of human rights as a legal regime including human rights and humanitarian law could be the best option depending on the situation.

The next pillar of the article speaks about legal status of individuals which are participated in war against terrorism directly or indirectly. In the purpose of determination of rights and obligations of these individuals, concept of legal combatants and illegal combatants is considered.

Finally, in the line of assessment of degree of observation of rule of law and applicable law of United States in war against terrorism in the light of treatment to prisoners of mentioned war, trial of detainees, and some other principles will be examined.

“

The next pillar of the article speaks about legal status of individuals which are participated in war against terrorism directly or indirectly. In the purpose of determination of rights and obligations of these individuals, concept of legal combatants and illegal combatants is considered



Analyzing of Legislative Function of United States In War against Terrorism



By: Dr. Abbas Ali
Kakhodaee
Tehran University

Australia, Britain, Canada, and United States are pioneers of legislation movement against terrorism in the beginning years of 21st century. Although terrorism is not a new Phenomenon, but application of law would be a modern approach for counter-terrorism policies of states in recent times.

Significant point is that despite of lack of unanimously definition of terrorism and increasingly globalization which leads to plenty of opportunities in the hands of terrorists, legislative approach is put on the table beside other financial and coercive measures.

In present article after considering international community legal strategy to combating with terrorism and revising of anti-terrorism acts background in some European and American countries, we will try to analyze president Bush military order dated on 13 November 2001 in relation to establishment of military commissions for detention and trial of suspected foreigners in war against terrorism, White House guidelines on status of Guantanamo detainees dated on 7 February 2002, and military commissions act adopted in 2006 and reply this main question that United States some what is successful in combating with terrorism by application of law approach. In other words, is legislative function of America in war against terrorism contrary to international regulations or not? In the purpose of finding solution for above issue, at first it is mentioned that both international law of human rights and inter-

national humanitarian law would be applicable in the situation of war against terrorism.

After said introduction, under second title of the article various aspects of counter-terrorism strategies including preventive, military, financial, and legislative were stipulated which are as follows respectively: development of safety standards and incorporation of crime of terrorism in national penal and civil codes, coercive reaction to terrorists activities, combating with money laundering, and enactment of anti-terrorism acts in domestic scale.

Third pillar of this article is dedicated to comparative studies on anti-terrorism acts. In this part we will read some materials about national regulations which adopted in Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and finally United States shortly. Specially, the author of article tries to focus on three critical statutes and regulations which were adopted during 2001 till 2006 in the goal of combating with terrorism.

Fourth section of present article speaks in the subject of applicable law of war against terrorism. This section contains arguments and instruments which establish that according to conditions international humanitarian law and international law of human rights could be cited by both sides of war and in this line it is referred to emergency situations and exemptions of enforcement of human rights. In the conclusion, in addition to debating about reasons of use of war against terrorism doctrine, some of the grave failures of United States in the rout of mentioned enactments and their breaches based on general principles of international law are articulated. Among this privacy, prohibition of discrimination, trial of authoritative court, and conditions of detention is some instances which stated here.

Violation of Human Rights Regarding the Private Life of Citizens in the Context of the Combat Against Terrorism

by: Biro Diawara, Representative of Interfaith International

I wish to thank the colleagues of ODVV for inviting Interfaith International to participate in this seminar-our secretary general Dr. Charles Graves asked me if I could share some of our experiences to enrich and stimulate thought on the subject at hand. As you are perhaps aware, our organisation has already sponsored a series of consultations on terrorism, the last of which was entitled : « Article 19 : Freedom of Expression and Cyber-terrorism ». One of the objectives of Interfaith International is to promote dialogue with member states on the subject of promoting and protecting fundamental rights of ethnic and religious minorities against the extremist violence they are sometimes subjected to in different places around the world.

If the second half of the 20th century was the era of the 'Cold War', we live now at this beginning of the 21st century in a new era of expanding human population where the private life of human beings is at great risk. This new era is characterized by a fear complex, by violence, by space traffic, by expansion of knowledge, by economic and commercial competition, by the rapid development of cybernetics, by technologies of information as well as problems of global security and the combat against terrorism.

Control of the information networks, global information dominance, mastery of new methods to wage war ('clean wars'), new strategies ('soft power') – all these phenomena affect the integration of nations which is being accomplished in the context of a world market. In 1995 the seven most industrialised nations (G7), at the summit of Brussels, coined the notion of a « global information society ». Since then the world has witnessed, in fact, the development of a global information society, but the problem is that the world at large has not had an opportunity to debate this development.

The fundamental question remains, moreover, how to protect our private lives, our freedom of expression and our human dignity face to face with obsessive security concerns which relate to information technology and the communication concerns of state administrations in their oversight of society. Pertinent resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) of the Security Council stipulate that the states elaborate anti-terrorism measures which are in conformity with international law obligations, in particular with international law regarding hu-

man rights, refugee law and humanitarian law. The international Convention on Civil and Political Rights in its Article 17 forbids states parties to violate the private life of persons and to protect these persons juridically against arbitrary and illegal interventions.

Reinforcement of the control of trans-border movements of citizens through fingerprinting, biometric data, telephonic eavesdropping, body searches etc – all menace the private life of a considerable number of persons who become, because of them, victims of unnecessary police interference. Such persons are detained in airports and even incriminated for terrorist acts simply because of belonging to certain ethnic or religious groups or because of how they are dressed – all under a pretext of combatting terrorism -- but in violation of the elemental rights of freedom of movement. All such so-called efforts to combat terrorism as such should be based upon legality and not subject to the whims of administrations.

The notion of « oversight » in the classical sense of the term, usually means a CCTV camera (closed-circuit television) – estimated at one for every fourteen citizens in the United Kingdom or two hundred thousand such cameras in the city of Shenzhen (Republic of China). Figures noted in *The Guardian Weekly* in March 2009 show that a quarter of the subjects in the United Kingdom suffer from some kind of paranoia. The growth of such a phenomenon is obviously brought about by increasing urbanisation, mondialisation of migrations, the role of the medias and the disparity of riches. The analyses show that the cases of paranoia increase in ratio to the increase in more and more complex forms of « oversight » - an oversight which is now facilitated by such social cybernetic networks such as 'Facebook'. (2)

Mr. Miyase Christensen, professor of Media Studies and Communication at the University of Karlstad (Sweden) says : « multiplication of techniques of oversight necessitates an increase of vigilance by the citizens. The voluntary sharing of information about themselves in the pages of Facebook – can be compared in every aspect to the gathering of data by governments or businesses. The enormous successes of these social communication networks obliges us to reformulate the nature of the debate about protecting private life ».

We believe that an international Convention on Cyber-Security could contribute to a better protection of the private lives of individuals which remains for each one of us a most basic right.

The Impact of Counter Terrorism on the Criminal Justice System

By: Dr Amir Saeed
Department of Media and Cultural Studies University of Sunderland

The essay will argue that the Western powers (primarily, in this case, Britain and the US) have waged a propaganda war against their own citizens in order to justify their foreign policy. Using examples drawn from media coverage of the portrayal of Muslims and Islam in the mainstream media. It will be argued that, effectively, the 'war on terrorism' is a war on human rights.

Karim (2002: 101-102) notes that in times of great tragedy, journalists tend to fall back on set patterns of reporting that are heavily reliant on existing dominant socio-cultural 'worldviews'. Karim highlights the emergence of dominant discourses regarding the nature of Islam and of Muslims in general, and the perceived connection between Islam, violence and terrorism (ibid.), a view that is backed by the UN:

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights... voiced concern that some media were being used to incite violence and discrimination against Islam... The resolution expressed... "deep concern that Islam is frequently and wrongly associated with human rights violations and with terrorism."

(Black Journalism Review, 2004: www.black-journalism.com).

