

**7th SESSION of THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Statement on "Racism", by Dr. Francesca Giannotti, IIFSO,
International Islamic Federation of Student Organization**

Mr. President,

I thank Mr. Doudu Diene for a useful report. His contribution is praiseworthy, information in the report up-to-date and analysis incisive.

Mr. President,

Racism continues to persist in many forms in various parts of the world. It manifests itself in religious doctrines, social values and taboos and supremacist interpretation of history. In India, for instance, low caste Dalits continue to be victims of violence, humiliation and discrimination. Trapped in evil caste system devised centuries ago to ensure political supremacy of high caste people, millions of Dalits are chocking for human and social justice as well as economic security.

As rightly pointed out by Mr. Diene, political will to combat racism is eroding. Islamophobia surrounds Muslim communities living in various parts of the world. Partly, popularization of racist organizations with State connivance, patronage or just blissful ignorance is responsible for this trend. In India, racist organizations such as RSS, VHP and Bajrang Dal continue to propagate their neo-Nazi ideologies abusing democratic platforms. The leaders of these organizations Golwakar and Sarvarkar openly lauded Nazis and Hitler and vowed to cleanse India from Muslims, Christians and other impurities as Nazis in relation to Jews. All relevant stakeholders, including those active against anti-Semitism must call for the banning of these organizations and the books of their leaders. Unfortunately, these organizations openly collect donations from Indian diasporas in several western countries to promote their racial agenda back home. The Special Rapporteur may take this angle into consideration in his next report.

At least one major political party is a direct beneficiary of the hate campaigns of these organisations against religious minorities including Muslims and Christians. This party rules the Indian State of Gujarat where thousands of Muslims were subjected to racial genocide and their survivors are still victims of state sponsored discrimination. As mentioned by the special Rapporteur, reinterpretation of History is the most potent tool in the hands of racist to target or stereotype racial minorities. In India, too, history books particularly in the state of Gujarat have been changed to demonize religious minorities and eulogize majority. In a paper, Nobel Laureate Dr. Amartya Sen has defined the motives of RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal and BJP to reinvent history. These motives are based on perverse ideals of superiority on the basis of race and religion.

A host of international NGOs have commented on various aspects of the racial discrimination based on cast system and religion in India including Amnesty International and the Human Rights Watch together with international and national NGOs, Indian newspapers regularly cite reports on these racist activities. However, the relevant Special Procedures have yet to visit India, particularly Gujarat, to witness the atrocities in the name of race and religion.

Thank you Mr. President