

## Denmark

ODVV submission to the UN Universal Period Review 24<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group.

January-February 2016.

1. Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities. The ODVV is also associated to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), a participatory of the NGOs Coalition for an International Court (based in New York), and national coordinator of the Global March Against Child Labour (based in New Delhi) which cooperated in a variety of issues with international organizations and has working relations with many NGOs in Iran and around the globe. ODVV is also member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), conference of Non-Governmental Organization (CONGO), and the International Movement for a Just World.

ODVV expresses its serious concerns on the following human rights situations in Denmark and calls for immediate follow up:

## Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

2. Many academic surveys, reports from distinguished organizations and NGOs have documented the unequal treatment given minorities in Denmark. The ENAR report states, the most discriminated areas are minority groups; religious minorities and vulnerable groups (i.e., refugees). <sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Laine, Michael. "Racism and discrimination everyday practices in Denmark – ENAR". *The Copenhagen Voice*. 2009. Retrieved: <a href="http://cphvoice.ning.com/profiles/blogs/racism-and-discrimination">http://cphvoice.ning.com/profiles/blogs/racism-and-discrimination</a>

- 3. Muslim minorities for instance, has been facing many discriminations against them in the previous years up to present days. The oppositions Danish People Party (DF) has constantly and recently supported the idea of 'Mohammed cartoons lessons,' and compulsory studies of the Charlie Hebdo related crisis and its aftermath in all the country's schools.<sup>2</sup>
- 4. One in two Danish citizens favor a cap on the number of Muslims permitted to live in Denmark, a YouGov poll indicates. The poll, which was conducted for the Danish publication Metroxpress, specifically targeted immigration from non-Western countries and also found one in four Danes do not want the country's population to be more than 5 percent Muslim.<sup>3</sup>
  - ODVV urges the government of Denmark to take effective and serious measures to promote tolerance and combat attitudes, behaviors and reflexes not covered by the law as well as stereotypes directed, inter alia, at the Muslim minority.
  - ODVV calls on the Denmark government to define legislations that would draw a line between freedoms of speech and hate speeches.
  - Adopt stronger measures to make minorities representative in the social and political sphere of the society.

THE ABOVE CONTRUNUTION WAS SUBMITTED ON JUNE, 20, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>"Renouncing Islam: Danish anti-immigration party suggest 'grotesque' program" 2015. Retrieved: http://rt.com/news/241417-denmark-muslims-leave-islam/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Poll: 50% in Denmark Want Limit on Muslims, Immigration". *International Business Times*. 2015. retrieved: <a href="http://www.ibtimes.com/poll-50-denmark-want-limit-muslims-immigration-1810130">http://www.ibtimes.com/poll-50-denmark-want-limit-muslims-immigration-1810130</a>