

Proposed Resolution on Guild Involvement in US Reporting Under the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 2006

Whereas, the National Lawyers Guild has a long history of working effectively against racial discrimination at federal, state and local levels; and

Whereas, the National Lawyers Guild participated in the founding conference of the United Nations, an international organization the aim of which is to promote peace and human rights; and

Whereas, the National Lawyers Guild strongly supports the human rights reporting treaties ratified by the United States: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1992), the Convention Against Torture (1994), and the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (1994); and

Whereas, the National Lawyers Guild has been participating in the recent massive effort of the U.S Shadow Reporting Group of Non-Governmental Organizations concerning U.S. reporting to the UN Human Rights Committee as required by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

Whereas, the United States is out of compliance with its duties under the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to report every two years on what the government is doing at federal, state and local levels to enforce equal rights for all; and

Whereas, the Guild sued the Attorney General of the United States when he was violating civil liberties, and won in *National Lawyers Guild v. Brownell* in 1955;

Now, therefore, be it resolved: (1) that the National Lawyers Guild join Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute and other organizations in filing a Complaint with the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of State concerning the failure of the State Department to file the reports required under the CERD in 2003, and 2005, and its failure to notify and insist that state and local governments prepare and promptly file reports of enforcement and violations of the Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination for inclusion in the U.S. Report. If it is impossible for the U.S. Department of State to include state and local information at this time, it should file a report with the federal information immediately, and a Supplemental Report of state and local information as soon as is possible and in any event no later than March 1, 2007; and

Be it further resolved: (2) that the National Lawyers Guild work with other organizations concerned about racial discrimination in the United States at national, state and local levels, and in territories controlled by the United States, including Guam, Guantanamo, Iraq, to cause the U.S. to file the required reports immediately, and that they be accurate and complete, including both steps forward and steps backward, and including problems raised by government actions/inactions regarding Katrina victims;

And be it further resolved: (3) that the National Lawyers Guild will encourage report backs by the representatives of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, and other Non-Governmental Organizations in their areas on the July 2006 meetings of the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva concerning the U.S. Report under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights;

And be it finally resolved: (4) that the National Lawyers Guild, and in particular the International Committee and The United People of Color Caucus as co-sponsors of this resolution, will work with the Shadow Reporting Group of U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations to encourage its work on U.S. reporting as required by the Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Submitted by Ann Fagen Ginger and Curtis Cooper

Endorsed by the The United People of Color Caucus and the International Committee