

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (EAFORD)



[www.eaford.org](http://www.eaford.org)

36th Session of the UN Human Rights Council  
11 to 29 September 2017

### SUMMARY REPORT OF EAFORD'S INTERVENTIONS

EAFORD's Interventions during the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council



#### **Participation by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)**

During its participation in the 36th regular session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) as well as the 27<sup>th</sup> *Special* session, EAFORD, jointly with other organizations, delivered 18 oral statements, submitted 16 written statements, and co-organized two side events. The official copies of the written reports submitted to the Human Rights Council are available to download at the bottom of the page, alongside the summaries and videos of the side events.

During its participation in the regular and special sessions, EAFORD addressed the human rights situations in various countries, with a specific focus on the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), Israel, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, and South Sudan, as well as, Europe and North America.

Discussions under numerous HRC agenda items, addressing various pertinent human rights issues faced by civilians and/or minorities in different countries and regions included the thematic issues shown in the graphic below.



## EAFORD's Oral Statements

Addressing the human rights situations in the delineated countries and focusing on the illustrated topics, EAFORD delivered 18 oral statements under items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the agenda of the 36<sup>th</sup> regular session of the HRC held in September 2017, as well as, additional oral statements during the 27<sup>th</sup> Special session of the HRC held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and also during the Regional Meeting for Europe, Central Asia and North America on the International Decade for People of African Descent held from 23 – 24 November 2017. The oral statements delivered by EAFORD, jointly with other NGOs, can be viewed in the next section.



### [Nowhere Safe | Civilians Trapped in Armed Conflicts](#)

**General Debate under Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

12 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Ms. Jennifer Tapia

This is a joint statement by EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice. We thank the High Commissioner for his oral update. We would like to express our dismay over the humanitarian crisis and human rights violations in Yemen and Iraq.

Mr. Vice-President,

Ever since the start of the conflict in Yemen, the situation has only worsened. To this day, the civil war has resulted in thousands of people killed and displaced. Airstrikes targeting civilians' facilities are widespread, curtailing civilians' access to clean water, sanitation and medical services further aggravating the alarming situation of the cholera outbreak.

The situation is no better for civilians trapped in the armed conflict in Iraq. Mr. High Commissioner, you have mentioned the defeating of ISIS. Unfortunately, what we have seen the most is the destruction of entire cities like Mosul, Tal Afar and Fallujah in the so-called battle for liberation. Even yet, ISIS and other terrorist armed groups are still present in Iraq. But besides ISIS' brutality, there are terrible human rights violations committed by the coalition forces, governmental forces, and by the Al-Hashd Al-Shabi militia.

We urge this council to address with high priority the terrible suffering of civilians in these countries, holding perpetrators accountable and exerting pressure on these States to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, guaranteeing the enjoyment of fundamental human rights for civilians.



## [Assessment of the World Programme for Human Rights Education Third Phase](#)

**General Debate under Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development**

### **Assessment of the World Programme for Human Rights Education Third Phase**

18 September 2017

Joint Statement with (SGI) on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning

Delivered by Ms. Elisa Gazzotti

I speak on behalf of 16 organizations<sup>1</sup> We welcome the midterm progress report on the implementation of the Third Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, which gives an overview of different initiatives at the national level.

It is key to recall that the implementation of human rights education and training programmes is part of the 2030 Agenda, which specifically includes Human Rights Education under target 4.7<sup>2</sup>

We would like to underline the positive development of cooperation between national actors like governments, national human rights institutions and NGOs.

<sup>1</sup> This statement reflects views of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning (NGO WG on HREL) of NGO Human Rights Committee of CoNGO, comprising 55 NGOs.

<sup>2</sup> SDG 4.7 by 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

One of the findings of the seminar on Human Rights Education that the NGO Working Group organized in May<sup>3</sup> is that governments play a crucial role in ensuring that their delegations to different inter-governmental organizations, such as UNESCO or the Council of Europe, are in contact and aware of their respective efforts in the field of Human Rights Education and that synergies are promoted.

Noting significant efforts in some countries, we would like to stress the following:

1. Human rights training, especially for media professionals and journalists remains a challenge. It is necessary to address evaluation and follow-up of all human rights training processes. The definition of criteria and indicators is essential for the monitoring of human rights education.<sup>4</sup>
2. Learning from and building upon good practices would be enriched if we could draw upon a greater number of contributions from States and National Human Rights Institutions. We encourage them to share their best practices when they prepare for the final evaluation of the Third Phase by 2020.



## United Nations Should Ban Mercenaries across the Globe

### **Interactive Dialogue under Item 3: Working Group on Mercenaries**

#### **Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of**

#### **peoples to self-determination**

13 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Mr. Mutua Kobia

Mr. President,

During the occupation of Iraq private security companies whose sole aim was to make profits were employed by different organs or states to extract information from prisoners, but in so-doing breached international law and inflicted much suffering on Iraqis. Additionally, these companies deployed mercenaries who continued to violate international law and committed grave crimes. Yet neither the individuals, nor the companies and benefactors were held accountable for the crimes and anguish inflicted on the people in Iraq.

In some cases, the international mercenaries get recruited and paid and the disburser awards them with residence as is the case in the United States. Some of these mercenaries were in Iraq and violated international human rights law, committed atrocities and crimes against humanity without any accountability. Furthermore, the United Nations (UN) itself tried to legitimize their presence. Rather the UN should ban mercenaries across the globe and the deployment of regular State forces should be exercised.

Finally, stricter licensing and regulating laws need to be established and implemented. Also, stricter monitoring and inspection systems must be a priority especially with regards to activities that violate

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<sup>3</sup> Co-organized by the States Platform on HRET (Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia and Thailand) and the UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva.

<sup>4</sup><https://en.unesco.org/gced/sdg47progress>.

international law and international humanitarian law. States must establish and put in place justice systems and specific legal bodies in order to address and account for crimes committed by mercenaries and private militaries.



### Rebuilding Mosul amid a Society Fractured by Sectarian Mistrust

**General Debate under Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development**

18 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Ms. Lamia Fadla

Thank you, Mr. President.

