

2010 OSCE Review Conference

Astana, 27 November 2010

Hate Crimes against Muslim communities

Problems of the Muslim community in Austria

**Öztürk Yavuz, Chairman of WIAR
(Wirtschafts- und Arbeitsförderungsverein)**

We want to adress two particular problems.

First we have observed, that in the major cities of Austria, where a lot of migrants live, a concentration of Muslim and migrant pupils can be assess. In certain regions, the number of non German speaking pupils – mostly Muslims, in the 1st class of the elementary schools, exceed 50%. We have gathered data from elementary schools in Innsbruck and Vienna, showing that in 1st classes in elementary schools, the percentage of non German speaking pupils exceed 70%, whereas in other schools, this percentage lies under 5%. It is a fact, that Austrian school and regional authorities promote agglomeration in particular schools and classes, and therefore keep the percentage in other classes as low as possible.

Due to this fact it is impossible to learn German. This leads the migrants and Muslim community to the exclusion of the Austrian society. The question now is, will this first class scholars ever have the chance to learn perfect German ? Later it is for them almost impossible to learn the language 100% correctly. Without the German language, a higher scool education, and thus a career is almost impossible.

The Austrian government is advised to take appropriate measures and stop this segregation. A social selection process like this must be stopped at the very beginning of the obligatory school formation, because this is nothing else than structural discrimination of an ethnic and religious group within Austria.

To guarantee the equality of all humans, and to give all inhabitants the same chance of free education, we suggest the OSCE should define best practices and also should define a maximum level of non native speakers in one classroom. Particularly in the first second education years. In the case that this amounts are exceeded, selected pupils, willing to visit other schools, should be brought in other schools. At least in the first second elementary classes this should be guaranteed.

As a second issue, we want to address the problem of how election campaigns are conducted in Austria. The OSCE has set up rules and standards how a fair election should take place. This is guaranteed through the election observers. But what is with the question of the preselection stage? We want to address here the question of how far a political party in a member state can go? Should it really be allowed that a political party can defame a whole religious group in a country. Certain parties do hold public hate speeches against the Muslim community. In Austria this happens during each regional and national elections, where migrants and the Muslim minority must live in an environment where the particularly the FPÖ is posting hundreds of election posters, with slogans like „at home, instead of Islam“, „take courage for more Vienna blood“, or „Occident in Christians hand“. See Picture 1. Not enough with this posters, the FPÖ distributed during the last regional elections in Vienna, a computer game, called „shot the muezzin“. This game was especially designed for very young people. The aim of the game was to shoot the muezzin and the mosque. This leads to an augmented aggressive behavior against the Muslim community, and is an indicator to young Austrians, that violence against Muslims is adequate. The question here is, where does here lie the border of free expression of a parties opinion, and an incitement of the people? The latter is clearly forbidden by OSCE declarations.

That why we are pledging for that that the OSCE should condemn this behavior and the non Intervention of Austrian authorities in that cases. The promotion of Anti Islamic slogans and Islamophobia by political parties must be forbidden. This is another form of hate speeches and leads to sedition. Furthermore the OSCE election observers should observe the compliance of this standards and registry violations from political parties.

Three examples of election posters with difaming and anti Islamic posters.

