

Durban Review Conference
AFTERNOON

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International, Aldet Centre - Saint Lucia, Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Forum-Menschenrechte, Canadian HIV/Aids Legal Network, Congres Mondial Amazigh, Article 19 - The

CLAUDIA MORCOM, of International Association of Democratic Lawyers, said racial discrimination was deeply embedded in the economy. In Detroit Michigan allegedly the car capital of the world, executive leaders were paid three hundred times what the union labourers made. In February 2009, 584,000 were unemployed in Michigan, that was 12 per cent up from 8.9 per cent in September 2008. Some 14.3 per cent of Michigan's population was African American and 4 per cent were Latinos. The speaker said that the organization was very disappointed and ashamed for the United States for not taking part in this Conference. The issue of reparations and restitution to African descendents of slavery should not be ignored by the United Nations.

YONAS ENDRIAS, of Forum-Menschenrechte, said that the Durban follow-up process in Germany brought racism to the Government's agenda. This was a very positive change since the Government so far associated and defined racism only in the context of right wing extremism. Although the national action plan against racism produced by the Government was not satisfactory from the civil society perspective, yet it brought the Government to address some of the issues raised in Durban. The problem of racism was serious in Germany and in Europe as a whole and had to be tackled in the follow-up process.

LINDIWE NKUTHA, of Canadian HIV/Aids Legal Network, welcomed that the outcome document noted with concern the increased instances of discrimination on multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination and that such discrimination, as laid down in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, affected the enjoyment of human rights and could lead to particular targeting or vulnerability. The paragraph in the outcome document reaffirmed th

Who they were, where they were, how they operated and what their overall objectives were were known.

PATRICIA M. MUHAMMAD, of Bilal Justice International, said that human rights violations such as human trafficking had not dissipated. These people were smuggled into various countries, their bodies were their only regarded commodity, they were children, they were women and they were sometimes men. Their labor was exploited, they were raped and abused, they rarely spoke the language of their destination, which muted their voices. They were the victims of modern day trafficking. Regarding slavery, the international community had the ability to evolve legal precedent regarding restitution for slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, for it required only one courageous step to make amends.

