

NEW

Right of Reply
by
the Islamic Republic of Iran
Geneva, 4 March 2008

Mr. President,

In exercising my delegation's right of reply, I would like to make the following points with regard to the reference made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to my country, yesterday afternoon.

Mr. President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran inspired by the Islamic teachings and in accordance with the Constitution of the Country and its international obligations is fully committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights for all,

We would like to respectfully invite the honorable Minister that instead of raising issues which are not recognized or confirmed by the majority of members of the international community due to, inter alia, their clear contradiction with the principles and teachings of Divine religions, to look for root causes of and solutions for new manifestations of intolerance and defamation of Islam and its sanctities which now prevailing so openly in that country. Needless to say, once again, that insulting religions is incompatible with the right to freedom of expression and can not be justified or interpreted under such a pretext.

On the other hand, Mr. President, I should reiterate that the principle message of all Divine religions is to protect and promote the ethics in the society and to strengthen the very foundation of family and its values. Therefore, it would be more appropriate if not to raise the issues which are clearly controversial and deal with the sentiments and beliefs of a large number of societies all over the world.

Thank you,