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Item 11: Civil and political rights

It is not news to most that human suffering all around the world is the result of racism, degradation, violations of human rights and violent international conflicts. These are anticipated definite consequences whenever there is lack of justice. Justice to which we have aspired and all wise people on this earth do as well.

There is no peace without justice. Yes, Madam Chairman, no peace without justice. What happened in the Balkans, the massive destruction, humiliation and oppression taking place for over 50 years in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the continuous and dangerous clashes in Kashmir, which may lead to the use of nuclear weapons in error or miscalculation at any time. It is these unjust, tyrant and oppressive realities and policies, as well as the cruel and heavy-handed ones enforced by the United States on central Asian nations like Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan that clearly prove there can be no peace without justice.

Conflicts between people whether individuals, groups or states, under various circumstances, is a natural phenomenon that has existed since the beginning of creation. Man managed to find solutions for his challenging and often times dangerous nature by using his mind, wisdom and experience.

Ever since mankind's beginnings, arbitration started between small tribes and developed into impressive judicial systems of courts and judges in every town, city and country. Throughout history, human experience proves that the logic of domination and force, with the overriding sense of superiority, sooner or later could not provide peace and security even for the powerful themselves.

Therefore, even if the question sounds naive to some, we have the right to ask, if peace and security could never be achieved by force, and if humanity has introduced judicial systems within the national borders of every State, why then has humanity failed at finding an international court to resolve conflicts and disputes between groups and states? The course of history urges us that humanity should reach and fulfill this goal someday, or else a nuclear tragedy might occur ending life on this planet.

Madam Chairman,

As non-governmental organizations counting on the distinguished experts who are meeting with us today, we request the establishment of a strong and effective international court of justice that is fully capable of implementing and spreading the rules of justice among various human groups and nations.

The present International Court of Justice and the newly formed International Criminal Court are two great strides along the right path. However, presently neither one is able to achieve justice in its broad sense, justice which is fundamental to peace on earth.

The role of the International Criminal Court has been compromised and hampered because of U.S. insistence to exclude American servicemen from complying with its rulings for a renewable period of a year.

The work of the United Nations' International Court of Justice and its ability to be effective has been restricted in two substantial ways. These restrictions take away so much of its powers that the International Court of Justice is rendered as and deemed to be a paralyzed body.

The first restriction has been that it cannot bring forth any major international dispute no matter how destructive and dangerous it may be for the rest of humanity, unless both of the opposing parties/states to the conflict agree to seek the International Court of Justice themselves.

The second restriction is that it lacks the power to execute its rulings through international troops assigned for this purpose, or through ordering a general termination of international relations, which can pressure the violating party into compliance and adherence to court rulings.

It is our responsibility, Madam Chairman, and the responsibility of the experts in this meeting today to bring forth this issue with diligence and persistence until we remove these constraints from the International Court of Justice. A high standing court which might be the only hope to the ultimate realization of justice and, therefore, to securing peace. So, will we see to it that this is done?

Thank you Madam Chairman.

EA Ford

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