This is a joint statement by EAFORD with Geneva International Centre for Justice. Our organizations reiterate their previous appeals about the situation in Iraq, especially in Mosul. Compounding the grave violations committed by Da'esh (ISIS), the military campaign against the terrorist group has led to the total destruction of this city of historical significance. The deliberate targeting of civilians constitutes a war crime and crimes against humanity, which should be persecuted by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The Iraqi government has demonstrated its failure to comply with international humanitarian law and to take measures to protect civilians and provide them with safety during military operations carried out by the US-led coalition forces over nine months in Mosul. While aimed at eliminating a terrorist organization, the operation has destroyed infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water systems, communication and sewage systems, and health and education systems. This renders the return of more than one million people to their homes impossible after they abandoned the city to escape the war.

We call for a concerted international effort to rescue and rebuild the devastated city as soon as possible in order to enable the displaced to return to their city and to rid them of their suffering in the camps. We also call upon your Council to exercise all necessary measures to establish an independent international commission to investigate all violations in Iraq. We condemn the systematic violations of human rights and international law by the Iraqi Government in these battles. We warn against continuing sectarian violations by Iraqi forces – to not repeat the same scenario that led to the emergence of ISIS, nor to kindle the same reasons that fueled the situation in Iraq after the US-occupation in 2003.



### South Sudan: Peace Agreements & Promises Not Kept

**Enhanced Interactive Dialogue under Item 4: Human Rights in South Sudan**

18 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Mutua Kobia

Mr. President,

Despite the deteriorating situation in South Sudan peace agreements have been reached and signed and promises by the government have been made without keeping. Innocent families and communities have greatly suffered at the hands of the warring parties and while violence persists, other conflict-related catastrophes have ensued and spread towards unaffected areas. Moreover, efforts to protect and secure civilians are minimal and face challenges.

About two million civilians from South Sudan have fled to neighboring countries since the start of the conflict and violence between SPLA and SPLA-IO forces in December 2013. The large numbers of refugees have put accommodation and funding in a dire situation. In terms of displacement a total of almost 2.3 million South Sudanese with roughly one million children have been forced to flee their homes due to violence and violence-related occurrences. Concern and consideration for the physical and mental fatigue as well as trauma that the children must endure has to be seriously taken into account.

In addition to the violence, starvation is another serious issue many South Sudanese face. In February 2017 three UN agencies declared famine in parts of Unity State. Ensuing armed-conflict further complicates improving the situation as it endangers and restricts humanitarian aid from reaching people in need, particularly in terms of food, water, and health.

Considering these challenges, we ask the Commission and all other relevant stake-holders to what extent have local peace-making and peace-building groups and associations been involved in ending the conflict by way of actively participating in consultations of peace, reconciliation, healing, and the reconstruction of South Sudan and what is being done to ensure their active and regular participation?



### [At Any Human Cost? A Bitter Road to Liberation Paved by Death & Terror](#)

**General Debate under Item 4 - Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

19 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Ms. Alessandra Zanzi

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

This is a joint statement by EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice. We would like to draw attention to the dramatic conditions in the city of Mosul in Iraq. Since the beginning of the battle for the liberation of the city from ISIS civilians have not just experienced some violations of their human rights but almost the total destruction of their city. Besides the killing of more than 40'000 civilians, Mosul had witnessed the ruin of its cultural and historical heritage, and the total devastation of its infrastructures, such as roads, water and communication services. Civilians have also suffered the destruction of the health and education systems.

So far, no improvement has been made in basic services such as water, sanitation, health and education. The

situation needs an international effort to rebuild the city under the supervision of the United Nations. Furthermore, a high number of the internally displaced population is living under insecure, difficult, and severe conditions, and they need special assistance.

We would hope that this battle for liberation will also liberate civilians from all the human rights violations that they have been witnessing and from the humanitarian catastrophe that they are living every day.

### ***Delivered in French***

Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Cette-ci est une déclaration conjointe par EAFORD et Geneva International Centre for Justice. Cette déclaration veut attirer l'attention sur les conditions dramatiques auxquelles les civils de Mossoul, en Irak, sont confrontés tous les jours, depuis le début de la bataille pour la libération de la ville occupée par le ISIS. Les civils de Mossoul n'ont pas seulement vécu des violations de leurs droits humains; en effet, les différentes attaques qui ont eu lieu dans la ville ont conduit à une situation de destruction totale, en plus du meurtre de plus de 40'000 civils. Mossoul a été témoin de la ruine de son héritage culturel et historique, et de la destruction totale de ses infrastructures, tels que les routes, son système hydraulique et son système de communication. Les civils ont également souffert de la destruction du système de santé et du système éducatif de la province.

Jusqu'à présent, il n'y a pas eu d'améliorations dans les services de base, tels que l'eau, l'hygiène et l'éducation. Cette situation nécessite un effort international en vue de reconstruire la ville sous la supervision des Nations Unies. De plus, il y a encore un grand nombre de déplacés internes qui se trouvent hors de la ville, vivant dans des conditions déplorables, et qui nécessitent une attention spéciale.

Nous espérons que les conflits pour la libération libéreront également les civils de toutes les violations de leurs droits humains qu'ils ont vécues, ainsi que de la catastrophe humanitaire dans laquelle ils vivent tous les jours.



## **Intimidation and Reprisals against Indigenous People**

### **General Debate under Item 5: Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms**

21 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Mr. Mutua Kobia

Mr. Vice-President,

EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice welcome the report on Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

It goes without saying that indigenous peoples have contributed good practices and significant knowledge with regards to the environment and sustainable development. Their achievements deserve acknowledgement and their voices need to be heard. Instead, many face reprisals and intimidation particularly by pro-governmental forces and paramilitaries of transnational corporations (TNCs) and big businesses. Moreover, indigenous human rights defenders who attempt to address violations committed against them to the relevant United

Nations bodies and systems specialized on their behalf, are targeted and are the subject of reprisals, coercive measures, harassment, intimidation, threats of violence, and even detention.

