

OIC/CFM-35/2008/MM/RES /FINAL

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**RESOLUTIONS
ON
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES
IN NON-OIC MEMBER STATES
ADOPTED BY
THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT)**

**KAMPALA — REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
14-16 JUMADA AL-THANI 1429H
18-20 JUNE 2008**

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RESOLUTION No. 1/35-MM
ON
SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS
OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES
IN NON-OIC MEMBER STATES

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Prosperity and Development), held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from 14 to 16 Jumada Al-Thani 1429H (18-20 June, 2008,;

Recalling Resolution No. 1/34-MM adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Islamabad, from 15 to 17 May 2007, and all the resolutions adopted by the Ministerial and Summit Conferences in this regard;

Recalling that Muslim Communities and Minorities living in non-OIC Member States constitute more than one-third of the Muslim Ummah;

Recalling also the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the resolutions adopted by the various sessions of the OIC Summit Conference and the Conference of Foreign Ministers as well as international covenants, declarations, and conventions, in particular those which call for the respect of political, social, cultural, economic, and religious human rights;

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

Reiterating its commitment to the Muslim Communities and Minorities living in non-OIC Member States, and **expressing** its concern over all forms of bigotry vis-à-vis some of those communities and minorities;

Condemning the oppression and violations perpetrated against Muslim Communities and Minorities in a number of non-OIC Member States;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation of Muslim Communities and Minorities (Document No. OIC/CFM-35/2008/MM/SG.REP);

1. **Calls for** the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States to be respected and **stresses** the need for sustained cooperation among the Member States for the protection of their religious, cultural, civil, political, economic, and social rights.
2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts, initiatives, and good offices with the states concerned with the objective of finding just solutions to the political, cultural, and economic issues of the Muslim Communities and Minorities in non-OIC Member States, in pursuance of the resolutions of OIC conferences and within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of the countries concerned.
3. **Reiterates its calls on** the General Secretariat to keep up its contacts with Muslim communities in Africa, in implementation of the Ministerial resolutions, and to undertake field visits to Angola, South Africa, Namibia, Malawi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Madagascar, as soon as possible, in order to identify their difficulties and gain information on their conditions, and to report thereon to the next Ministerial meeting.
4. **Calls on** the Member States and specialized Islamic Organizations to provide further assistance and protection to Muslim communities in Africa, particularly in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in order to address the urgent problems impeding their development and progress.
5. **Reiterates** that safeguarding the rights of Muslim Communities and Minorities in non-OIC Member States is essentially the responsibility of the Governments of those States; and **urges** Member States and Islamic institutions to extend greater support and attention to improving their conditions and take care of their concerns within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of the countries concerned and non-interference in their internal affairs.
6. Also **condemns** the gross violations of human rights as well as the religious and racial discrimination suffered by some of those Muslim Minorities. **Reiterates** the need to find equitable and just solutions to these problems and the problem of Muslim Communities and Minorities in many non-OIC Member States, most particularly the problem of being deprived of the exercise of their political, civil, cultural, economic, and social rights.

7. **Expresses its concern** in the face of the rising activity against Muslims in India perpetrated by extremist Hindus who are trying to build a Hindu temple on the ruins of the historical Babri Mosque and are worried about unnecessary delay in fixing the responsibility for demolition of the Babri Mosque. **Urges** the Indian Government to ensure the reconstruction of the Babri Mosque on its original site.

8. **Expresses its deep concern** at the condition of the Muslim minority in India and urges the Government of India to take effective and immediate measures to end all violence and policies of discrimination against Muslims. **Notes with concern** the plight of the victims of the Gujrat riots and **condemns** an environment of fear that the victims are constantly obliged to live in and demands that the culprits be immediately brought to justice. In this context, **urges** the Secretary General to report on the situation of the Muslim minority in India to the next CFM.

9. **Invites** the General Secretariat to monitor the situation of Muslims in India and to collect further information on the challenges and difficulties they are facing, politically, socially and economically with a view to offering them the required assistance, and to report on the matter to the next ministerial conference.

10. **Reiterates** the commitment of Member States to respect the rights of non-Muslim communities living in their territories, in accordance with the magnanimous teachings of Islam.

11. **Pays tribute** to the Secretary General's sustained efforts in monitoring the situation of Muslims in the Southern Provinces of Thailand and **calls** upon him to expand the fields of cooperation between the OIC and the Kingdom of Thailand in all spheres as well as in the extension of assistance to the inhabitants of the Thai Southern provinces to achieve their legitimate and just causes within a framework of respect of Thailand's full sovereignty and territorial integrity.

12. **Expresses** its appreciation for the productive cooperation between Thailand and the OIC and welcomes the readiness of both parties expressed in the joint press statement of May 1, 2007 between the Secretary General and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand to expand this cooperation with a view to enabling the population of the Southern Border provinces to assume responsibilities over their domestic affairs through a decentralization process that allows the population to practice their own cultural and linguistic specificity and manage their natural resources in full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Thailand.

