



Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri OSSE ENGLISH only
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Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE
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**Response by Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE,
H.E. Dr. Bisera Turkovic to the statement by the Ambassador of Turkey
to the OSCE, H.E. Ömür Orhun**

Permanent Council Meeting on 25 March 2004

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to support the statement of my Turkish colleague.

Let me add few more words:

September 11 is now more than two and half years behind us; the war against Iraq is apparently over, Saddam Hussein's hated regime has been overthrown; we strongly condemned atrocious terrorist attacks in Madrid. We express our deepest condolence once again.

Unfortunately terrorist killers continue to stalk the earth in name of God; The Middle East remains the tinder-box it's been for decades and the conflict between Jewish Israeli and Muslims Palestinians persist as the ultimate explanation for global tension and a new problem has emerged – a barrier of short-sighted self-interest that will undoubtedly fuel hatred, frustration and retribution against Israeli Jews.

In other words, the war on terror and the war on the war on terror rage on. As things stand, misuse of religion, no matter whose religion is it Christian, Jew, Muslim – has a lot to answer for. It's time we stopped pulling our punches with religion and recognise that our mutual ignorance is gigantic, it is inextensible – but it is remediable.

So when today's terrorist target innocent victims, they provide direct evidence of their real agenda – power politics, not religion.

Islam as any other religion based its teaching on compassion, goodwill and respect for others. It calls to live and work for justice and to promote tolerance – and than on other side we have groups of terrorist mistakenly called Islamic fundamentalists.

In fact, there is nothing fundamentally Islamic about these extremists. They are religious totalitarians, in a long line of extremist of various faiths who seek power by intimidation, violence and thugary.



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Let me conclude Mr. Chairman by quoting Jordanian king Abdullah: "The idea that anyone would exploit (our) religion to sanction the killing of innocent outraged Muslims everywhere. To my knowledge, every Muslim country, every centre of traditional Islamic scholarship and every major Islamic organisation condemned the attacks, absolutely. They did so not out of diplomatic nicety, not out of fear, but because their faith demanded it".

Today, Muslims must speak out boldly in defence of a dynamic moderate Islam – AN ISLAM THAT UPHOLDS THE SANCITY OF HUMAN LIFE, REACHES OUT TO THE OPPRESSED, RESPECT MEN AND WOMAN ALIKE AND INSIST ON THE FELLOWSHIP OF HUMANKIND. It is the Islam that terrorist seeks to destroy.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Organisation is right place to stand for comprehensive concept of security and to oppose to any type of prejudice and stereotype.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.