We would also like to note that other efforts to ensure the rights of indigenous peoples such as turning to courts, after non-litigation tactics and protests, does not always yield positive results as they suffer significant financial losses in court appearances, travel, and other expenses that are purposefully instigated by TNCs and big businesses. This has been the case in almost all regions with the presence of TNCs, extractive industries, and/or big businesses, especially in developing countries.

As this has been the case for several decades, it is more than overdue time that the relevant UN bodies seriously address this issue by expanding the participation of indigenous peoples, implementing practical measures that ensure ethical business practices and holding perpetrators accountable. States should also abide by their responsibility to protect indigenous people from parent companies that commit reprisals and intimidation tactics.



## [Israel Continues Bullying the Palestinians](#)

### **General Debate under Item 6 – Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Ms. Tagrid Jabarin-Jassar

25 September 2017

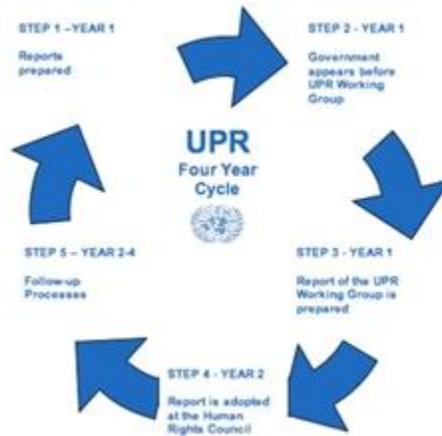
Mr. President,

During Israel's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held in October 2013, Member States recommended the State party to cease its discriminatory and inhuman policies and practices disproportionately affecting the Palestinian population. In striking disregard of all relevant UPR recommendations, Israel has instead perpetuated policies and practices that constitute the crime of apartheid as legally defined in instruments of international law.

Contrary to appeals by Member States, Israel continues to violate Palestinians' right to life and security of person, particularly through excessive force and the failure to hold perpetrators accountable. Israeli forces violently disperse peaceful protests to repress Palestinian opposition to the occupation, execute extrajudicial killings and launch massive military operations that cause unquantifiable loss and suffering.

Contrary to UPR recommendations, Israel persists in its decade-old illegal blockade on Gaza, which has completely paralyzed economic development, has deepened socioeconomic hardship, and has hurled Gaza into a protracted humanitarian and human rights crisis.

To end the plight of the Palestinian people and pave the way for just peace, we call upon the international community to abide by their international obligations by taking all necessary measures to end the prolonged occupation and institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians and to fulfill their right to national self-determination.



## Palestinian Human Rights Defenders | Cameras Speak Louder Than Words

### **General Debate under Item 7 – Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

25 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Mr. Badee ALDWAIK

Thank you Mr. President,

I am speaking as founder and coordinator of the Human Rights Defenders based in Hebron. We have been documenting violations by Israeli settlers and soldiers against civilians since 2014.

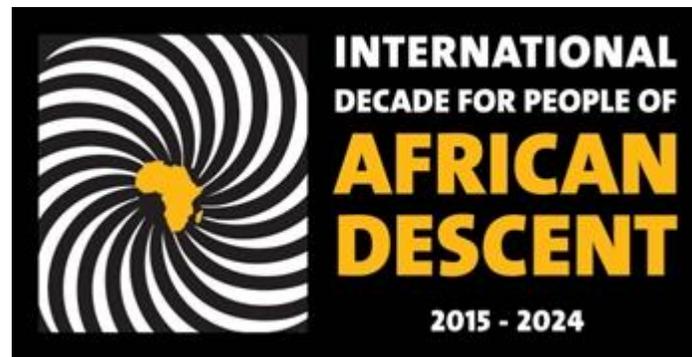
Since co-founder Imad Abu Shamsiya courageously documented the unlawful assassination of Abdel Fattah Sharif last year in Hebron in the West Bank – who was murdered in cold blood by a member of the Israeli occupation forces – Imad has been subjected to numerous death threats by extremist Israelis.

By no means is he the only member of our group to be harassed and threatened by settlers and Israeli forces. I have been arrested over 14 times because of my peaceful activism against the occupation.

The threats, arrests and killings that we suffer daily highlight the importance of providing protection to human rights activists. Our project consists of distributing cameras to families whose lives are constantly exposed to attacks by the occupation army and illegal settlers.

With the cameras, we have been able to document many violations to our property and lives. As we prove who the real aggressors are, document their actions against us, a civilian population who is occupied, we can show to the world what really happens to an embattled population. Our work is vital in documenting Israeli crimes, as cameras remain at the frontline to revealing the truth of the occupation.

We call on the international community to ensure protection for the Palestinian people, including human rights defenders, and to take all necessary measures to finally bring an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine.



### [The Impact of Multiple and Intersectional Forms of Discrimination on People of African Descent](#)

**Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent**

26 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Mr. Mutua Kobia

Mr. President,

EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice welcome the report of the Working Group from the Nineteenth and Twentieth sessions. While we agree that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address intersectional racial discrimination against People of African Descent and can help eliminate such discrimination, we also agree that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) is vital in terms of providing adequate guidelines and recommendations for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. The DDPA also rightly takes into consideration colonialism and acknowledges the adverse after-effects it has had on Africans and People of African Descent.

Historic injustices have contributed to various forms of poverty and persist in putting up barriers and obstacles towards the full enjoyment of human rights and the right to development. Without addressing and acknowledging these negative impacts the Sustainable Development Goals will remain a far-fetched objective for People of African Descent. Therefore, policies and best practices as underlined in the DDPA must be adopted and full engagement with local communities must be pursued.

Structural barriers and structural racism practices have to be eliminated at all levels in order to achieve sustainable development. Currently, states from various regions of the world still have political and legal structures that are rooted in discrimination and exclusion. Thus, we ask the working group if these restrictions will be thoroughly addressed and scrutinized and what immediate measures can states and members of civil

society take to eradicate those restrictions. Finally, how the SDGs and the DDPA can be fully implemented in tandem at the governmental and political level?



