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- WHY HON. ANN WAIGURU MUST STEP DOWN
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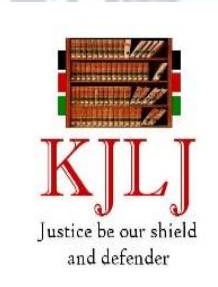
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Politics in nations all over involve confrontation; which is normal and okay within one's constitutional right to hold an opinion. This right however, has been misused. Political life especially in Kenya has been, and continues to be a notorious playhouse of the insensitive and the insincere group and one which is characterized by criminally induced actions. Accepting and respecting basic rights and civil liberties of people or groups whose outlooks differ from one's own is not typical in the political setting.

In the light of the recent incident in Kibera, Have politics in Kenya come to such a low that to hit the government, people must be incited to destroy their own? Why do we let ourselves accede to wishes of politicians who offer measly sums in the name of handouts? When are we going to break free from the leash around our necks and being let out like vicious dogs to attack people who are doing nothing but to help us?

Commonalities have time and again been used to propagate vendetta missions which see them loose the most, while their masters revel in their castles and luxurious vacations abroad. My heart breaks for those patients who looked forward to having clinics near their homes, those who were delighted to finally walk freely at night.

Let us develop our minds, and look beyond variations in political views; to handle conflicting issues in a pragmatic way. At the end of the day, the poor are the only ones who feel the blunt and pain of each blow in any political upsurge.

It was not long ago that the country was on fire with unthinkable loss of property and lives, yet we keep making the same mistakes. Talk of cutting off your nose to spite someone else's face! Will Kenyans ever learn?

Regards,

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EU: ENAR CALLS ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO ADDRESS ANTI-SEMITISM AND ISLAM PHOBIA IN EUROPE



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European Network Against Racism (ENAR) Chair Sarah Isal made the following statement at a hearing organized by the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee on Anti-Semitism, Islam phobia and Hate Speech. The hearing took place at the European Parliament on 29th June.

Anti-Semitism is deeply rooted in Europe, as its resurgence after the Holocaust proved. It is with great concern that we have seen a general increase over the last years. The Community Security Trust (CST) in the UK reported an increase of 60% of violence committed against Jews in the EU between 2008 and 2014. According to the FRA survey, Jews in Europe are increasingly afraid of being verbally harassed (46%) or physically attacked (33%). In Belgium, the equality body reports that complaints received for anti-Semitic incidents have increased from 83 in 2013 to 130 in 2014 (+56%).

In France, a 2013 report from the French National Human Rights Institution reveals that anti-Semitism is not always understood properly, is often seen either as a phenomenon of the past or as isolated acts from either violent extremists or neo-Nazi groups, but is rarely seen as a structural phenomenon.

The extent of anti-Semitism in Hungary came to the forefront when, in November 2012 a Jobbik MP called in the Hungarian Parliament for a list of Jewish civil servants, after which there was no immediate outcry from other government officials. Similarly in Greece, extremely anti-Semitic rhetoric and literature have been associated with elected members of the Golden Dawn party. Understanding the complexity in which anti-Semitism manifests itself is key in combatting it. For instance, Hungary and Greece feature high levels of indigenous anti-Semitism and neo-Nazi activity, but lower levels of physical violence compared to countries such as France and Belgium in which anti-Semitism is much less socially acceptable, but violence is more common.

Bullying and prejudice at school are frequent for Jewish children. In Hungary, there are increasing reports of parents moving their child to Jewish schools following incidents in mainstream education. Jewish children also experience discrimination or segregation in education.

There has also been a worrying increase of Islam phobic incidents over the last years.

In France, the number of attacks against Muslims was multiplied by 6 following the Paris attacks compared to the same period in 2014, according to the Collective against Islam phobia in France (CCIF). In Sweden, attacks on mosques have increased. In Italy, official Islam phobic reactions including those by the Veneto educational authorities are frequent.

Muslim women are particularly targeted by violence. Because public debates focus on Muslim women and the wearing of the headscarf, veiled women are reduced to their religious signs in the view of many and are thus becoming privileged targets of Islam phobia.

ENAR shadow reports and FRA reports also highlighted that the heightened security context since the events of 11 September 2001 has contributed to experiences of direct and indirect discrimination by ethnic and religious minorities in Europe. In particular Muslim communities, and those perceived as belonging to Muslim communities, have been amongst the most vulnerable, at times victims of backlash from wider society after terrorist attacks and then victims of policy responses to these attacks.

Muslim people tend to experience the most severe labour market discrimination, as evidenced ENAR Shadow Reports. Muslims, and in particular Muslim women, also face discrimination due to restrictions to the right of wearing religious symbols in national laws and practices, for example in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain.

Anti-Semitism and Islam phobia are the products of different histories and ideologies; and they cover diverse realities and types of manifestations which are specific to each.

However, anti-Semitism and Islam phobia are both specific forms of discrimination and racism in which attitudes; behavior, institutional patterns and policies reject, exclude, vilify, or deny equal treatment to people, based on their real or perceived Jewish or Muslim background. They have the same concrete implications on the physical, psychological or financial situation of individuals.

