

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Item 9: General Debate

Shia Phobia in Pakistan

Mr. President



A recent terrorist attack on a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan, in which more than 250 Shiites were killed and injured in a series bombing, once again highlighted the need for the international community to fight extremism and violence and to uphold universal human rights principles.

It has been almost three decades since sectarian violence began in Pakistan. During the period, we have witnessed violence and assassinations targeting the Shiite sect, leading to killing and injuries of large number of Shiites. Given the existence of Shiite-Sunni sectarian conflicts in Pakistan and its intensification by some sectarian terrorist groups, supported by foreign powers, the killing of Shiites in this country is undeniable.

According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, more than 300 terrorist attacks have been recorded in Pakistan between 2001 and 2013, in which over 3500 Shiites were injured and about 2000 were killed.

Despite the Pakistani government efforts to combat sectarian violence, Shia phobia and hate attacks have remained strong in the form of terrorist operations. The death toll from sectarian violence against Shiites in Pakistan has risen sharply since 9/11 and the US-led invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. President,

ODVV calls on the government to continue efforts to address the situation more successfully.