

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/NGO/6
22 August 1984

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Thirty-seventh session
Agenda item 6 (b)

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,
INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF
APARTHEID, 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):
THE EFFECTS OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

Written statement submitted by the Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom, a non-governmental organization in
consultative status (category II)

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, being an organization dedicated to peace, has welcomed the inclusion in the agenda of the Sub-Commission, "The effects of gross violations of human rights on international peace and security", by virtue of its decision 4 (XXXIV) of 10 September 1981.

Further welcomed was Sub-Commission resolution 1983/32 of 6 September 1983, which contained a reaffirmation of the need, in order to achieve peaceful international relations, to create conditions of stability and well-being, promote economic and social progress, find solutions to international problems, achieve universal respect of human rights and establish the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples. The resolution emphasized that all countries should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another State. The Sub-Commission also requested information and analysis on the subject from NGOs among others.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is happy to comply with the request of the Sub-Commission to provide data and analyses on the crucial issue of the interconnection of human rights and peace, by informing the members of the Sub-Commission of the finding of an important conference held in Lisbon, Portugal, 3-6 May 1984, the "International Conference on Nicaragua and for Peace in Central America", of which the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom headed the International Preparatory Committee for the Conference. The participants in the Conference represented a unique gathering of international and national non-governmental organizations from all parts of the world and comprised representatives from other countries in Central America, as well as from organizations

GE.84-17413

and individuals who have recently visited the region. The Conference was attended by more than 500 participants, and was chaired by the Argentine Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Adolfo Perez Esquivel.

The Final Declaration of the Conference contains 15 points. The salient points concerning human rights are summarized below.

(a) The interests and aspirations of the Central American peoples are threatened by the developing political and military situation, as are peace and security in the region. Acts of aggression occur in direct violation of the principles and norms of international law and constitute serious threats to the peace of the region and the world.

(b) Serious concern was expressed that notwithstanding the resolutions, appeals and demands of the competent United Nations bodies and other international social and political organizations and human rights groups, gross and systematic violations of freedoms and political, economic, social and cultural rights continued in some States in the region. The Conference called for recognition of the legitimacy of the liberation struggles of peoples in the region, and condemned actions by other States which provide military, economic and political support for the oligarchies to wage wars on their own citizens.

(c) The Conference underlined that the internationally recognized definition of aggression adopted by consensus by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1974, categorically forbids any State from sending "armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries which carry out acts of armed force against another State of such gravity" as to amount to aggression against any other State, also categorically forbidding actions of a State which allows its territory to be used by another State to commit acts of aggression against a third State. A war of aggression is a crime against international peace and the Conference recalled that under the Nuremberg principles, those guilty of aiding such crimes are individually liable for their acts.

(d) The Conference supported the peace proposals and initiatives of the "Contadora" group of countries - Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela - as well as all other peace initiatives taking place.

(e) An appeal was made to the States of the region not to allow their territory to continue being used against other States of the region.

(f) The announcement of scheduled elections for 4 November 1984 by the Government of Nicaragua was welcomed.

(g) The Conference related the present violence and human rights abuses and their effects on peace and security to the larger region of the Caribbean Sea.

(h) The Conference pleaded with the international community to soundly reject any modern version of the "Monroe doctrine" by which the large Power in the Western Hemisphere intervenes in any country where its national security is allegedly involved; this being part of the discredited notion of spheres of vital interests by which the strong have dominated the weak. Other methods in addition to direct military intervention are employed, such as political destabilization, economic disruption, psychological warfare and terrorism against some American States.

Finally, the participants in the conference pledged to combat the mounting crisis in Central America and expressed their fundamental conviction that unless there is peace everywhere, there can be no peace anywhere. They expressed the belief that in supporting the people of the region in building the foundations of a just and compassionate society in which the right to self-determination, human rights, peace and development are enhanced and protected, contributes concretely to the achievement of peace and human rights world wide. Conversely, to sit idly by or to support the regimes in the region that carry out massive human rights violations contributes to heightened tension, war, and ultimately constitutes a serious threat to peace and security for the region and the world.