

**Imam Ali Center**

**6<sup>th</sup> Minorities Session**

**Violation of the Rights of Shia Minority**

**Support for the existence of religious minorities and prevention of violence against them**

According to human rights, religious and cultural freedoms must be respected and article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is a confirmation of this claim. The rights of different religious minority groups are particularly linked to equality and elimination of discrimination. In other words the logic of the minorities rights (including religious) can be seen as the guarantee of the protection of the right to life and freedom without any form of discrimination, and the free expression of beliefs and full enjoyment of civil and political rights.

In spite of the existence of such determinations at the international level, today, we witness not only the violation of the identity of the rights of the Shia minority in the world, but most Shia minorities are faced with grave violations of their fundamental rights such as the right to life.

Violence against Shia minorities in Islamic countries take place with propaganda campaigns on the ideological differences and the highlighting of religious differences by extremist groups, and with the fatwas of extremist religious leaders, such as encouraging the killing of Shia minorities, enslaving Shia women, imposing restrictions on the Shia minorities education, are all escalating, the results of which is not only the massacre and violation of the rights of the Shia community and prevention of activities related to their religious identity in many Muslim countries in Asia and the Middle East including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, Egypt and other countries, but also the beginning of extremist and terrorist activities.

Our NGO believes that with the elimination of existing problems and disputes regarding the protection of religious minorities, particularly Shia minorities around the world, also the defence of the belief of individuals and respect of differences in thought, great steps can be taken towards the reduction of potential damages from violence against Shia minorities, and also the rising phobias towards different religions and beliefs around the world.