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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL  
FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND  
SEGREGATION, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO  
COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES:  
REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)**

**SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES: NEW PRIORITIES, IN PARTICULAR  
TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Joint written statement\* submitted by Association for World Education and Association  
of World Citizens, two non-governmental organizations on the roster and International  
Humanist and Ethical Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative  
status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is  
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 June 2005]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the  
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

## Arab Criticism of Muslim Extremist Activities in the West <sup>1</sup>

1. We refer to our two joint written statements: E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/NGO/2 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/2005/NGO/3 under the subheading, in both text: "Arab/Muslim voices speak out against 'Jihad Ideology' and appeal for sweeping reforms."

2. Extremist Muslims in Western countries have come under increasing criticism by moderate Muslims who are familiar with the West through living in America or Europe, either temporarily or permanently. In three recently published articles, Arab academic and intellectuals harshly criticized their extremist activities.

3. In his article on the reformist website [www.elaph.com](http://www.elaph.com), Dr. Ahmad Abu Matar, a Palestinian academic residing in Oslo, stated that Muslims in Europe foster conflict instead of coexistence. Muslims in Europe, he explained, are influenced by an extremist fundamentalist brand of Islam – and moderate Muslims are not speaking out adequately against this activity.

4. In the UAE daily *Al-Itihad*, Saudi journalist Turki Al-Dakhil, whose popular interview programme on *Al-Arabiyya* television frequently hosts reformist Muslims, wrote about the hatred of the West that is spread by Muslims in the U.S., sharing his personal experience during his studies in the U.S. around the time of 9/11. <sup>2</sup>

5. In the wake of Al-Dakhil's article, Tarek Hamo, a Kurdish journalist living in Germany, also criticized the activities of extremist Muslims in the West. In his article in [www.elaph.com](http://www.elaph.com), Hamo accused Arab and Muslim states that seek to appease the extremists and to keep them away from political activity in their own countries, as well as the European host countries that are turning a blind eye to extremist activity – on grounds of "tolerance" and "religious freedom," and more recently, on grounds of a "dialogue of civilizations."

The following are excerpts from the three articles:

### **Muslims in Europe foster conflict, not coexistence**

6. Dr. Ahmad Abu Matar wrote: "The presence of Muslims of all nationalities, and especially those of Arab nationality, has become a palpable phenomenon in all of the EU countries, and in Western Europe in particular. In some of these countries, like France, for instance, they number more than five million, and in many countries they have centres, institutions, and activities that they cannot sustain in their own Arab and Muslim countries."

7. As an example of activities conducted in the West that are not permitted in Arab countries, Abu Matar mentioned the Islamic Liberation Party, which "announces from London its political platform – to establish the Islamic caliphate over all corners of the earth – and declares that the party will suggest to the Queen of England that she convert to Islam, and thus will not have to pay the Islamic poll tax on non-Muslims [jizya]." As another example he cited the activities of Abu Hamza Al-Masri, the imam of Finsbury Park Mosque in London, who called for jihad and suicide [Jihadist] bombings in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The third example he gave is the thousands of mosques and Islamic charitable

organizations in Europe and America that publicly collect contributions, and in addition, receive annual budgets from European countries.

8. In light of the freedom of movement and action and the freedom to proselytise enjoyed by Muslims in Europe, Abu Matar assessed the behaviour of Muslims, and especially Arabs, in the continent. According to him, "the last five years have been decisive in shaping the image of the Muslim Arab in Europe. Because of the incidents and practices that the European continent has experienced, the image of the Arab Muslim in the European lexicon has become: a terrorist who murders without a conscience or any human feeling...

9. "The European citizen has begun to feel that Europe has become a target for Islamic terrorism, particularly of the Arab type, because of the crimes he has witnessed – in reality, and not in the imagination or in a horror movie. Even screenwriters and directors of horror movies wouldn't conceive of some of these actions.

10. "It doesn't help that alongside these actions, [some] say that Islam forbids such actions and that their perpetrators are damaging Islam, since the actions are accompanied by a theological doctrine [elaborated] by those who claim to speak in the name of over a billion Muslims, and especially the triumvirate of Bin Laden, Al-Zarqawi, and Al-Zawahiri.

11. "None of the Arab or Muslim religious legal authorities responded to them or cast doubt on their legitimacy as representatives of Islam. On the contrary, there are fatwas from scores of ulama supporting these actions..."

12. Abu Matar cited a number of examples of crimes committed by Muslims in Europe and pointed to the public incitement to violence in mosques. He mentioned the case of Nur Al-Din Kaplan, whom a German court in Berlin decided to deport because of his incitement to violence and suicide [Jihadist] bombings. The latter went into hiding, and for weeks the German police have been searching for him.

