On Thu, Dec 13, 2018 at 6:38 PM Omair Paul <unrep@mpvusa.org> wrote:

Dear Karima,

My apologies for the belated response! We at MPV have unequivocally relied on the definitions and explanations that you provided in your report A/HRC/34/56 for 'fundamentalisms' and 'extremisms.' We view these definitions as normative and standard-setting, and affirm that you have provided civil society organizations with the language necessary to authoritatively advocate against the misuse of religion or culture, and to actively address and counter narratives of religion and culture that are rights-diminishing in strategic ways within the UN system. Through your mandate, you have given many of us legitimacy in UN spaces that has certainly aided in the collective effort to raise awareness and actively challenge religious and cultural fundamentalism and extremism.

It is also crucial that OHCHR and the UN as a whole understand that you have, in a progressive and rights-affirming manner, contributed to the conversation around religious and cultural fundamentalism and extremism in a way that would make it very difficult for any UN actor, including those who will take up the mandate after you, to dilute or undermine understandings and definitions of these concepts. Equally as important to understand is that these definitions will continue to be invoked by civil society for future advocacy campaigns.

These are just a few of my thoughts. I have a lot of faith in the special procedures, and particularly in your mandate but specifically how you approached it. Few rapporteurs hit the nail on the head so clearly and accessibly, and I believe that was a huge strength of yours that came through in your reports. Hope this may be useful for you!

Sincerely,

Omair Paul

UN Representative, New York
Muslims for Progressive Values