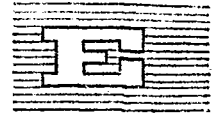


UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
E/CH.4/1471  
6 March 1981  
ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Thirty-seventh session  
Agenda item 15

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL  
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE  
TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 25 February 1981 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Haiti to the United Nations in New York  
addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

I have the honour to bring to your attention a situation which constitutes a flagrant violation of the noble ideals of peace, justice and fraternity proclaimed by the Organization. The acts involved are all the more flagrant since they have been perpetrated by one Member State against another Member State, both of them signatories of the Charter of the United Nations; and this, in spite of obvious ethnic and regional affinities which should have prevented such barbaric acts.

The situation is as follows:

The Government of the Bahamas, acting quite deliberately, has for several days been rounding up in veritable concentration camps all Haitian men, women and young children in its territory, whether or not their situation is in order; and this operation has been accompanied by acts of brutality. The homes of the people concerned have been ransacked and their honestly-acquired property plundered.

The Government does, of course, have the right to withdraw residence permits from foreigners living in the Bahamas; that right derives from the very principle of its sovereignty. But does it have the right to violate the most elementary rules of morality and civilization by hunting down, mistreating and persecuting Haitians who, even yesterday, were contributing to the development of that country?

The Government and people of Haiti protest most vigorously against these savage acts. Attitudes of this kind are highly reprehensible and constitute a violation of the norms of international law, morality and human dignity. The Government and people of Haiti denounce this inhuman treatment and these acts of brigandage to you, Sir, with your high moral and political authority, and through you to all the civilized nations of the world.

I am sending you herewith a copy of the telegram from His Excellency Dr. Edouard Francisque, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Haiti, addressed to the Honourable Paul L. Adderley, Minister of External Affairs of the Bahamas.

I request you to bring this matter before the Commission on Human Rights which is at present holding its thirty-seventh session at Geneva, and to circulate this letter and the attached telegram to States Members of the United Nations.

I take this opportunity to renew to you, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed) Jean Coradin  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

To: His Excellency Mr. Jean Coradin  
Ambassador of Haiti to the United Nations  
801 Second Avenue  
New York

I have the honour to inform you that I have today sent the following cable to Mr. Paul L. Adderley, Minister of External Affairs of the Bahamas:

"To: The Honourable Paul L. Adderley  
Minister of External Affairs  
Nassau  
Bahamas

The Government of the Republic of Haiti has just learnt through its Consul-General at Nassau of the indescribable treatment which, in violation of all international agreements and all agreements signed with Haiti, you are inflicting on Haitian families that have been established in the Bahamas for generations.

Entire families, including infants and new-born babies, have been arbitrarily rounded up at night and illegally thrown into prison simply because they are of Haitian nationality. I draw your attention also to the public plundering of their property organized with the complicity of the Bahamian police.

The Government of the Republic of Haiti wishes to make a vigorous and indignant protest against these barbaric measures which recall the Kristallnacht and the night of the long knives of the Nazi hordes.

Consequently, it calls upon the Government of the Bahamas to release immediately the Haitian nationals arrested illegally and to restore their property. It wishes to inform the Government of the Bahamas of its intention to bring this regrettable affair before all the international organizations, and particularly the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the International Red Cross and the Commission on Human Rights.

Measures of reprisal against the Bahamas will also be studied.

Dr. Edouard Francisque  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Haiti."

I should be grateful if you would, as a matter of urgency, take all the necessary measures to secure the immediate release of these families detained in parlous conditions.

Highest consideration,

Dr. Edouard Francisque  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Haiti