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*Mission Permanente
de la République Islamique d'Iran
auprès des Nations Unies
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève*

*Ambassadeur,
Représentant Permanent*



H. E. Ambassador Luis Alfonso De Alba
President;
The Human Rights Council

Geneva, 8 January 2007

Mr. President;

It is a pleasure for me to write to you, as the President of the Human Rights Council, upon instruction from my government, to draw your attention to the issue raised by the Permanent Representative of Israeli regime in his letter dated 12 December 2006 in relation to an international conference held in Tehran on the Holocaust.

The international conference on the Holocaust, held in Tehran, has been an academic event, to examine and investigate the facts about a historical claim without any prejudice or judgment. The results of this conference, whatever it might be, would undoubtedly pave the way for historians and history researchers to explore more accurately and in more details different aspects of the issue at hand and sheds more light on it. Compelling scientists and historians to look to specific and purely academic issues from a designated narrow angle to reach preconceived results is unconstructive, unscientific and contrary to free flow of information. One would wonder how it is impossible to examine and investigate a historical issue while, in some western countries, defamatory statements about sacred personalities and divine prophets is being tolerated and even encouraged on the ground of freedom of expression

The objective of the conference has been neither denying the Holocaust nor affirming it, but to open a window of opportunity for all those who have given the issue a thought from all over the world to present their case from a whole range of different and far apart perspectives, while, in Europe, despite highly decorated image of liberties, derailment from the highly controversial official version of the Holocaust will be subject to a brutal demonization. Some 70 researchers from Iran and 30 other countries presented their ideas and thoughts in an academic atmosphere. Stigmatizing, calumniating and exaggerating about an international conference, which is similar to scores of other international events, held every day around the world and in Iran, raises serious skepticism over the intent of the claimant. Undue anxiety of Israeli regime over academic

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events aiming at spotlighting undiscovered and ill-examined layers of contemporary history leads one to believe that this occupying regime desperately requires redirecting the attention of the international community from crimes perpetrated in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Lebanon and to defuse the record-breaking alert generated by unprecedented three consecutive Special Sessions of the Human Rights Council as the main apparatus of the United Nations Human Rights Mechanism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, on cultural, national and international grounds, does commit itself to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Iranian people are proud of their background in this respect. Unlike Zionism, which is based on and charged with hegemonic racial desires, Islam is based on respect for all, regardless of race, sex, etc. That is the main reason that anti-Semitism is in essence a phenomena first created in the West. In fact, it was the enormous pressure of the United States and Israeli regime that prevented introduction of Zionism as a form of racism in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa in August-September 2001.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly differentiated between Judaism and Zionism. Jews are an integral part of Islamic countries including Iran and they live in peace, harmony and liberty with their compatriots and are actively participating in social and political life of their homeland. In contrast, Zionism is an ideology based on racism and tailored to justify occupation and suppression of Palestinian people in the last 60 years. The memory of mankind is disturbed by unprecedented and unrestricted atrocities and destruction inflicted upon Palestinians by occupying regime of Israel during last decades. This memory is being refreshed every day.

In our view, the life of all, regardless of religion, race, ethnic background, sex and etc must be respected and ethnic, racial, religious or any other type of human cleansing is categorically condemned. However, this is a legitimate question that: while there are serious opposing ideas over the issue, in particular on the number of perished, among scholars around the world, why an artificial red line has to taboo the entire issue of the Holocaust, preventing to bridge this gap, in total contradiction of article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 19 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights? Equally importantly, if the Nazis committed the Holocaust, why the Palestinian people would have to be punished for that?

It is most regrettable that the explicit and numerous hostile statements of Israeli officials against the Islamic Republic of Iran as a founding member of the United Nations, including suggesting an all out invasion and comprehensive media coverage of this suggestion do not raise minimum sensitivities of so-called advocates of international peace and security.

History cannot be rewritten as it pleases Israeli regime. It cannot be manipulated and hand-picked selectively and it cannot be reformatted based on political agenda or

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historical ambitions of this regime. Long list of Israel's crimes against Palestinian people and the people of the region during last 60 years, amount to genocide and crime against humanity. These crimes cannot be brushed off by way of deception and misinterpretation of an international event aiming at interaction among scholars and academics regarding a historical issue.

It is a distasteful irony that the occupying regime of Israel resorts to Human Rights Council to deprive the others from one of the most important rights of the time, namely freedom of information, while it has pursued a policy of disregard and disrespect for the very same Council during the first year of its existence

As the President of the Human Rights Council, you are respectfully requested to ask the Secretariat to circulate this letter for the attention of all Permanent Missions in Geneva, UN departments and Bodies, Specialized Agencies and Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration

Yours truly,



Alireza Moayeri

Ambassador, Permanent Representative