

Thank you, Mrs. President.

Omar Farouk Othman, a member of Act for Afrin

Root causes of contemporary conflicts involving minorities.

In the last decade, many armed conflicts have broken out, particularly in the Middle East, which have brought about numerous calamities and disasters. With more than half a million dead, one million wounded, more than eight million displaced people, and tens of thousands of detainees and missing individuals, the armed conflict in Syria is one of the longest and bloodiest of all violent conflicts.

These violent conflicts also have a significant impact on the rights of minorities. The Kurdish-majority region of Afrin in Syria is the clearest illustration of what happens to minorities in areas of armed conflict; more than 70% of its Kurdish population has been displaced, and those who remain face a variety of human rights violations to the point where the region's Kurdish identity may change drastically and permanently unless action is taken on the part of the international community to stop these systematic violations. Here, we will outline the root causes of violent conflicts:

1. Absence of a robust mechanism by the international community (United Nations - Security Council) for direct intervention in areas of armed conflict.
2. Failure to put into effect Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which provides for international military intervention to end armed conflicts.
3. Conflicting interests of major and regional countries, which contributed to the prolongation of these armed conflicts.
4. Lack of mechanisms to impose democratic regimes on dictatorship-ruled nations.

Thank you

Mrs. President

Omar Farouk Othman, a member of Act for Afrin

Towards a lasting peace: positive initiatives to better protect the rights of minorities to prevent conflicts

Contemporary violent armed conflicts undoubtedly have a significant impact on the rights of minorities in the affected countries, notably in my own nation, Syria, which has experienced armed conflict for more than 10 years. This conflict has led to flagrant violations of the rights of minorities in Syria, including the rights of the Kurdish people as the second nation in Syria. The Kurds have experienced killings, displacement, arrests, and demographic changes in their homes, particularly in Afrin region, to which I belong.

Mrs. President, here, through this Forum, we propose an initiative to protect the rights of minorities in areas of armed conflict to achieve lasting peace in these areas, aimed at introducing a new international mechanism that would allow the Security Council to adopt the necessary international resolutions in order to secure international protection in areas of armed conflict or to impose international guardianship in areas where these minorities are present until the conflicts are finally resolved.

Endeavours should be made to ensure that the rights of the remaining religious and ethnic minorities, including the Kurds, who represent Syria's second-largest nation, are guaranteed under the constitution through the United Nations-sponsored constitutional committee.

All civil, international, and regional human rights organizations, especially those that represent these minorities, should be supported in an effort to achieve equality and justice for these minorities with the majority. This can be done by holding periodic conferences and qualifying cadres to spread the culture of tolerance, reject hatred, and respect all ethnic and religious components within a democratic framework to achieve justice.

Thank you