

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
(EAFORD)
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**Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 53rd session
Item 4: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Joint Statement by the Following Non-Governmental Organizations:

- 1. The Union of Arab Jurists (UAJ)**
- 2. The International Association of Democratic Jurists**
- 3. The General Federation of Arab Women**
- 4. Le Mouvement Mondiale des Meres (MIM)**
- 5. The International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)**

The joint statement was made regarding the sanctions regime transgression of international law and international human rights standards. It stated, among other things, that for years the above listed NGOs had concerned themselves with the fate of Iraq under the economic embargo, which to date had caused thousands of deaths. The health system has been shattered and the embargo has completely undermined the basic education available to children, leading to a great deal of illiteracy. Water-purification plants had been destroyed and communications disrupted.

The sanctions regime against Iraq has been illegal under principles of humanitarian law and human rights legislation; it has been practically a matter of genocide; it seems to be aimed directly at civilians, and the point has been to make civilians suffer. Civilians also have been subjected to bombing attacks. Worst of all had been the use of radioactive material against Iraq through the employment of depleted-uranium weapons. There has been serious health damage to Iraqis as a result, especially to children. There should be an immediate lifting of the sanctions regime against Iraq, and the Subcommission should consider appointing an Independent Expert to carry out a study of the long-term health effects of depleted-uranium weapons. (full text of original statement in French). 7 August 2001.