

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence



Islamophobia

Mr. President,

Islamophobia is not a new phenomenon, but it has increased in intensity during recent years. Many organizations have reported an increasing frequency of hate crimes against Muslims and Muslim organizations, following the terror attacks on the US on September 11, 2001. In addition to verbal abuse, Muslims are exposed to and suffering from physical assaults, destruction of their property and murder.

Mr. President,

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) urges the United Nations Human Rights Council to pay special attention to the rise in Islamophobia, take necessary steps to address its causes and consequences, and make an effort to solve this global problem.

- Arranging a meeting to be attended by officials of the United Nations and NGOs aimed at promoting dialogue and exchange of views will be a very positive step in this regard. Such a meeting can boost mutual understanding and make these organizations even more resolute in their effort to push for domestic laws to be passed to support Muslims and criminalize measures taken against this minority.
- Introducing a mechanism to oversee measures taken by countries to eradicate Islamophobia in addition to provision of advisory services and proposals by the UN organs are among other steps that this world body can take to combat Islamophobia.
- We also urge the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to use its regional offices in order to train journalists to avoid using ethnic and religious clichés in their reports.
- We urge the United Nations to actively cooperate with members of the civil society in the process of seeking solutions to Islamophobic incidents.