

Version prior to delivery of the speech

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My friend, Mr. Doudou Diene, the Special Rapporteur on Racism, UN Commission on Human Rights, has written an excellent paper on Globalization & Discrimination. I congratulate him, & I agree with every point he made. This is a first complementary paragraph that has to be followed by a but.

But since the organizers of this esteemed Forum have asked me to give my remarks on Mr. Diene's paper, it is, then, my duty to find some lacunas in it.

I have been teaching political science at the university level for the last forty years (starting from 1964). I have always told my students that they have to start a paper with an introduction, & finish it up with a conclusion. In Mr. Diene's paper, there is no conclusion.

Also towards the end of his paper, he refers to an article that was recently published in **The Guardian**. He has to look back into his files & tell us the date, the writer & other bibliographical details.

The above are two professional, i.e.,: formal remarks that have to be fully taken into consideration by the author, whose research skills I have always admired.

II

In substance, there are certain lacunas.

I miss in the paper any reference to military occupation. Military occupation is in contradiction with the U.N. & all that it stands for including its anti-discrimination campaign. It is not only a violation of the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes. It is also a manifestation of racism, & a cause for torture & other violations of human rights. **Lenin's saying that imperialism is the highest form of capitalism may be matched by my saying: occupation is the highest form of racism.**

Also, there is in the pages a shy reference to colonization & what it entails. Colonization, especially when it is practiced under protecting military occupation, is a sure manifestation of racism. A settler, a colonizer, certainly feels racially superior to a native whose land is being taken.

And then who can deny that military occupation & settling on other peoples' lands are not terrorist acts that incite legitimate resistance? But it is obvious that when we mention occupation & colonization, what comes to our minds is the Americans & the Israelis. Is it allowed, or is it not allowed, to mention this clearly in our World Forum on Human Rights? I do not know. But if it is not allowed, & Mr. Diene's non-reference to the Americans & Israelis was in consonance with that rule, then I declare my disagreement with the rule.

Racism equals exploitive superiority, & the negation of it is the insistence on equality & justice. **In this regard, it is useful, especially to Westerners, to recall that Hilf- Al-Fudhul, the League of Virtuous People, back in the sixth century, was based on the two principles of equality & justice. For this reason it deserves to be called the first organization for the**

defense of Human Rights till the contrary is proven. I strongly feel that it is U.N.E.S.C.O.'s duty to disseminate knowledge of Hilf-Al-Fudhul that was established in pre-Islamic Mecca, & was later praised by prophet Mohammad. And it is the right place here to voice a call for the establishment of an International Hilf- Al-Fudhul. The modern name of such a Hilf is a World Organization for Good Governance. I hope this august Assembly will take up the call & act on this proposal.

III

There is no end to talking about globalization & discrimination. Mr. Diene's paper is an excellent contribution to the field on one condition. This condition is that the paper takes into consideration the remarks that were elucidated above.

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Note:

References in French to Hilf-Al-Fudhul could be found in, *Inter Alia*:

1- Abu-Sahlieh, S.A. Les Musulmans Face aux Droits de l' Homme (Bochum, Germany, Verlag Winkler, 1994, 610 pages.) p.13 – 14.

2- Interview with Jabbour, Arabies (Mensuel, Paris) November 1996, page 56.

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