

RESOLUTIONS ON MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES
Adopted by the 29TH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS
(SESSION OF SOLIDARITY AND DIALOGUE)

KHARTOUM, REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN
14-16 RABIUL THANI 1423H (25-27 JUNE 2002)

RESOLUTION NO. 1/29-MM

ON SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES IN
NON-OIC MEMBER STATES

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Solidarity and Dialogue), held in Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan from 14-16 Rabiul Thani 1423H (25-27 June 2002),

Recalling that Muslim communities and minorities living in Non-OIC Member States account for over one third of the Islamic Ummah;

Recalling also the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter, the Resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences, Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers and international conventions, declarations and agreements, particularly those calling for observance of human rights in the political, social, cultural, economic and religious fields;

Further recalling UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;

Reaffirming its commitment to Muslim communities and minorities living in Non-OIC Member States and expressing its concern at the forms of intolerance towards some of these communities and minorities in particular in the western hemisphere;

Condemning the persecution and violations committed against Muslim communities and minorities in a number of non-OIC Member States;

Having considered the Report submitted by the Secretary General on the situation of Muslim Communities and minorities (Document No. ICFM/29-2002/MM/D.1)

1. COMMENDS the efforts made by the Secretary General for the implementation of the resolutions adopted on the Islamic Communities and Minorities in Non-Member States and URGES the Contact Group, composed of the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations in New York and Geneva to follow-up cases of violation of the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member States and report thereon to the General Secretariat.
2. AFFIRMS that the preservation of the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States is, essentially, a responsibility of the governments of these states based on commitment to the principles of International Law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.
3. EMPHASIZES the need for action to enable Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States to preserve their religious and cultural identity, enjoy equal

treatment in terms of rights, obligations and duties, and have access to all their civil and religious rights without discrimination or segregation.

4. INVITES the General Secretariat to continue to receive representatives of Muslim Communities and Minorities in non-OIC Member States and to meet them whenever possible with a view to closely monitoring the conditions of the Muslim communities and minorities they represent. These activities, however, should be carried out within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of their home states, as stipulated in Para. 5 of Resolution No. 38/24-P adopted by the Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

5. CALLS UPON Member States and OIC Subsidiary, Specialized and Affiliated Institutions, including the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Education, Science, and Culture Organisation (ISESCO) as well as Islamic non-governmental organisations, bodies and institutions, to continue to provide the General Secretariat with available updated information, studies and statistics on the condition of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States so that the General Secretariat may fulfil the tasks entrusted to it in this respect.

6. URGES Member States to pay special attention to Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States who are subjected to persecution or oppression because of their religious beliefs and to determine their needs and communicate them to Member States so as to provide the necessary material, human, and financial capabilities, and also to intensify cultural and educational Islamic activities as well as various humanitarian assistance to these Muslim communities and minorities.

7. URGES Member States to coordinate efforts to train able workers who can perform Islamic Dawa missions among Muslim communities and minorities in various countries of the world. These workers should include qualified women. A series of integrated educational books on Islam, its rites and principles should be prepared in the form of simplified publications or audio-visual material to be carefully translated to the languages of the countries where these Muslim communities and minorities live.

8. REQUESTS the General Secretariat to make contacts with the governments of the states that have Muslim communities and minorities in order to identify their problems and needs and elicit the view of these States on ways to develop a cooperation formula with the OIC aimed at making the required contributions for improving the conditions of these Muslim communities and minorities and preserving their religious and cultural identity, while giving priority to contacts with governments of non-OIC Member States in which Muslim communities and minorities are facing pressing problems.

9. URGES the Member States to exert efforts with governments of Non-OIC Member States where violations of the rights of Muslim communities and minorities take place to urge them to take necessary and immediate measures to stop these violations and restore conditions to normal order.

10. EXPRESSES grave concern over the killing of Muslims in the Indian State of Gujrat in anti-Muslim violence and urges the Government of India to take measures to protect lives and properties of the Muslim minority in India.

11. INVITES the General Secretariat to follow up the activities of the relevant organizations and international forums so as to keep abreast of developments on the situation of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States, and to submit a

report thereon to the next meeting of the OIC Intergovernmental Experts Group on considering the conditions of Muslim communities and minorities.