## Shared Challenges for Global Cooperation between Developed & Developing Countries

**General Debate under Item 8: Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**

26 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Ms. Lamia Fadla

Mr. President,

EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice remain particularly concerned with the lack of effective cooperation between developed and developing countries with regards to the right to sustainable development. While there has been progress it has been slow and insufficient.

Effective strategies, policies, and best practices such as in the South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action exist but implementation is not exercised due to lack of political will as well as barriers and obstacles that are normally profit driven, for instance, land grabbing by oil and extractive industries or corruption at the governmental level.

As noted under Article I, paragraph 10, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, “States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to sustainable development. The international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development.”

To this end, we call on the Council and Member states to increase international and national cooperation especially with local communities, the most vulnerable, and civil society at large in taking immediate and practical steps towards sustainable development and measures to eliminate obstacles, particularly with regards to the environment, for instance, within the fossil-fuel industry and post-conflict situations such as in Mosul, Iraq. Lastly, we encourage Member states to fully implement the Guiding Principles to better engage with businesses that respect human rights and the right to sustainable development.



## Sinister Forms of Racism and Xenophobia across Europe and USA

**General Debate under Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme**

**of Action**

26 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Ms. Lisa-Marlen Gronemeier

Thank you Mr. President,

EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice are alarmed by the rise in racial intolerance and discrimination. Racism and xenophobia are taking on sinister forms across Europe and the USA – reflected in the proliferation of right-wing extremist parties; racist rhetoric on the part of political leaders and media outlets; and discriminatory policies. These shake the foundations of the values purportedly represented by Western democracies.

Minorities are easy scapegoats for economic crises, social disintegration, and criminality. Amidst so-called counter-terrorism campaigns, political leaders and organized racist groups ramp up racist and anti-Muslim rhetoric, fueling Islamophobia. Anti-terror policies, such as the US travel ban, breach principles of non-refoulement and non-discrimination and target the most vulnerable of society, notably migrants and refugees fleeing persecution and conflict.

People with Middle Eastern descent are disproportionately affected by such policies, and face infringements on their fundamental rights. The deepening institutionalization of discrimination amounts to crimes against humanity as recognized in the World Conference against Racism.

We call on all Member States to urgently implement measures underlined in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), particularly by counteracting hate speech and hate crimes, ensuring accountability for perpetrators and protection for victims, and rescinding discriminatory legislation. Member States must eliminate institutional racism and guarantee full equality of minorities.





## [Interactive Dialogue on the Situation of Human Rights in the Central African Republic](#)

### **Interactive Dialogue on Human Rights in the Central African Republic**

Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the Central African Republic

28 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Mr. Mutua Kobia

Mr. President,

The grave situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is in desperate need of financial and training assistance to achieve justice and peace. EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice urge the Council and Member States to provide the required finances and resources towards implementing the agreed on recommendations of the Independent Expert on CAR that reflect the objectives of the CAR government with respect to elevating human rights and preventing human rights abuses. To begin with, enhancing inclusive cooperation between all relevant stakeholders is always a crucial and positive first step towards effective participation and contribution from all sides.

In this regard, as per the Independent Expert's second recommendation, means to "encourage and ensure women's participation in all peace and negotiation initiatives, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); and to include the Central African political parties in negotiations on peace, reconciliation and the future of the country" necessitates effective contributions and assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner, the Human Rights Council and its Member States, and all other relevant stakeholders.

Financial assistance and human rights training of officials engaged in relocating refugees and displaced persons is vital in securing the human rights of civilians and children. Furthermore, in order to ensure justice and accountability of those who have committed grave human rights violations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has to provide guidance and necessary measures at the legal and judicial level. Finally, we recommend close engagement with local and religious leaders and peace-makers to achieve peaceful reconciliation and healing within civil society of the Central African Republic.



## [Panel Discussion on Enjoyment of Human Rights by Women and Girls](#)

### **Panel Discussion under Item 9 on Enjoyment of Human Rights by Women and Girls**

**The impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls**

26 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Mr. Mutua Kobia

Thank you Mr. President,

EAFORD together with Geneva International Center for Justice welcome the report on addressing the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls.

The report rightly addresses and recognizes that racial discrimination is intersecting and multifaceted and that women and girls experience increased vulnerability to certain patterns of racism and racial discrimination. In many conflicts across the globe such as the conflict in Myanmar or the war in Iraq, systematic rape of and sexual-related violence against ethnic or religious minority women and girls is sadly becoming the norm. In this respect, data collection processes must be enhanced for the collection of disaggregated data in order for better protective and accountability measures.

Also, in terms of protective measures, states must ensure that human rights education is provided to and implemented by local police officers and all those engaged in armed conflict. In terms of accountability measures, local and indigenous groups must be consulted and included in discussions and dialogues of judicial proceedings.

Moreover, states must ensure that officials in high position remain responsible and subject to scrutiny and accountability for those within their authority. As well, racial discrimination and xenophobia against women and girls in relation to the recent catastrophic response to immigration, refuge, and asylum must be taken seriously as racial hate and speech have reached levels where members of society violently target refugee and migrant women and girls on the basis of physical appearance.

Human rights education and training at all levels from police and detention officers to judges and lawyers must be ensured. In order to adequately and seriously address and work towards the effective elimination of racial discrimination against women and girls in the numerous mentioned fields, documents such as the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) and the Beijing Platform for Action cannot be ignored or taken lightly. Lastly, men and boys must be educated and included in the discussions and dialogues in addressing racial discrimination and human rights of women and girls.



## [Reigniting the Fight against Racism](#)

**General Debate under Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.**

**Reigniting the Fight against Racism**

26 September 2017

Joint statement with several NGOs<sup>1</sup>, noted that the Durban Declaration was an indispensable tool for fighting racism and racial discrimination. It reminded that the General Assembly had called on the Human Rights Council to conduct a programme in order to inform the global public about the goals of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA). The reactivation of the Trust Fund was essential for reigniting the fight against racism.

1. Joint statement on behalf of: International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; *Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs*; African Development Association; Association Dunenyu; International Committee for the Respect and the Application of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters; *Espace Afrique International*; Global Action on Aging; Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; International Association Against Torture; International Association of Democratic Lawyers; International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic & Other Minorities; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD); International-Lawyers.Org; iuventum e.V.; Liberation; Tiye International; and Servas International.



