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**STATEMENT OF THE US HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE CERD  
COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE UNITED STATES**

Geneva, February 21, 2008 – Today, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination began its questioning of U.S. government delegation regarding the Bush Administration’s compliance under the International Convention of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). The **US Human Rights Network** issued the following statement at the conclusion of today’s proceedings:

*At the end of day one of CERD proceedings, the U.S. Human Rights Network is disappointed by presentation by the U.S. government delegation to the committee, which failed to substantively address the gap between protection against discrimination under the U.S. Constitution and the protection afforded to citizens and residents under the CERD. However, the USHRN believes that the months of effort it put into developing a professional and thorough shadow report was validated today. During today’s proceedings, members of the committee relied on our report as an instrument to frame their inquiries to the U.S. delegation. The Committee raised issues that the USHRN believes proves that systemic discrimination still exists in the U.S. today, including: racial disparities in rates of incarceration, juvenile incarceration without the possibility of parole, the disproportionate application of the death penalty, the ongoing violation of the rights of indigenous people, post 9/11 discrimination and civil liberty violations directed against non-citizens and more. We hope that in tomorrow’s hearing, the U.S. continues to be held accountable for its failing to comply with the treaty and intend to intensify our advocacy towards that end.*

To view a copy of the shadow report submitted by the US Human Rights Network, please visit:

[http://www.ushrnetwork.org/cerd\\_shadow\\_2008](http://www.ushrnetwork.org/cerd_shadow_2008)

The **US Human Rights Network** was formed to promote US accountability to universal human rights standards by building linkages between organizations and individuals. The Network strives to build a human rights culture in the United States that puts those directly affected by human rights violations, with a special emphasis on grassroots organizations and social movements, in a central leadership role. The Network also works towards connecting the US human rights movement with the broader US social justice movement and human rights movements around the world. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.ushrnetwork.org>