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**CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Written statement* submitted by New Humanity,
a non-governmental organisation 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.

[8 February 2005]

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

TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Having examined the recommendations by the Human Rights sub-Committee of August 6th 2004 – 56th session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/L.13), which advised that the Human Rights Commission should approve the following:

- a) Express its heartfelt gratitude to Special Rapporteur Mrs. Kalliopi Koufa for her excellent final report on “Terrorism and Human Rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/40) and
- b) Bearing in mind the importance of her study on human rights and terrorism, recommend to the Social Economic Council that it should publish this in a more complete document containing all information currently provided by the Special Rapporteur,

the NGO, New Humanity, presents the following document to the Commission for Human Rights (61st Session – March 14th/April 22nd 2005).

Special Rapporteur, Mrs. Kalliopi Koufa, has emphasised the need for the study and definition of terrorism in its various forms, and the need to distinguish it from other armed actions that originate in specific circumstances (colonial domination, military occupation and regimes violating human rights etc.). Furthermore, the Special Rapporteur recommends that terrorism should be the object of study by other disciplines as well as International Law, with the objective of analysing its causes as well as means and strategies for reducing and preventing this phenomenon while respecting human rights and humanitarian law.

This NGO agrees with and shares the aforementioned proposals presented by the Special Rapporteur.

In particular, it upholds the clear condemnation of every form of terrorism because it negates membership to one family, which is more important than any reason for altercation or conflict among individuals and groups. This vision is seen as useful and necessary to combat and eliminate the sad phenomenon of terrorism, to understand different situations and reasons which can instigate terrorist actions.

In fact, terrorism is fomented by groups reacting to unjust or iniquitous situations by imposing themselves politically or ideologically. In this regard, we can observe that up until September 11th 2001 in fact, (the day Al Qaeda attacked the United States of America), individual regional forms of terrorism had already developed (IRA, ETA, Palestinian groups, Red Brigades in Italy etc.), each with their own origins and motivations. There is no doubt that Al Qaeda differs from these forms of terrorism, which appears to have an international reach of its own, its own origins and its own hegemonic objective.

Therefore, there is a need to analyse the political, cultural and economic causes of different forms of terrorism, to adopt the most appropriate and effective measures needed to eliminate them, and therefore to ideologically and politically isolate the various forms of terrorism. This would hinder them from attracting others to their cause.

Furthermore, to reach this goal, this NGO also believes that a better way of safeguarding against the expanding of terrorism is to educate future generations in democratic practices to affirm the rule of law with democratic methods. We believe that to achieve this it is necessary to educate the young in this sense, as well as providing ways and means to freely exercise their civil and political rights. We therefore propose that the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights should conduct a study to ascertain whether young people in all countries, are

effectively educated in the respect of human rights and in democratically exercising their civil and political liberties, and also ascertain whether they are provided with complete and correct information concerning political indicators and events to encourage the free expression of their ideas and needs.
