



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2003/NGO/4  
30 January 2003

ENGLISH AND FRENCH  
ONLY

---

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fifty-ninth session  
Item 11(e) and 14 (b) of the provisional agenda

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF:  
RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS:  
MINORITIES

Written statement\* submitted by the Association for World Education,  
a non-governmental organization on the Roster

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

[8 January 2003]

---

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

Islamist and Arab religious Anti-Semitism as a growing phenomenon;  
the protocols of the elders of Zion shown during Ramadan on Egyptian TV

1. In three articles published in academic journals (1997-98), and in a written statement E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/NGO/3, we warned that “the struggle to combat racism in all its forms – including anti-Semitism – through serious scholarship and freedom of thought, opinion and expression should not be curtailed at the UN by auto-censorship.” Yet, in all the reports of the Special Rapporteur on Racism since 1998, anti-Semitism in the Arab and Muslim world has been totally ignored and the report to be presented to the 59<sup>th</sup> session has nothing on anti-Semitism.

2. Having already raised the matter of the ongoing use of the notorious Protocols of the Elders Of Zion, we are making available to the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the UNCHR and to the Special Rapporteur the ‘Urgent Appeal’ we presented to the UNHCHR on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2002.

3. U R G E N T APPEAL: Human Rights Day (10 December 2002)  
To High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello

On this 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GA’s adoption of the UDHR, a day after that of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, we wish to express our deep dismay and grave concern at a disturbing phenomenon, which has been totally ignored by the OHCHR. A murderous ‘culture of hate’ that plagued the twentieth century, thereby contributing significantly to the horrors of the Second World War – including the Shoah – is again spreading like the plague, while all United Nations bodies remain silent - as did the League of Nations and most Western democratic countries in the 1930s. This is intolerable!

Article 26 (2) of the UDHR reads: “*Education ... shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the UN for the maintenance of peace.*” Article 30: “*Nothing in this Declaration shall be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.*” In the spirit of promoting tolerance in the spirit of human rights worldwide, “*The General Assembly proclaimed the UN Decade for Human Rights Education to begin on 1 January 1995. The Assembly stated that human rights education should be a lifelong process by which people learn respect for the dignity of others. It called on governments to direct education toward full development of the human personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Coordinator for implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade is the UNHCHR.*” (Reference Paper No. 41. Feb. 2002)

All this notwithstanding, the UNHCHR has yet to react to what is now common knowledge worldwide: that three of Egypt’s TV stations, as well as Iraq’s and Hezbollah’s Al-Manar, broadcast during Ramadan - the holiest month of Islam - 41 episodes of a television series entitled, ‘Knight Without a Horse’. Filmed for eighteen months by an Egyptian private station, the Dream satellite TV channel, this major production was approved by the Egyptian government’s official censorship. It is

based on the conviction that there is a Jewish blueprint for world domination, as described in a century-old forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. In Mein Kampf, Adolph Hitler argued similarly - even after *The Times* of London denounced the fraud (1922). This belief is also inscribed in article 32 of the genocidal 1988 Charter of HAMAS - never condemned by any UN body - which refers to the Jews thus: "*Their plan is embodied in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.*" The senior religious authority in the Sunni Muslim world, the Great Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi - who, on 4 April 2002, had approved "*every martyrdom operation against any Israeli, including women, children and teenagers*", referring to Jews as "*sons of pigs and apes*" - recently claimed that *The Protocols* was an authentic work (19 November 2002). Yet in 1998, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR (1948), the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) set up a research project on the 'Evaluation of Al-Azhar's (religious education) Curricula from a Human Rights Perspective.'

Herein, eight pages that provide some references to this growing culture of hate - particularly to Arabic editions of *The Protocols*, which remains a best-seller in the Arab-Muslim world - even since the UN Decade for Human Rights Education began! After the UNCHR was hijacked on 19 April 1997 - on an accusation of 'blasphemy' - the unwritten rules of auto-censorship have resulted since then in no mention being made in subsequent Reports of the Special Rapporteur on Racism to any antisemitism in Arab or Muslim countries. We hope this will cease.

The eminent French sociologist Pierre-André Taguieff analysed the history of *The Protocols* in 1992, and recently published *La nouvelle judéophobie*, in which he states in his last chapter: 'Silences sur la nouvelle judéophobie: aveuglement, complaisance ou connivances?': "*La culture de la haine et de la mort est imperceptiblement devenue, en ce début du troisième millénaire, un mouvement sociale transnational doté d'une avant-garde djihadiste sans scrupules.* » *The Protocols* is a prime factor in this 'culture of hate', as is the 'Damascus Blood Libel' of 1840, again cited on 21 Oct. 2002 as an "historical fact" by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass, publisher of *The Matzah of Zion* (1983), which has become a Tlass editions best-seller.[in David Littman, "Syria's Blood Libel Revival at the UN: 1991-2000", *Midstream*, Feb.- Mar. 2000.]

On the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UDHR, we call on you as UNHCHR to speak out now against this vile and genocidal use of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*: by Egypt; of the 'Damascus Blood Libel' by Syria; along with the monstrous culture of hate that is being systematically carried out in Arab and Muslim countries against Israel, and the Jews in general - as in the 1930s. Indeed, as human rights defenders, "*In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.*" (Martin Luther King Jr.)

