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**RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND  
ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION**

**Situation of Muslim and Arab peoples in various parts of the world**

**Report by Mr. Doudou Diène, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of  
racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

1. In its resolution 2004/6 of 13 April 2004, on combating defamation of religions, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to examine the situation of Muslim and Arab peoples in various parts of the world with special reference to physical assaults and attacks against their places of worship, cultural centres, businesses and properties in the aftermath of the events of 11 September 2001.
2. The General Assembly, moreover, in its resolution 58/160 of 22 December 2003 on global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, recognized with deep concern the increase in anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and Islamophobia in various parts of the world, as well as the emergence of racial and violent movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas directed against Arab, Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities.
3. In the Durban Declaration adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in September 2001, States recognized with deep concern “religious intolerance against certain religious communities, as well as the

emergence of hostile acts and violence against such communities because of their religious beliefs and their racial or ethnic origin in various parts of the world” (A/CONF/189/12, para. 59). They also recognized with deep concern “the increase in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in various parts of the world, as well as the emergence of racial and violent movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas against Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities” (para. 61).

4. The United Nations Department of Public Information launched a seminar series entitled “Unlearning Intolerance”. Two seminars were organized in New York, one on anti-Semitism, on 21 June 2004, and one on Islamophobia, on 7 December 2004. In his opening remarks at the seminar on anti-Semitism, the Secretary-General urged Member States to take the necessary action to combat anti-Semitism in all its forms, citing the example of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/6, which requested the Special Rapporteur to examine the situation of Muslim and Arab peoples in various parts of the world. The Special Rapporteur would like to express his deep gratitude to the Secretary-General for his message of support to the seminar on defamation of religions held from 11 to 14 November 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, which demonstrates his commitment to combating all forms of discrimination.

5. In his report to the Commission at its sixtieth session, the Special Rapporteur had this to say: “... in view of the large number of confirmed incidents and of the representative and therefore influential nature of the personalities involved, the concern expressed by participant States at the Durban Conference regarding the rise of anti-Semitism is justified ... . It is therefore important to make the rise of anti-Semitism, like that of Islamophobia, the subject of an in-depth study, which will look into its underlying causes, its manifestations and the ways and means available to combat it” (E/CN.4/2004/18, para. 15).

6. In the light of the above-mentioned resolutions, the Secretary-General’s remarks and the Durban Declaration, as well as the relevant recommendations in his previous reports, the Special Rapporteur has decided to examine more closely the question of defamation of religions and, in particular, anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and Islamophobia, and to submit a report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first session (E/CN.4/2005/18/Add.4).

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