13. Another example is an open letter published by Ayman Al-Zawahiri in the summer of 2003, encouraging Muslim youth to attack European and American targets. Abu Matar adds that the Islamic proselytizer in Denmark, Said Mansour, goes a similar path, and distributes a cassette among the Muslims encouraging them to join Al-Zarqawi in Iraq.

14. "This immoral incitement," says Abu Matar, prompted the murder of the Dutch cinema director Van Gogh in November, 2004, by a young Dutchman of Moroccan origin. According to Abu Matar, "the incident only occurred because of the [atmosphere of] incitement in which the young murderer lived, the incitement of sheikhs who do not fear Allah and who consider everyone whose opinion differs from theirs to be an enemy of Islam."

15. In conclusion, Abu Matar states that Muslims in Europe promote conflict and do not encourage coexistence. "As a result of these actions... millions of the new generation of Muslims in Europe have become a source of fear and anxiety for decision-makers in European countries. This is because the new generation has fallen under the influence of extremist fundamentalists who interpret Islam as they see fit, and also because enlightened scholars and intellectuals haven't made a parallel intellectual effort to counter the extremist and deviant intellectual efforts of the fundamentalists."

16. "In their extremism, [the fundamentalists] are preventing the new generation of Muslims from internalising the principles of freedom and enlightenment that have existed in European societies for over a century.

17. "[This enlightenment] enabled European societies to develop in every sphere and led to the humanistic tolerance that made Muslim presence in Europe possible....

18. "[In contrast to] this [Western] tolerance, Christians living in Arab countries have been forbidden for generations to build churches, except within [the framework of] tiresome conditions, and especially in Egypt – the land of the [Christian] Copts.

19. "What will these millions [of European Muslims] do in the Arab countries if the European countries, Canada, and the U.S. were to expel them? I say 'if' since these countries cannot expel them, not because they are afraid of the Muslims, but because their laws don't allow it...

20. "From what has been said here, one may conclude that those who speak falsely in the name of Islam have turned the Islamic presence in Europe and America into a presence of conflict instead of coexistence..."<sup>3</sup>

#### **Muslim teachers spread hatred of the infidel West among immigrant Muslim children**

21. Tarek Hamo, a Kurdish journalist residing in Germany, writes from a personal perspective: "In my many travels connected to my job in the Arab department of the Kurdish television channel... I meet many Islamists who, the moment they identify a Middle Eastern face, run to me, motivated by lust for religious preaching and dispiritedly talk of 'the state of the Muslim nation.'

22. "During the conversation (which develops the moment you respond to their greeting), you see that these people are bearing a tremendous amount of hatred for Europe and its culture (in which they live in dignity). Most of them, unfortunately, supported and still support Al-Qa'ida terrorism in New York, Madrid, and Baghdad (...)

23. "Many teach the children of Muslim immigrants the fundamentalist interpretation of Islam (which usually causes terrorism). They are sent from their countries by their organizations, and understand not a word of the host country's language... Their goal is to spread hostility and hatred among the Muslim workers and refugees, and to push them towards stories of religious wars and the atmosphere of 'the global conspiracy against the Muslims.'

24. "The ones responsible for the existence of these [extremists] are the Arab and Muslim countries that capitulated to the madness of the religious groups... and set their curricula in accordance with the desires of these groups, in order to appease them and to distance them from thinking of politics and 'earthly matters' [in their homelands].

25. "Also responsible for this are the European countries... that turned a blind eye to their [i.e. the extremists'] suspicious religious activity, on grounds of tolerance and religious freedom - and, more recently, on grounds of 'dialogue between civilizations.'

26 "Thus we see Mr. Tarek Ramadan, who participates in dialogue conferences with Muslims in the West, preaching 'European Islam.' Do you understand what European Islam is? This 'Islam' is not very different from the European Islam once offered by the Turkish fundamentalist leader Nijmuddin Erbakan [the Turkish prime minister who headed the Islamic Welfare Party] when he clarified wholeheartedly: 'Our aim is to put down roots in the European continent, and to act quietly and in accordance with the laws, so that one day we may see all of Europe Muslim!'..."<sup>4</sup>

Notes:

1. Special Dispatch - Reform Project, June 10, 2005, No. 921. To view this Special Dispatch in HTML, visit [http://www.memri.org/bin/opener\\_latest.cgi?ID=SD92105](http://www.memri.org/bin/opener_latest.cgi?ID=SD92105). Also visit [www.memritv.org](http://www.memritv.org) to view recently translated segments from Arab and Iranian TV.
2. *Al-Itihad* (UAE), April 26, 2005: <http://www.wajhat.com/details.asp?id=11414&a=1&journal=04/26/05>
3. <http://www.elaph.com/ElaphWriter/2005/4/55793.htm> April 17, 2005.
4. <http://www.elaph.com/ElaphWriter/2005/4/59059.htm> April 30, 2005.

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