

# OSCE urges avoidance of terms identifying terrorism with Islam

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**Turkish Ambassador Orhun calls for building bridges between the Islamic world and the West instead of destroying them**

ANKARA - Turkish Daily News

Condemning last week's terrorist attacks in London, a key transatlantic security organization's office on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims warned about a tendency to identify terrorism with Islam in general.

Turkish Ambassador Ömür Orhun, personal representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Chairman in Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, described the London attacks as "senseless and barbaric." He said there can be no excuse for such inhuman acts.

"I note with satisfaction, however, that many Islamic communities, including those in the United Kingdom, have also condemned these atrocities and have distanced themselves from terrorism and violence," Orhun said.

"On the other hand, and much to my regret, I notice attempts to identify terrorism once again with Islam and all Muslims. This is not acceptable and should be rejected. Muslims should not be viewed with distrust and hostility just because of their religion. Nobody should be stigmatized because of his or her beliefs," he said and urged avoiding terms such as "Islamic terrorism."

Otherwise, the already existing fault lines between the Islamic world and the West could be widened, Orhun said, calling for "building bridges instead of destroying them."