## [Crisis in Yemen | Brutality of the Attacks by All Warring Factions](#)

### **General Debate under Item 10: Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building**

28 September 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Ms. Jennifer Tapia

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice remain seriously concerned about the humanitarian crisis and human rights conditions in Yemen. Since the Houthi militia's takeover of the capital, the plight of civilians has only deteriorated, owing to the support of external actors and the brutality of the attacks by all warring factions.

The civil war has resulted in the death of more than 5,000 civilians and millions have been forcibly displaced. Indiscriminate bombing and shelling targeting civilians' villages and buildings have hindered access to clean water. Arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances continue to take place worsening the vulnerability of people trapped in the conflict. Hundreds of children across the country continue to get recruited with the purpose of serving in the war. The conflict has aggravated food insecurity and today, around seven million people are on the verge of famine. Additionally, Yemenis are suffering from a highly critical public health crisis with the recent cholera outbreak, which have affected over half a million people.

We urge this council to call on all parties to the conflict to ensure the provision and access to humanitarian assistance and provide protection to civilians' human rights to restore their dignity.

However, humanitarian aid can only temporarily ease the desperate situation in Yemen. Only a peace-based approach can lead to a definite solution. We thus urge the international community to intensify and step up efforts aimed at achieving lasting peace in the country.

*Delivered in Spanish*

Tema 10 Debate general - Asistencia técnica y fomento de la capacidad.

28 de septiembre de 2017

Declaración de la Organización Internacional para la Eliminación de todas las Formas de Discriminación Racial (EAFORD)

Entregado por Jennifer Tapia

Gracias, señor Presidente.

EAFORD y Geneva International Centre for Justice reiteran su preocupación por la crisis humanitaria y la condición de derechos humanos en Yemen. Desde la conquista de la capital por la milicia Al Houthi, la situación de los civiles se ha deteriorado gracias al apoyo de actores externos y a la brutalidad de los ataques de todas las partes.

La guerra civil ha causado 5,000 muertes, y millones han sido desplazados. Los bombardeos a aldeas civiles han obstaculizado el acceso al agua potable. Las prácticas de detención arbitraria y desaparición forzada siguen empeorando la vulnerabilidad de las personas atrapadas en el conflicto. Cientos de niños siguen siendo reclutados para servir en la guerra. El conflicto ha agravado la inseguridad alimentaria y cerca de 7 millones están al borde de la hambruna. Además, el pueblo de Yemen está sufriendo una crisis de salud pública muy crítica, con el reciente brote de cólera que ha afectado a más de medio millón de personas.

Instamos a este Consejo a que exhorte a todas las partes del conflicto a garantizar la prestación y acceso a la asistencia humanitaria, y la protección de los derechos humanos de civiles y de la dignidad del pueblo yemení.

Sin embargo, la ayuda humanitaria solo alivia temporalmente. Sólo un enfoque de paz puede conducir a una solución definitiva. Instamos a la comunidad internacional a intensificar los esfuerzos encaminados a lograr una paz duradera en el país.



[International Decade for People of African Descent | Panel Discussion on Justice](#)

Regional Meeting for Europe, Central Asia and North America on the International Decade for People of African Descent

Panel Discussion on Justice

23 – 24 November 2017

Room XIX Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by: Mr. Mutua Kobia

Thank you Chairperson,

The current situation of racial discrimination in Europe and the North American region is especially worrying as there is a rise in racism, discrimination and hate speech among people in the government and people of influence. Worse still, these illegal acts are rarely condemned and the perpetrators often enjoy impunity.

In recent years the media has been used as a platform to vilify people of African Descent and further such vilification has garnered more and more support particularly due to misinformation, disinformation, and outright false information. The results of such acts lead to an escalation of the severity and spread of other human rights abuses and further perpetuation of stereotypes and negative perceptions of Africans and Africa in general. Age-old ideas that have been confirmed false are resurfacing without any accountability.

In light of this situation we call on states to address and condemn this rise of hate speech especially within the government and people of influence and hold all those accountable.

Additionally, people on the move and people escaping economic hardships and fleeing armed conflict in North Africa in search of refuge in Europe are unfortunately targeted and discriminated against by authorities who are obligated to protect those people. As mentioned in several accounts police and security forces commit grave human rights abuses against people of African descent in the streets, in detention centers, and moreover are discriminated against and receive unjust sentences in courts of justice.

Root causes and other indirect factors must be taken into account and adequately addressed and investigated. Additionally, disaggregated data must be collected, researched, and widely spread in an accessible manner. In order to achieve justice antidiscrimination education should be required for migration and detention officers, police and security forces, as well as lawyers and throughout the justice system. Such recommendations and best practices can be found in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), which we continue to recommend for all states to adopt and implement.

In conclusion we ask what measures are being taken by the European region to address these issues and to integrate the work and input from civil society.



## Human Rights Situation of the Minority Rohingya Muslim Population and Other Minorities in the Rakhine State of Myanmar

### **General Debate on the Human Rights Situation of the Minority Rohingya Muslim Population and Other Minorities in the Rakhine State of Myanmar**

27th Special Session of the Human Rights Council

5th December 2017

Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Delivered by Ms. Lisa Marlen-Gronemeier

Thank you Mr. President,

This is a joint statement by EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice. While discrimination against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar has persisted in law and in practice throughout the decades, the abuse of the Rohingya community in Myanmar has reached an unprecedented gravity in recent months. The

accounts of serious, widespread and systematic human rights violations accompanied by hate rhetoric committed in an organized manner by the Myanmar government, police, security forces and ordinary people against Rohingya based on their ethnic and religious belonging leaves no doubt that the committed atrocities are crimes that amount to genocide as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Genocide Convention, with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Rohingya community.

Therefore, it must be clear that the agreement reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh to repatriate the Rohingya cannot be implemented under the horrendous prevailing conditions: Proof of their residency in Myanmar has been revoked, invalidated, or denied. Rohingya have no home and no land to return to as their villages have been razed and their native lands rezoned and reallocated; criminal acts by security forces and vigilantism by citizens continue unabated. In light of the atrocities and horrors that the Rohingya people have lived and endured, all they would be returning to are haunting nightmares and a cruel reality beyond imagination.

