

FORUM: General Assembly

QUESTION OF: Defamation of Religion

SUBMITTED BY: Indonesia

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Canada, New Zealand, Cuba

SIGNATORIES: Central African Republic, DPRK, Brazil, The Netherlands, Kenya, Turkey, DR Congo, United States of America, Belgium, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Chile, India, South Africa, Lebanon, Spain, Iran, PR China, Russia, Chad, Germany, Somalia, Azerbaijan

Expressing concern about discrimination based on individuals' religion or beliefs,

Deeply Concerned about the prevalence of xenophobia and Islamophobia in the Western countries,

Deeply Disturbed by some governments' discriminative acts and discourse about specific religions, namely Islam and Judaism,

Aware that almost every terrorist organisation that poses a major threat to world's stabilization labels itself as Muslims,

Noting with regret that only this year more than five hundred civilians have died due to terrorist attacks around the globe,

Keeping in mind that all criticism of religions and beliefs, including arguments based on feelings, thoughts and evidences are protected by the freedom of expression.

1) Calls upon the UN to cooperate with Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in order to inform Islamophobic people the true purpose of Islam which is living in peace without discriminating people based on their religion, colour, ethnicity and gender by pursuing an information policy about Islam so that:

a. not only the citizens of Western countries but also people who were born Muslim will be able to understand the "Do's and Don'ts" of Islam,

b. people who have Islamaphobia will understand the differences of bloody terrorists and genuine Muslims in order to stop the discrimination of Muslims in the Western and Non-Islamic countries which would have occurred due to a lack of reliable unbiased information.

2) Request from the all Member States of the UN to prepare, create and shoot an international Public Service Announcements (PSA's) in order to help their own citizens to distinguish the terrorist organisations and the innocent minorities with the help of NGOs.

3) Suggest the UN to establish a sub-commission under the OHCHR which will be inspected by the UN experts and called "United Religions Academy" (URA) and its goals will be:

a. Teaching people of all ages-especially children- about various religions and beliefs such as but not limited to:

i) the true purpose of Christianity, Islam, Judaism and the customs and traditions of Muslims, Christians, Jews and some minorities and their religions and beliefs,

ii) the consequences of discrimination based on individuals' religions and beliefs,

iii) how to empathize with the individuals who were oppressed due to their religions and beliefs,

in order to decrease the number of xenophobic people and their acts,

b. prevent the new generations from becoming xenophobic and discriminative individuals who would be hostile toward the cultures and practices unknown to them, in order to decrease the number of discrimination depends on religions and beliefs;

4) Calls upon all Member States to adopt measures and policies to promote, through the educational system and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in society at large, a wider knowledge of different religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions and language;

5) Condemns any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audio-visual or electronic media or any other means:

6) Calls for an international convention composed of all the Member States to attempt to define defamation and distinguish it legally from freedom of speech in order to end the misuse of the terms that arose due to the vagueness of the definitions and aim to protect not

institutions of religions but religious people guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

7) Urges the member states to ensure:

- a. the availability of practice of all beliefs and religions, such as but not limited to:
  - i. the right to freely worship
  - ii. the right to assemble in connection with a set of beliefs
  - iii. the right to maintain a place for these purposes
  - iv. the right of all people to seek, give and receive information and ideas in this subject
- b. that no documents or rights are withheld from individuals on the basis of religion or set of beliefs
- c. that everyone is capable of disclosing information about their religious affiliation if they prefer to do so;

8) Further requests from the UNESCO that another session of the World Heritage Convention be held to reconsider the sacred territories of minorities and cooperate with the UN Human Rights office and grant these territories World heritage status in order to:

- a. encourage member states to protect them,
- b. ensure the criminal offenses toward these sites do not go unpunished and taken lightly
- c. help the locals understand the fact that these territories belong to everybody, and everyone has a responsibility to protect and look out after them;

9) Decides to remain actively seized on the matter.

