



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 March 2011

English only

Human Rights Council

Sixteenth session

Agenda item 9

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), 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.

[25 February 2011]

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

Ongoing progress in the pursuit to eliminate all forms of racism

UN Human Rights institutions past and present have encouraged initiatives to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

Undoubtedly, all persons are entitled to the same universal human rights. Every person must be able to live according to his cultural, social, ethnic or religious personalities. Indeed, the 1992 Declaration is the key to promoting and protecting these rights and since then matters on this issue have unfortunately progressed rather slowly.

However, it needs to be appreciated that there are a lot of good people within the NGO fraternity who have worked tirelessly on minority issues and issues concerning unrepresented peoples around the globe.

One such personality was Dr. Y. N. Kly (chairman of IHRAAM) who unfortunately passed away peacefully on July 6th 2010.

A source of inspiration to all who knew him, Dr. Kly was a visionary who consistently thought within the broader global framework about how best to promote human well being, and worked tirelessly to bring those understandings to concrete fruition.

The broad scope of his activities was evident in the wide range of unrepresented nations and peoples whose causes he sought to advance not only through UN human rights assemblies, but also through tribunals such as the Human Rights Committee and the Inter-American Court: Gullah-Geechees, African Americans, Kashmiris, Thlingit, Dalits, Lil'wat, Apsalookas, Puerto Ricans, and others.

As a Professor Emeritus in the field of political science and international law at the University of Regina, and as a founder and primary theoretician directing IHRAAM, an international human rights NGO in consultative status with the United Nations, he brought unique and far-reaching insights into the possible conduct of domestic and international affairs.

His many books dealing with the rights of oppressed minorities, and in particular his own African American and Gullah-Geechee peoples, sought to advance an understanding of their actual politico-legal situation within multinational states, and the many legal and institutional means and route to improving their socio-economic well being without surrendering their unique and beautiful cultures. He further sought to move the UN itself towards a fuller understanding and institutional protection of Article 1 of both of the major human rights treaties, which legally enshrined the right to self-determination, by means of two international conferences held in Geneva.

He was a world citizen, a great humanitarian, and loved and respected by his family and friends, colleagues and students, and members of his local and far-flung community.

Personalities such as Dr. Kly certainly induce enthusiasm within the NGO community to keep in the good work on minority issues and issues related to unrepresented Nations.
