

Statement by Hungary

Item 72 ID with SR on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

72th Session of the UNGA 3rd Committee, 29 October 2018

Ms. Special Rapporteur,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a few but very important remarks on behalf of Hungary regarding your recent report on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In recent months, Hungary has found itself in the crossfire of a series of attacks on the part of the UN, the reason for which, we believe, is my country's firm position regarding migration, which significantly differs from the mainstream stance represented by the UN.

Although we appreciate the attention surrounding our country, Hungary contests and refuses all accusations in your recent report portraying Hungary as a country in which anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia is a widespread phenomenon and where civil society organizations are hindered in their operation. We reject these critiques, as they are baseless and false.

Ms. Special Rapporteur,

let me take this opportunity to clarify these allegations and present my country's views in their reality in response to your statements:

Hungary considers migration a matter of national security. Hungary, as a member state protecting the external borders of the European Union, has a particularly heavy burden and responsibility for curbing illegal migration processes. These obligations require the Government of Hungary to ensure effective action against unlawful mass migration, human trafficking and persons organizing it: The Stop Soros legislative package is aimed at achieving these goals.

The special tax on migration mentioned in your report is also purported at reducing illegal migration flows. The law has been warranted by the need for compensation of increased state expenditures resulting partly from organizations involved in such activities. For this reason, all income arising from the challenged tax shall be allocated only for the purposes of border control.

Let me also emphasize that there are 65 thousand non-governmental organisations operating in Hungary and it is less than a dozen, and always the same ones, that try to present a false picture about Hungary at international fora. We, however, believe that it is the Hungarian Government, which represents the interests of the Hungarian people, not the NGOs no one has ever voted for.

As concerns the allegations of the Fundamental Law, I again have to refuse those allegation presented in your report. Hungary guarantees the right to asylum for persons who have directly arrived from a country where they were subject to persecution or where there is a direct risk of being exposed to persecution. Thus the Amendment to our Fundamental Law remains to be in full compliance with our obligations arising from international law including the non-refoulement principle.

The Hungarian Government, from the very beginning, is of the position that help should be provided on the ground thereby allowing people to live their life in dignity in a safe but the closest point possible to their home counties, where, upon closure of the conflict, they can return to. Hungary will always be a partner to assist international community to achieve that aim, as one can see our programs to help Christian communities in the Middle East, but never will be a partner in promoting, managing or organizing migration.