Before any serious consideration of repatriation, UN mechanisms must ensure that the Rohingya are provided with full citizenship rights, including the rights to own a home, the right to work, the right to attend school and the right to access adequate healthcare. Their safety and security must be ensured. To this end, a UN peacekeeping force should be dispatched and safe zones should be created to oversee any future repatriation. It is only when these fundamental provisions are guaranteed that voluntary return in safety and dignity can be possible.

The Myanmar government must ensure full access of humanitarian agencies and human rights monitors, including the UN fact-finding mission, which should urgently investigate all crimes committed or refer the case to an independent tribunal such as the ICC to hold all perpetrators to account.

As the Myanmar government has hitherto failed to adequately address the committed atrocities, Member States must assume their responsibility under international law to counteract and prevent these acts of genocide. The international community must be unified in fighting against such crimes against humanity and urgently impose an arms embargo and military sanctions.

## EAFORD's Written Statements



During the 36th session of the Human Rights Council, EAFORD submitted 16 written statements with several co-signatories, addressing the most concerning cases of human rights violations and abuses occurring in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), Israel, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, and South Sudan. It also submitted thematic written statements on climate change, conflicts and refugees as well as on human trafficking. Each statement concludes with a series of recommendations that EAFORD, and the signing NGOs, wish to address to the UN bodies, and particularly to the Human Rights Council.

## [The Suffering of Syrian Civilians in an Everlasting War](#)



The written statement sheds light on how the current conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to bring suffering for civilians as half of the country's population has been forced to leave their homes. The statement stresses the deliberate denial of humanitarian aid to millions of people, and the aerial attacks that have killed untold numbers of civilians explaining how all warring parties are accountable for committing horrific war crimes and crimes against humanity. The written statement also describes the failed attempts the international community has

made in the last years in order to reach peace and to put an end to the ongoing war; and it also highlights the breaches to International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Finally, the statement lays down recommendations to the UN and its relevant bodies, which are aimed at ensuring aid, well-being, protection, and peace for surviving civilians of the protracted Syrian conflict.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

### [Mosul: Destruction not Liberation](#)

On 16 October 2016, the Iraqi government together with an international US-led Coalition launched a military campaign to liberate the city of Mosul from ISIS. The campaign ended on 9 July, 2017 and was declared a victory by Iraqi PM, Haider al-Abadi. However, due to heavy indiscriminate bombing and airstrikes the campaign resulted in the total destruction of Mosul leaving thousands dead and many more displaced. Post-conflict effects are yet to be addressed and the prospects are extremely worrying considering the mishandling of the campaign by the Iraqi government.

In the aftermath of the heavy fighting, 839,118 individuals (out of a population of 1.4million) from Mosul city have been displaced according to the IOM and many remain buried under the rubble; moreover, unexploded ordinance such as mines from the warring parties linger behind. Additionally, pro-government militias who are not trained in international law or International Humanitarian Law continue to commit violations while rounding up suspects many of whom are innocent.



The Iraqi government blames the militia and does not make the decisive efforts to hold those in the government or those working for the government accountable for the grave atrocities committed. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have sent numerous letters of appeal to the OHCHR on the crimes of pro-governmental militias, sectarian violence, the destructive strategy of the military campaign, and

justice for the civilians of Mosul among others. Currently the UN is not making the necessary efforts to bring about justice for the innocent victims but is instead engaging in politics.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

### [Iraq: Towards Accountability and Justice](#)

The focus of this statement relates to the continued impunity enjoyed by the Bush Administration officials for their crime of aggression against Iraq and the negative implications on international human rights as a result of such aggression, perpetuated by the decision in the United States of America court case Saleh, et al. v. Bush, et al. (Saleh)<sup>1</sup>. The Saleh case, decided February 10, 2017 by the United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit (the “Ninth Circuit”), held that U.S. officials were immunized under domestic law from judicial scrutiny even where a party alleged that such officials had violated the jus cogens norm against aggression and international treaties prohibiting the crime of aggression.



EAFORD and the co-signatories to the statement recommend the international community to ensure that the United States takes immediate steps to ensure that international customary law remains the law in the country, and that domestic law does not override nonderogable norms of international law, including the jus cogens norm against aggression. In this regard, the US must take immediate steps to amend its domestic law to ensure that government officials are not provided immunity against allegations that they have committed acts that violate jus cogens norms, including the norms against torture, genocide, or aggression. Moreover,

the signatories call upon the HRC to urgently endorse an international independent investigation into allegations that the US committed aggression against Iraq by its invasion in March 2003. The UN should condemn illegal acts of aggression by member states, including the 2003 invasion and subsequent occupation

of Iraq by the United States and its allies; and the UN General Assembly should request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice regarding the legality of the U.S. led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [YEMEN: A CASE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT](#)



The written statement gives an overview of the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen and analyzes the grave breaches of international humanitarian law. It describes the extent of the commitment of war crimes and crimes against humanity by all parties to the conflict. The Yemeni government is either unable or incapable to ensure cessation of hostilities and accountability. Furthermore, the statement reports the failure of the international community to ensure protection of civilians and the ineffective attempts towards resolution of the crisis. Finally, it concludes that even though the Yemeni government has the primary responsibility to try perpetrators of massive grave crimes, its criminal justice system does not conduct investigations and trials of the alleged perpetrators for grave violations of 1948 Geneva conventions. Therefore, the written statement considers the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) over international crimes committed in Yemen and recommends the international community to take bolder actions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and the UN Security Council to refer the situation of Yemen to the ICC.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [Depriving Prisoners of Human Dignity: The Israeli Detention System](#)

This statement observes that Israel's system of occupation and institutionalized discrimination against the Palestinian people is buttressed by divergent legal systems and courts that apply discriminatory standards of evidence and procedure to Palestinians as compared to Jewish Israelis, which implicate severe, disproportionate and often baseless penalties for Palestinians while Jewish Israeli perpetrators emerge unscathed.



