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HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING - Warsaw, 30th September 2015

Working session 14: Tolerance and non-discrimination II (including: – Combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions – Combating anti-Semitism – Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims)

STATEMENT BY ELŻBIETA WSZEBOROWSKA

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As CitizenGO we work for the service of the society so that the dignity of the human person and the rights inherent to it are respected in all areas. We are a grassroots group dedicated to activism and citizen's mobilization with an universal values; we defend the values of the life, the family and freedom.

Dear Governments and all Participants!

Within those last few months we've been witnessing numerous attacks on every human being right to conscience, personal belief and religion. The most suffering group, Christians and members other religious minorities, every day somewhere in the world experience imprisonments, rapes, brutal executions, exile etc. One of the main goals of our modern society should be to demand the respect and protection of people who live according to their beliefs. Instead many documented cases prove even women and little children aren't safe in their own countries.

One well known example: Asia Bibi imprisoned since 2010 for alleged blasphemy, her sentence to death was based only on accusation of a group of Muslim women being in an open conflict with Asia because of her belief.

Another one: on December 2014 Pastor Victor, a former leader of the Tehran Pentecostal Assyrian Church, was arrested at his home along with guests gathered for a Christmas celebration. Security agents who conducted the raid on his home stated that they were arresting the individuals because they were "participating in an illegal gathering".

Every day many, many Christians and other religion minorities are being given an ultimatum: convert or leave or die. So many are forced to leave and separate from their families and now live in foreign countries - like ours - hoping for the situation to finally get better, for finally not have to fear any more.

Recommendations:

- to develop a policy on asylum, based on religious grounds, especially for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities.
- to establish a policy which will help Christians and members of other religious minorities forced to run to reunite with their families in their homeland as soon as possible.