

Justice Adel Maged honoured for combating hate speech and extremism

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The Centre for International Law Research and Policy (CILRAP), a leading academic centre in Brussels, recently honoured Justice Adel Maged, Vice-President of the Court of Cassation, for his significant contributions towards combating hateful expression and extremism.



Justice Adel Maged, Vice-President of the Court of Cassation

This recognition coincides with the release of Religion, Hateful Expression, and Violence, a comprehensive anthology comprising 31 chapters by 40 leading authors, including two chapters authored by Justice Maged. The e-book can be accessed freely at <https://www.toaep.org/ps-pdf/41-bergsmo-manocha/>.

The book extensively examines hate speech in the name of religion through case studies from India, Myanmar, and the former Yugoslavia.

The anthology's central focus is on the international problem of hate speech leading to violence and systemic discrimination. It explores international laws regarding religion and hate speech and emphasizes the measures available to religious leaders to effectively reduce or prevent it.



Karim Khan, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (Middle) with Justice Adel Maged (Right)

In a letter dated 21 July 2023, Professor Morten Bergsmo, CILRAP's Director and one of the book's editors, acknowledged the rarity of accepting two chapters from a single author in an anthology. Nevertheless, Justice Maged's submission was deemed exceptional, owing to the significance of his chapter titled *Incitement to Religious Hatred: An Examination of the Approaches of Extremists to Islamic Sharí'ah*.

This chapter examines the progression towards violence in individuals, starting from dogmatism and fanaticism to extremism, and ultimately, violent extremism, which is often expressed through acts of terrorism.

The chapter provides a comprehensive exploration of Sharí'ah sources relevant to extremism and hate speech. It denounces extremist ideologies and clarifies how radical Islamists manipulate Sharí'ah provisions to justify criminal violence, which is emphasized by Professor Bergsmo.

In his second chapter in the book, Justice Maged presents an English translation of his study titled *The Role of Al-Ázhar Ash-Sharíf in Combating Extremism and Hate Speech in Light of International Instruments*.

Prominent scholars and practitioners have praised these chapters for raising awareness about how the Sharí'ah prohibits hateful expression and highlighting the crucial role of a moderate counter-narrative that is well-informed about religious principles and sentiments.

Professor Mohamed E. Badar, a professor of comparative and international criminal law at Northumbria School of Law in Newcastle (UK), commended Justice Maged's work and disclosed that a defense team at the International Criminal Court (ICC) has cited Justice Maged's recent research.

In the anthology, Professor Badar, who previously served as the Legal Consultant for the Defence Team of Al-Hassan's Case before the ICC, has contributed a chapter titled *How Should Responsible Religious Leaders React to Hate Speech in Their Community?* Additionally, the book features contributions from other Egyptians, including Dr. Mona Elbahtimy and Fathi M.A. Ahmed.

Egyptian readers may find several chapters particularly relevant, such as those that discuss hate speech against Muslims in Myanmar (by Al-Haj Khalifah U Aye Lwin and Kyaw Tin) and against Bosnian Muslims (by Professor Svein Mønnesland and Dr Majda Halilović), as well as the situation in Iran (by Bani Dugal.)

Justice Maged was appointed as a member of CILRAP's Advisory Board due to his extensive judicial expertise, unblemished reputation for integrity, and unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of the rule of law and justice, as emphasized by Professor Bergsmo. In addition to his distinguished service as a judge in Egypt, Professor Bergsmo highlighted Justice Maged's contributions to international discourses.

Justice Maged addressed attacks against religion in his book *Responsibility of States for Defamation of Religion and Religious Figures*, published by the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research in 2007. He has also represented Egypt at international conferences and contributed to drafting legal frameworks to combat armed terrorist groups that distort Islamic Sharī'ah provisions to achieve their malicious goals.