

Mr. Biram Dah Abeid - Lawyer and researcher, Save Slave Organisation – Mauritania (concluding remarks) in French

Thank you Chairperson.

Oh I was frustrated yesterday not to have more than 3 minutes unlike my other colleagues. However, I would like to congratulate the staff of the Forum and those who have organised it for having undertaken such an enormous task, which will help to close gaps among different communities in countries. However, I should point out that one of the fundamental difficulties I believe this enormous noble task is resistance on the part of the governments which we have seen here in this room from certain statements, which were made full of lies and disinformation. Statements which are ethicist in nature because they want to maintain the supremacy or omnipotence of one ethnic groups oppressing other ethnic groups in a country. As in Mauritania, where in fact the minority is in power, now I don't think that the person who spoke yesterday can speak for Mauritania. He was speaking for a general that overturned government democratically elected in Mauritania so there is no legitimacy.

[Ms. Gay McDougall respectfully interrupts the speaker to confine statements in relation to education]

I shall continue, The UNESCO report published a few weeks ago shows that in Mauritania like in all of the countries of the Sahel, slavery continues. There are some 5 thousand people reckoned as slaves in Mauritania and this figure was in the UNESCO report. Slavery is not fully understood there is traditional slavery in Africa that is not fully understood by the people here in this Forum. Because in our country.

[Ms. Gay McDougall asks to move on to another speaker]

Madam! Is this not discrimination?!

[Ms. Gay McDougall apologises and asks to move on to another speaker]

Madam, this is discrimination because governments....