
UN Human Rights Council
46th Session, March 2021

Item 3
ID with SR on freedom of religion or belief

Thank you, Madam President,

Israel thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report on countering Anti-Muslim hatred.

As the home of a sizeable Muslim minority, the State of Israel has been committed since its inception to promote the integration and counter the discrimination against Muslims and other religious minorities. Muslims in Israel enjoy full freedom to practice their religion, establish Mosques and other community and educational institutions, and also benefit from official recognition from the state with regards to personal status matters, address by the state system of Sharia Courts.

Furthermore, Israel and its capital Jerusalem is home to important holy sites to Islam, where Muslims from all the world are welcome.

Madam President,

Israel is aware of the challenges and the threats faced by Muslims worldwide, and unfortunately in Israel they have also been at times the target of discrimination and violence. Our laws are strict in forbidding discrimination based on religion, nationality or ethnic origin, and law enforcement authorities work tirelessly on the investigation and repression of discrimination and violence of any kind. After the shocking arson attack of a mosque in 2014, President Rivlin expressed his indignation and called it a “terror attack, that should be addressed as such”.

We would like to thank once more the Special Rapporteur for his report, which emphasizes important concepts and distinctions, and offers valuable recommendations for all those committed to promoting equality and rejecting all forms of intolerance and discrimination.

Thank you, Madam President.