

PALISTAN

OIC Comments on the report by the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism.

Mr. Prashar,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his objective and impartial analysis and his bold recommendations. His findings are alarming. The phenomenon of Islamophobia is on the rise with its most visible upsurge in Europe. Manifestations of discrimination and hostility towards Arabs and Muslims has become pervasive, resulting in attempts to contain Islam from a security angle, monitor places of worship and suspect Muslims. Most worryingly, the culture of Islamophobia or incitement against Islam is seeping into political ideologies. The publication of the cartoons by a Danish paper was ^{a deplorable} ~~the~~ worst instance of insensitivity and defamation. Unlimited freedom of expression, as the Special Rapporteur has said, is out of step with the need for respect for religions. *We are glad to hear that several remedial ~~new~~ initiatives are underway*

We agree with the Special Rapporteur that Islamophobia, like anti-Semitism and Christianophobia, is more a political and ideological fact than a religious phenomenon. The tendency to divide the world into "our" and "their" value systems is dangerous.

We support ^{the Special Rapporteur's} ~~your~~ recommendation for rejection of the conflation of Islam with violence and terrorism, ^{and} the need to promote religious multiculturalism. The Special Rapporteur should report regularly to the Council. However, the Council has its own responsibilities to help fight deep-rooted antagonism towards Islam by appealing directly and working closely with the member states. We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur's advice on how the Council can use its resources more effectively to address legal deficits in the area of respect for religions and to implement Articles 18, 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

*to
conclude
Islamophobia
but they
are
not
enough*

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Draft OIC comments on report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Geneva, 18 September 2006

Mr. President,

We welcome the Report of the fifth session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Working Group during its last meeting examined very important themes like mainstreaming the situation of people of African descent in plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals; the empowerment of women of African descent and the role of political parties in the integration of people of African descent into political life and decision-making process.

(2) We would like to ask Mr. Peter Lesa Kasanda, ~~Chairperson and Rapporteur of the Working Group~~ that despite significant presence of people of African descent in many countries, they are not involved in mainstream political and social activity. What measures can be taken by the international community to address this serious gap?

We would like to endorse the Working Group's conclusion that all states should implement measures to promote understanding, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among all nations and racial national, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups.

We agrees with its recommendation to collect reliable and disaggregated statistical data in order to study and asses regularly the situation of individuals and groups of individuals who are victims of racism. We also endorses its recommendation of urging all states to ensure mainstreaming by political parties of racial discrimination in national political debate and programmes. This, we believe, could lead to better integration of all marginalized segments of society.

(3) The questions for the Spain Rapporteur on Migrant Workers: Why is there low or ~~ratification~~ no ratification of the ILO Convention on the rights of all migrant workers? What measures can be taken to rectify this situation? Can the mediator coming out the ILO High Level Report ~~Design~~ ~~Design~~ on Migration in New York be of any help?