12. REAFFIRMS the commitment of Member States to respect the rights of non-Muslim communities and minorities living in their territories, in accordance with the tolerant teachings of Islam.

13. DENOUNCES the vilifications made by some circles in non-OIC Member States concerning the ill-treatment of non-Muslim communities and minorities in OIC Member States (in the name of religious freedoms and so on) as well as the allegations that the latter adopt procedures and measures and enact domestic laws in contradiction with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, with a view to using these allegations as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of these Member States; and REQUESTS the Intergovernmental Experts Group to pay special attention to this issue in its forthcoming meetings.

14. CALLS ON the Intergovernmental Experts Group on Following up the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and the Intergovernmental Experts Group on considering the Conditions of Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States, to establish coordination between them in the future with a view to conducting a comprehensive survey of the conditions of these Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States, and taking the necessary measures in international forums to help these communities and minorities to safeguard their rights.

15. APPROVES the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Experts Group on Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-member States adopted during its Seventh meeting (Document No. GEMM-7/2002/REP.1-FINAL); calls on Member States and the General Secretariat to implement them, and invites this Group of Experts to continue its work on a regular basis.

16. INVITES the Non-Governmental Experts Group of the committee on the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action entrusted with following up the implementation of the Plan of Action to Safeguard the Rights of Muslim Communities and Minorities in non-OIC Member States, composed of eminent Muslim personalities to continue its meetings, and upon invitation from the Secretary General to hold expanded conferences on Muslim minority affairs in order to define the best means of solving their problems and the challenges they face. The aim is also to help these minorities safeguard their Muslim identity. These meetings are to be held in the home states of Muslim communities and minorities.

17. REQUESTS the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.2/29-MM

ON QUESTION OF MUSLIMS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Solidarity and Dialogue), held in Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan from 14-16 Rabiul Thani 1423H (25-27 June 2002),

Bearing in mind the resolutions of the OIC and the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee of Eight on the question of Muslims in Southern Philippines;

Recalling the Tripoli Agreement signed on 23 December 1976, under the auspices of the OIC, between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) which the signatory parties agreed to consider as the basis for a permanent, just and comprehensive political solution to the question of Muslims in Southern Philippines within the framework of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines;

Paying tribute to the role of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in facilitating the peace process culminating in the signing of the Final Peace Agreement on 2 September 1996 and express satisfaction for the efforts of the Ministerial Committee of the Eighth in this regard;

Recalling that in accordance with the two Memoranda of Understanding with which the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front concluded two rounds of preliminary talks, held successively in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on 3-4 October, 1992 and in Cipanas, Western Java, Republic of Indonesia on 14-16 April, 1993, the two parties agreed to conduct official peace negotiations for the full implementation of the letter and spirit of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement;

Commending the work of the OIC Monitoring Team led by Indonesian officers since 1994 until 2 April 2002 to supervise cease-fire during the negotiation process and the implementation of Phase 1 of the 1996 Peace Agreement.

Further recalling the results of the four rounds of formal peace talks held in Jakarta, Indonesia, including the subsidiary mechanisms, between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front, through facilities made available by the OIC Committee of Eight;

Commending the agreement reached by the participants in the Fourth Round of Formal Peace Talks to reaffirm all the points of agreement in the 1994, 1995 and 1996 Interim Agreements and to include them in the Final Agreement provided for in the 1976 Tripoli Agreement;

Recalling the report of the meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Seven, held on the fringe of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Doha, State of Qatar,

on 10 November, 2000. The meeting was devoted to listen to the report of the fact-finding Commission emanating from the Ministerial Committee of Seven on its mission to the Southern Philippines from 16 to 21 October 2000.

Recognizes the significant developments, which have taken place in the implementation of the 1996 GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement, namely the result of the plebiscite on 14 August 2002 and the election of Dr. Parouk Hussin as the new Governor of the Autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao following the election which was held on 26 November 2001, in accordance to the provisions of the mentioned Peace Agreement and the national laws of the Republic of the Philippines;

Recalling the outcome of the advisory meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Eight, held alongside the Tenth Extraordinary Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Doha, Qatar on 10 December 2001, which had reached several outcomes, inter-alia, the recognition of the significant developments in connection to the 1996 Peace Agreement, in particular the result of the plebiscite held on 14 August 2001 and the election held on 21

