

Statement by the “Faith for Rights” commUNity of practices of 6 February 2025

‘As faith actors who believe in human rights and assume a collective responsibility to speak up for all rights of all people, we strongly condemn the killing of Mr. Salwan Momika on 29 January 2025, who was shot death only hours before he was scheduled to appear in [Stockholm District Court](#) to receive a verdict on charges related to incidents of Qur’an burning.



While his previous acts may have deeply hurt the feelings of many believers worldwide, only independent courts may judge and punish individuals for any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, in line with article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (UN Doc. [A/RES/2200\(XXI\)](#)).

In this context, we would also like to reiterate the Rabat Plan of Action (UN Doc. [A/HRC/22/17/Add.4](#)) which articulates three specific core responsibilities of political and religious leaders, namely:

- (1) to refrain from expressions which may incite violence, hostility or discrimination;
- (2) to speak out firmly and promptly against intolerance and hate speech; and
- (3) to clarify that violence can never be tolerated as a response to incitement to hatred.

As also stressed in the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” (UN Doc. [A/HRC/40/58](#)), violence cannot be justified by prior provocation. Hatred cannot be extinguished by more hatred. Instead, relying on independent courts and engaging in respectful dialogue is the only civilized way forward to settle all disputes.

Within the [“Faith for Rights” commUNity of practices](#), we will continue pursuing our efforts of peer-to-peer learning and promoting positive speech as a healing tool of reconciliation and peace-building in the hearts and minds.’

Draft Statement to be approved at the meeting on 6 February 2025 of the “Faith for Rights” [commUNity of practices](#):

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