

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL
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Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

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Item 6: Specific human rights issues: (c) New priorities, in particular terrorism and counter-terrorism

We would like to raise an issue of immense importance in relation to the work of this Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and its objectives. In fact, it might be in essence one of the ways to guarantee the proper execution and effectiveness of the work of the United Nations in relation to new priorities and the impact they can have on world affairs. After all, it is upon facts only that fair and just solutions are based and should be presented to resolve the problems humanity faces. All of this is not possible without credible sources of information to report the events as they unfold and the truth surrounding them.

The question to be asked, is there any media and press reporting committed to impartial investigating of facts? If the answer is negative as is evident in many cases, then what are the means to create such credible and reliable international media??

Mr. Chairman,

The witness at any court of law vows to say the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, even when the matter usually involves only one or few individuals. How come then in cases involving the fate of large multitudes of human beings and at times involving humanity at large, as in the case of the media, there is no obligation to take any similar oath!!?? Media and presswork should be exercised within the boundaries of honesty, integrity and higher conscience. Taking the oath is one method to ensure the honoring of such duty and responsibility.

Yet some media people might deviate from the truth even after having sworn. However, an oath will be a sword over their conscience from the moral side and it could serve as a deterrent from the legal side as well. We are looking forward to the day when every reporter will be obliged to take this oath through the various unions and specialized agencies of the media and press before exercising this line of work. An oath similar to the one a lawyer, judge, physician, minister, and others are obliged to take since their work can potentially affect another human being's rights physically, mentally, or legally.

Mr. Chairman,

Former Senator Mcklousky said in a seminar in Washington that American democracy has given two percent of its population, distinguished by their influence and wealth, the opportunity to have a serious and direct impact on public opinion and on American policy and decision-making. According to surveys, this special interest group in the United States owns

approximately one thousand national and international newspapers. It also owns as many, if not more, newspapers in Europe, Canada, and other regions of the world. This figure is besides other various media monopolies that are under their influence as television, film production, radio broadcasting, libraries, and printing houses. It is sufficient to mention in this regard the emperor of global media, the well-known Mr. Murdoch.

A mere hint of the power of this racially motivated media monopoly and its underhanded effect on the perception of the public concerning reported events is evident in how the mass media whether televised or printed distorts, fabricates, and exaggerates an event involving one or few victims in one region, while at the same time, thousands of people from the same or another region are being unjustifiably violated and/or imprisoned without charges or trials, but international media hardly makes any mention of them. If and when reported, only few fleeting sentences or words are spared! Isn't this racism and racial discrimination?!

Of course, this questionable media is not into the business of downright lying or it would have not been able to thrive. More often than not, this type of media tells half of the truth and intentionally overlooks the other half. It misconstrues matters of significance and makes them appear insignificant and vice versa. This manner of fitting lies the attire of truth is actually a dangerous and destructive technique. It is so cunning and perplexing that only experts who are highly specialized in their fields are able to detect it.

The influence of this insidious trend over the media has become an indisputable reality. Sadly, it has turned into a situation involving manipulations of the human mind, which is overwhelmed by contradictions. If no change is made, this could eventually lead to a nuclear war, which no one will escape, not even those who created and masterminded this racially dividing and questionable media.

Mr. Chairman,

During this Sub-Commission our organization appeals to the experts and to non-governmental organizations which we believe truly represent humanity's conscience, to firmly and strongly call upon all media whether printed or televised and their unions to commit their members to uphold the oath of honor and integrity in their work practice. We also repeat our call upon the United Nations, its Secretary-General, and its General Assembly for the establishment of an international media and press agency under the auspices of the General Secretariat for the televised transmission of world news in relation to the work and conferences of the UN. This may shed light on issues of concern to international cooperation and help reduce some of the negative and questionable effects of the media's numbing tactics on human mind.

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