The media discrimination against Islam is not 'new': 'They hate us... because their culture is backward and corrupt... they are envious of our power and prestige...' So wrote military historian V.D. Hanson (as quoted by Sardar and Davies, 2002: 23), or as Edward Said sums up:

In this country... Several generations of Americans have come to see the Arab world mainly as a dangerous place, where terrorism and religious fanaticism are spawned, and where a gratuitous anti-Americanism is mischievously inculcated in the young by badly-intentioned clerics who are anti-democratic and virulently anti-Semitic.

(Said, 24/07/03: www.zmag.org)

Islamic terrorism is perceived to be the biggest threat to the Western world today (Laqueur 2003), and it would seem that:

"...the mere fact of peoples being 'Islamic' in some general religious and cultural sense has been conflated with that of their adhering to beliefs and policies that are strictly described as 'Islamist' or 'fundamentalist'... The fact that most Muslims are not supporters of Islamic movements is obscured, as are the conditions under which people who are Muslims do turn to this



particular option’
(Halliday 1995: 107).

It could be argued then that the popular construction of the ‘Arab-world’ as supportive of terrorism against the West is part of an ongoing tradition of engendering the creation of an ‘enemy’ in the public mind. Herman and Chomsky (1994) note the reliance on ‘received opinion’ and ‘expert knowledge’ for the justification of harsh government policy at home and abroad and in Bill Berkowitz’s article (14/10/02, www.alternet.org), the construction of Republican Middle-East ‘think tanks’ with distinctly anti-Arab tendencies is highlighted. The members of these think tanks are constructed as ‘experts’ despite their biased (i.e. government) agenda.

The upshot of declaring a ‘war on terror and those who harbour them’ is that it is effectively a war without end (Glover, 2002: 221). Furthermore, the WOT has no clearly definable enemies; the words ‘either you are with us or you are with the terrorists’ are an ultimatum: if you do not unquestioningly follow the US government agenda then you are our enemy and will be treated as such (Parenti, 2002: 41). It is easy then, for supporters of government policy, to declare any reasoned opposition ‘unpatriotic’, further reducing debate: ‘... in the aftermath of September 11 the national media have confused the questioning of official policy with disloyalty.’ (Navasky, 2002: xvi).

In a discourse regarding terrorism, one must first define what a ‘terrorist’ is; several definitions of ‘terrorism’ will therefore be examined:

Ter-ror-ism

n. The unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence by a person or an organized group against people or property with the intention of intimidating or coercing societies or governments, often for ideological or political reasons.

ter-ror-ist

n. One that engages in acts or an act of terrorism.
Adj. Of or relating to acts of terrorism.
(yourDictionary.com 2000: www.yourdictionary.com)

The dictionary definition is straightforward; however

the CIA definition of ‘terrorism’ is slightly different, although parallel:

The Intelligence Community is guided by the definition of terrorism contained in Title 22 of the US Code, Section 2656f(d):

The term “terrorism” means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.

—The term “international terrorism” means terrorism involving the territory or the citizens of more than one country.

—The term “terrorist group” means any group that practices, or has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism.

(Central Intelligence Agency, 2002: www.cia.gov)

The CIA definition implies that ‘terrorism’ does not cover ‘official’ state violence (e.g. the carpet-bombing of much less powerful nations), however what about state-sponsored terrorism? The CIA has, in the past, had many and varied engagements with ‘international terrorism’, and they could be defined as a ‘subnational’ group.

By their own definition, therefore, the CIA are terrorists (Chomsky 2000; Blum 2002).

The use of the word ‘terrorist’ by politicians and the media today therefore denies context and sets arbitrary boundaries. It denies context by denying the ‘terrorists’ in question an agenda or historical motivation for their actions. By referring to the actions of individuals against a state merely as ‘terrorism’, one separates them from state violence by marking them as evil, as unnecessary violence, as opposed to the murder of civilians or sponsorship of the same by the state (e.g. the US funding of ‘Contra’ death squads in South America) (Chomsky, 2000). Calling such individuals and groups ‘terrorist’ sets boundaries by marking the distinction between us and them: they are evil, we are good.

In fact in the immediate aftermath of the recent suicide bombings of London Tony Blair issued a statement which ended:

“Whatever they [the terrorists] do, it is our determination that they will never succeed in destroy-

ing what we hold dear in this country and in other civilised [my emphasis]nations throughout the world”(Independent 8.7.05).

Indeed Parenti argues that ‘US leaders have been the greatest purveyors of terrorism throughout the world’ (2002:7) even though they have been allowed to promote themselves as the greatest defenders of peace and freedom.

“ In alternative discourses, such as those of Noam Chomsky (1991) and Edward Herman, the violent world order also includes the support of powerful states for smaller “ National Security States.” The oppression of these states’ populations (usually to ensure that supplies of raw materials and cheap labour keep flowing to Western corporations) and the arming of regional powers to destabilize neighbouring countries is the “real terror network” . They describe how the “Free Press” has in various periods overlooked US involvement in supplying and training the armies of repressive regimes. Dominant discourses on terrorism avert their eyes from what these authors call “wholesale violence” perpetrated by hegemonic states and their clients and focus instead on the “retail violence” of non-compliant states and groups. (Karim, 2002: 102)

There is furthermore a distinction between what can be called ‘structural’ terrorism and ‘classical’ terrorism. Structural terrorism, normally undertaken by states, is designed to coerce governments (or induce a people to rise up against their government) by damaging the infrastructure of a society, for example in the case of embargoes, sanctions or otherwise damaging the economy of a state. This routinely leads to civilian death, often more than would occur with violence alone:

CONSEQUENCES:

WAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

Marking 9/11 as a ‘terrorist’ attack, associated with Islamic extremists, had unfortunate consequences for American (and correspondingly British) Muslims, and furthermore, for the dissident members of society (Saeed, 2004). The simultaneous patriotic fervour and fear of further attack the government and media instilled in the population meant that extreme measures

for further domestic control could be rushed through congress largely without question (e.g. the PATRIOT Act, or similarly in the UK, the ‘Terrorism Act’ of 2000 [Queen’s Printer of Acts of Parliament, 2000: <http://www.hms.gov.uk>] or the ‘Anti-Terrorism and Security Act’ of 2001, [Queen’s Printer of Acts of Parliament: <http://www.hms.gov.uk>]) due to a perception that the public would be safer with such legislation in place.

The measures taken by the US government in their domestic policy in order to fight the WOT, have had the additional effect of nearly criminalising dissent. This it could be argued that is connected to a wider xenophobic attitude towards all immigrants; since 9/11 the tendency has been increasingly to associate all Muslims and ‘asylum seekers’ with terrorism (Saeed, 2004: 70-75), (Poole, 2002).

The mass-media, despite the government claims that ‘loyal’ Muslims have nothing to fear, have been unerringly identifying Islam and terrorism as inextricable (ibid.).

It should be mentioned though, that ‘loyal’ Muslims do not live in a vacuum; any Muslim in the US and UK can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion due to increasing Islamophobic tendencies in those states (Saeed, 2004).

As well as killing many thousands of people, destroying the most powerful symbol of American world trade dominance and sparking war on Afghanistan, the events of September 11 have generated a worldwide moral panic about terrorists, Islamic fundamentalists and, more generally, the migration of populations whose origins lie in the Middle East, Africa and the Indian subcontinent. (Weber and Bowling, 2002, 123)

By implicating ‘Muslim’ terrorists in 9/11, and reliance on ‘received opinion’ concerning Muslims and Islamic states, the US government could play up the perceived innocence of ‘free’ America: in the case of 9/11, the people of the US were understandably stunned; as an example of the effectiveness of the propaganda model (Herman and Chomsky: 1994), most Americans were completely unaware of the many ac-

tions of the US state around the world that are seen by many as themselves evil or unjust, let alone US intervention in the Middle-East (for example in Israel) for which individuals may feel justified in retaliating against.