The inhumane conditions and injustice reigning in Israel's prison system expose its longstanding blatant disregard of international law and human rights. Administrative detention and unfair trials are rampant. Systematic ill-treatment and torture, including against women and children, strip Palestinian prisoners of their human dignity and often cause permanent harm. EAFORD therefore calls upon the international community to take all necessary measures to ensure that Israel, *inter alia*, should release all

political prisoners and administrative detainees and ensure fair and speedy trials for those charged with an offense; as well as, ensure that prisoners are treated in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [Israeli Restrictions on Freedom of Religion and Worship](#)

This statement outlines that Israel's intensification of security installations around the Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem in July 2017 rekindled attention to the perennial question of freedom of religion and worship. The developments since 1967 evidence that Israel has failed to fulfill its obligations to protect Muslim and Christian holy sites and worshippers but instead seeks to "Judaize" the area. Israel's regulations and designation regarding Muslim and Christian holy sites remained to be discriminatory, thereby jeopardizing equal protection and preservation of religious sites. The State's policies and practices that violate Palestinian freedom of religion and worship as well as the sanctity of holy sites include: Movement and access restrictions, proclamations and acts of provocation by Israeli officials, "archeological excavations" and interference with internal affairs, provocation or failure to prevent violent incidents, and restrictions on religious expression. EAFORD reiterates that rather than fueling national-religious strife in the region in the region, Israel must cease its violations against Palestinians' freedom of religion and places of worship and fully guarantee freedom of religion and worship in accordance with the fundamental principles of non-discrimination.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)





### [Lives in Debris and Scarcity](#)

The fulfillment of the right to an adequate standard of living depends on a number of other economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to property, the right to work, the right to education and the right to social security. Israel has failed to ensure equal enjoyment of such fundamental rights and there is an enormous gap between Jewish and non-Jewish populations in all areas under its effective control.



The report shows that Israel continues to violate the rights fundamental to an adequate standard of living by, *inter alia*, perpetuating a deeply discriminatory territorial development model; controlling Palestinian land, movement, and all economic activity; and by actively destroying or obstructing Palestinian agricultural land, means of subsistence, and vital services and infrastructure. Israeli settlement-related activities and barriers have systematically violated Palestinians' right to health and impaired the Palestinian Authority's ability to fulfill it. EAFORD and its co-signatories called on the UN and especially the HRC to take all necessary measures to finally

bring an end to the more than half-a-century-old Israeli occupation of Palestine and fulfill Palestinians' right to national self-determination, which involves the end of all annexations and settlement activities and the destructive blockade on Gaza.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [The Debilitation of Palestinian Socioeconomic Development](#)

This statement outlines that Israel's policies and practices impede a secure economic environment and sustainable development in occupied Palestine and violate Palestinians' economic and social rights. Israeli restrictions on the movement of people and goods, the discriminatory zoning and planning regime, deinstitutionalization of Palestinian economy, exploitation of Palestinian natural resources, harsh sanctions, military actions and the blockade on Gaza have devastated Palestinian economy and caused lasting socioeconomic hardship and a protracted humanitarian crisis in Gaza.



Discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel in employment again shows that the Israeli apartheid system traverses the Green Line. EAFORD recommends to the relevant UN bodies to pressure Israel to end its policies of illegal appropriation and exploitation of Palestinian natural resources; and to halt all restrictions on Palestinian economic development. In the light of Gaza's devastating humanitarian and energy crisis, EAFORD calls on the Israeli government to end the land, air, and sea blockade of the Gaza Strip. It is clear, however, that the self-generating social and economic development of Occupied Palestine can only be achieved with the end of Israeli occupation.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [Undermining the Last Remnants of Palestinian Sovereignty in Jerusalem](#)

This statement examines why the unilateral measures taken by Israel in response to the deadly shoot-out at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem on Friday, 14 July 2017, not only represented further barriers to Palestinians' freedom of religion; they also constituted a further step by the Occupying Power to impose sovereignty at the site and "Judaize" Jerusalem. While the new "security" measures have been rescinded following Palestinians' peaceful protests and acts of civil disobedience, they constitute a dangerous precedent that the Israeli government and extreme entities seem poised to act upon. EAFORD emphasized that to finally reach a just and durable peace, Israel must disassemble its occupying system and make way for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. Particularly, it must immediately cease settlement and annexation policies and practices aimed at altering the character, status, and demography of occupied Palestine, particularly East Jerusalem.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)



## [The Socioeconomic Situation of Palestinian Women](#)

The Israeli occupation leaves its marks on the entire Palestinian population – regardless of residence, gender, religion, political opinion, age or other status. However, its impact on women is compounded due to its interaction with patriarchal social structures. This becomes manifest in two ways: First, in discriminatory legislation, institutions, and practices by the Occupying Power that disproportionately affect Palestinian women. Second, it is reflected in the perpetuation of intra-societal and intra-family discrimination and violence against women.



This report focuses on the grave impact of this twofold oppression on women's economic, social and cultural rights. EAFORD and many non-governmental organizations actively engaged with Palestinian women are convinced that only an end to the occupation and the realization of Palestinians' inalienable rights, including self-determination in their independent State of Palestine, can bring about an end to the violations and substantive change towards gender equality and women's rights.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [THE PLIGHT OF ROHINGYA IN MYANMAR IS IGNORED](#)

The written statement describes the grave violations of international law in Myanmar with particular emphasis on the mass atrocities against the Rohingya people. It affirms that widespread, systemic and organized abuse of

the Rohingya minority in Myanmar, with an obvious intent to destroy this Muslim community, amounts to the international crime of genocide. The persecution of the ethnic group since 1982 in combination with the widespread criminal acts committed against them since 2012 includes all elements of genocide as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Genocide Convention. Moreover, the statement underlines that the Myanmar government has failed to provide adequate responses to address the worsening situation, end the violations, as well as, to ensure accountability.



