

Urban Justice Center

UN Special Rapporteur on Racism Visits NYC

The Human Rights Project (HRP) at the Urban Justice Center coordinated the New York City visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur (or expert) on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Doudou Diene, on May 21-22, 2008. Mr. Diene, who was in the United States on an official fact-finding mission, started off his visit by meeting with representatives from the different New York City communities affected by racism at the Overbrook Foundation offices. Mr. Diene's itinerary included an early afternoon meeting with groups working on, and victims of the juvenile and criminal justice, police brutality, and racial profiling, followed by a late afternoon meeting in the Bronx to hear from immigrants and housing advocates. His meetings were followed by a guided tour of Harlem to see the ongoing displacement of longtime residents and small business owners, as well as the location of environmentally hazardous sites. The following morning, Mr. Diene met with representatives from the Native American community, as well as groups fighting environmental racism. Mr. Diene's United States mission also included visits to Washington DC, Chicago, Omaha, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Miami and Puerto Rico. HRP was on the steering committee for the national visit.



The visit by the Special Rapporteur comes just weeks after legislation spearheaded by HRP was introduced in City Council to bring a new approach to combating discrimination in New York City by using international human rights standards.

- Taking a New Look at Discrimination in New York City (Gotham Gazette)

<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/fea/20080329/202/2477>

- Bill Would Tackle Bias in Agencies (The Chief)

<http://www.thechief-leader.com/news/2008/0321/news/017.html>

- Advocates Work With U.N. for Civil Rights at Home (City Limits)

http://www.citylimits.org/content/articles/viewarticle.cfm?article_id=3520&content_type=1&media_type=4