13. Calls on the General Secretariat to continue organizing conferences and symposia in the countries with Muslim minorities with a view to identifying their problems and issues and strengthening their relations with the OIC Members.

14. Requests the Secretary-General to make contact with the Chinese Government concerning the situation of Chinese Muslims and to subsequently submit a report on these consultations.

15. Reiterates the need to respect the human rights of the Turkish Muslim community in Bulgaria and to safeguard the properties of Muslim endowments there. **Calls on** Muslims in Bulgaria to unite their efforts and work together to enhance the position of their Grand Mufti's office in furtherance of the interests of Muslims there.

16. Invites Member States to continue their support for the economic and social development efforts and to encourage private Muslim savings and investment institutions in less developed non-OIC countries of Muslim minorities to play their role in the development efforts, especially the education sector, including the development of Islamic universities and institutions and the introduction of modern sciences in their educational curricula.

17. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Thirty-sixth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 2/35-MM
ON
QUESTION OF MUSLIMS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Prosperity and Development), held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from 14 to 16 Jumada Al-Thani 1429H (18-20 June, 2008);

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, between the Government of the Republic of Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), under the aegis of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), 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 Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, under the wise leadership of H.E. Colonel Moammar Gaddafi, in achieving the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 and hosting the first preliminary talks in Tripoli on 3-4 October 1992 as well as the Unity and Solidarity Meeting of the MNLF leaders on 6 April 2003;

Also 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 **expressing satisfaction** for the efforts of the Ministerial Committee of Eight in this regard;

Recalling that, in accordance with the two Memoranda of Understanding under which the GRP and the MNLF 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;

Recalling also the results of the four rounds of formal peace talks held in Jakarta, Indonesia, including the subsidiary mechanisms, between the GRP and the MNLF, thanks to the facilities made available by the OIC Peace Committee;

Noting that the gains achieved by the Peace Agreement concluded between the GRP and the MNLF and existing cooperation between them need to be generalized and maximized in order to achieve comprehensive peace and development for the benefit of the people of Bangsamoro;

Also paying tribute to the role of the Republic of Indonesia and the Members of the OIC Peace Committee in Southern Philippines as well as the Secretary-General's efforts aimed at facilitating the peace process and helping both the GRP and the MNLF to reach a formula of joint proposals aimed at ensuring the full implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement.

Reaffirming Resolution No. 2/10-MM (IS) on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines adopted by the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 16–17 October 2003, as well as Resolution No. 2/11-MM (IS) adopted by the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling ICFM Resolution No.26/52-P of 1999 and Resolution No.27/26-P of 2000;

Reiterating Resolution No. 2/34-MM on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines adopted by the 34th Session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Islamabad from 15 to 17 May 2007.

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines (**Document No. CFM/35-2008/MM/SG.REP.2**);

1. **Renews** its support for the Peace Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which was initialed 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 and the Moro National Liberation Front to preserve the gains achieved since the signing of the Peace Agreement and encourages both sides to continue their efforts in finding further solution for their differences to ensure the full implementation of the Peace Agreement of 1996.

3. **Renews** the mandate of the OIC Peace Committee for Southern Philippines (PCSP) and the Secretary-General to continue their efforts and make the necessary contacts with the GRP and the MNLF with a view to ensuring the full implementation of the Peace Agreement.
4. **Endorses** the provisions of the Communiqué adopted by the 2nd Session of the Tripartite meeting, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 14-16 February 2008; and **calls for** these meetings to continue with a view to formulating joint proposals to resolve existing obstacles to full implementation of the Peace Agreement and close down the gap of divergence between the GRP and the MNLF.
5. **Reiterates** the importance of continuing to convene the Trilateral Meeting between the GRP, the MNLF, and the OIC in order to review progress on the implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement, assess the steps taken and obstacles impeding its full implementation, and propose to action to overcome such obstacles.
6. **Takes note of** the important results achieved by the OIC Delegation chaired by Ambassador Sayed Kassem El-Masry, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Peace in Southern Philippines, who visited Manila from 14 to 19 April 2008. **Underlines** the need to exert further efforts in order to ensure the success of the upcoming 3rd Session of the Tripartite Meeting in Manila.
7. **Appreciates** the efforts made by the Secretary-General, the OIC Committee for Peace in Southern Philippines, and the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Peace in Southern Philippines, Amb. Sayed Kassem El-Masry, which have led to the release of Professor Nur Misuari, Chairman of the MNLF; and **commends** H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines, for her positive response to the Secretary-General's efforts in this regard.
8. **Pays tribute to** the efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Colonel Moamar Kadafi, Leader of the Great 1st of September Revolution in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to ensure the release of Prof. Nur Misuari, Chairman of the MNLF, and to support peace efforts in Southern Philippines.

9. **Urges** the MNLF and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to unite their ranks so as to work together for the peace and development of the Bangsamoro people and **requests** the Secretary-General to continue to deploy his good offices to bring them closer and to enhance the coordination between them.

