

High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination
Session 1
Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

Final Update of the Speech by Nurym Taibek,
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Dear Chairman, and all the participants of the conference!

It is a privilege and honour to be part of this Conference.

My name is Nurym Taibek. I represent the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Kazakhstan.

It is well-known that tolerance of Kazakhstani population is quite high.

But at the level of governmental bodies of Kazakhstan, religious intolerance is demonstrated more and more actively, quite often on purpose to promote personal career or to receive doubtful political benefits as a result of development of ethnocracy, and also to distract attention of the society from corruption and low competence among government officials in issues of human rights and freedoms.

At the megalevel, tolerance disappears considerably and quite fast, there is a threat of its degeneration.

Because of this, Kazakhstani legislation in the field of human rights is often violated; the international obligations of Kazakhstan in the field of human rights are broken.

In December 2009, the Joint Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan on changes in the order of visa issue to foreign religious personnel was issued, considerably violating the rights of citizens of Kazakhstan in the field of freedom of religion.

Application of this Order breaks the Constitution of Kazakhstan, since the Constitution tells that it is possible to limit human rights only by means of a law. The order is not a law, therefore its application is infringement of the Constitution and our constitutional system.

The Missionary-in-Charge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Kazakhstan Mister Said Hasan Tahir Bukhari became the first victim of the illegal application of the given Order. His missionary registration and the visa were not prolonged, so he was forced to leave Kazakhstan. Of course, nobody is going now to issue him the visa. We have got the last foreign missionary, and the same fate is expecting him.

The force authorities periodically carry out spot-checks of our mosques in various cities of Kazakhstan to try intimidating members of the Community & almost commanding to go to so called traditional mosques. Last Friday, on the eve of this very conference, they carried spot-check on our mosque in the City of Shymkent.

We are not allowed to distribute the Koran and the literature. Force authorities create illegal obstacles to book distributors and threaten them.

The Ministry of Justice published a slanderous booklet listing religious communities, which, in their opinion, are dangerous to the society, having included there our Community.

I have successfully and publicly defended secular scientific thesis about Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in the oldest University of Kazakhstan – the Kazakh National Pedagogical University named after Abay in Almaty. By instruction of the Muftiyyat, that is state-backed Muslim organisation, the State Committee on Control in Education and Science within very

few days decided to refuse awarding me the scientific degree of the “Candidate of Philosophy”, never at all having even opened my thesis.

The science and education in Kazakhstan become servants of state-backed clerics. Bypassing the law, a textbook was published on religiology for the schoolboys, bringing them up in the spirit of intolerance and discrimination. Senator Esim is the head of the group of authors. He declared: that the textbook reflected the official ideology of the government concerning so called non-traditional religious associations, which as if pose a threat to the national security. Governmental bodies are rolling down to intolerance and discrimination.

We already know what does the policy of confrontation of religious communities to each other lead to. A month ago, on May, 28th, 2010, terrorists attacked two of our mosques in Lahore, Pakistan with grenades and Kalashnikovs, killing over 80 persons. These are not remote prospects for Kazakhstan. These days observers point to the growing risk of religious extremism in Kyrgyzstan and the region. The most worrying is yet another trend, i.e. the etatization of radical politicized Islam in Kazakhstan. This list can be continued.

Within the months of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in OSCE, government structures of Kazakhstan demonstrated disrespect for international standards in the field of human rights and universal values. Instead of adhering to the law, all the time they refer to some special mentality.

If our mentality does not correspond to OSCE standards and the world community, why did we take these responsibilities, and how are we going to teach our famous tolerance to whole the world?

Summarising the systemic character of the violations by the Kazakhstani authorities of its laws and international obligations, the conclusion is clear. The actions of high rank government officials put a question mark on democracy at large in Kazakhstan and pose a serious threat to the security not only here, but to whole the world.

Mass media under government’s influence actively misinform and defame religious minorities, including our Community. I call on all the OSCE States to do everything possible to repeal these dangerous trends in Kazakhstan. Thank you.