# **Obama must take strong line against grotesque UN Israel-bashing set for New York**

November 8, 2010

NY Daily News

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/obama-strong-line-grotesque-israel-bashing-set-new-york-article-1.452632

The thugs, tyrants and anti-Semites who dominate the [United Nations Human Rights Council](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/United%2BNations%2BHuman%2BRights%2BCouncil) have set their sights on staging a grotesque festival in the city the same month as the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Clearly, they intend to stick it in [America](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/United%2BStates)'s eye. They must be stopped. Failing that, they must be shunned.

Planning is well underway for yet another vile [Durban](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Durban) conference, so named because the council held the first of these conclaves in that [South African](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/South%2BAfrica) city in 2001, days before the terrorist attack. Billed as a forum for battling racism, the event became a platform for railing against the U.S., the Western world in general and [Israel](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Israel) in particular.

Then-[Secretary of State Colin Powell](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Colin%2BPowell) ordered his delegation to come home, and representatives of Jewish groups were forced to leave under police guard to ensure their safety. All references to anti-Semitism were deleted from a final conference declaration that equated Zionism, or Jewish self-determination, with racism.

Also missing from the declaration was the slightest rebuke of intolerance or oppression in [China](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/China), [North Korea](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/North%2BKorea), [Libya](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Libya), [Iran](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Iran), [Syria](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Syria) or [Saudi Arabia](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Saudi%2BArabia). Countries not named "Israel" could enslave minorities, sexually mutilate women and trample on human rights of every kind without so much as an eyebrow-raising at Durban I.

The council staged Durban II in 2009, the agenda being to update all the wonderful progress it had made in eliminating racism. Once more, the conference accused Israel of racism for simply existing and singled out the Jewish state by name - making it the only country so targeted.

Belatedly, [President Obama](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Barack%2BObama) ordered a U.S. boycott, joining [Australia](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Australia), [Canada](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Canada), [Italy](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Italy), [Germany](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Germany) and others that had smartly refused to give the conference the benefit of the doubt. Iran's [Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Mahmoud%2BAhmadinejad) became the main event. He denied the Holocaust and proposed the genocidal destruction of Israel.

Now the council has determined to hold Durban III at the [UN](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/United%2BNations) during next year's plenary session of the General Assembly, which will bring scores of heads of state to [New York](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/New%2BYork). Just as Americans have joined to solemnly remember the atrocity of a decade past, and no place more fervently than New York, Durban III participants will be rising to complain about a supposed global "escalation of Islamophobia."

(So said a Libyan representative, according to ever-vigilant UN watcher [Anne Bayefsky](http://www.nydailynews.com/topics/Anne%2BBayefsky).)

The U.S., though it has a seat on the council per Obama's misguided direction, has voted in committee and in the General Assembly against holding this new "anti-racism" conference at all, and certainly not in New York.

That's not enough. No nation with a commitment to human rights can lend any credibility to this travesty. Obama must lead a full-throated boycott and make sure all understand that no friend of Durban III can be a friend of ours.