The upshot is that the world has become more dangerous for Muslims due to the moral panic regarding terrorism, in the same way that the world became more dangerous for communists under McCarthyism. However this is not to deny that the demonisation of Muslims has a historical context- for example Vaughan's work on the media marginalisation of the Moros- Muslims of the southern Philippines (2002: 11-20) highlights an older example of the Western propaganda system at work on this front, and it is interesting to note that, yet again, it was connected to a military venture.

US news media remained largely oriented toward the military view, and so therefore did the reading public... Moros, after all, were portrayed from the outset as "piratical fanatics" who "offer the most serious problem in the pacification of the islands".

(Vaughan, 2002: 14)

To summarise, since 9/11 the US and UK governments have spent staggering amounts of money on their 'propaganda apparatus', which they cooperate on globally (Miller, 2004: 80): the UK Foreign Office 'public diplomacy operation' costs £340 million to run annually (London-based work not accounting for money spent internationally), and the US 'Office of Public Diplomacy' spends more than \$1 billion annually (ibid). Miller (2004) writes of the many and varied tactics that the UK and US use to sway the 'hearts and minds' of their public, allowing as few people to see the relative truth of events as possible, e.g. the 'embedding' of journalists in the invasion of Iraq, to outright censorship. Consider:

A study by the Project of Excellence in Journalism of 40.5 hours of prime-time coverage spread over three days by ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and FOX examined 108 reports from embedded reporters. Not a single story depicted people hit by weapons. Not one.

(Goodman, 2004: 198)

Despite the popular public protests against the invasion of Iraq in the US, Britain and, indeed, much of the globe, despite the current peaceful, yet vociferous movements in the US against their own government there is now little question of whether or not the US will continue its imperialist strategy by invading Iran for its resources some time in the near future; the only real factor is 'when?' It appears to be little coincidence in terms of US foreign policy that Iran is fairly oil-rich, but more importantly, controls the Strait of Hormuz- the only sea passage for the massive amount of oil that flows from the Persian Gulf states to the open ocean for export. In recent months it has become patently obvious that the hawks in Washington have been gearing up the US war machine for some sort of showdown with Iran: for example, Bush has been quite open about the prospect of 'surgical strikes' against Iran's nuclear facilities (Bennis. 2006). Bennis also notes that what is obvious about an attack on Iran is that, if it occurs, it won't be about reducing Iran's capacity for producing nuclear weapons: Iran currently does not have the capability to enrich uranium to more than 5 percent, whereas a nuclear weapons program would require enrichment of at least 90 percent

Monbiot also suggests that this could used as another an excuse for the Hawks in the Bush administration to finally start the ball rolling on the military invasion of Iran, given Iran's outspoken support of Hezbollah.

Iran is the key country in Bush's famous "Axis of Evil" (Iraq, Iran and North Korea) and the main prize in the current war on West Asia. If the invasion of broken little Afghanistan was a dry-run for the invasion of Iraq, the occupation of the oil-rich Iraq... was itself conceived as a prelude to the subjugation of Iran. Developments over the past two years, however, have made the quick subjugation of Iran immeasurably more difficult but also, paradoxically, more urgent for U.S. strategy not only regionally but also in global terms.

(Ahmad, 29/01/06: www.globalresarch.ca)

Undoubtedly, the media terrain will once again be a key feature in the ideological battle to win hearts and minds.

ODVV Written Statements Submitted to the 16th Session of the HRC

Item 3: Trafficking in children

As an organized crime following trafficking in drugs and arms, human trafficking is the third most profitable business in the world and is growing rapidly throughout the world. Trafficking related issues such as slavery, prostitution, beggary, sexual tourism, racism, illegal migration, money laundering, HIV/AIDS, and domestic labour among other things have all turned human trafficking into the most serious issues in domestic and foreign levels in the 21st Century.

Trafficking in children is a complex global problem and each year more than 1 million children are abducted by human trafficking groups and separated from their families and homes they are subjected to all sorts of abuse and exploitation. Trafficking in children makes up 30 percent of all human trafficking.

Currently hundreds of criminal groups abduct children and use them as soldiers, workers, prostitutes or their body parts sold for transplants.

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, trafficking in children is an act that a child is transferred from one place to another by individual or individuals for profit.

According to UNICEF annual report, children are among the cheapest or even free labours and are easily sexually exploited. They are in great demand and thus the traffickers resort to trafficking in children from deprived, underdeveloped and poor regions.

Some factors increase the vulnerability of children towards trafficking, which are:

a) Poverty:

The fact that poor children are threatened more is undeniable. Parents that have economic problems might sell their children to increase their

income and or push them towards prostitution. Impoverished children are good targets for exploiters.

b) Commodity orientation of girls:

In societies where women and girls are looked upon as commodities, and its extensively advertised by the media, girls are threatened more.

c) Education:

Children without education are more vulnerable towards being duped and tricked and forced into doing things by organized traffickers. Due to the illiteracy of the children, the opportunity to draw them towards illicit opportunities increases for trafficking them.

d) Abandoned children:

Insecure living conditions, the lack of presence of adults, not being trained in getting necessary skills needed for abandoned children, makes them vulnerable towards being tricked and trapped in the hands of the trafficking groups.

e) Non-registration of births:

according to UNICEF report, it is estimated that a substantial percentage of births are not registered, and there is less risk of being tracked and arrested. Not having identifications it makes tracking and controlling them by traffickers easy.

e) Natural disasters and armed conflicts:

Child support organizations and agencies become helpless against trafficking during crises such as war, military occupation and natural disasters. Overall the consequences of war and occupation



results in many children falling victim to human traffickers.

The use of children in suicide bombings, getting killed by landmines and raping children during armed conflict creates appalling conditions for children.

As a nongovernmental organization active in the field of human rights, the ODVV expresses its deep concern over the daily increase in human trafficking instances particularly of children across the world, and believes that coordination at lower levels among international organizations involved in the fight against trafficking such as the United Nations with countries are challenges which waste resources and failure to concentrate to fight trafficking in children.

The elimination of problems in implementing and enforceable mechanisms of international conventions such as enough implementation guarantees in the Rights of the Child Protocol are issues that international organizations must pursue.

The human rights perspective which is based on the respecting of human dignity and its protection, especially children against discrimination and cruelty, must have a supportive concept for

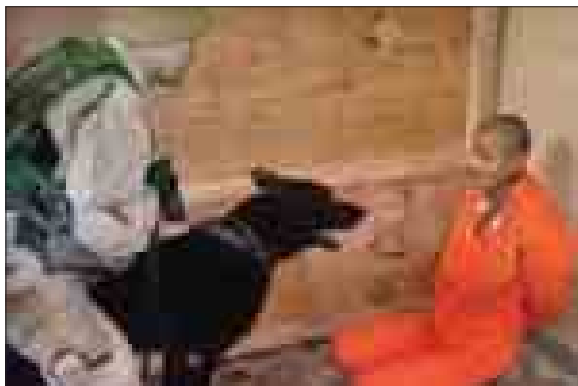
the victims of trafficking within domestic laws in coordination with international , and the Council must support and encourage this process, which is an apt request from this international mechanism.

This Organization deems it necessary that it must be ensured that coordinating steps are taken between domestic laws and international instruments with regards to the fight against trafficking in children.

The cooperation of all countries in fighting forged IDs, the review and amendment of laws in treating traffickers and strengthening border controls with neighbouring countries and protective and support process of the Human Rights Council can all be effective in reducing this phenomenon.

The abovementioned cases clears that whether nationally or internationally for the prevention of trafficking in children is necessary. By observing the above recommendations we shall witness a slowing down and reduction of this growing phenomenon; otherwise with globalisation and relaxing of national borders we shall witness the horrific increase of trafficking in children.

