

Set My People Free Intervention and Recommendation
Working Session 14 Freedom of Thought and conscious religion and believe
Wednesday 1 October 2014

1.3 Billion Muslims do not have the freedom to change Religion.

Without freedom to change religion there is no freedom of religion or belief.

There are more than 10 countries where apostasy is punishable by death.

Around 35 countries leaving Islam is illegal and punishable by death. See Map attached.

Silenced *How Apostasy & Blasphemy Codes are Choking Freedom Worldwide* a book by Nina Shea and Paul Marshall gives verified example of how Apostasy and Blasphemy codes in Islam are choking freedom worldwide. <http://www.amazon.com/Silenced-Apostasy-Blasphemy-Choking-Worldwide/dp/0199812284>

Apostasy and Blasphemy codes contradict with the Article 18 of the UDHR

Recommendations

To pressure the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to give muslims the freedom to change Religion or Belief and promote tolerance.

In most of the 57 Member states of OIC conversion from Islam is illegal or punishable by death.

OSCE should put more pressure on the OIC member States to give everyone the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion and this include the freedom to change religion.

Protection of former Muslims

Former Muslims face threats in OCSE countries from their Muslim communities for leaving Islam. OCSE countries need to take a stand and protect converts from threats, blackmailing and honour killing.

The perpetrators need to be put to justice so that the converts can live free and openly confess that they are no longer muslims.

Former Muslims should be protected against accusation of defaming Islam.

Offer asylum for those accused of Blasphemy and Apostasy in Islam.

Education and promotion of Religious Freedom in Islamic Institutions in Europe is key.

Assure that the teaching in Islamic institution promote and implement tolerance and the application of Article 18.

To stop European states of becoming a safe-heaven for radicles to hatch and their their leadership to develop.

Example for that is Khomeini who returned from France and stripped a whole country from it's religious freedom; a country of 78 million. People in Iran are suffering until today.

Today the people of Syria and Iraq are suffering under 3000 jihadist radicalised and exported from the West.

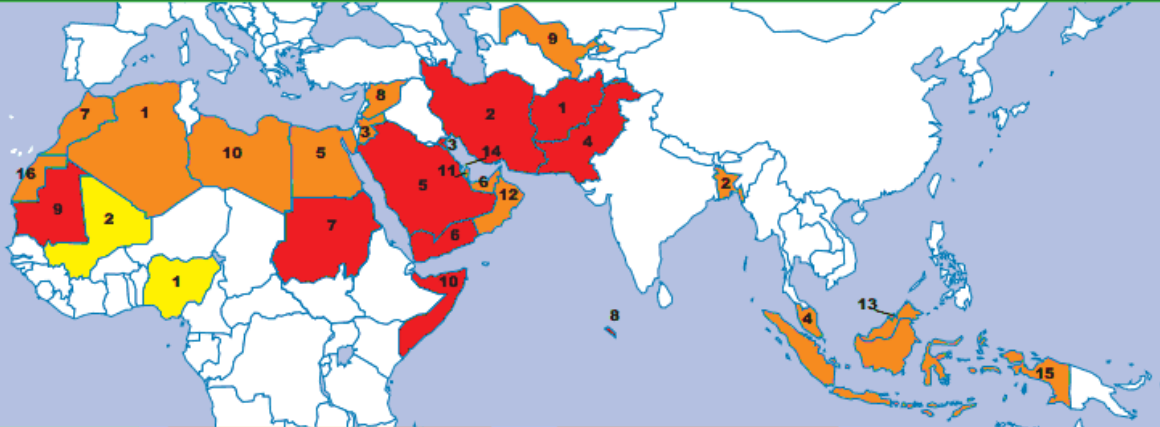
We have all the opportunity to ensure that they are influenced by the values of Tolerance, Freedom. Justice and Equality and how to live in a multi-cultural society.

If the situation in Europe is as bad for immigrants as we heard on Tuesday evening

working session we will not have thousands every day trying to come to Europe illegally.

They are coming because they are seeking security and are attracted to Europe values of freedom, equality and justice which they miss in their home land. We need to keep the teaching this values on top of our agenda.

Countries where apostasy* and blasphemy** laws in Islam are applied



Countries where apostasy and blasphemy laws are applied in certain regions or among certain people groups.

1. Nigeria
2. Mali

Countries where conversion from Islam and defaming the religion is illegal and punished by any one or several of the following: jail sentence, torture, loss of child custody and marriage annulment.

1. Algeria	9. Uzbekistan
2. Bangladesh	10. Libya
3. Jordan	11. Qatar
4. Malaysia	12. Oman
5. Egypt	13. Brunei
6. United Arab Emirates	14. Bahrain
7. Morocco	15. Indonesia
8. Syria	16. Western Sahara

Countries where conversion from Islam is illegal, and punishable by death. Defaming Islam is punishable by death.

1. Afghanistan	6. Yemen
2. Iran	7. North Sudan
3. Kuwait	8. Maldives
4. Pakistan	9. Mauritania
5. Saudi Arabia	10. Somalia

Countries where religious freedom officially exists, family or the community may take matters into their own hands to apply the Islamic Apostasy and Blasphemy laws.

* Apostasy means leaving or giving up one's religious faith
 ** Blasphemy is defaming or insulting religion