

Bratislava, Slovakia: Women and Violence in the Middle East

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To honor the International Women's Day we invited the noted journalist Iva Mrvova for a talk at our Peace Embassy. She writes for the conservative daily "Postoj" and supports relief for victims of war. Iva researched religious extremism and writes about her encounters with women in the Middle East. Her name attracted many new guests; there were 35 participants.

"We often talk about violence against women. But what about the violence present in women?" was her question, to begin with. Iva expressed surprise that UPF was willing to discuss such an unusual aspect: Women who have gone to war! Among other things, she explained the fate of the 'jihadist brides' who were attracted by the Caliphate (IS) and are almost forgotten.

The next focus was the question of what to do with repatriates. Recently a family that was part of a terrorist organization has been repatriated to Slovakia. "First and foremost, we journalists should protect the children," she stressed.

Naturally, the audience had many questions. During refreshments, people commented that they appreciated this event.