

Thank you Mister President,

My name is Mansour Abdullah Al-Harazi a civil rights representative of the Ismaili sect in Yemen, President of the Advisory Committee for Al-Zahraa Youth Forum and currently participating in The Minorities Fellowship Programme (MFP) in the High Council so immense gratitude to them for providing me this opportunity.

Mister President, ladies and gentlemen:

Ismailis are a native Shia people related to the Imam Isma'il bin Jafar Al-Sadiq. They had the honour of building the Fatimid Dynasty and helped spread peace, tolerance and co-existence. They were famous for their religious educational groups teaching all doctrines in the one mosque and everyone had the freedom to choose whatever they wanted. People were put into positions according to their abilities not their affiliation. They had the freedom to produce intellectual works even if they contradicted the doctrine of the Ismaili state. It can be even said that the Ismailis were one of the first to give their people political and cultural rights.

Today, the Ismailis have become minorities and religious sects living in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and others, suffering from a lack of the very same rights they used to give their subjects.

1. Ismailis in Saudi Arabia suffer from religious incitement on television via channels Awtan and Wesal; YouTube videos for Wahabi sheiks; closings of their mosques; confiscation of books and manuscripts, and changing the majority Ismaili demographic makeup in Najran.
2. Ismailis in Yemen have no representation in government or parliament. Their candidate's list has been excluded from the National Debate in addition to incitement from some religious references.
3. Ismailis in Pakistan suffer from publications that incite violence against them.

To summarize: religious incitements and exclusions are considered the main areas of the Ismaili cause, in face, studies have shown that this is one of the main reasons for violence against them.

Today, I will focus on these two issues in the frame of prevention procedures with the addition of a new mechanism to help minorities:

1. Rephrasing Recommendation no. 17 to guarantee the existence of a real partnership, so the state will have to take concrete steps to guarantee a partnership for all and to see this as a main criteria for good governance; to take necessary procedures in the constitution and the electoral system to guarantee the active participation for minorities in government and decision at all levels; fair representation in parliament so their rights are protected in national legislation, this will be in a way that reflects the importance of minorities to the state and that their issues will be dealt with in an appropriate way.
2. Rephrasing Recommendation no. 35 to link people who incite violence and the method they use; activation of preventative procedures as follows: clerics must refrain from incitement; the media must not incite violence or publish hate speeches; establishing independent bodies to monitor acts of incitement or violence and to criminalise such acts and bring its perpetrators to justice in coordination with specialist national powers.
3. To put forward a recommendation that aims to encourage solidarity between minority rights activists everywhere in the world by considering the recommendation a mechanism that launches from the roots of minority societies and participates in the

activation of national and international mechanisms to advocate their rights. This will be in a way that supports the UN efforts in this area and which will also consolidate cooperation and in this area. On addition, this will establish consolidation and cooperation between minorities at home and abroad.

I hope you will allow me in the name of all participants in the Fellowship Programme in this forum to announce the name of this recommendation to be called 'Activists' Solidarity for Global Minorities Rights'.

Thank you very much.