



Africa and Middle-East
Regional Forum on conflict prevention
and the protection of
the human rights of minorities
15 -16 June, 2021 | ONLINE MEETING



Statements

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Tuesday, 15th May 2021

Session 1: Opening Remarks

Dawda A. Jallow, Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Republic of the Gambia

Alice Wairimu Nderitu Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Solomon Ayele Dersso Chair of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Ambassador Nassima Baghli Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to UN and other international organizations in Geneva

H.E Ambassador Haifa Abu Ghazaeh Head of the Social Affairs sector of the League of Arab States, Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States

Rouaida El Hage OHCHR Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa

Fernand de Varennes UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

High-Level State Panel

Speakers

Hannah Forster	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
Bafou Jeng	Senior State Counsel and Coordinator of the Human and Child Rights Units of the Ministry of Justice, Republic of the Gambia
H.E. Dr. Turki Abdulla Al-Mahmoud	Head of Human Rights Department, MOFA, Qatar

Thematic Session 1: Substantive root causes of contemporary conflicts involving minorities

Invited Speakers

Naji Moulay Lahsen (Moderator)	Executive Director, CIDH
Seenaa Jimjimo	Executive Director, Oromo Legacy Leadership & Advocacy Association (OLLAA)
Hedi Sarkar	Program Manager, Alliance of Iraqi Minorities Network
Laura Anyola Tufon	Coordinator, Justice and Peace Commission

List of participants who took the floor

1. Yalla Organization for Media
2. Baha'i International Community
3. Iraq
4. Sahara Observatory for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights
5. Association of Reintegration of Crimea
6. Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra/Biafra Independence Movement
7. Aboubekrine El Jera
8. Tunisian Association for the support of Minorities
9. Eyzidi Organization for Documentation
10. Rights for Peace

11. Hengaw Human Rights Organisations
12. Assyrian Universal Alliance Americas Chapter Inc.
13. Etuti Institute
14. Barotse National Freedom Alliance
15. Balochistan Peoples Party
16. Fateh Azzam
17. Methaq organisation for Civil peace and reconciliation
18. Ecumenical Federation Of Constantinopolitans
19. Alliance of Iraqi Minorities Network

Thematic Session 2: Normative framework: the human rights of minorities and conflict prevention

Invited Speakers

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| Tahani Irfan Ruhi
(moderator) | journalist, lecturer, trainer, human rights defender |
| Aoife Hegarty | Focal point on minority issues, OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa |
| Solomon Ayele Dersso | Chair of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights |
| Judge Jamila Mohamed | Chairperson, Kenya National Committee on the Prevention of Genocide |

List of participants who took the floor

1. Survival of the river races in Zambesia
2. Buganda Liberation Council
3. Baha'i International Community
4. Nuba Mountains Peoples Foundation
5. Iraq
6. Methra Organization for Yarsan Cultural and Development

7. Independent Commission for Human Rights in North Africa
8. INSAF Center Defending Freedoms & Minorities
9. Etuti Institute
10. Larsa Organization

Wednesday, 16th May 2021

Thematic Session 3: Obstacles to implementing the rights of minorities and early effective conflict prevention

Invited Speakers

Fateh Azzam (moderator)	Executive Committee member, Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies, Boston and Member, Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (NHRI), Ramallah
Geoffrey Sabiiti	Africa Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Coordinator, Minority Rights Group International
Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua	Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ghana
Amina Amharech	Member of the ILC Global Council, Representing the EMENA Region

List of participants who took the floor

1. Baha'i International Community
2. International Human Rights Council
3. Balochistan Human Rights Group
4. Iraq
5. Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights

6. Hengaw Human Rights Organisations
7. Assyrian Universal Alliance Americas Chapter Inc.
8. Homeland Study Group Foundation
9. South Africa
10. Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra/Biafra Independence Movement
11. Initiative of the Resurgence for the Movement Abolitionist in Mauritania
12. Nineveh Center for Minority Rights
13. Etuti Institute
14. Jack Jendo
15. Ilana Omo Oodua
16. INSAF Center Defending Freedoms & Minorities

Thematic Session 4: Ways forward towards addressing gaps in human rights mechanisms to protect minorities and prevent conflicts

Invited Speakers

Frank Okyere	Head, Peace Support Operations Program at Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
Hon. Rémy Ngoy Lumbu,	Vice Chairperson, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
Basma M. M . Habib	High Commission for Human Right in Iraq
Wale Adeboye	Director, West Africa Responsibility to Protect Coalition
Aya Manaa	former OHCHR Minority Fellow

List of participants who took the floor

1. Hengaw Human Rights Organisations
2. Iraq
3. Larsa Organization
4. Buganda Liberation Council
5. Methaq Organisation for Civil Peace and Reconciliation

6. Ali Al Nuaimi
7. Joseph Youhana
8. Barotse National Freedom Alliance
9. Balochistan Peoples Party
10. Ilana Omo Oodua
11. Josephine Adaza
12. Olqaba Saba

Presentation of Recommendations

Fernand de Varennes	UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Marcus Oda	Programme Manager, Tom Lantos Institute
Chair: Evelin Verhás	Head of Programmes, Tom Lantos Institute

Concluding Remarks

Fernand de Varennes	UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
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