November 2001. Further, the Committee mandated the Chairman of the Committee and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia to consult with the Government of the Philippines on the decision reached by the Ministerial Committee of the Eight at the aforementioned meeting of the Ministerial Committee;

Also recalling the consultation of the Chairman of the Committee of the Eight and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia with the Government of the Philippines on 20-21 December 2001 in Manila, where the Chairman and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia also met with the MNLF and the heads of diplomatic missions of the members of the Committee, and in which the Chairman conveyed the Committee's views reflected at the advisory meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Eight, held alongside the Tenth Extraordinary Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Doha, Qatar on 10 December 2001;

Also recalling the observations made by the Chairman of the Committee of the Eight following the consultation held in Manila, as stipulated in his letter No. 15/PO/I/2002/28/01 dated 4 January 2002, which inter-alia, states while mindful of the resolutions of the OIC on the situation in the southern Philippines, it is imperative for the OIC to adapt a forward looking position in relation to the implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement which is based on the actual conditions on the ground;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines (Document No. ICFM/29-2002/MM/D.2).

1. Renews its support to the " Peace Agreement" between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) initialled on 30 August 1996 in Jakarta and officially signed on 2 September 1996 in Manila.
2. Calls on both the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the MNLF to preserve the gains achieved as a result of the signing of the "Peace Agreement".
3. Commends the Moro National Liberation Front, the sole legitimate representative of Muslims in Southern Philippines ("Bangsamoro people"), It also commends the facilities extended by the MNLF to the work of the Committee of Eight and its negotiation with the Government of the Philippines.
4. Pays tribute to the role of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, under the wise leadership of H.E. Colonel Moomar Gaddafi, in achieving the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 and in hosting the first preliminary talks in Tripoli from 3 to 4 October, 1992.
5. Also pays tribute to the role of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in facilitating the peace process culminating in the signing of the Final Peace Agreement on 2 September 1996 and expresses satisfaction for the efforts of the Ministerial Committee of Eight in this regard.
6. Commissions the Ministerial Committee of Eight and the Secretary General to continue the necessary contacts with the Government of the Philippines and the MNLF, for complete implementation of the Peace Agreement, and defining a time-table to finalize the implementation of all the articles of the Peace Agreement of 1996.
7. Lauds the efforts of the Chairman of the Ministerial Committee of the Eight, together with the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, to report to the representatives of the MNLF and the Government of the Philippines, on the results of the above-mentioned meeting in Doha, including among others, the reaffirmation of the position of the Organization of the Islamic

Conference stating that the question of the MNLF leadership is an internal one that concerns the MNLF to resolve.

8. Urges Member States and subsidiary organs, specialised and affiliated institutions, including the Islamic Development Bank, to increase their economic, financial, technical and material assistance for the development and rehabilitation of the Southern Philippines through the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) under the auspices of the MNLF.

9. Decides to maintain the observer status and the participation of the MNLF in the activities of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Bangsamoro people in Southern Philippines in order to improve the conditions of this people in accordance with the provisions of the Peace Agreement.

10. Takes note of the significant developments that have taken place in the implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement, including the conduct of a plebiscite in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), the election of Dr. Parouk Hussin as the new Governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and "stresses the necessity for the Government of the Philippines to finalize the remaining procedures for the establishment of the autonomous region, particularly, continuing the process of joining MNLF elements into the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)".

11. Welcomes the efforts of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Malaysia for restoring peace in Southern Philippines, which were crowned by signing cease-fire the Agreement between the GRP and the MILF in the meeting held in Tripoli on 22.6.2001.

12. Also welcomes the efforts of the Government of Malaysia for promoting Bangsamoro solidarity and for extending its good offices leading to the signing of the Agreement for unity between the MNLF and the MILF in the meeting held in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, on 7 August 2001.

13. Urges the Member States, Subsidiary Organs, Affiliated and Specialized Institutions as well as Charitable Islamic Organizations in the Member States to extend medical, humanitarian, economic, financial and technical assistance for the development and rehabilitation of Southern Philippines.

14. Appeals to all Islamic and other charitable organizations in OIC Member States to continue to economic, humanitarian and other assistance appropriate through channels aimed at helping displaced people in areas affected by conflict in Mindanao.

15. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.3/29-MM

ON THE SITUATION OF THE TURKISH MUSLIM MINORITY IN WESTERN THRACE IN GREECE

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Solidarity and Dialogue), held in Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan from 14-16 Rabiul Thani 1423H (25-27 June 2002),

Reaffirming its commitment to Muslim communities and minorities living in non-OIC Member States;

Keeping in mind that the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace is an integral part of the Muslim World;

Recalling the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter, the Resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences, Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers and international conventions, declarations and agreements, calling for observance of human rights, namely political, social, cultural and economic rights and freedom of worship, and most particularly the Lausanne Treaty which calls for observance of the right of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace to use their Turkish language and practice their religious rites as well as to the free election of their representatives in all matters;

Further recalling UN General Assembly Declaration on Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;

Deploring that the violation of the Minority rights and fundamental freedoms of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace is continuing;

Keeping in mind that the basic rights of freedoms of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace are defined and protected by multilateral and bilateral Treaties and Agreements to which Greece is a party;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the situation of the Muslim Minority in Western Thrace in Greece (Document No. ICFM/29-2002/MM/D.3);

1. Condemns the juridical harassment aimed at the elected Mufti of Xanthi, Mr. Mehmet Emin Aga, and his sentencing to imprisonment.
2. Expresses its grave concern on the obstruction of the building of Kimmeria Mosque.
3. Demands that the steps for the election of the administration board of the Waqfs be taken to enable a better administration of the Waqfs which will promote the religious and educational activities.
4. Urges Greece to take all measures to restore the rights of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and urgently recognize the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini as the official Muftis.
5. Requests the Secretary General to monitor the situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and to report to the Thirtieth Session of Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.4/29-MM

ON THE MUSLIM MINORITY IN MYANMAR

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Solidarity and Dialogue), held in Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan from 14-16 Rabiul Thani 1423H (25-27 June 2002),

Reaffirming its obligations to the Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States;

Recalling the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter, the Resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences, and international covenants, declarations and conventions, particularly those calling for the respect of political, social, cultural, economic and religious human rights;

Realizing that the Muslim minority in Myanmar constitutes an integral part of the Islamic world;

Deploring information indicating the continuing oppression and displacement suffered by Muslims in the Republic of Myanmar, in addition to the denial of their basic rights, as citizens;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the Muslim Minority in Myanmar (Document No. ICFM/29-2002/MM/D.4);

1. COMMISSIONS the Islamic Contact Group entrusted under Resolution No.38/24-P with considering the conditions of Muslim minorities and communities, to monitor violations of the rights of Muslim minorities in Myanmar and submit an annual report thereon to the OIC General Secretariat.
2. URGES Member States to lend moral and political support to the Muslims of Myanmar and to facilitate the steps needed for a dialogue between them and the Government so as to enable them to exercise their basic rights on an equal footing with other citizens in Myanmar.
3. REQUESTS the OIC Secretary General to hold further contacts with the parties concerned and to report thereon to the next Ministerial Conference.
4. REQUESTS the Secretary General to follow up the situation of the Muslim minority in Myanmar and to submit a report thereon to the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 5/29-MM

ON CHANGING THE TERM "MINORITIES" USED TO DESCRIBE MUSLIMS IN NON-MEMBER STATES

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Solidarity and Dialogue), held in Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan from 14-16 Rabiul Thani 1423H (25-27 June 2002),

Recalling the OIC charter and resolutions on Muslims in Non-Member States;

Appreciating the important role played by Muslim Communities in non-Member States in publicizing Islamic causes and defending Islam in the societies in which they live;

Taking into consideration the agreements concluded between some Islamic States and some other States regarding conditions of Muslims living there;

Stressing the need to support these communities to enable them to play their role in contributing towards the development of communities in which they live, in economic, social, cultural and other fields;

Having taken cognizance of the study presented by the Sultanate of Oman considering the use of the term "minorities" as inappropriate to describe Muslims living in non-OIC Member States;

Commends with appreciation the efforts exerted by the Sultanate of Oman in preparing the study on the in-appropriateness of the term "minorities" used to describe Muslims living in non-OIC Member States.

Requests the OIC Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this resolution and to submit the matter to the Senior Officials' Meeting preparatory to the 30th Session of the ICFM for consideration and recommendations thereon; and requests also the Secretary General to submit a report thereon to the said Session.