**FORUM:** General Assembly

**AGENDA ITEM:** Defamation of Religion

**SPONSORS:** Russian Federation, Yemen, Nigeria, Syrian Arab Republic

**SIGNATORIES:** Afghanistan, Argentine, Australia, PR China, Georgia, Indonesia, Italy, Iran, Lebanon, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

*The General Assembly,*

*Considering* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which states in its first article that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”,

*Underlining* articles 18 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, agreed in 1966, which guarantees freedom of thought and freedom of expression,

*Taking into account* the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council,

*Observing* the previous United Nations resolutions which agree that restrictions of freedom of speech are necessary to keep the respect for religions,

*Deeply disturbed* by the fact that Islam is usually associated with terrorist acts causing the Muslim communities to suffer from negative stereotyping and discrimination and emphasizing that terrorism shouldn't be associated with any religion,

*Noting with deep concern* the recent terrorist attacks of Islamic Extremist Groups,

*Affirming* the importance of education and public awareness about respect towards different religions,

*Deploring* the acts of violence towards people according to their religion, especially Muslim people, by physical attacks targeting their houses, sacred locations, schools or by verbal attacks in the social media,

*Bearing in mind* the definition of racial discrimination, stated in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as “any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin”

*Noting with regret* the incidents that occurred because of the false trials of the exercise of the blasphemy laws such as the case of Asiya Bibi in Pakistan,

*Disturbed* about the the distinction between people according to their religion in fields such as but not limited to employment, education and health,

1- Accepts the term “defamation of religion” as “an act of violence, intimidation motivated by intolerance and/ or negative stereotyping towards a specific religion”,

2- Recommends the United Nations Human Rights Committee to consider adding a new sub clause (c) to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as follows “for the respect to the religions”,

3- Requests the creation of an Intergovernmental Organization under the United Nations;

- a) which will be established for a treaty which will be;
  - i. written by delegates from the founding members
  - ii. written within 6 months of time
  - iii. including details about the objectives, organs, committees and membership requirements
  - iv. having a clause for the Organization to meet once every 3 months following it's establishment,
- b) which will be named International Organization on Religious Co-operation
- c) in order to construct productive dialogue between states for them to debate and resolve issues to promote international cooperation upon this topic,
- d) which will discuss upon topics such as but not limited to;
  - i. blasphemy laws
  - ii. reports of the member states
- e) which will have the mission of providing respectful and safe environment for the public about discrimination about religion in fields such as but not limited to;
  - i. employment
  - ii. social status
  - iii. education
  - iv. conflicts
- f) which will report to the UN and UNCHR annually,

4- Calls upon all states to provide regular reports regarding updates, conflicts, actions about the issue of defamation of religion and discrimination occurred within that year which will be;

- a) reported to the United Nations and the International Organization on Religious Co-operation and published in the website for the public notice,
- b) written every year,
- c) written by a team consisting members from;
  - i. the press
  - ii. government
  - iii. UN investigator

5- Calls upon the states to encourage their political leaders to;

- a) refrain from making speeches or taking actions targeting specific religions as it is misleading and incorrect,
- b) make speeches against racial discrimination and negative stereotyping of any religion,
- c) in order to eliminate any kind of violence motivated by hatred towards a religion and provide a safe environment for the freedom of religion and belief,

6- Encourages the states to gather meetings in regions with religious groups especially the minorities who are being discriminated, which will be;

- a) with the chairing of local government employees and the attendance of religious communities' leaders,
- b) open for the public to participate,
- c) encouraging participants to have debates and discussions while maintaining respect among each other,
- d) aiming for the participants from different religions to understand each other and co-operate for a peaceful environment,

7- Recommends the member states to improve their penal code, within their legal measurements and considering the UDHR, to take all the necessary requirements to eliminate acts of violence towards religion and religious communities on the cyber space and media,

8- Proposes Member states for the creation of a public awareness campaign,

- a) in order to educate the public upon the topics such as but not limited to;
  - i. religions and their teachings
  - ii. respect towards religions
  - iii. racial discrimination and it's negative effects
  - iv. freedom of religion and belief
- b) in developed countries by using methods such as but not limited to
  - i. billboard, newspaper, magazine and television advertisements,
  - ii. programs and documentaries which will be in a simple language so that the children can understand the issues
  - iii. internet sites designed by UN experts to give correct information about religions,
- c) in least developed countries by using methods such as but not limited to;
  - i. sending experts from International Organization on Religious Co-operation to have conferences and meetings, especially in regions with low literacy rate
  - ii. airing television and radio programs
  - iii. supplying the sacred books of every religion, magazines and newspapers upon the related topics

9- Recommends all member states to consider adding topics regarding respect to religions to their education programs;

- a) in order to teach them the true values of the religions, especially Islam as it is usually considered to be related with terrorism and human rights violations,
- b) topics such as but not limited to;
  - i. teachings of the religions
  - ii. respect towards their beliefs, sacred books, peoples, symbols

9-Decides to remain actively seized on this matter.

