

Mission Permanente

De La

République Arabe Syrienne



الجمهورية العربية السورية
البعثة الدائمة لدى مكتب الأمر المتحدة
جنيف

Statement of H.E. Ambassador. Hussam Eddin Aala

Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic

to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

7th Forum on Minority Issues

25 - 26 November 2014

Mr President,

This forum is an opportunity for in-depth dialogue on minority issues based on specific agreed terms of reference. While it is widely recognized that there is difference in the situation of countries and minorities that must be dealt with in their specific context, , The proposed recommendations adopt a classic approach, seeking to apply a uniform pattern of recommendations to all cases, regardless of their differentiation

The proposed recommendations are inadequate dealing with the responsibility of states to refrain from supporting terrorism against citizens of other countries, especially when foreign-backed terrorism targets citizens on the basis of their ethnic or religious belonging, as we have recently witnessed in some cases in Syria and Iraq, including the case of the Syrian city of Kasab, which was attacked last year's by the Nusra Front, " Al-Qaeda Arm in Syria" – with direct logistical support from the Turkish regime- , in order to intimidate its people Belonging to one of the components of the Syrian social fabric and push them to flee their areas towards safer areas.

The social fabric which is rich in diversity and, has been a vital force in economic, social and political life throughout Syria's history.

The Syrian Constitution of 2012 affirmed the respect of religion and belief and the protection of the cultural diversity of the Syrian society with its various components as a national heritage that promotes national unity and preserves the territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The principle of citizenship is the basis of the relationship between the citizen and the state to guarantee the citizen the rights and duties he enjoys and practices in accordance with the law without discrimination on grounds of sex, origin, language, religion or creed.

This harmonious social fabric and co-existence in the shadow of Syria's tolerance was a goal that the extremist Takfiri externally supported groups, To get rid of it intentionally and planned As part of the targeting of these terrorist organizations to those who do not agree with their deviant ideas and beliefs, the kidnapping and assassination of clerics, the desecration of places of worship, the desecration of holy sites, the demolition of shrines, the enslavement of women, the confiscation of property and the displacement of the safe population from their areas of residence. This reality was the cause of the state's move to fulfill its constitutional duty to protect its citizens from various social affiliations and from crimes of the Takfiri terror that targets them in their lives and properties. This is terrorism has been spread throughout the region and grew through the support and care it found in neighboring and regional countries that sought to use it to achieve political goals aimed at fragmentation and destabilization of states Political and social issues, the targeting of social components is one aspect.

We must point to the destructive role played by the media and social media in spreading hatred, promoting violence, glorifying terrorism and killing against all those who violate deviant beliefs that incite atrocities, murder, enslavement, confiscation of property and others.

Accordingly, we support recommendation "A" (para. 15 and para. 35) that media bodies and sources should not be allowed to contribute to the promotion of hate speech or to glorify terrorism and to take action to stop these media from playing their destructive role, and to stress the duty of States to manage their institutions Education and media in a way that consecrates the culture of coexistence And put an end to the promotion of Takfiri exclusionary and hate speeches and hostility.

On the other hand, we emphasize the importance of the failure of regional and international organizations to exercise duplications and the need to refrain from promoting the protection of minorities as a pretext for interfering in the affairs of States under internationally agreed terms and concepts. In this context, we would like to place our reservation on recommendation "B" (paragraph 60) to call for intervention under the pretext of protecting minorities on the basis of the so-called principle of responsibility of protection. We reaffirm the primary and exclusive responsibility of States to protect their citizens and the need for the recommendations of United Nations bodies and forums to conform to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, first and foremost to respect the sovereignty of States and refrain from interfering in internal affairs rather than promoting ideas in international relations that are not based on any legal basis agreed upon.