

Hope initiative

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a strange paradox that this meeting is called the Minorities Forum, where at the same time it gives the opportunity to representatives of governments and countries that persecute minorities and deny their identity the right to object the speeches of representatives of minorities and suppress their voices in front of the representatives of the United Nations, perhaps this is one of the negative aspects that The United Nations Declaration and international law have made, along with many other gaps and contradictions, such as the principle of the sovereignty of states and their right to protect and territorial integrity, which practically restricts another basic principle in international law, which is the principle of the right to self-determination of peoples.

Likewise, these states are justifying committing the crimes and aggressions stipulated in the Rome Statute under the pretext of invoking the text of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations about exercising their right to defend their national security, all that in a very clear exploitation to continue in the persecution of minorities and the denial of their national and ethnic identities.

Mr. President,

How can we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Minorities, when its content is not respected, but worse than that, we see with our own eyes that minorities are subjected to systematic cleansing and genocide campaigns in more than one part of the world.

In Syria, for example, after decades of persecution of the Kurdish people, and denying their national identity, and depriving them of most basic legitimate rights, as the right of learning in their mother tongue, the Turkish occupation, accompanied by the Syrian jihadist factions, came in 2018 as a result of its aggression and occupation of the Kurdish regions in Syria such as the cities of

Afrîn, Gire Spî and Serêkaniyê, and move the Kurds in Syria from the stage of denial of their rights to the stage of elimination of their historical presence and practicing the policy of forced displacement against them and carrying out demographic change in their areas by displacing hundreds of thousands of the original Kurdish population, and bringing in their place hundreds of thousands of Arabs and Turkmen from other Syrian regions and settling them in the homes of the displaced Kurds and initiating the construction of dozens of settlements for settlers, especially in the villages of the Yazidi Kurds with a financial contribution from the Gulf and Palestinian Islamic associations affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, which take relief and charitable titles as a cover for themselves, under the banner of "safe return of Syrian refugees", which Erdogan tried to deceive the world and the United Nations, and took it as a mean to obtain sufficient funds to finance mercenaries and continue his war against the Kurds, not to mention that Turkey has committed thousands of crimes in the occupied Kurdish areas, which can be considered war crimes and crimes against humanity, as described and mentioned in the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria.

Recommendations:

To protect minorities and respect their rights:

- Criminalizing genocides against them and calling for an end to it, including the war by Turkey against the Kurdish people and ending its occupation of Kurdish areas.
- Drafting and legislating laws that would deprive states of their right to adhere to the principle of defending their national security when this is accompanied by wars of extermination against minorities.
- International intervention to protect minorities, without regard to the principle of respect for the sovereignty of states.

- Drafting laws that would grant minorities the right to resort to the International Criminal Court in case of extermination, regardless of whether the country complained of was a signatory to the Rome Statute or not.
- Depriving representatives of governments and states in this forum of minorities of the right to object to allow the representatives of minorities to express their views freely.

Thank you for your attention