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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-second session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND
SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by the ROMANI UNION, a
non-governmental organization in consultative status
(category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution
1296 (XLIV).

[21 August 1990]

ROMANI UNION

1. The Romani Union, representing over 15 million Roma (Gypsies, Sinti, etc.) all over the world through their national and regional organisations, must again stress that, despite the progress made, there is still a lot of prejudice to overcome and genocide attempts to prevent!

2. In all countries live different racial groups and gradually, in unity in diversity, including the Roma with their culture and language, humankind advances towards a multi-racial global society in which the Roma live and also bring their valuable contribution towards world order.

3. Hopefully soon freed from human rights violations, we should strive towards a world commonwealth uniting all nations, with a world legislature with representatives elected by and dedicated to humankind, and an international force and a world tribunal to safeguard peaceful unity in diversity for all.

4. Racism being the cause for constant human rights violations against Roma everywhere, we wish to quote from The Promise of World Peace:

"Racism, one of the most baneful and persistent evils, is a major barrier to peace. Its practice perpetrates too outrageous a violation of the dignity of human beings to be countenanced under any pretext. Racism retards the unfoldment of the boundless potentialities of its victims, corrupts its perpetrators, and blights human progress. Recognition of the oneness of mankind, implemented by appropriate legal measures, must be universally upheld if this problem is to be overcome" (The Promise of World Peace, a statement by the Universal House of Justice, Bahá'í World Centre, p. 10, ISBN 085398-216-3).

5. Roma still suffer from one of the most dangerous of prejudices: the one arising from differences of race or skin colour. It leads to human rights violations, social unrest, war and even genocide.

6. It is increasingly recognized that each human being has wonderful innate capacities which only require a suitable environment and education for their development for the benefit of society as a whole.

7. After the recent developments in Eastern Europe, the Roma there enjoy more freedom, have their own parties and their members of parliament.

8. In this significant moment of history in which we live, while the family of nations shows, most encouragingly, greater co-operation than ever before, much progress must still be made so that the limited resources of our planet be wisely administrated internationally by representatives really dedicated to humankind!

9. Among all its members, the Romani Union uses its own international auxiliary language: an example which the nations of the world might soon wish to follow and thus contribute to reducing human rights violations.

10. The Romani Union is most heartfully grateful to all who actively contribute to overcoming all prejudice and so prevent further human rights violations, thus making our planet earth a safe and happy place also for our children and for all future generations.
