



**Intervention before the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
Participating States and Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
At the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), Warsaw, Poland
Working Session 10: Fundamental Freedoms I
September 17, 2018**

Why is ODIHR defending perhaps the greatest threat to Fundamental Freedoms in the OSCE region, the totalitarian Islamic doctrine of Sharia?

The European Court of Human Rights has ruled “the institution of Sharia law [is] incompatible with the requirements of a democratic society.”¹

Yet last year at this meeting, the moderator first reminded and then required virtually every individual who spoke against Sharia’s threat to Fundamental Freedoms to practice tolerance and non-discrimination toward this most intolerant and discriminatory of all legal systems.

At the end of last year’s meeting, referring to civil society’ warnings about Sharia,² Director Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir said we had that “discourse...does not belong anywhere.”³

Going further, before a July meeting, ODIHR without consensus⁴ created a new power: The moderator could “interrupt any speech” that “attacks” anyone⁵ – regardless of the fact that for 1,400 years, no doctrine has generated more attacks, on Fundamental Freedoms or on human life itself, than Sharia.

This time the U.S. delegation stepped up, saying that:

1. You can’t simply insert new rules outside the consensus process
2. This rule violates guidelines about civil society participation; and
3. Civil society doesn’t have to follow Participating States’ commitments – because they’re not Participating States.

A group of Parliamentary Assembly Members went further, writing:

¹ European Court of Human Rights, “JUDGMENT IN THE CASE OF REFAH PARTISI (THE WELFARE PARTY) ERBAKAN, KAZAN AND TEKDAL v. TURKEY,” Press release issued by the Registrar, July 31, 2007, available at <http://www.webcitation.org/query?url=http://web.archive.org/web/20010811161803/http://www.echr.coe.int/Eng/Press/2001/July/RefahPartisi2001jude.htm&date=2013-09-14>, retrieved on September 16, 2018.

² Based upon a direct conversation with the Director.

³ See “2017 HDIM: Working Session 8,” The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), published on Sep 20, 2017, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPGe4CRTGp0&feature=youtu.be&t=66>, retrieved August 3, 2018.

⁴ OSCE, Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, Countering Violence against Women – Everyone’s Responsibility, 2 – 3 July 2018, Hofburg, Vienna, available at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/384282?download=true>, retrieved August 3, 2018.

⁵ OSCE, Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, Countering Violence against Women – Everyone’s Responsibility, 2 – 3 July 2018, Hofburg, Vienna, available at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/384282?download=true>, retrieved August 3, 2018.

[E]ither...permit free and open debate...on immigration, Jihad, and Sharia, or admit...your...misguided policy preferences prevent you from carrying out [your] mission...- **and resign.**⁶

Secure Freedom recommends:

1. That OSCE allow those concerned about Sharia “to participate in the discussion of the selected topics and to provide their suggestions and recommendations;”⁷
2. The OSCE Ministerial require ODIHR to allow freedom of thought, belief, conscience, and expression, especially with respect to concerns about Sharia, which is incompatible with democratic institutions, as the European Court of Human Rights has ruled; and
3. That ODIHR staff think seriously about whether they can in good faith continue to sacrifice Fundamental Freedoms of those critiquing Sharia on the altar of Sharia itself.

⁶ See Center for Security Policy, “LETTER RELEASE: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly members denounce speech-restricting policy,” September 10, 2018, available <https://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/2018/09/10/letter-release-osce-parliamentary-assembly-members-denounce-speech-restricting-policy/>, retrieved on September .

⁷ Modalities for OSCE Meetings on Human Dimension Issues, 23 May 2002 (OSCE PC Dec.476, Section I paragraph 9), available at <https://www.osce.org/pc/13198?download=true>, retrieved August 28, 2018.