René Wadlow

David G.Littman

(Representatives: the Association for World Education to the United Nations Office in Geneva)

Attachment (shortened) to 'URGENT APPEAL' on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2002

4. Ten years ago, the French scholar and Arabist Olivier Carré documented how virtually all Islamists were expounding a religious-antisemitic doctrine, one of whose ideological props remained *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, which they claimed was an authentic Jewish blueprint for world domination (Olivier Carré, *L'utopie islamique dans l'Orient arabe*, Paris, 1991, p.210)

5. Probably concocted by French Jesuit circles reacting to the Dreyfus Affair, this apocryphal "document" was fabricated in French in Paris toward the end of the 19th century, and then used by the Russian secret police (Okhrana), although Czar Nicholas II personally criticised it. In August 1922, *The Times* of London published three detailed articles from its Constantinople correspondent, Philip Graves, describing the apocryphal nature of *The Protocols*. A 1935 court in Bern reached the same result, the judge declaring *The Protocols* to be a forgery. In 1992 - twenty-five years after Norman Cohn's classic study, *Warrant for Genocide. The Myth of the Jewish World Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (London, 1967) - the ongoing history of this forgery was again analysed in great detail by the French sociologist, Pierre-André Taguieff, in *Les Protocoles des Sages de Sion: Faux et Usages d'un Faux*. (Paris, 1992, 2 vol.)

6. This dangerous racist myth consists in the belief that a Jewish-led conspiracy seeks to control the world, a plot seen at work in every revolution and war, and in the workings of all international organisations, and most transnational associations since the French Revolution.

7. The 1988 Covenant of the Palestinian HAMAS movement, which declares in regard to Zionists - and Jews as a whole - "Their plan is embodied in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion." (article 32). Its article 22 provides evidence to "prove" that the Jews have been responsible for all the world's evils over the centuries, including the First and Second World Wars, and the founding of both the League of Nations and the United Nations.

8. Islamic Jihad and HAMAS derive their inspiration from the Lebanese Hizbollah organisation. They are part of an Islamist International, which held its first mass meeting in London's Wembley Arena on 7 August 1994 under the banner of "The Khilafah Conference" (calling for the return of the Islamic Caliphate). It was attended by over 8,000 supporters from Europe, Africa, the Maghreb and the Middle East, being organised by the Hizb ut Tahrir or *HUT* (the Islamic Liberation Party), the most active fundamentalist group in Britain. Among the Conference's 7-Point Declaration, N° 4 stated: "*All agreements with Israel are invalid - not binding on Muslims. There can be no peace with Israel until the State of Israel is demolished.*" Point N° 7 declares that "*All international organisations, e.g. the United Nations (...), the World Bank, etc. are the tools of Imperialists and are rejected by Islam.*"

9. It is a tragic reflection on this new century - seventy years after Hitler came to power in 1933 and the apocalyptic aftermath - that *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* are still widely disseminated, having been reprinted during the 1980s in ten

European countries: Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Yugoslavia, Greece, Poland, Russia, and in the United States.

10. But it is in the Arab-Islamic world that the The Protocols remain a best-seller of hatred, running into hundreds of thousands of copies. As Prof. Taguieff has pointed out (Vol. I, p. 380), Saudi Arabia was then - and remains today - the largest producer and exporter of this incitement to hatred, which is to be found in the main centres of the Middle East and the Maghreb. Iran provides the needs of the Iranian market - spilling over into Europe for Western consumption.

11. In Sweden, The Protocols was one of the main 'sources' used by 'Radio Islam' ('The Swedish Islamic Association') to "prove", inter alia, that there was a Jewish world conspiracy and that the Holocaust was a Jewish "hoax". Radio Islam began broadcasting its antisemitic propaganda in 1987 from the vicinity of Stockholm, which led to the longest and most extensive court trial of its kind in 1989, when the Attorney General successfully persecuted Ahmad Rami, a Moroccan, for "*incitement against an ethnic group.*"

12. This work of religious and racial hatred again appeared in a 1990 Arabic edition of *The Protocols*, published in Beirut by Dar an-Nafais, the "House of Precious Things" (by Ahmad Ratib Armish and translated by Dr Ihsan Haqqi: 1st edition 1988, 2nd edition 1990.)

13. The cover of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1990) shows a Star of David torn into pieces. Superimposed is a Jewish candelabra made of barbed wire which is dripping blood. An inside illustration shows a spider grasping the globe of the world with a crude human head, a typical Stürmer-like caricature of a Jew, entitled: "*This is the cover of the French edition whose title is 'The Jewish Peril', from which the present translation was made.*" (Le Péril Juif. Texte intégral des Protocols des Sages d'Israël), a replica of the Paris edition (1938), sold widely during the Nazi Occupation.

14. The 'final solution' is given in the preface to this Arabic edition:

*"They [the Jews] believe that they are God's chosen people, returning to the Promised Land in order to act immorally and foment trouble in whatever way they can. But the inevitable course of history and the Arab and Muslim awakening, as well as the Will of Providence, will make [the destruction of] Israel a lesson for all the people of the world to see. This [destruction] is what we must believe and teach to our children, striving towards its realisation and asking for success from Allah the Exalted One."*

-----