Item 4: Violation of Human Rights on the Pretext of War on Terror



Following the 9/11 attacks, the procedures defined within the framework of the “war on terror” in many countries, caused serious concerns for human rights groups and organizations. The failure to observe international criminal standards, the extrajudicial arrests and transfer of suspects, deprivation of individuals of their fundamental human rights and numerous instances of human rights violations within the war on terror framework, are all important challenges today.

The formation of a shadow justice system in the United Kingdom which places heavy restrictions on the rights of individuals suspected of participation in acts of terrorism of their rights, is just one example of the gross violation of human rights in this framework. These restrictions include house arrests, prohibition on having contacts with other people, and participation in public events, and setting conditions on the use of bank accounts, employment, university education, travel and even the use of telephone and the internet, are all enforced on the suspects in an extrajudicial way.

We believe counter-terrorism laws must uphold and respect human rights and the rule of law, rather than compromising or eroding them, including by resorting to secrecy and using unfair alternatives to the ordinary criminal justice system.

In this regard, the several instances of reported violation of fundamental rights that include US military torturing and mistreating terror suspects in different parts of the world, has been the centre of attention of human rights defenders. America’s failure to observe international laws in apprehension and transfer of these individuals, holding them in secret detention centres, the use of inhuman methods to get confession and prosecuting them

in military commissions are the most blatant cases of violation of human rights by this country.

The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 and the REAL ID Act of 2005 expanded the class of individuals who are inadmissible to the U.S. for having provided material support to a terrorist organization, rendering bona fide refugees and asylum seekers ineligible for protection. The political activities which form the very basis of many refugees’ claims for protection have, under U.S. law, now been defined as “terrorist activities” barring them from refugee status, asylum, family reunification, or permanent resident status.

In dealing with counterterrorism detainees after 2001, the United States breached its obligations under the UN Convention against Torture (CAT) and other sources of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Tens of thousands of individuals have been imprisoned in U.S. facilities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantánamo Bay, and secret CIA prisons throughout the world. Some prisoners were transferred for interrogation to the custody of nations known to have committed grave and repeated human rights abuses. U.S. detention and interrogation policies have resulted in systematic human rights violations, including torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

The United States sought to justify the prolonged detention of terrorist suspects outside the United States without charges or trial by classifying prisoners as “unlawful enemy combatants” who, the United States claimed, were not subject to regulation under the Geneva Conventions or international humanitarian law. One result of this policy was that the United States authorized the CIA to operate “black sites” where prisoners were effectively “disappeared”, in some cases for years, and neither the International Committee of the Red Cross nor family members were informed of their whereabouts. As a human rights defending organization the ODVV regrets that despite the promises given by the US government, still just like in the Bush Administration, the security threat look at individuals suspected of participation in acts of terrorism is still in existence, and Guantonomo and Begram are still in operation, and not even the smallest measures are taken, and harsh treatment of ordinary individuals on the excuse of probable cause continues to take place.

Item 6: UPR on the United States of America

In the US Unfortunately fully enjoyment of the treaty rights is affected by factors such as race, nationality, ethnicity, indigenous status, income and gender.

US law falls short of international standards by generally protecting only against intentional discrimination, not policies or practices that have a discriminatory effect, as required under ICERD and other international human rights treaties.

There remain wide inequalities in areas such as housing, employment, education, healthcare and the criminal justice system. Racial disparities continue to exist at every stage of the criminal justice system. It can be said that Discrimination permeates all aspects of life in the U.S., and extends to all communities of color, and when coupled with discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other bases, can have a devastating impact on the full panoply of fundamental rights provided for under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As many independent experts believe, the U.S. response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita bring into sharp focus the ways structural racism impacts all aspects of human security, from housing, food, employment, education, health, and environmental justice. Persons of color continue to live in isolated, segregated communities, and have been disproportionately affected by the current mortgage and foreclosure crisis.

From another perspective, discrimination and segregation in housing and education, combined with discrimination in U.S. criminal justice system, all contribute to inequalities in employment and discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to decent work. Discrimination in the employment opportunities and in the right to decent work persists because of relatively narrow and narrowly-interpreted antidiscrimination laws, denials of employ-



ment on the basis of criminal histories, and whole categories of workers who are disproportionately persons of color who are statutorily excluded from workplace protections.

The effects of excessive and discriminatory school discipline policies follow persons of color and sometimes directly result in discriminatory treatment in the criminal justice system which incarcerates African Americans and Latinos at rates far greater than Whites, due partly to ongoing racial profiling and discriminatory sentencing policies.

For example the percentage of African American inmates inside US prison in comparison the whole nation's African American population is higher than the white population. And the rape and sexual abuse rates among Native American women is higher, but these crimes

are dealt with less than white population related crimes.

Also according to statistics, the police brutality increases against racial and ethnic minorities, and furthermore all evidence indicates that the American justice system uses racial and economic discrimination when issuing death sentences.

There is also clear evidence that there has been a failure to protect women, the poor and people of color who were disproportionately affected by predatory lending practices and the mortgage crisis. In 2006, the Consumer Federation of America reported that, “women were 32 percent more likely to receive loans than men.” Strong data was also presented about racial and class inequities regarding income and ethnic groups. Unfortunately but not surprisingly, these data are getting worse and worse.

Alongside these cases, the violation of Native Americans rights where they lose their rights in their sacred grounds, and the unilateral annulment of treaties by the US government are also causes for concern for human rights defenders with regards to the United States.

It is unfortunate that despite the passing of over 2 centuries since the founding of the United States of America, who is still claiming to spread human rights across the world, still in the most basic frameworks and the law this country is not able to prevent the rights of racial, ethnic and religious minorities from being violated. The ODVV hopes that the recommendations presented by countries with regards to the elimination of discrimination from within US laws, a real atmosphere of change appears in this country, and that the sheer volume of human rights violation of minorities are reduced by the next UPR on the United States.

Furthermore, following the 9/11 attacks, on the excuse of defending its citizens, the

United States government initiated the global war on terror, which almost ten years since its start, itself has become one of the biggest factors and causes in the gross violation of human rights at the international level. Tailing, apprehending, interrogating and torturing of terror acts suspects, without considering minimum rights for them in going through fair trial processes, secret transfer of the suspect from countries they were apprehended in to third countries in order to avoid detainees rights protection laws, and ultimately invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq on the excuse of war on terror which resulted in the death and injury of over one million civilians, all are direct results of America’s behaviour at the international level over the last ten years mainly in the war on terror. In this regard, the several instances of reported violation of fundamental rights that include US military torturing and mistreating terror suspects in different parts of the world, has been the centre of attention of human rights defenders. America’s failure to observe international laws in apprehension and transfer of these individuals, holding them in secret detention centres, the use of inhuman methods to get confession and prosecuting them in military commissions are the most blatant cases of violation of human rights by this country.

The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 and the REAL ID Act of 2005 expanded the class of individuals who are inadmissible to the U.S. for having provided material support to a terrorist organization, rendering bona fide refugees and asylum seekers ineligible for protection. The political activities which form the very basis of many refugees’ claims for protection have, under U.S. law, now been defined as “terrorist activities” barring them from refugee status, asylum, family reunification, or permanent resident status.

In dealing with counterterrorism detainees after 2001, the United States breached its obligations under the UN Convention against Torture (CAT) and other sources of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Tens of thousands of individuals have been imprisoned in U.S. facilities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantánamo Bay, and secret CIA prisons throughout the world. Some prisoners were transferred for interrogation to the custody of nations known to have committed grave and repeated human rights abuses. U.S. detention and interrogation policies have resulted in systematic human rights violations, including torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

The United States sought to justify the prolonged detention of terrorist suspects outside the United States without charges or trial by classifying prisoners as “unlawful enemy combatants” who, the United States claimed, were not subject to regulation under the Geneva Conventions or international humanitarian law. One result of this policy was that the United States authorized the CIA to operate “black sites” where prisoners were effectively “disappeared”, in some cases for years, and neither the International Committee of the Red Cross nor family members were informed of their whereabouts.

