America's United Nations

We are leaders of American ethnic and racial groups dedicated to promoting pluralism and opposing bigotry. We represent America’s historic commitment to freedom and justice. In short, we are “America’s United Nations.”

Today, we join together to condemn, on the fiftieth anniversary of its passage, the infamous United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 that equated Zionism with racism. This resolution is an insult to millions of Americans whose racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds make them especially sensitive to all forms of bigotry. It has also produced widespread anti-Semitism which all who value freedom and pluralism repudiate.

For 15 years, UN Resolution 3379 has resulted in attacks on Jews on college campuses and charges that Jews by definition support racism. It has encouraged historical revisionists to claim legitimacy for their outrageous comparison between Israel and Nazi Germany. It has given comfort to extremists who want to see Israel destroyed and has hampered the search for peace for all peoples in the Middle East.

The UN resolution abuses law to promote hatred. All who remember Jim Crow and Nuremberg know the danger to everyone when bigotry is embodied in law. Resolution 3379 also demeans the concept of racism by subordinating it to narrow and illegitimate political purposes.

We cannot remain silent in the face of this destructive resolution or allow its pernicious influence on human relations and the Jewish people to go unchallenged.

We join with our government, as well as with an increasing number of nations all over the world, in urging the United Nations to mark this fiftieth anniversary by repealing Resolution 3379. Nothing less will uphold the standards of human dignity which all people of good will have an obligation to respect.

This statement was issued on the 50th anniversary of Resolution 3379 at a rally sponsored by the American Jewish Committee at the U.S. mission to the UN. It is reprinted by the American Jewish Committee as a public service. The AJC, founded in 1906, is America’s pioneer intergroup relations agency. Through its network of relationships with our nation’s many ethnic, religious, and racial groups, it builds coalitions to advance justice, promote democracy, and interpret Jewish concerns in this country and around the world.

For more information about the American Jewish Committee and a copy of our booklet “Anti-Semitism: The Sophisticated Anti-Semitism,” please write to Sholom D. Comay, President, The American Jewish Committee, 165 East 56th Street, New York, New York 10022.