Forum: General Assembly

Agenda Item: Criminal Accountability of UN Officials and Experts On Mission

Submitted by: Belgium

Signatories: Republic of Korea, Sweden, Turkey, Yemen, Chad, Lebanon, DR Congo, Luxembourg, Greece, Germany

*Alarmed by* the number of crimes which were committed by the peacekeepers,  
*Aware of the fact that* people are being exploited and hurt for the sake of officials' desires,  
*Deeply conscious* of the priority of the human rights,  
*Fully alarmed by* the fact that the victims of the UN officials who committed the crime of sexual exploitation are mainly minors,  
*Fully aware* of the fact that the crimes which are committed by UN officials are not limited to sexual harassment,  
*Expressing* its appreciation about United Nations' zero tolerance policy,

1. *Encourages* the GA to ask for a sub-committee to the Security Council to:
  - a. stress UN's interior problems by hiring prestigious and experienced volunteer judges and advocates from multiple countries and ethnicities to form a multi-national cabinet, in order to be righteous,
  - b. encourage the states to agree upon the laws of Universal Jurisdiction which will still regard the laws of their countries',
    - i. whose legislations, executions, and jurisdictions will be determined by following the rules of the Universal Jurisdiction in order to be just to the criminals and victims,
    - i. repeal the peacekeepers' impunity for equal judgement,
2. *Recommends* the notation of a consent form which will be signed by the peacekeepers before they start their duties in order to,
  - a. remind them that they are on duty,
  - b. alarm them about the difficulties they will face in case of misbehaviour,
  - c. use the document as evidence and extra sentence for the criminal in cases of crime,
3. *Further recommends* to punish criminals more severely to decrease the number of crimes committed,
  - a. also informing the troops about the new discouraging penalties they will receive such as;
    - i. repatriation,
    - ii. forbidding them to ever participate in voluntary movements if they are volunteers,
    - iii. prohibiting their military duties if they are soldiers,
  - b. also bearing in mind that putting pressure on the troops about the topic can discompose and unsettle them, so making sure that they are being communicated with properly and carefully,
4. *Requests* to form a new psychological test annually in international levels for the peacekeeping forces to,
  - a. ensure that the troops are mentally stabled,
  - b. test whether they are determined for the job, that they are aware of their duties, and are aware of what the people in the conflict zones are facing,
    - i. for the sake of having empathetic bonds with the local people and how they should behave towards them, to avoid any more sexual exploitations,
  - c. check their tendencies of sexual exploitation and violence,
  - d. pursue the peacekeepers' mental states annually,
5. *Further requests* a psychological team of volunteer doctors who have advanced in their jobs to be sent to the conflict areas in order to,

a. support victims psychologically,  
i. by giving individual therapy,  
ii. by including them to support groups with victims that had the same traumas and problems as them for better acknowledgements of what they have faced after their traumas,

6. *Calls upon* the establishment of groups of investigators that,

- a. are aware of the damage that has been given by the criminal troops to the victims of the society,  
b. are hired by the UN and are experienced, transparent and professional about their jobs,  
c. do not have any criminal records,  
d. will supervise the troops fairly,

7. Emphasizes the vital importance and need of self-defence lessons in schools and public places with the help of volunteers or professionals, in order to teach local people what to do in case of attacks or when needed,

8. Calls upon the related NGO's such as UNESCO to create a public awareness campaign:

- a) in order to inform the public about topics such as;  
i. human rights violations  
ii. peacekeeping operations  
iii. operations taking place in the area  
b) by using methods such as;  
i. TV, internet, ads  
ii. meetings and conferences  
iii. radio broadcasts

9. *Decides* to remain actively seized on the matter.