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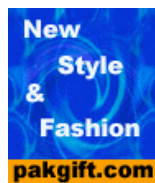
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Social discrimination in Germany

BRUSSELS: German leaders should concentrate on practical problems that undermine social cohesion – political alienation, over-zealous policing, economic inequality – and avoid temptation to score domestic political points with hardline rhetoric about Turkish and other Muslim immigration, recommends Brussels-based think-tank International Crisis Group (ICG). In its latest report titled 'Islam and Identity in Germany', ICG notes, "The fundamental problems of Turkish Germans and other Muslims are rooted in disenfranchisement, social discrimination, lack of economic and political integration, not religion". Neither political nor jihadi brands of Islamism have had much appeal, especially for those of Turkish origin, three quarters of Muslim population. "Germany has accepted its status as a country of immigration and is now struggling to define what kind," says Jonathan Laurence, ICG consultant. ICG recommends German national political parties promote integration of Turks and other Muslims into national political community. An estimated 3.2 million Muslims making about 4 percent of population live in Germany. ppi

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