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### **Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/33**

#### *The Commission on Human Rights,*

*Recalling* that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

*Recalling further* article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant provisions,

*Reaffirming* the call of the World Conference on Human Rights upon all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion,

*Alarmed* that serious instances of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance, occur in many parts of the world and threaten the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Deeply concerned* at the increase in violence and discrimination against religious minorities, including restrictive legislation and arbitrary application of legislation and other measures,

*Emphasizing* that the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is far-reaching and profound, and that it encompasses freedom of thought on all matters, personal conviction and the commitment to religion or belief, whether manifested individually or in community with others,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance (E/CN.4/2000/65);

2. *Condemns* all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

3. *Encourages* the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate in the field of human rights the activities of relevant United Nations organs, bodies, and mechanisms dealing with all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

4. *Urges* States:

- (a) To ensure that their constitutional and legislative systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief to all without discrimination, *inter alia* by the provision of effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of religion or belief, including the freedom to change one's religion or belief, is violated;
- (b) To ensure, in particular, that no one within their jurisdiction is deprived of the right to life or the right to liberty and security of person because of religion or belief, or is subjected to torture or arbitrary arrest or detention on that account;
- (c) In conformity with international standards of human rights, to take all necessary action to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by intolerance based on religion or belief, with particular regard to religious minorities, and also to devote particular attention to practices which violate the human rights of women and discriminate against women;
- (d) To recognize the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief and to establish and maintain places for these purposes;
- (e) To exert utmost efforts, in accordance with their national legislation and in conformity with international human rights standards, to ensure that religious places, sites and shrines are fully respected and protected;
- (f) To ensure that all public officials, including members of law enforcement bodies, in the course of their official duties respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate on the grounds of religion or belief;

(g) To promote and encourage, through education and other means, understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

5. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

6. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the Special Rapporteur to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

7. *Stresses* the need for the Special Rapporteur to apply a gender perspective, *inter alia* through the identification of gender-specific abuses, in the reporting process, including in information collection and in recommendations;

8. *Notes* that the Special Rapporteur has undertaken a study on religious discrimination and racism and looks forward to its presentation at the first session, to be held in May 2000, of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and encourages the Special Rapporteur to contribute further to the preparations for the World Conference, to be held in 2001, by forwarding to the High Commissioner his recommendations on religious intolerance which have a bearing on the World Conference;

9. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, to respond favourably to requests from the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries and to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate even more effectively;

10. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur and reiterates the need for him to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him, and invites him to continue to seek the views and comments of Governments concerned in the elaboration of his report, as well as to continue to carry out his work with discretion, objectivity and independence;

11. *Decides* to change the title of the Special Rapporteur from Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance to Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and that this change will be implemented at the next extension of the Special Rapporteur's mandate;

12. *Recognizes* that the exercise of tolerance and non-discrimination by all actors in society is necessary for the full realization of the aims of the Declaration;

13. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Governments to collaborate with the Special Rapporteur, including the convening of an international consultative conference on school education in relation to freedom of religion and belief, to be held in Madrid in November 2001;

14. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuing efforts of non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups to promote the implementation of the Declaration, to foster freedom of religion and in highlighting cases of religious intolerance, discrimination and persecution;

15. *Recommends* that the United Nations and other actors, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion and belief, ensure the widest possible dissemination of the text of the Declaration, in as many different languages as possible, by United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the necessary assistance to enable him fully to discharge his mandate;

17. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session;

18. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its fifty-seventh session under the same agenda item.

*60th meeting*

*20 April 2000*

[Adopted without a vote.]

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## **Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/84**

### *The Commission on Human Rights,*

*Recalling* that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Recalling also* its resolution 1999/82 of 30 April 1999,

*Reaffirming* that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitute an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* that discrimination based on religion or belief constitutes an offence to human dignity and a violation of human rights,

*Reaffirming* the call of the World Conference on Human Rights for all Governments to take all appropriate measures, in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems, to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and including desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion,

*Alarmed* at the serious instances of intolerance, discrimination and acts of violence based on religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious extremism, occurring in many parts of the world and threatening the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Underlining* the importance of creating conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance within and among societies and conscious of the importance of education in ensuring tolerance of and respect for religion and belief,

*Welcoming* the designation by the General Assembly of the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

*Expressing its appreciation* in this context of the joint efforts of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in organizing the seminar entitled "Enriching the Universality of Human Rights: Islamic Perspectives on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in Geneva on 9 and 10 November 1998,

*Emphasizing* that non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and communities have an important role to play in the promotion of tolerance and the protection of freedom of religion or belief,

1. *Expresses deep concern* at negative stereotyping of religions;
2. *Also expresses deep concern* that Islam is frequently and wrongly associated with human rights violations and with terrorism;
3. *Expresses its concern* at any role in which the print, audio-visual or electronic media or any other means is used to incite acts of violence, xenophobia or related intolerance and discrimination towards Islam and any other religion;

4. *Urges* all States, within their national legal framework, in conformity with international human rights instruments to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, discrimination, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance, including attacks on religious places, and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;
5. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and regional organizations to provide their views on the religious perspectives of combating racism to the Secretary-General of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and invites the Secretary-General of the World Conference, through its preparatory process, to present these inputs to the World Conference;
6. *Calls upon* the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance and the Special Rapporteur on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to take into account the provisions of the present resolution when reporting to the Commission;
7. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*67th meeting*

*26 April 2000*

[Adopted without a vote. ]