



**National Statement delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during Interactive Dialogue with
Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief**

HRC 55th Session

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Seeking legal prohibition is not about protecting religion

Mr. President,

We appreciate the commitment of Tajikistan to cooperate with the human rights mechanisms.

Attacks on religious objects are a manifestation the advocacy of religious hatred towards a group of people.

The provocateurs tarnish the dignity that human right law protects.

Such attacks create a coercive atmosphere where freedom of religion cannot be exercised.

Some of these crimes are intended to incite discrimination, hostility or violence.

These are a threat to public order.

The characterization that human rights law does not protect ideas, religion and symbols is not an accurate framing to address religion hatred.

In dealing with human rights impact of climate change and new technologies, we do not claim that HR law does not regulate carbon emissions and algorithms.

Religious hatred is a subject of human rights law.

The absence of prohibition of incitement has led to grave crimes in history. These crimes provided the context of the human rights framework

The technical approaches are indeed important but not a panacea to the problem.

This approach puts the victim of hate in triple jeopardy of first suffering the indignity of hate crime, then being responsible to seek legal protection and finally carry the burden of proof.

The case for legal and administrative deterrence to hate crimes is in line with human rights standards.

Finally, we expected the SR to speak out clearly and publicly against the public desecration of the Holy Quran when these take place.

I thank you!