

*Organization for Defending Victims of Violence*

**Item 6: France UPR**



**Mr. President**

The ODVV is deeply concerned about the discrimination against minorities, especially Muslims. In this line, the recent deplorable French government decision that banned Muslim girls from wearing Abayas in schools would constitute a flagrant violation of several fundamental rights and freedoms.

Furthermore, the disappointing decision from the Council of State in the recent month which ruled that the French Football Federation does not need to change its discriminatory policy that prohibits Muslim women players who wear a headscarf from participating in competitive football matches, violates Muslim women's rights to freedom of expression, association and religion.

These restrictions caused by the application of the principle of secularism, overshadow the individual freedom of Muslim citizens.

- We urge the French government:
- To take steps to amend all regulations that affect minorities and to protect Muslims against human rights abuses.
- To abstain from the use of force against protesters and end the arbitrary arrest and prosecution of protesters.
- To cease the supply, sale or transfer of any arms that carry a risk of being used by states, to commit serious violations of IHL and IHRL.