Another point to note is the human rights violation cases that have been committed by private security companies who are equipped by the US government in Afghanistan and Iraq. For example over the recent years almost 90 new private security firms have been set up – mostly American – which on the excuse of the inability of local security forces in establishing safety, provide security for different foreign and domestic companies that include banks, hotels, accompanying NATO caravans, and construction sites. Nevertheless often deeming themselves self impunity from their ac-

tions, not only do these security firms spread lawlessness and corruption in Afghanistan, but in several instances they have violated the basic rights of Afghan by the workers and officials of these companies have been reported which often meet with US forces indifference. A while back a private prison was discovered in Kabul where through the Americans investigation it was discovered that it had been set u by one of the American private security companies.

In view of all the evidence the ODVV presents the following recommendations to prohibit and restrict the United States government in the continuation of human rights violations of innocent people on the pretext of war on terror:

1 – Direct intervention of UN human rights bodies in the trial proceedings of detainees in Guantanamo, Bagram and other probable detention centres of official and unofficial American forces, to put pressure on the US government to observe international commitments with regards to treatment of prisoners and detainees.

2 – Human Rights Council to attempt to put pressure on the United States to give a specific date for the shutting down of Guantanamo.

3 – Appointment of a special rapporteur for conducting field studies in Afghanistan and Iraq to investigate and document cases of human rights violation of citizens and civilians during the attack and occupation of these countries.

4 – We call upon the Afghan and Iraqi governments to adopt laws that prohibits from American private security companies from being registered and formed, and to provide a new deadline for the departure of these firms, so that in the future the Afghan and Iraqi people shall not witness grave human rights violations being committed in their own countries.

Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine



Within the framework of the contents of the UN Charter, particularly the dignity of humans and their 4 fundamental rights to life, ownership, freedom, equality and nondiscrimination which is the main concept of hundreds of years worth of scientific and moral activities, we would like to draw the following to Council's attention:

1 – Right to life:

Dignified life which results in the self-respect and release of mankind, has been confirmed by all religions and schools of thought, and are deemed the heart of human rights. This right is violated by Israel extensively and systematically. In January this year alone 17 defenseless Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israelis in Gaza. Since according to human rights principles, siege, occupation and imprisonment deemed as genocide, it must be reminded that almost 42,000 defenseless Palestinians get the least medical and health

treatments in Israeli jails. Openly and practically Israel pursues the policy of arrests and assassinations as a means destroy. The continuation of this inhuman policy will result in the deepening of hatred and fueling the fire of more and more wars.

With regards to the Gaza Palestinians and the violation of their right to life the following are pertinent:

- 1 – The air, land and sea siege of Gaza
- 2 – Prevention in vital reconstruction of facilities such as: electricity power plant, drinking water system, transportation and hospitals.
- 3 – Prevention of international aid goods from reaching Gaza.
- 4 – Assassination of Palestinian leaders and activists by assassination squads.
- 5 – Extensive and gross violation of the basic rights of Palestinian prisoners.

For the renewal of an atmosphere for dialogue and peaceful coexistence it is expected for human rights defending organizations to show more sensitivity and prevent the continuation of the violation of Palestinians basic rights.

2 – Right to ownership:

The right to ownership of homes, farms, and business property in most country used to be limited to the top class, where in many European countries, people who did not own land, fundamentally were not deemed to have citizen's rights. This fundamental right has for long been blatantly and extensively violated in Palestine for a very long time. Were you aware that Jerusalem's mayor has given news of the construction of 50,000 new housing units for the Jewish residents of the city? Did you know that 50,000 homes means the confiscation of the homes, businesses and farms of hundreds of thousands of refugees? Don't these cruel and vicious polices not escalate the violence?

Israel suspended settlements building in Palestinian territories for a year for the peace talks, but recently on the excuse of the halt in the talks, it has restarted the constructions. Despite the calls of countries, international human rights organizations, the settlements building policy and the housing of Jewish immigrants in Palestinian lands continues unabated. The understanding of all of this is that the aforementioned policy fuels the fire of violence and deepens the hatred and conflict in the region and deepen the dissatisfaction of humanitarians especially Muslims from the Zionists actions?

3 – Right to freedom:

Freedom to travel, migrate, transfer of ideas, investment and money are the natural basic rights of people.

These rights are fully observed in Israeli controlled territories. Israelis in places like Tel Aviv and Haifa can easily and speedily say what they want and travel and conduct business with no restrictions whatsoever. This is while for around 25 months now the Israelis have blockaded Gaza from land and sea and in practice imprisoned around 2 million people. This violation of the human rights of Gaza residents is a reminder of the prison camps of the pharaohs and Hitler, who by denying people of their rights, fuelled the flames of revenge. We draw the attention of human rights defending organizations to the following:

- 1 – Immediate end to the Gaza blockade and start of international relief to the region
- 2 – Prosecution of those that committed crimes against humanity in the 22-day Gaza conflict
- 3 – Make Israel to commit itself to stop using phosphorous bombs
- 4 – Release all Palestinians that have been detained over the recent years for various reasons
- 5 – The dispatching of doctors and needed medicine to the region to treat the wounded and sick.
- 6 – Complete stoppage of construction of settlements and removal of the emergency conditions from Gaza

4 – Right to equality and nondiscrimination

The intentional disregard of equality among humans by Israel in the Occupied Territories has reached dangerous levels. A review of the memories of the Palestinian refugees and witnessing their current situation indicates the discrimination that they've been against by Israel for a long time. In practice and blatantly the Israelis humiliate the Palestinian Muslim Arabs dignities. This has left them with no other option but to resort to violence. According to Islamic teachings all humans are equal and the only differences that may exist among them is their level of being God fearing and faith. But in Israel's case the one difference that they have in their policies is race and ethnicity, meaning that Muslims and overall non-Jews deserve to be abused and humiliated, but Jews deserve to be free, prosperous and have ownership.

It is expected of all active organizations to more seriously take up more effective initiatives to eliminate discrimination in all its forms. The blatant discriminations that the Palestinians suffer from are:

- 1 – Prevention of Palestinians from leaving or entering.
- 2 – Restriction on import of goods to the Palestinian Territories to bread, some medicine and fuel
- 3 – Not processing Palestinians complaints in compe-

tent courts and without the presence of lawyers

4 – Prevention of Palestinians from participating in Friday Prayers (under 35 year olds)

5 – Having no news of Palestinian prisoners who've been imprisoned in Israeli jails for more than 10 years. This is while the Gaza resident conditions is very dire and far from basic human rights. We claim the following:

- The legitimate government that was voted in with a 62% majority has now disintegrated and many government workers are detained or assassinated.

- Approximately 2 million people in Gaza are living in terrible conditions (medicine, welfare, health and hygiene, economy), and this suffering amplifies the pain, anger and hatred among humanitarians.

- Hundreds of thousands of Muslims living in the Occupied Territories are threatened by expulsions and by settlement building the Israelis have practically escalated the destruction of Palestinian homes and farms.

- According to UN and the Gaza conflict fact finding committee findings the Israelis committed several crimes against humanity. The failure to take action against these crimes has disheartened the Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims and all humanitarians.

It was expected for the Israel whose founders were victims of Nazis racism in Europe, to avoid committing similar crimes. Nonetheless the blatant destruction of the right to life of the Palestinians and the silence of the international community towards this inhuman actions, reminds us in a way the continuation of Hitler's policies.

