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THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST/ANTI-RACIST ORGANISATION

LIBERATION

incorporating the Movement for Colonial Freedom

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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Statement by Liberation, a non-Governmental Organisation in special consultative status.

Agenda Item 9, Racism

Mr. President,

May I ask for your indulgence to imagine a country when someone from another part is labelled a foreigner and asked to return where the person came from, the person is called names, not allowed to enter public facilities like restaurants, or clubs how that person should feel? A victim of racism or an unwanted alien in that land?

If the above scenario is measured against the UN convention on racial discrimination, it becomes absolutely clear that it falls totally within the defined parameters of discrimination.

For common civilians to dish out such treatments could be due to ignorance. But when the law enforcers of the country themselves do not fulfil their responsibilities despite the UN Articles and a convention guaranteed safeguards, the matter is quite serious.

For example if a top police officer of that country is to write an advisory booklet derogating their food habits, dress codes and being prescriptive with suggestions like, "When in Rome behave like Romans" then obviously something must be grossly deficient in that country.

The people at the receiving end mentioned above are from a region where a multitude of mongoloid races live. Their geographical location is in the Eastern South Asia. When they go to metropolitan cities, for example Delhi for education or jobs, they invariably are victims of racial taunts, physical violence and rapes. Dr. Renu Gupta Naidu's doctoral thesis on such victimisations exemplifies the gravity of the situation.

A twenty page booklet "Security tips for North East Students/ Visitors in Delhi" was written by West Delhi District Police Authority with an introduction from the Deputy Commissioner of Police has the following outrageous excerpts:

"Bamboo shoots. Akhuni and other smelly dishes should be prepared without creating ruckus in neighbourhood.

When in rooms do as Roman does. Revealing dress be avoided.

Dress according to sensitivity of local populace."

Whatever good intent may have been in devising the booklet, the racism is clearly jumping out of it and also an attempt by the establishment to engineer targeted societies infringing laws as a signatory to the relevant UN convention. Peers in educational institutions calling names like 'Chinkies', 'Junglees' to their fellow students in metropolitan educational institutes is a pointer that they are not prepared to see them as equals or stake holders in the country of theirs which is India, the malady is incurable. Considering this state of affairs this council should recommend a definitive solution, for example, right to self-determination to these alienated peoples of the North-East India and end their misery.

Thank you.