10. **Appeals** to the Philippine Government to see to the early resolution of the environmental problems resulting from the failure on the part of power and electricity plants in Lake Lanao and its surroundings to fully observe environmental standards, which has had a serious and adverse environmental impact on the local population's health and economic and social conditions.

11. **Urges** OIC Member States, subsidiary organs, and specialized and affiliated institutions as well as benevolent Islamic organizations in the Member States to increase their medical, humanitarian, economic, financial, and technical assistance for the development of Southern Philippines with a view to accelerating the pace of the social and economic development process.

12. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Thirty-sixth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 3/35-MM
ON
THE SITUATION OF THE TURKISH MUSLIM
MINORITY OF WESTERN THRACE, GREECE

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Prosperity and Development), held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from 14 to 16 Jumada Al-Thani 1429H (18-20 June, 2008,

Recalling Resolution No. 3/34-MM on the Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, Greece;

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

Fully aware that the Muslims in Greece, in general, and the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, in particular, are an integral part of the Muslim World;

Recalling the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter, the Resolutions adopted by OIC Islamic Summit Conferences, Conferences of Foreign Ministers, and international agreements, declarations, and conventions calling for the respect of human rights, including political, social, cultural, and economic rights and freedom of worship, and most particularly the Lausanne Treaty which guarantees the rights of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace by virtue of which they have the right to use their Turkish language, practice their religious rites, and freely elect their representatives in all fields;

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

Realizing that the basic rights and freedoms of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace are defined and protected by multilateral and bilateral treaties and conventions to which Greece is a party;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority of Western Thrace in Greece (Document No. OIC/CFM-35/2008/MM/SG.REPS) ;

1. **Invites once again** Greece to take all measures to respect the rights and identity of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace emanating from the bilateral and international agreements.
2. **Demands** that Greece recognize the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini as the official Muftis.
3. **Calls on** Greece to take the necessary steps for the election of the Awqaf administration boards by the Turkish Muslim Minority with a view to ensuring their self-governance, enabling the elected Muftis to supervise the Awqaf properties, and putting an end to the expropriation of the Awqaf properties and to the heavy taxes levied on them. **Calls on** Greece therefore to introduce the necessary amendments in its laws on each of these aspects in consultation with the Muslim Minority representatives there.
4. **Regrets** the ban imposed by the Greek Supreme Court on the activities of the Turkish Muslim Minority's oldest Non-Governmental Organization in Western Thrace, namely the "Turkish Union of Xanthi", under the pretext that its name contains the word "Turkish", and **considers** this as discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin.
5. **Calls on** Greece to implement the three verdicts issued by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) concerning the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) of the Turkish Muslim Minority, which lifted the discriminatory ban that had been imposed by the Greek Supreme Court on NGO activities under the pretext of containing in their names the words "Turkish/Minority".
6. **Urges** Greece to reinstate the citizenship rights of tens of thousands of Turkish Minority members who were stripped of their citizenship under the now-repealed Chapter of Article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Law No. 3370/1955.
7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to initiate a fact-finding inquiry to ascertain the veracity of repeated reports of vandalization of mosques and Muslim cemeteries in Western Thrace, and to present a report thereon to the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers.
8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the Thirty-sixth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 4/35-MM
ON
THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN MYANMAR

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Prosperity and Development), held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from 14 to 16 Jumada Al-Thani 1429H (18-20 June, 2008,

Reaffirming Resolution No. 4/11-MM (IS) adopted by the 11th Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, in March 2008; as well as Resolution No. 4/34 adopted by the 34th Session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

Expressing its deep sympathy to the people of Myanmar over the difficulties they are facing as a result of the cyclone that ravaged the country in early May;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Muslim Community in Myanmar (Document No. OIC/CFM-35/2008/MM/SG.REPS);

1. **Calls on** Member States and Islamic charitable institutions to contribute to international relief efforts and extend urgent assistance including medical, food, humanitarian, and technical relief in order to help to alleviate the suffering of the victims of the cyclone. **Calls on** the Government of Myanmar to overcome the difficulties impeding international relief efforts.
2. **Calls upon** the Government of Myanmar to safeguard the basic human rights of the Muslim Minorities and to put an end the practices of displacement, expulsion, and exile of Arakan Muslims and the continued attempts to eradicate their Islamic culture and identity.
3. **Calls on** Member States to continue their efforts in conjunction with those of the international community and the United Nations in order to ensure the return of all Myanmar refugees displaced from their homes, particularly the Muslims of the Arakan region of Myanmar.

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to contact the Government of Myanmar for dispatching an OIC Mission to Myanmar in order to study the conditions of Muslims there and to report thereon to the next CFM.
5. **Supports** the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Envoy on Myanmar, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari; and **invites** the OIC Secretary-General to continue his cooperation with him and support his efforts.
6. **Calls on** the Member States to continue to extend all possible forms of support and assistance to Myanmar Muslims and to those among them living as refugees outside their homeland.
7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and report thereon to the Thirty-sixth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.
