

## **Muslims offended by pope's remarks, OSCE says:**

ANK - Turkish Daily News

A key transatlantic security organization's office on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims has expressed concern over recent remarks by Pope Benedict XVI concerning Islam.

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 many Muslims felt offended by the remarks of the pope and that they were especially saddened as they were uttered by a [religious leader](#) in a high office.

Orhun reiterated his belief that dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect are needed more than ever in the present circumstances and that all concerned need to work towards [harmony](#) among cultures and religions. In that respect he acknowledged the call by the Holy See and other parties for reason, dialogue and respect for all beliefs. He also made a strong appeal that people express opinions in a peaceful and balanced manner and refrain from violence.