Speech of the Egyptian Center for Human Rights

United Nations Minority Forum - Seventh Session

Geneva, 25 – 26 **November 2014**

Respect for human rights and the promotion of religious freedom are of urgent issues in the Middle East. Which the international community -through the United Nations- should lay the foundations for, And to activate the provisions of the international human rights instruments regarding religious freedom, Especially since there are hundreds who were victims in some Arab countries because of their religious identity

The Egyptian Center for Human Rights believes that there is an urgent need to make bold and urgent recommendations to the Arab governments, especially after the Middle East witnessed a phase of chaos, spreading violence and raise religious and sectarian strife against the interest of national patriotic identity, turning the Arab Spring from aspirations to freedom and ending a legacy of tyranny to a stage of chaos and growing influence of extremist groups such as "Isis", " Al-Nusra", "Bayt al-Maqdis" and other groups that know only the language of murder and destruction.

The Egyptian Center for Human Rights recommends continuing to work towards purifying the educational curricula of all ideas that incite violence and spread hatred, especially since the Center has been working for years to promote human rights in schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and is currently Qualifying teachers to teach human rights and citizenship, The Center hopes to establish a specialized institute for the study of human rights and citizenship to be the nucleus for the enhancing of human rights through academic studies recognized by the relevant international organizations, And be an addition to Egypt and the Middle East, to consolidate the values of human rights .

The Egyptian Center also recommends the importance of confronting terrorist organizations through a number of laws that prohibit joining or promoting of such groups, and the need to firmly address all attempts to sow discord among peoples on the basis of religion or doctrine, and having The United Nations and the Security Council an important role to play in respecting human rights and Religious freedom, And to provide the legal, cultural and social environment so that each person can practice his religious rites and spiritual rites without the authority of individuals or groups

The Egyptian Center affirms that the new constitution carried many articles that are established to respect religious freedom and cultural pluralism. At the same time, however, these texts must be turned into laws that are activated in order to end periods in which authoritarian regimes ignored human rights and violated the rights of citizens. And to absent the Constitution.

The Egyptian Center also recommends that Arab countries be held accountable for the displacement of Christians and Yazidis, the non-recognition of the rights of the Baha'is, The suppression of religious and cultural pluralism, and the attempt to impose a certain political, economic or intellectual System without believing in the central role played by the religious and cultural diversity of the countries of the Middle East.

The Egyptian Center also recommends the need for achieving full justice, achieving national reconciliation among all groups that believe in pluralism and respect for the international legitimacy of human rights, renouncing violence And to stop all forms of cultural intellectual extremism, to prevent the emergence of terrorist groups such as a "Isis" exploiting the social conditions of some citizens to implement its agenda.