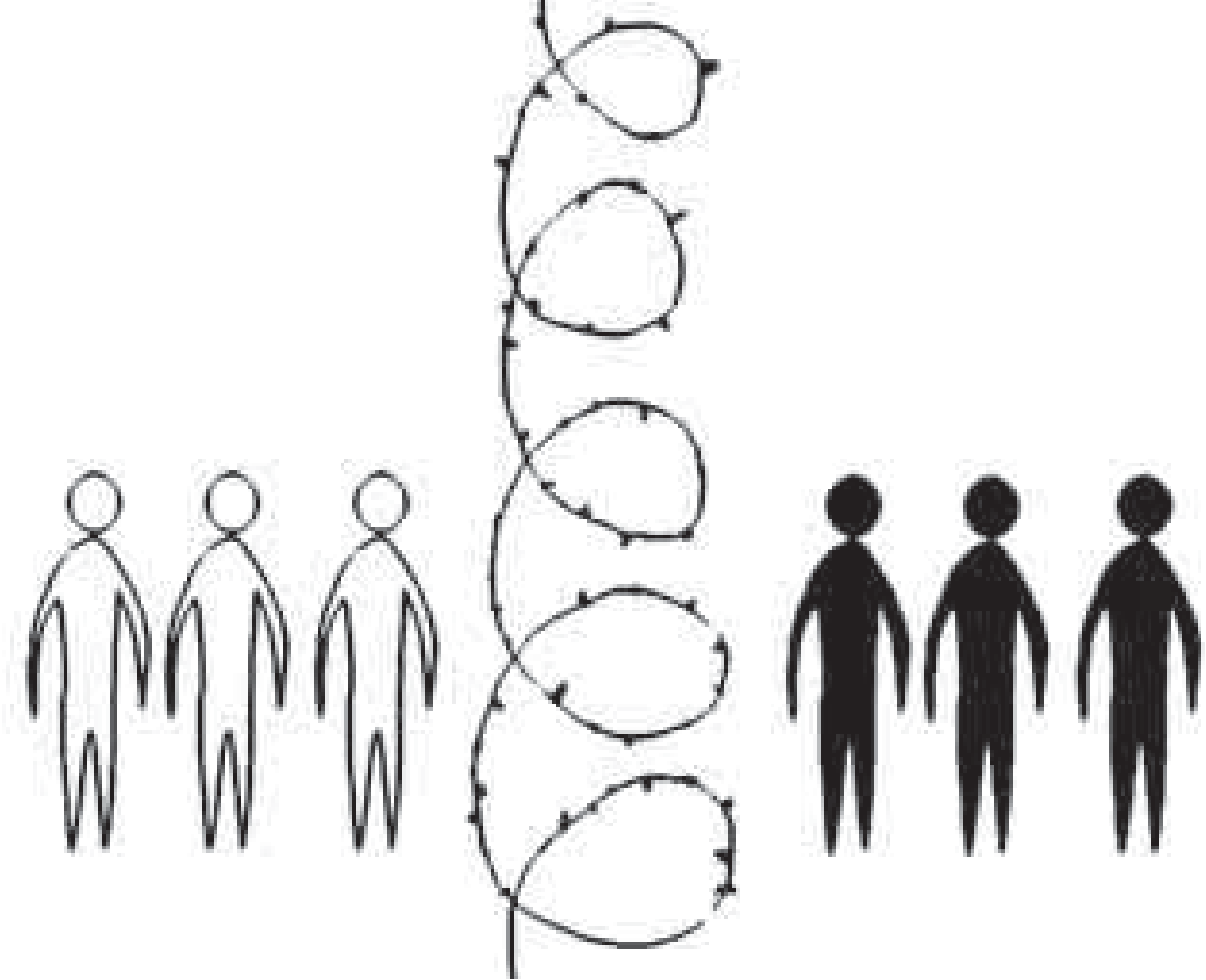
We believe that today Israel has specifically targeted the right to life, freedom, ownership and the right to dignity of the Palestinians in Gaza and other Occupied Territories, and the continuation of this situation will endanger the peace and security of the region.

Recommendations:

1 – The setting up of an initiative committee called "Shelter Committee" for the protection of Palestinian homes and farms. The committee shall have the task to label Israeli constructions as "red houses" and the destroyed farms and homes of Palestinians at the hands of Israelis "black houses".

2 – The setting up of a committee or organization called the "90,000 Committee" with the aim of supporting and promoting the 90,000 children that have lost their lives over the last 3 years of the blockade of Gaza.

We representatives of human rights organizations must seriously begin or work year with the slogan: words and slogans have achieved nothing for the last 60 years, let us take effective action, otherwise we're all responsible.



Item 9: Racism, Racial Prejudice, Xenophobia - Islamophobia

The existence of mass killings, racism, poverty, the growth of corruption and prostitution, drugs, human trafficking all indicate that humanity is still and constantly threatened by violation of fundamental rights. The protection of human dignity requires practical mechanisms and the participation of all of the international community for the realization of common ideals of mankind, i.e. peace, security, elimination of discrimination and respecting human dignity.

The issuing of statements by various human rights organizations and presentation of different reports from international organizations all are indicative of the fact that mankind is always trying to find a way to have a calm and peaceful world, and better and more dynamic societies and families that are violent free.

One of the issues which can threaten soci-

eties politically and socially, particularly those that have ethnic, racial and religious diversity, is racial and religious extremism and prejudice. Unfortunately, religious beliefs have over the last few decades become targeted, and with the combination of differences and religious misconceptions, with ethnic and racial conflicts, have taken up greater proportions. Islamophobia is one of the most evident examples of these misconceptions and uncalled for negative attitudes which are often deliberate.

This phenomenon has unfortunately been on the increase over the last decade, and the year 2010 was the worst year in this regard. Over the last decade, some states and anti-Islam groups have in various forms tried to destroy the image of Islam and insult the holies of the religion. The Koran burning ceremonies, the building of a cabaret in the

form of a mosque and naming it Mekka, and releasing a computer game called “Goodbye to Islam” and publication of defamatory cartoons of the prophet Mohammad, are some of these Islamophobic actions.

In the approach to the anniversary of 9/11, a new wave of Islamophobia preoccupied the propaganda atmosphere of the west’s media and political arenas. With these incitements the Zionist lobby in America and Europe attempted to have the anniversary to be symbolic towards Islamophobia, so that each year on the anniversary of 9/11 tension rises between Christians and Muslims. In of the most significant and shocking measures, the preacher of a small church in Gainesville, Florida announced that on the anniversary of 9/11 he would be burning the Koran in protest to building of an Islamic centre near Ground Zero in New York. He began his campaign through the media and the internet and invited fellow Christians to join him in burning the Koran.

Although, the preacher changed his mind following huge protests by Muslims and pleas of US officials including the President, nevertheless a number of individuals went ahead and burned the Koran and published images of them on the internet. These blatant incitements drew a widespread protest of Muslims around the world, and caused the deepening of religious misunderstandings between two great monotheist religions.

Other recent hate incidents targeting American Muslim institutions and houses of worship have included an arson attack on an Oregon mosque, an arson attack on a mosque in Texas, threats against an Islamic school in Oklahoma, a bias attack outside an Ohio mosque, shots fired outside a New York mosque, an arson attack on the site

of a planned mosque in Tennessee, a threat to a previously-bombed Ohio mosque, the defacement of a South Carolina mosque, hate mail sent to mosques, Islamic centers and Muslim organizations in Michigan and Ohio, and a bomb attack at a Florida mosque in May of last year.

As a human rights defending organization, that respects mankind’s high values and respects its dignity, and recognizing all individual freedoms and interests of the general public, ODVV strongly condemns any form of defamation of religion which causes violence, and calls upon the Human Rights Council to adopt serious and practical measures to prevent this.

