

**Human Rights Council, 45<sup>th</sup> Session  
Geneva, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on truth, justice,  
reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence**

**Oral statement delivered by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.**

Vice President,

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation - IFOR thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report and agrees on the “crucial role played by memorialization processes to respond adequately to past crimes and prevent their recurrence.”<sup>1</sup>

One of the key principles of nonviolence is: learn from the past. Reconciliation is based on truth and justice; thus the recognition of human rights violations and the voices of the victims play a key role in the construction of memory.

Transitional justice and memorialization processes can help to understand and assess human rights violations and soothe wounds to heal, foster responsible social dialogue, and reinforce the rule of law. This will also address the underlying roots of the conflict, such as inequalities and discrimination, to prevent the resurgence of violence and to build long-lasting peace.

Enabling society to regain trust and initiating a process of reconciliation need a surgical action on unemployment, distrust, phobia, violence and hatred [that have become endemic].

Systemic racism is sustained by a serious deficiency in the process of memorialization which limits guarantee of non-recurrence.

On June 5, 2020 Georgia State Representatives<sup>2</sup> co-sponsored the ‘Citizens Arrest Repeal Bill’; this 1863 law has allowed U.S. private citizens, [persons who are not law-enforcement officials,] to use this policy to discriminate against African Americans. The murder of Ahmaud Arbery<sup>3</sup> is one case.

IFOR shares the SR’s concern on “a toxic political culture”<sup>4</sup> and welcomes His recommendations to bring about a Culture of Peace.

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/45/45>.

<sup>2</sup> Carl Scott Gilliard, Roger Bruce, Don Hogan, William Bodie and Gerald Green.

<sup>3</sup> On February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020, in Glynn County, State of Georgia, USA.

<sup>4</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/45/45>.