

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2016

Right of Reply Exercised

Response of the Czech Republic to the Statement of Religious Society Path Guru Jara

Working Session 11: Tolerance and non-discrimination, including prevention and responses to hate crimes in the OSCE area, and combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance on religious grounds

Madame Moderator,

I would like to reply to the statement of Religious Society Path Guru Jara.

In the Czech Republic the freedom of religious belief is subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Two persons mentioned in the statement were charged with offences which are considered serious in every society, regardless of the religion of the perpetrator. Their case is pending before a court.

Since 2015 these two persons have been kept in a detention facility in the Philippines for breaching the country's rules. All decisions concerning their detention are autonomous decisions made by the Government of the Philippines.

The Czech Republic has repeatedly offered consular help to both persons. This offer still stands.

Thank you for your attention.