

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Item 9: General Debate



Organization for Defending Victims
of Violence

Mr. President,

As NGO active to protect human rights, we wish to express our deep concern about the pathetic cases of burning of the Quran, the holy book of all Muslims, by some people in Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands while the mentioned states did not prevent to be incidents.

These shameful acts are reminiscent of the practices of the Middle Ages when books were burned in public places, along with their authors. The world is thus reminded of a practice unanimously considered shameful.

However, our world today, which suffers enough conflicts and crises, rather needs the reinforcement of a culture of tolerance, of living together and of the respect of cultural and religious diversity, in all its forms. We are therefore very concerned about the spread of radical and discriminatory ideologies against Muslims, which manifest themselves in various forms and under various titles, including freedom of opinion. We are aware that such shameful abuses can in no way be an expression of freedom of opinion which cannot allow the exclusion and/or humiliation of the other.

We refer to the reaction of Muslims all over the world, who feel humiliated and targeted by an unprecedented hatred. We draw your attention to the fact that this rampant Islamophobia can lead to extreme practices, violent reactions and put social peace and global security to severe tests.

Therefore, we urge you to take concrete and urgent measures to combat such Islamophobic practices, which seriously threaten the rights of Muslim minorities in European countries and can lead to massive human rights violations.

Finally, we urge you to condemn such racist acts in all clarity, as the UN Secretary General has done, and to lead the OHCHR in raising public awareness of the dangers of the phenomenon of Islamophobia on the respect of human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President