

**Statement by Ambassador Ömür Orhun,  
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE,  
at the Closing Plenary of the Conference on Anti-Semitism  
(Vienna, 19-20 June 2003)**

Mr. Chairman,

I am not a representative of Islam, nor can I be. I represent a secular country whose greater part of population confess Islam. My remarks should be considered within this general framework.

Mr. Chairman,

The impression one might derive from the remarks of some speakers, although I am sure those speakers had no such intention, might be that the cause of all violence, the cause of all anti-Semitic incidents and for that matter anti-Zionist attitudes are Muslims in general and Arabs in particular.

As I said before, this might not be the intention. However, I believe we would be doing a disservice to our countries and to the family of countries we collectively represent if we even inadvertently leave the impression of condemning the totality of adherents of a religion as violent, terrorist or otherwise unfit to our civilized world.

Mr. Chairman,

It is evident that some evil forces are indeed trying to create a climate of clash of cultures or religions. We must not fall into this trap. Fighting and fighting most forcefully with everything and anything associated with anti-Semitism must not turn into a blind Muslim bashing.

Our ultimate aim is and should continue to be to create an international environment of stability, cooperation, tolerance, understanding and respect, especially respect to the 'other'.

If somebody or a group of individuals resort to violence or terrorism, we should condemn them and we should deal with them energetically, not because of their race, color or belief, but because of their deeds.

Mr. Chairman,

I have to add that I noted with appreciation the remarks of Mayor Giuliani, who said the same things, albeit with different words.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you and your delegation for the conduct of a successful conference on an important issue.