

**Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination : . 29/09/99.  
A/54/18. (Sessional/Annual Report of Committee)**

**Convention Abbreviation:** CERD  
Fifty-fourth Session  
Supplement No. 18 (A/54/18)

**Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Fifty-fourth session (1–19 March 1999)  
Fifty-fifth session (2–27 August 1999)

**B. Statement adopted by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session**

22. At its 1318th meeting, on 10 March 1999, the Committee adopted the following statement:  
Statement on the human rights of the Kurdish people

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is profoundly alarmed about widespread and systematic violations of human rights inflicted on people because of their ethnic or national origin. Ethnic antagonisms, especially when mixed with political opposition, give rise to many forms of violent conflict, including terrorist actions and military operations. In many parts of the world they cause immense suffering, including the loss of many lives, the destruction of cultural heritage and the massive displacement of populations.

In this context, the Committee expresses its concern about acts and policies of suppression of the fundamental rights and the identity of the Kurds as distinct people. The Committee stresses that the Kurdish people, wherever they live, should be able to lead their lives in dignity, to preserve their culture and to enjoy, wherever appropriate, a high degree of autonomy.

The Committee appeals to the competent organs of the United Nations and to all authorities and organizations working for peace, justice and human rights to deploy all necessary efforts in order to achieve peaceful solutions which do justice to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Kurdish people.

*1318th meeting  
10 March 1999*