

Thank you, Mr. President,

I am Faycel Didi, a citizen journalist.

I address to you my call in the framework of comprehending the aspect of lack of equality and eliminating discrimination in the media, which are directly linked to the criminal justice system.

Mr. President, mass media is considered the true mirror of what takes place in every member of societies' perception, minorities and majorities, of crime and justice alike.

All of us are aware that social media, for example, plays a big role in framing the audience and it also plays a big role in mobilizing it, whether against particular minorities or [pitting] some [minorities] against some [others]. Accordingly, the general perception of the crime, as well as the victim and the executive power "judges and police" significantly determines the implementation of law and justice. At times the media's stereotypical image has a great and a negative effect at the same time by depicting certain groups as criminals or low life mobs or [the media] focuses on those who could try to ravage society and dismantle its entities. Provoking media, which broadcasts hatred, is considered one of the challenges for the criminal justice system in meeting the needs of some and their demands. Because this [kind of] media does not have the interest of raising, educating and developing but rather nourishing the instruments of conflict, which employ and derives from extreme ignorance and the emotionally rich masses as soldiers free of charge in controlling an aspect of the conflict, whether it is ethnic, sectarian or linguistic or other. The yearly report on Arabic satellite TV in 2014, which the Arab States Broadcasting Union published, revealed, for example, an increase in religious channels, ranking fourth among all Arabic TV channels with a total of 95 channels, though with difference in orientations and appeals. The lack of prosecution of the press or the journalists, which incite hatred against minorities, can be noted here, for that reason a role of deterrence, which the judges play, is required.

Mr. President, we demand an improvement in legislations and the observance of standards and laws of professional codes of ethics [getting] away from the criminal disposition geared, as a negative characteristic, towards a specific group. You clearly know what happened throughout history to communities because of professional mistakes, with or without intent. We recommend the necessity to strengthen the education of all, and by all I mean the institutions of the judicial authorities as well as the legislative authorities, with all its men in the field of media, and further, relate it to the education system within their training institutions from which they graduate, along with the necessity to establish institutions that would supervise what is being published and broadcasted, which could harm some and not other and divide the community in two halves.



