

Focus on minority rights and effective conflict prevention - Ali Issa

Thank you Mr. President

My name is Ali Issa, director of Olive Flower Association.

The most prominent problem that exacerbate the injustice of minorities is the failure to take any measures that precede the occurrence of violations. For example, what happened in Shingal, the genocide against the Yazidis, could have been predicted more than two decades before it. It was easy to know that the religious hate speech against minorities, which was widespread in the papers and the media, would be the reason for terrorist groups to adopt extremist ideology against minorities.

Worse than before, the government is part of the problem by giving cover for these extremist religious activities. For example, in the past three years, the Turkish government has restored 477 Islamic mosques in its areas of control in northern Syria, while ignoring the restoration of even one religious shrine for the Yazidis, knowing that the number of Yazidi shrines destroyed by the extremist factions called the Syrian National Army, is about 18 religious shrines.

From here we realize that it is the governments that deliberately do not create a balance between the rights of the minority and the majority, and therefore we are faced with a hatred that leads to the extermination of the minority and its expulsion from its historical areas, and this is what happened specifically with the Kurdish minority as well as the Yazidi religious minority after the Turkish government took control of Afrin in 2018.

From the foregoing, we realize that governments are the ones who create an atmosphere of racism or hatred against minorities through their various arms, so the international community must not deal with these governments less harshly than it deals with extremist organizations. We must not tolerate regimes that do not respect international moral values and standards.