An overview of the international community's response shows its inefficiency. The statement calls upon the United Nations to act on the basis of Chapter VII of the Charter to restore peace and security in Myanmar and to protect the Rohingya people from genocide. It recommends for the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar to analyze the genocidal intent and alarm the General Assembly as well as to pressure the Myanmar government to grant full access to UN fact-finding mission, international humanitarian aid workers, observers and journalists to conflict areas, especially in the Rakhine State.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [South Sudan: Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis](#)

Since the outbreak of violence in December 2013 between rival forces SPLA and SPLA-IO there have been many efforts to cease violence. However, peace agreements have been issued and signed and promises by the government have been made without keeping. Despite these endeavors the situation has worsened in all aspects. While violence persists, other catastrophes have ensued as a result of the ongoing conflict that continues to spread towards unaffected areas. Efforts to protect and secure civilians are minimal. In addition to the violence, starvation is another serious threat to many South Sudanese. In February 2017 three UN agencies declared famine in parts of Unity State with fears that it may spread to other food insecure areas. Ensuing armed-conflict further complicates improving the situation as it endangers and restricts humanitarian aid from reaching people in need, particularly in terms of food, water, and health. Humanitarian assistance and workers are facing major challenges.



While famine ensues in many parts of the country the government of South Sudan is using its oil revenues to proliferate the conflict. Together with food insecurity and encroaching famine, malnutrition has become a serious problem that approximately one million South Sudanese children face.

Further, access to emergency public health is nil let alone regular health and sanitation facilities. Three years of conflict have already devastated the people of South Sudan and put the country's future into serious risk. Rural livelihoods, crop and food production, the economy and agriculture of the

country, health and nutrition, water and sanitation and more have all been adversely affected, either destroyed or are in peril, due to the armed-conflict. [Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [The Crime of Trafficking in Persons Prevails](#)



The written statement describes the implications of the crime of human trafficking, as a serious violation of international human rights law. Today, 21 million people are affected by forced labor, trafficking and slavery around the world. International human rights law forbids forced labor, debt bondage, forced marriage, and the sexual exploitation of children and women. Emphasis is made on human trafficking in times of conflict as this practice is more prevalent during these times and networks operate more easily given the vulnerability of people fleeing and the lack of access to legal migration alternatives.

The statement mentions the system set up in countries like Iraq and Syria where the selling of human organs is a common source of income and forced marriage is a widespread practice. It explains that trafficking networks target impoverished communities with the purpose of prostitution, forced labor and domestic servitude and it describes the patterns of these practices. Lastly, the statement presents recommendations to the UN and its relevant bodies, aimed at establishing national procedures for the protection of victims of trafficking of persons as well as ensuring them a dignified life by enforcing international law and international human rights law for all people.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [Climate Change, Conflict, and Refuge in East Africa](#)



Approximately 12 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia have been affected by climate change and the El Niño effect leaving many in desperate need of food aid and humanitarian assistance. Since 2013, food shortages, particularly amongst pastoralists and nomads, have been the result of poor rains, unpredictable weather, and increased temperatures that brought about extensive droughts making it impossible to have stable and abundant crop production. Climate change and variability, meaning increased weather extremities and unpredictability, can have serious adverse effects on a number of on-going crises, phenomena, and people's lives. In some cases, it may be the cause and in others it may intensify or worsen the situation with a relevant degree of effect. This is currently the case in East Africa, especially in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and to some degree South Sudan, and has already resulted in internal and cross-border movement.

[Link to full Written Statement](#)

## [Links to More Written Statements](#)

[Impunity of High Ranking Government Leaders: A Threat to the Rule of Law & Human Rights](#)

[Continued Impunity for Bush-Era Officials' Crime of Aggression Against Iraq](#)

### **EAFORD's Side Events**

EAFORD co-organized two side events during the 36th session, namely on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and on the situation of civilians in armed conflicts.

### [Side Event at UN: Human Rights in Myanmar | Ethnic Cleansing!](#)

On 15th September 2017, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD) organized a side-event entitled “Human Rights: Ethnic Cleansing in Myanmar” with Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ) and International-Lawyers.Org at the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC).

The moderator of the discussion was Mr. Curtis F.J. Doebbler, international human rights lawyer and Co-Founder and Vice President of International-Lawyers.Org, and the panelists were Mr. Ahmed Al Quraishi, policy analyst, researcher and writer, and Ms. Gulnoz Saydaminova, Senior Human Rights Researcher at GICJ. The panel discussed the Myanmar government's actions to halt mass atrocities taking place against the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State. Also, they examined the widespread violations against the Rohingya Muslim community that can amount to genocide. The panelists brainstormed suggestions for the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar and possible UN actions based on Chapter VII of the Charter, to restore peace and security in Myanmar, including the question of the referral of the situation to the International Criminal Court.

[Click here for the full summary](#)



Watch the full side-event online in [Arabic](#) or [English](#)

## [Side Event at UN: Destruction of Mosul | Civilians in Armed Conflicts](#)

On 21st September 2017, the side-event entitled “Destruction of Mosul: Civilians in Armed Conflicts” on was co-organized by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ), International-Lawyers.Org, Arab Lawyers Association-UK, Iraqi Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), Association of Human Rights Defenders in Iraq (AHRD), General Federation of Iraqi Women (GFIW), Brussels Tribunal, and Mosul Foundation. It shed light on the dramatic impact of the so-called “liberation campaign” on Mosul’s civilians, infrastructure and historical sites. The side-event revealed that Mosul – cradle of civilization and world-renowned artistic and cultural hub – and its two million inhabitants suffered tremendous losses, and were ravaged by ISIS’ atrocities and by the indiscriminate attacks of Iraqi and coalition forces. Mr. Dirk Adriaensens, Member of the Executive Committee of Brussels Tribunal, and Mr. Rabee F. Al-Hafidh, President of the Mosul Foundation, were the high-level panelists sharing their insights and discussing the situation on the ground.

[Click here for the full summary](#)



Watch the full side-event online in [Arabic](#) or [English](#)

### **Additional EAFORD Reports**

#### **35th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

[EAFORD Participation in the 35th Session of the UN Human Rights Council](#)

#### **34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

[EAFORD Participation in the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council](#)