Despite the EU and national equality legislations, the specific direct and structural discrimination faced by Jews and Muslims imply that existing legal instruments and policy measures are not enough to ensure equality of outcome.

The response to anti-Semitism and Muslim hatred should therefore deal with these common and separate factors. ENAR calls the LIBE committee to include in its resolution (or resolutions) on anti-Semitism and Islam phobia that the European Commission should ask Member States to adopt specific national strategies with concrete policy goals, on the model of the National Roma Integration Strategies, to address anti-Semitism on the one hand, and Islam phobia on the other.

Policy goals should be specific to each national context and address each fields of life, in particular employment and education.

History has shown time again that there is a connection between hate speech and hate crime. Hate speech, creates a climate in which perpetrators of racist violence feel that the society condone their behavior so it is imperative that hate speech should be addressed. In some cases, and in the respect of international human rights law, they should even result in criminal proceedings.

We also hope that racist, anti-Semitic and Islam phobic violence feature in the European commission bilateral talks with member States on the enforcement of the EU's Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia.

There are many more issues that should be addressed, and we hope there will be in the context of the panel discussions. In particular in terms of larger context, we should keep in mind that to prevent discrimination and violence, more long-term social investment in education, housing, employment and health policies , as well as in intercultural dialogue and social cohesion programs, are crucial to stop the massive disenfranchisement of sizeable parts of the population, which nurtures violent extremism.

It is important to tackle these forms of racism and hatred - as well as anti-Gypsyism and Afro phobia - jointly, so as to show all forms of racism and hatred are of concern to all, and are equally important to address. Now is time for cooperation and alliance building to keep in mind the greater cause, beyond attempts from some to pit communities against one another. In the context of the creation of a new group in this house which gathers those who would like to promote racist, xenophobic, Islam phobic or anti-Semitic ideas, policies and practices, this is a matter of urgency.

View all "Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief" newsletters:

<http://hrwf.eu/newsletters/intolerance-and-discrimination-based-on-religion-or-belief/>

WHY HON. ANN WAIGURU MUST STEP DOWN

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In the Biblical context, crucifixion is a term used when there is a need to have an individual pay for their sins. Law in itself states that one is innocent until proven so guilty. This however has been vicissitude by actions of our so called President Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta. Truth be told, it is only fair that when a parent has a piece of meat no matter how small, it is shared equally and not equitably amongst the children.

Some weeks ago, The President of this superlative nation came out strongly and denounced the act of corruption as not only being a thunder to this nation but one that has ensured a stagnated nation at large. He thereafter read the names of prominent personalities of this nation who had been delineated with the mad of the vice and asked those holding public offices to ‘step aside’ until that time when they would be ‘cleansed’ and it affirmed that the said were such mere allegations and no truth on the matters that made the corruption perpetrators. This gave a number of Kenyans hope me inclusive, who is not so much a supporter of the deeds of the Jubilee government not only as a result of political inclination but also due to the fact that I believe often than not, this government has the capability to perform better than it has.

A number of Jubilee babies were asked to step aside and currently some orphaned-the likes of Charity Ngilu- while others still ‘held in rehabilitation centers like drug addicts still waiting for a go ahead to be welcomed back to the society’. Many have cried and expected to return home but nothing has changed. This was a move that soothed the heart of Kenyans and was a breakthrough of change and the fight against corruption. For instance I knew that from this point in time, none, not even the opulent in the society would escape this sword as may be compared to that of Alexander the Great which pierced through even the hardest armor. This was where we as Kenyans through our president had said enough is enough and change would take effect and we would take the fight against corruption through thick and thin.

Then came the ‘Anne Waiguru Saga’ on NYS money and other related issues. It was initially revealed to the public on issues of corruption within the institution and later, Hon. Anne Waiguru came out to claim the role of a whistleblower in this issue. Most times human beings have a character that when things go out of hand they then find excuses to justify their purity and how they tried to fight the ‘wrong happenings’. There have been a number of people who have come out to state that they have evidence showing the diddling of Hon. Anne Waiguru on the issue at hand. But what has happened even after the said? The president and his blanket armory-jubilee government- have come out to protect her as the hen does her chicks in the presence of an eagle. They have stated her innocence and stood by her through these ‘tough true times’. The question most Kenyans are left asking is why is Hon Anne Waiguru getting special treatment? Is there a more intense relationship

between her and the Jubilee government or rather the president and her than we know? Because honestly speaking even those deemed to have helped Uhuru in galvanizing votes for instance Charity Ngilu have been thrown to the den of lions without any sign of rescue coming their way. Why then is Waiguru being protected this much?

What I am made to understand is that this government started with promoting the issue of ‘stepping aside’ and as such it should apply to all with related calamities that warrant stepping aside and for this instance, it being corruption. Anne Waiguru has been accused in being corrupt and as such it would be justified for her to face the same ‘hanging rope’ that was used on ‘her brothers and sisters’. This would play on the safe side of the government as it would come out clearly that though not all animals are equal in the jungle, but when they visit the beach they are treated as such equals. Failure to this, the ‘neck demanding’ that has been going on should still take effect and thus no one should state that the move is in any way erroneous. **WAIGURU MUST STEP ASIDE FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE.**



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