

Diplomacy Newsline

Thursday, January 26, 2006

Germany's 'loyalty test' concerns OSCE:

ANK - [Turkish](#) Daily News

A key transatlantic security organization's office on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims has expressed concern over the approval of implementation of a controversial "conscience test" by the German state Baden-Wurttemberg for Muslims seeking German [citizenship](#).

"To subject adherents of one specific religion to such questions amounts to discrimination," said Turkish [Ambassador](#) Ömür Orhun, the personal representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Chairman in Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, said in a statement released earlier this week.

A proposal submitted by the Union 90/[Greens Party](#) in Germany for elimination of the test for Muslim applicants for citizenship was rejected after intense debate in the German Federal Parliament last week. Baden-Wurttemberg is the only state to support the controversial test.

Noting that he is receiving appeals from Muslims in Germany outraged by the practice, Orhun said he hoped the Baden-Wurttemberg authorities would reconsider the questionnaire, which he said violated international norms and constitutional order.

"The already existing fault lines between the Islamic communities and the rest must not be widened, and the bridges between them must not be destroyed," he emphasized.