

Mrs. President..Ladies and gentlemen of the audience:

I'm Emad El-Din Sheikh Hassan, a representative of Lekolin Legal Studies and Research

To begin with, I believe it is vital to note right away that if we are aware not of the following key details, the topic of this year's Forum may lose all of its significance:

First, we know that the texts that addressed the topic of hate speech and incitement to violence, discrimination, sedition and the like still all lack in the entirety of international and national laws clear and precise criteria that can be relied upon to determine and understand what can be considered hate speech or incitement to violence and discrimination and so on as a prohibited act or as a crime punishable by the legal text on the one hand, and what can be considered an exercise of freedom of expression as a sacred and guaranteed fundamental right to the human being on the other hand. I'm certain there are two causes for this lack of clarity:

The first cause is that there have been genuine attempts to distinguish between what constitutes hate speech, incitement to violence, and the like, and between what constitutes freedom of expression such as the efforts embodied in the Camden Principles and Rabat Plan of Action, but they have fallen short. The second is that many parties intend to keep the concepts vague so they may use and interpret them anyway they see fit to further their own interests and agendas.

Therefore, I want to make it clear that the Forum's topic is only theoretical and does not fulfil the purposes for which it was intended.

Second, On the other side, there are groups of people and minorities who, in the real world, face threats to their lives and very existence, making Forum topics like these, language, and others secondary matters and a luxury for minorities in comparison to them.

Kurds in Afrin, including the Yazidi minority, are an example of an indigenous people living on their historic land; they have been and are still being subjected by Turkey and its affiliates, the Syrian coalition and armed terrorist groups, to various acts of murder, torture, kidnapping and forced displacement, and many other crimes, making annihilation of the Kurds in

Afrin a matter of time given the ongoing crimes and the lack of response from those who are concerned.

Thank you.