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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fifty-second session  
Agenda item 8

QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED  
TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

Russian Federation: revised draft resolution

1996/... Hostage-taking

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of person, freedom from torture or degrading treatment, freedom of movement and protection from arbitrary detention,

Taking into account the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/146 of 17 December 1979, which also recognizes that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Taking into consideration the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, which prohibit the taking of hostages in times of armed conflict,

Recalling the existing international treaties relating to various aspects of the problem,

Recalling also the previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the subject, including the latest, resolution 1992/23 of 28 February 1992, in which it condemned the taking of any person as hostage,

Bearing in mind the pertinent Security Council resolutions condemning all cases of hostage-taking, of which the latest is resolution 674 (1990) of 29 October 1990,

Deeply concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking, including those committed by terrorists and armed groups, have increased in many regions of the world,

Especially alarmed at the taking hostage of women and children, expressing its distress at the violence committed against innocent victims, and sharing the anxiety and suffering of the families concerned,

Expressing its outrage at the growing manifestations of brutality and violence in connection with hostage-taking, including the killing of innocent people and their use as human shields,

Appealing for the humanitarian action of the International Committee of the Red Cross and its delegates to be respected in all relevant circumstances,

Recognizing that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

1. Emphasizes that the taking of hostages, wherever and by whomever committed, constitutes a serious obstacle to the full enjoyment of all human rights and is under any circumstances unjustifiable, irrespective of considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, religious, racial, ethnic or other nature invoked to justify it;

2. Demands that all hostages be released immediately and without any preconditions;

3. Calls upon States to take all necessary measures to prevent, combat and punish the taking of hostages, including strengthening international cooperation in this field;

4. Encourages non-governmental organizations to include, where appropriate, the problem of hostage-taking in their deliberations and findings and to supply relevant information to the United Nations human rights bodies;

5. Urges the relevant treaty bodies and special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights to pay due regard, within their respective mandates, to the consequences of hostage-taking, including when committed by terrorists and armed groups;

6. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-third session under the same agenda item.

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