ASSOCIATION FOR WORLD EDUCATION

Case Postale 205 – 1196 Gland – Suisse

UN Human Rights Council. Representative: David G. LITTMAN. Wed (11:30am) 26 March
Seventh Session (4-28 March 2008). President: Ambassador Doru Romulus Costea (Romania)
Item 9: Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Forms of Intolerance

[Passages in square brackets were not spoken in the 3 minutes available, but are left for reference material]

Sir, regarding the Report [A/HRC/7/19] of the Special Rapporteur on Racism [Doudou Diène] and his comments on defamation of religion, we note that once again he has failed to mention the greatest of all defamations of religion – when chapter and verse of holy texts are cited to justify calls to kill in the name of God or of Allah. On 9 August 2007, we made an Appeal to the UN Secretary-General and the High Commissioner – and later to the Council [in a joint written statement to 6th Session (AWE, IHEU, AWC), A/HRC/6/NGO/5: Appeal to Condemn Calls to Kill in the name of God]:

"to condemn all calls to kill in the name of God or religion – any religion."

This taboo subject is consistently ignored within the UN system despite the fact that a policy of silence on the part of the international community, of Muslim spiritual and secular leaders, the OIC and the Arab League, is tantamount to condoning this great evil. Calls to kill in the name of Allah should be unequivocally condemned by senior Muslim theologians as a "defamation of Islam". Yet these calls have been justified by Al-Azhar Grand Sheik Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, by Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradhawi, and by many others, including Osama bin Laden. The Special Rapporteur makes no clear reference to this global plague of our time, [other than by a side reference to: "the stereotyped association of Islam with violence and terrorism – an association which is bolstered by intellectual constructs, used by political rhetoric and exaggerated in the media…" (§57)]

[From here, points of order were made, unsuccessfully, by Egypt (2), Palestine (1), Iran (1) to stop the speaker.]

Secondly, the Special Rapporteur refers to "the writing and teaching of history" [Summary, p. 2] and "the importance of fostering education in multiculturalism in schools, in the media and in the home." [§31, "Human Rights and Children" at the 4th International Human Rights Forum in Lucerne, 24-25 May 2007; and, "the role of education in promoting tolerance and coexistence and cooperation between Muslims and non-Muslims." §36, "to consider the question of discrimination against Muslims…", in Jaén, Spain, 8 Oct. 2007]

Yet Judeophobia / Antisemitism – under the guise of 'anti-Zionism' – is now widely recognised as endemic in the Muslim world, being nourished by a general culture of hate, and is creeping into Europe and beyond. Clearly many of the States that, since 1999, have sponsored the resolution combating defamation of religion – adopted on 18 December 2007 by the General Assembly – do not believe it applies to them!

A recognised expert on racism, the Director of Research at the CNRS in Paris, Pierre-André Taguieff has described all this in detail in 2 recent voluminous books [*La Nouvelle Judéophobia* (Paris, 2002) and, *Prêcheurs de haine: Traversée de la judéophobie planétaire* (Paris, Mille et une nuits, 2004].

In 2005, we analysed in three NGO written statements what is being taught to schoolchildren in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. [E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/NGO/2: The culture of 'Jihad & Martyrdom' in Egyptian school textbooks, E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/NGO/3: The culture of hate in Saudi Arabian textbooks and growing Arab reactions: & Arab criticisms: E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/4; also "A Culture of Hate Based 'Jihad and Martyrdom': Saudi and Egyptian Schoolbooks Today", Midstream, March-April 2005] The same hatred is also being taught in Palestinian, Syrian and Iranian schools and elsewhere. [In his conclusion, "The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Council draw the attention of member States to the importance of developing an intellectual

front against racism and, consequently combating – through education, scientific research and information – ideas, concepts and images likely to incite or legitimize racism, racial discrimination or xenophobia." This appeal should be heeded here by the Council –.and by the Special Rapporteur.]

Nothing of this outrageous Judeophobia has been covered in reports of the Special Rapporteur, nor by any UN bodies or UNESCO, yet the proof of this endemic hate-mongering is easily available in original texts and translations by consulting websites such as MEMRI [Middle East Media Research], PMW [Palestinian Media Watch] and CMIP [Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace].

Sir, is this Human Rights Council now ready to condemn calls to kill in the name of God, and the preaching and teaching of hate, or will it remain silent on such major issues for humanity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman **[With diplomacy, the president permitted the speaker to continue each time.]**