

Item 9: Racism, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance

Terrorism and Shia Phobia

Mr. President,

Shia Phobia is not a hidden phenomenon anymore and the spread of terrorism in the Middle East has turned it into a common feature of Terror-groups hate speech. The phobia is fueled by the ISIS hate speech in the media escalated following their defeat in Syria and Iraq. The failing terror group is now trying to attack new civilian targets in Afghanistan, Iraq and even Iran.

In May 2017, dozens of people were killed and wounded in an attack to a shop¹. In August, 2017, an attack to a Shia mosque in Friday prayers killed 20 people². In June 2017, terrorist attacks in Tehran killed 12 people³.

High frequency of Shia phobic rhetoric in ISIS ideology encourage its followers to armed and subside attacks against Shia on the account of their religious beliefs, especially in crowded civilian areas including markets and mosques.

Terror attacks against civilians because of their religious beliefs is condemned by international human rights law. We believe that there is a feeling of Shia phobia being triggered by some States in the region especially against the Shia population in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Mr. President,

Recognizing the UN principles, our organization expresses serious concerns against xenophobic attacks that violate international human rights law.

We call on the HRC to study the best practices of countering hate crimes.

We call on the special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief to pay special attention to the rising cases of Shia phobia.

1 . <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/30/baghdad-ice-cream-shop-isis-car-bomb-attack>

2 . <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/25/world/asia/mosque-kabul-attack.html?mcubz=3>

3 . <http://www.independent.co.uk/News/world/middle-east/tehran-attacks-isis-suicide-bomb-iran-first-ever-terrorism-claim-responsibility-parliament-shrine-a7776631.html>