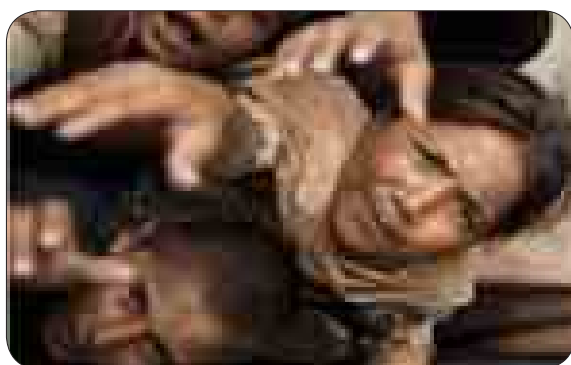
This Organization recommends the Council to establish a network of regional NGOs to create a common language for Council member states, so that with the transfer of the experiences of various cultures, a common point among all the cultures are found, and by sharing these experiences a practical step takes place to eliminate and prevent religious extremism such as Islamophobia. To this aim, the holding of periodic workshops for the transparent introduction of views and beliefs of different religions, can eliminate and remove all the misunderstandings, misinformation and blind hatreds of today.

The ODVV also believes that alongside education and capacity building, practical preventative measures must be taken towards stopping the spreading Islamophobia in the west. Practical measures must be taken to realize the defamation of religion resolution which was brought to the attention of the Council can be a solution.

In the hope of a world without violence and prejudice and a world full of peace and friendship

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

SURGE IN DEMAND FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN HIGH-RISK ENVIRONMENTS INFORMS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON STRENGTHENING UN DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE



The surge in demand for humanitarian assistance in often high-risk environments — geared to support the growing numbers affected by the increase in frequency, scale and scope of emergencies — required effective, sustained and well-financed intervention by the international community, said delegates today during the General Assembly’s annual wide-ranging debate on strengthening the United Nations coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

The meeting culminated in the consensus adoption of six draft resolutions spanning a broad agenda, from enhancing the safety and security of humanitarian personnel to enhancing assistance to the Palestinian people, to the international response to the massive earthquake in Haiti and the Chernobyl disaster.

During the day-long debate, many delegates recalled the earthquake that had struck Haiti on 12 January, devastating the island and affecting millions of people. Several noted that the humanitarian situation in Haiti was now worsening as Hurricane Tomas and a rapidly expanding cholera epidemic battered the island. “Haiti needs our renewed and continued sup-

port,” one speaker said, calling on the Assembly to adopt a draft resolution to that effect.

By adopting a text focused on humanitarian assistance for Haiti, the Assembly noted the huge loss of human life and the large number of people wounded and affected by the severe impacts of the disaster on, among other areas, food security and the education, shelter and health, as well as of the continued needs arising from the vulnerability of the affected populations. It also recognized the continued need for international support to address the humanitarian emergency in Haiti, and called on Member States, the United Nations system and relevant humanitarian organizations to continue to cooperate with the Haitian Government for the provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

‘THE CLOCK IS TICKING,’ SECRETARY-GENERAL SAYS, URGING WORLD LEADERS TO GENERATE RESOURCES, POLITICAL WILL TO ACHIEVE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2015



Despite obstacles, scepticism and a fast-approaching 2015 deadline, the Millennium Development Goals could be achieved if the global community stayed true to the promise made a decade ago to end the dehumanizing conditions of poverty by making smart investments in infrastructure, opening export markets and generally rethinking conventional wisdom,

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told world leaders today as he opened the General Assembly's high-level meeting to take stock of progress.

Above all, there was a need for political leadership. "We are waiting on you, world leaders," he said, adding: "The clock is ticking, with much more to do." The Goals could not be truly fulfilled while so many people lacked the basics for a life of dignity. Addressing inequality among and within countries was vital. States should not balance their budgets "on the backs of the poor", nor withdraw from official development assistance. On Wednesday, before the close of the meeting, he would launch a Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, which he called the best chance for a multiplier effect across the Goals.

Considered a breakthrough when they were adopted 10 years ago at the Millennium Summit, the eight Goals formed a blueprint for ending extreme poverty that all partners, even those with differing views, had been able to embrace. With just five years left in that 15-year plan, there was no global project more worthwhile. "Let send a strong message of hope. Let us keep our promise," the Secretary-General urged.

With the creation of the Goals, the world body had brought forth great hopes for millions of people, said Joseph Deiss (Switzerland), President of the General Assembly, and now the 192-member body must live up to them. "We have no right to fail," he stressed. While the economic and financial crisis had jeopardized gains, States understood that they had the know-how and the resources to succeed. What was needed was commitment. He called on all participants, as individuals, Heads of State and Government, and Members of the United Nations to proclaim their will to create the conditions essential for meeting the 2015 deadline.

However, it would take more than goodwill and commitments for the world's poor to begin seeing improvements, said Ali Abdussalam Treki (Libya),

former Assembly President who co-chaired the high-level event. It would take good policies, tireless implementation and financial resources. To bring about the changes mandated in the Millennium Declaration, hundreds of billions of dollars were still needed. The quality, effectiveness and disbursement of aid were "far from optimal".

In the debate that followed, political leaders from all points on the map drew attention to substantial gains made in such areas as education, health and women's empowerment, and underscored the importance of international assistance in helping their economies stay the course en route to 2015. The economic and financial crisis had eroded, or in some cases wiped out, hard-won gains, some said, and their Governments would need technical, human and financial capital for some sectors to again succeed.

To that point, Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, asked if the recent crisis was going to be used as a pretext for doing less or an opportunity to keep promises. He announced that France, the second-highest contributor in assistance in euros each year, would increase its contribution by 20 per cent over the next three years to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He also urged consideration of innovative financing measures to generate the resources necessary to meet the Goals.

Other leaders decried what they viewed as a skewed global economic order that catered to the strong at the expense of the weak. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, said, rather than incessantly focusing on the effects of extreme poverty, more time should be spent discussing its causes. Indeed, unfair wealth distribution had created deprivation and the current economic and political framework was not geared towards solving that problem. To reach the Goals, the global South must stop financing the global North, he declared, noting that such transfers had hit more than \$500 billion in 2009. A bank of the global South should be created so developing countries could finance themselves without conditions, and break their

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

dependence on the International Monetary Fund. Also making opening remarks were the President of the Economic and Social Council, President of the World Bank and Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL DISCUSSES FOLLOW-UP TO VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION



The Human Rights Council this afternoon discussed, under its agenda item eight, Follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which, speakers said reaffirmed the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

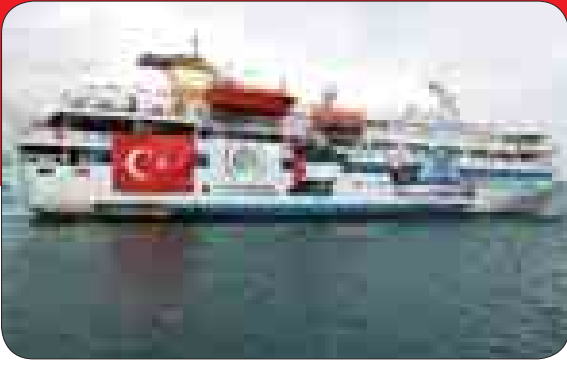
In the discussion, speakers said seventeen years ago, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed that all human rights were universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that the international community should treat all human rights in a fair and equal manner, and with the same emphasis, and committed the international community to fight against discrimination of anyone based on their racial or ethnic origin, gender, religion and belief, language, sexual orientation, age or disability. It also provided a tool for the protection of human rights towards a full realization of those rights in a just and balanced manner, and called for increased coordination in support of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the United Nations system.

