



**Working Session No. 11**  
**Specifically Selected Topic:**

**OSCE / ODIHR**  
**Warsaw, Poland**  
**26 September 2016**

Thank you Madam Moderator, ladies and gentlemen,

With reference to the Annotated Agenda, it's noted that "efforts to prevent bias motivated violence and discrimination will be ineffective if they are not based on a sound understanding of what motivates perpetrators," I would like to express my wholehearted support for this observation.

Specifically, today, I would like to take the example of Jewish populations in Europe, particularly France, which are the target of resurgent and savage waves of antisemitism, according to published statistics, most of it perpetrated, unfortunately, by Muslims either already living in Europe or among waves of newly-arrived migrants. No, this is not Aushwitz or Treblinka - there aren't that many Jews left in Europe these days - but France's Jews are fleeing the country in the largest numbers since WWII. 8,000 fled bigotry, hatred, and intolerance in France alone in 2015.

And if we ask ourselves, 'Where does such hatred come from?', we must look (if we are honest) to scriptural writing from the Islamic canon. Why the Islamic canon, you may ask? Because to the accompaniment of

the jihad war cry, 'Allahu Akbar,' the following examples are among the citations flung at Jews and other non-Muslims under attack today, as it has been for nearly 1400 years.

For example, in Surah 5:51 the Qur'an states, "O you who believe! Take not the Jews & Christians for your friends and protectors..."

Then we can see in Surah 8:55, where it says "For the worst of beasts in the sight of Allah are those who reject him; they will not believe."

And then of course, the multiple Qur'anic references to Jews as descendants of "apes and pigs" must also stand out as repugnant to all of us who seek to end intolerant speech toward Jews and any people.

Finally, hadith such as the one from Sahih Bukhari (among others), which declares that the "Day of Judgment shall not come until Muslims fight the Jews, and the Jews will hide behind the trees and the rocks, which will cry out, O, Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him!"

I am sure you will all agree with me that all language such as found in the shariah – Islamic Law - which declares that jihad is obligatory for all Muslims and that it is 'warfare against non-Muslims', must be publicly condemned and eschewed by all parties.

And so, in the spirit of this conference and its defined goals to condemn 'hate speech' and 'intolerance' against religious groups, let us commit ourselves together to such measures as will be appropriate to monitor such speech in mosques and madrassas as well as the public space. Let us join together in defense of all people's right to live free of genocidal hatred, but in these specific cases, especially the Jews of France and of Europe. And finally, let us pledge our opposition to the use anywhere of such language as this which has led to such an out-migration of Jews from France as we have seen in recent years. Thank You.