



Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update on drivers, root causes and Human Rights impacts of religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence

54th HRC Session
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Mr. Vice President,

The OIC Group echoes its deep concerns on the continued public desecration of the Holy Quran.

Often, these hateful acts have been carried out in front of the embassies of some OIC countries on a daily basis and broadcasted live on social media.

The number of desecrations is now beyond count.

States are obliged under the ICCPR as well as resolutions 16/18 and 53/1 to prevent and prohibit these acts.

Inaction by state authorities to prevent these vile is very troubling. Their inaction breeds impunity. Their inaction violates the international human rights law.

Apologists for this hate campaign have argued that human rights law does not protect ideas, religions and symbols.

We remind them that from climate change to global financial architecture, the human rights law deals with impacts of human actions and policies.

Actions of burning Quran as religious hatred and the policy to tolerate it can be no exceptions.

Those suggesting that only more free speech can end this campaign of hate speech may enlighten this Council what free speech have they undertaken to end this campaign of hate and to what effect!

Mr. High Commissioner,

We also invite relevant special rapporteurs, civil society groups and the international media to self-audit, if they have even attended to this problem at all!

I thank you!