

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

RÉPUBLIQUE ALGÉRIENNE DÉMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

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البعثة الدائمة
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
والمنظمات الدولية بسويسرا

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First Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference

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**Statement of Idriss Jazairy
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Algeria**

Geneva, 22 April 2008

On the need to avoid two false dichotomies

1. Should the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action focus on establishing a hierarchy of racial discrimination? Or should we focus on traditional forms of racism? What about reparations or just recognition generalizing at levels of colonial powers who persecuted local inhabitants and of all practices including the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the apology which the Australian authorities had the courage to address to the Aborigines.

Or should we also address contemporary manifestation of racism, racial discrimination xenophobia and related intolerance, by the updating and strengthening of existing international instruments?

False dichotomy: Paragraph 199 of the Declaration calls for complementary standards and HRC resolution 6/21 of 28 September 2007 established for this purpose the Ad Hoc Committee on the establishment of complementary standards.

2. Should we accept to review anti-Semitism or racial discrimination when it targets the Jews but not the Arabs who are also Semites and, by extension, the whole Moslem community which is exposed to this racial discrimination also referred to as Islamphobia ?

What about the discrimination in the North of France of a Muslim cemetery of Algerian War veterans who gave their lives to defend France against the Nazis? There were swastikas on their tombstones. How is this anti-Semitism different from the other? If we condone the latter in the name of freedom of expression or of opinion, would this not have a backlash on all Semitic groups?

A false dichotomy again.

Is or not a misguided interpretation of freedom of expression spreading hatred and violence and leading to the burning of mosques in "advanced" countries ?