

Working Session 13

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Western Immigration Systems – Challenges and Concerns

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am Uzay Bulut, a writer for the Gatestone Institute, an international policy council.

The current immigration system in many Western countries is gravely endangering the lives and liberties of their citizens as well as the genuine refugees there.

In San Bernardino on December 2, 2015, 14 people were murdered, and 22 others seriously wounded in an Islamist terrorist attack.

Among the victims of the terror attack was Bennetta Bet-Badal, an Assyrian Christian woman born in Iran. She fled to the U.S. at age 18 to escape Islamic fundamentalism and the persecution of Christians that followed the Iranian revolution.

"This attack," stated the Near East Center for Strategic Engagement, "showcases how Assyrians fled tyranny, oppression, and persecution for freedom and liberty, only to live in a country that is also beginning to be subject to an ever-increasing threat by the same forms of oppressors."

Many of those who have fled Islamist and other totalitarian regimes and found refuge in Western countries would share these concerns. The places where they have migrated to for security and freedom are now slowly being transformed into the places where they suffered and were forced to leave.

Europe, for example, has been shaken by many Islamist terror attacks in recent years. Many of the Islamist terrorists born in Europe had declared their jihadi intentions before their attacks. Some were arrested and then released; others were not even arrested or deported after Turkey sent them to European countries. In these cases, European officials made huge mistakes that cost the lives of hundreds of innocent people.

Meanwhile, the rich Arab nations -- including Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain -- do nothing to help their Muslim brethren. These states are wealthy, as well as geographically and culturally close to the stricken war zones, but they have not offered any financial help or resettlement possibilities, and have not taken in any refugees.

Given the cultural, linguistic and religious background of the refugees, many of them could integrate smoothly with their fellow Muslims in those Arab states.

Professor Phyllis Chesler had another idea:

"Why not bring Christians and Yazidis from the Muslim world here first? Why not bring Muslim dissidents, ex-Muslims, and Muslim homosexuals here second? Finally, why not

bring Muslim girls and women who are already in flight from honor-based violence, including from honor killing, here next -- before we extend visas, green cards and asylum to Muslim boys and men?"

Immigration is not only about movement of people. It needs to be understood that radical Muslims bring a certain fanatical culture with them. Some Muslim migrants who refuse to integrate into the West try to impose their own belief systems on their host countries. Some even try, for example, to establish parallel sharia law systems, the rules of which aim to oppress or even kill women, non-Muslims, and gays.

Now that ISIS has been defeated in Syria and Iraq, where are its former fighters now? And how many have already crossed the border to Europe? Of the new refugee and migrant arrivals in Greece, how many are jihadis planning to attack Europeans or "moderates" who could get "radicalized" later on? Is it even possible to know?

Hence, I recommend that OSCE chairmanship should promote an immigration system that will not endanger the safety, freedoms, and democracies in the West. The Western immigration laws should instead aim to protect these values as well as the security of the genuine refugees such as Bennetta Bet-Badal, who was murdered in San Bernardino.

Thank you.

More about these issues, please read:

Turkey's Erdogan Threatens France, by Uzay Bulut, Gatestone Institute, April 19, 2018: <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/12183/turkey-threatens-france>

“Islamic Terror and the U.S. Temporary Stay on Immigration,” by Uzay Bulut, Gatestone Institute, February 13, 2017: <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/9932/islamic-terror-immigration>