Dear Zurab,

Hope this note finds you well.

First, allow me to thank you for inviting me to this very intellectually stimulating conversation with the Special Rapporteur as well as leading experts in the field.

Developing effective responses to the rise of Islamophobia has been at the core of the Carter Center’s project to prevent violent extremism since its inception. The Center believes that extremism knows no religious, national, or ethnic boundaries.

In September 2017, the Center convened a three-day Countering the Islamophobia Industry Symposium, bringing together 30 international practitioners and scholars on Islamophobia, media, and political violence. Discussions centered on three major themes: 1) manifestations of Islamophobia and its impact on the ground; 2)the symbiotic relationship between Islamophobia and radicalization; and 3) strategic and sustainable responses to Islamophobia in the U.S., Europe, and the Muslim world.

The guidebook referenced in the link below, was a direct outcome of the symposium. It features a foreword written by former President Jimmy Carter and articles authored by the experts who attended the symposium.

<https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/peace/conflict_resolution/countering-isis/cr-countering-the-islamophobia-industry.pdf>

The articles in this guide are organized thematically: “The Islamophobia Industry in Focus” examines the complex of actors, networks, and institutions that make the Islamophobia industry function. “Islamophobia in Law and Policy” distinguishes between Islamophobia as mere anti-Muslim sentiment and the laws and policies embedded in state institutions that unjustly target and stigmatize Muslim communities, often in the name of national security. “Countering Islamophobia in the Media” examines the role of mainstream media in perpetuating negative images of Muslims and inciting discrimination, whose interests this serves, and what we can do about it. Many of our symposium experts are grass-roots actors and community leaders, and their contributions are divided into two sections. The first, “Grass-Roots Perspectives,” describes the contours and effects of Islamophobia in and on local communities. The second, “Developing a Sustainable and Strategic Response to Islamophobia,” reviews several case studies of effective responses, offering a toolbox for those engaged in combating Islamophobia.

Hope this guide will inform the Special Rapporteur’s upcoming report and the institution’s future initiatives.

Best wishes,

Nancy

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