Information technology and recent technological and scientific progress enriched human society; despite this the instances of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance could still be seen. A strong, effective and independent system of administration of justice and strict adherence by States to the rule of law, coupled with effective review mechanisms at the international and regional level remained essential to the full realization of human rights on a non-discriminatory basis, as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. To promote its common objective, equal attention must be given to economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. The way forward in building sustainable democracies was to fight crimes of State repression on the foundations of justice, truth, memory and reparations.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action's call for the realisation of the right to development remained as urgent today as it had been in 1993; the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the right to development in 2011 presented an opportunity to reflect on the progress in the struggle against poverty. The Declaration also highlighted the importance of democratic principles to an international society built on human rights, recognising that democracy was based on the freely-expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of their lives.

COUNCIL ADOPTS TEXTS ON FOLLOW-UP ON REPORT OF FACT-FINDING MISSION ON FLOTILLA ATTACK AND ON COMMITTEE OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS ON GAZA CONFLICT

The Human Rights Council adopted six resolutions on follow-up to the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the flotilla attack; follow-up to the report of the Committee of Indepen-



dent Experts on the Gaza conflict in which it renewed the mandate of the Committee; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery in which it renewed her mandate for three years; independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers; the right to education; and forensic genetics and human rights.

In a resolution on follow-up to the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission, which was dispatched to investigate violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance, the Council endorsed the conclusions contained in the report of the Mission, and called upon all concerned parties to ensure their immediate implementation. The Council also recommended that the General Assembly consider the report of the Mission.

The resolution was passed by a vote of 30 in favour, 1 against and 15 abstentions.

In a resolution on follow-up to the report of the Committee of Independent Experts in international humanitarian and human rights law on the Gaza conflict, the Council urged the Palestinian Independent Commission of Investigations to complete its investigations in order to cover the allegations contained in the report of the Independent International Fact Finding Mission in the Occupied Gaza Strip. It condemned the non-cooperation by Israel, the occupying power, which hampered the Committee's assessment of Israel's response to the call by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council to conduct investigations that were independent, credible and in conformity with international standards. It also renewed and resumed the mandate of the Committee. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 27 in favour, 1 against, and 19 abstentions.

TWENTY-SIX YEARS AFTER UN TREATY AIMED AT ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION OF TORTURE ADOPTED, 'WE HAVE NOT YET ACHIEVED THAT GOAL', THIRD COMMITTEE TOLD



More than a quarter-century after its adoption, the objectives of the Convention against Torture had yet to be achieved, and the entire human rights treaty body system was slowed under a backlog of reports from Member States, the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) was told.

The Committee began its discussion on human rights by focusing on international efforts to prevent the use of torture, in the absence of Manfred Nowak, the Special Rapporteur on the issue since 2004, who was unable to be present due to other commitments.

The representatives of New Zealand, Sudan, Japan, Qatar, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan, Zambia, Syria, Iran, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Korea, and Algeria also made statements.

The Committee also heard the introduction of draft resolutions on the advancement of women, which addressed violence against women, obstetric fistula, trafficking in women and girls, and a proposal for 23 June every year to be International Widows' Day.

The Committee will reconvene at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 20 October, to continue its discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights, during

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

which it will hear from Navanethem Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Gay McDougall, the Independent Expert on minority issues, Tomas Ojea Quintana, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and Richard Falk, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ELECTS 41-MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR UN WOMEN



Bringing the United Nations another step closer to the official 1 January 2010 launch of “UN Women”, the Economic and Social Council today elected - by acclamation and by secret ballot – the 41 inaugural members to the Executive Board of the new entity established to meet the unique and often under-represented needs of women and girls worldwide.

In its resumed 2010 substantive session, the Council elected the following countries to the Executive Board of UN Women, the historic entity that will work to accelerate the United Nations goals on gender equality and women’s empowerment: Angola (3 years), Argentina (2 years), Bangladesh (2 years), Brazil (2 years), Cape Verde (3 years), China (3 years), Congo (3 years), Côte d’Ivoire (2 years), Democratic Republic of the Congo (2 years), Denmark (3 years), Dominican Republic (3 years), El Salvador (2 years), Ethiopia (3 years), Estonia (2

years), France (2 years), Grenada (3 years), Hungary (3 years) and India (2 years).

It also elected Indonesia (3 years), Italy (2 years), Japan (3 years), Kazakhstan (3 years), Lesotho (2 years), Libya (2 years), Luxembourg (3 years), Malaysia (2 years), Mexico (3 years), Nigeria (3 years), Norway (3 years), Pakistan (2 years), Peru (3 years), Republic of Korea (3 years), Russian Federation (2 years), Saudi Arabia (3 years), Spain (3 years), Sweden (3 years), Timor-Leste (2 years), Ukraine (3 years), United Kingdom (3 years), United States (3 years) and the United Republic of Tanzania (2 years).

The creation of UN Women by the General Assembly on 2 July 2010 pulled together four agencies devoted to women’s issues: the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women; the Division for the Advancement of Women; the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). In mid-September, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet as the Entity’s Under-Secretary-General. (See Press Releases GA/10959 and SG/A/1262)

In other business today, the Council decided that the theme for the thematic discussion of its 2011 high-level segment would be “Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education”, as proposed by the Council President.

It also adopted by acclamation a decision (document E/2010/L.41), introduced by Congo’s representative, recommending that the General Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session, decide on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from eighty-four to eighty-five States. In doing so, it took note a 12 July 2010 request contained in a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Congo to the United Nations Secretary-General.

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence intends to hold the following sidelines events during the 16th Session of the Human Rights Council :

**Organization for Defending
Victims of Violence Roundtable
and Interactive Dialogue**

Human Rights and Islamophobia

monday 14 March 2011 - 15:00-17:00 - ROOM: XXVII



Moderator

Dr. Alireza Deihim - Head of ODVV Board of Directors

Speakers:

Dr. Mohammad Javad Javid - Tehran University Lecturer - Islamophobia and the Right to Morality in the West

Dr. Amir Saed- Sunderland University, England - The Media and Its Role in the Promotion of Islamophobia

Dr. Stephen Sheehi- University of South Carolina, USA- American Islamophobia as a Cultural Ideology

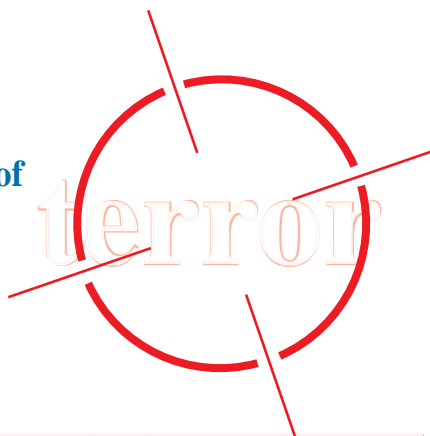
H.E. Ambassador - OIC - Slimaner Chikh Islamophobia in the West

Refreshment will be Served.

**Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
Roundtable and Interactive Dialogue Violation of**

**violation of Human Rights
on the Pretext of War on Terror**

Wednesday 16 march 2011 - 13:00 - 15:00 - room: XXVII



Moderator

Dr. Alireza Deihim - Head of ODVV Board of Directors

Speakers:

Dr.Seyed Bagher Mir Abbasi - Tehran University- War against Translational Terrorism in the Light of International Humanitarian Law

Dr.Abbas Ali Kadkhodae- Tehran University- Analyzing of Legislative Function of the United States in the War against Terrorism

Biro Diawara - Representative of Interfaith International to the United Nations in Geneva - Violation of Human Rights regarding the Private Life of Citizens in the Context of the Combat Against Terrorism

Dr. Amir Saed- Sunderland University, England - The impact of counter terrorism on the criminal justice system

Refreshment will be Served.

www.odvv.org



Organization for Defending
Victims of Violence