

OIC/CFM-36/2009/MM/RES/FINAL

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RESOLUTIONS
ON
**MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND
MINORITIES
IN NON-OIC MEMBER STATES**
ADOPTED BY
THE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING
PREPARATORY TO THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION OF ENHANCING ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY)

DAMASCUS – ARAB REPUBLIC OF SYRIA
FROM 28- JUMADA AL AWWAL TO
1 JUMADA AL THANI 1430H
23-25 MAY 2009

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RESOLUTION No. 1/36-MM
ON
SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS
OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES
IN NON-OIC MEMBER STATES

The Thirty-sixth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Enhancing Islamic Solidarity), held in Damascus, Arab Republic of Syria, from 28 Jumadal Awwal to 1 Jumadal Thani 1430H, (23-25 May, 2009);

Recalling Resolution No. 1/35-MM adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Kampala, from 14 to 16 Jumada Al-Thani 1429 (18-20 June 2008), 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 over 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;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation of Muslim Communities and Minorities (Document No. OIC/CFM-36/2009/MM/SG.REP);

1. **Reiterates** its commitment to the Muslim Communities and Minorities living in non-OIC Member States, and to offering them assistance and contributing to the settlement of their problems in full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries to which they belong, through cooperation with the governments of these States.

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2. **Emphasizes** the necessity to respect the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States; **denounces** the problems they face, resulting from discrimination, oppression and persecution; and **insists** on the importance of continued coordination between the Member States in order to find ways to assist them to solve their problems, protect their religious, cultural, civil, political, economic and social rights and preserve their identity and Islamic heritage.
3. **Commends** the efforts exerted by the Secretary General in supporting the causes of the Muslim communities in Non-Member States, and **urges** him to continue those efforts in this regard, in implementation of the relevant ministerial resolutions within the established principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States to which they belong, in accordance with international law and international agreements in general, and in implementation of the relevant OIC Summit and CFM resolutions.
4. **Emphasizes** that the protection of the rights and identity of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States is primarily the responsibility of the Governments of those States, in accordance with the principles of international law.
5. **Requests** the General Secretariat to continue its contacts with the Governments of States in which Muslim communities and minorities exist to apprise them of the resolutions issued by the OIC in this regard, and to identify the problems faced by those communities and their needs, with priority being given to contacts with the Governments of non-OIC Member States where Muslim communities and minorities are enduring grave difficulties; and **urges** the Member States enjoying solid relations with those States to put those relations to beneficial use in advancing the Secretary General's efforts.
6. **Calls on** the Member States and Muslim institutions in general and OIC subsidiary, specialized and affiliated institutions, including the IDB and ISESCO, as well as Islamic NGOs to provide further support and assistance to these Muslim communities and minorities, in coordination with the General Secretariat.

7. **Reiterates** that education is a legitimate right for every member of society, without any discrimination, in accordance with all relevant international covenants; **appeals** to those states which have Muslim communities to extend to them the necessary services and put forward the means necessary to enable them to enjoy this right without any discrimination; **calls on** the Member States to provide every assistance to support education, including by providing instructors to the children of Muslim communities, allocating scholarships to study in schools and universities and inviting Islamic NGOs and civil society organizations to contribute to this endeavor in coordination with the States concerned.

8. **Reiterates its calls on** the General Secretariat to maintain 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, among others, as soon as possible, in order to identify their difficulties and gain information on their conditions; and **invites** the General Secretariat to continue holding symposia and conferences in countries with Muslim minorities in order to learn of their problems and issues and foster and promote relations between States with Muslim communities and OIC Member States

9. **Invites** Member States and Specialized Islamic NGOs to provide further assistance and care to Muslim communities in Africa, especially in the least-developed countries, with a view to addressing the pressing difficulties which impede their progress and development.

10. **Calls** for the provision of all possible assistance to Muslims in Ethiopia to improve their economic, health and educational conditions which deteriorated significantly due to drought; **calls on** the Member States and investors to invest in these regions in coordination and cooperation with the Government of Ethiopia; **expresses** its regrets over the content of the report of the Secretary General on the deterioration of the situation of the inhabitants of the province of Ogaden and the destruction caused by wars in the province; and **invites** the Secretary General to undertake the necessary contacts to alleviate their ordeal and find a just political settlement to their issue, including by sending a delegation from the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Ethiopian Government.

11. **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; **expresses concern** also about the unnecessary delay in determining the responsibility for demolition of the Babri Mosque; and **urges** the Indian Government to ensure the reconstruction of the Babri Mosque on its original site.

12. **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 Gujarat riots; **condemns** the environment of fear that the victims are constantly obliged to live in; **demands** that the culprits be immediately brought to justice; and **urges** the Secretary General in this regard, to report on the situation of Muslims in India to the next CFM meeting.

13. **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.

14. **Also urges** the Government of India to take steps to improve the economic conditions of the Muslims of India in line with the recommendations of the Sachar Committee Report.

15. **Invites** the Secretary General to continue his contacts with the Chinese Government to urge it to respond to the legitimate rights of Muslims in Xinjiang region, and **urges** the Member States enjoying close relations with China to support the efforts of the Secretary General in this regard.

16. **Decides** to defer consideration of Draft Resolution No. OIC/CFM-36/2009/MM/DR/RES.5/REV.1 regarding the situation of the Muslim Community in Southern Thailand until the next 37th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers to allow ample time for contacts between the Secretary General and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand with a view to expedite the implementation of the Government's plan to address the root causes of the problem as contained in the Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit of the Secretary General to Thailand on 1st July 2007, and calls upon the Member States enjoying close relations with Thailand to support the efforts of the Secretary General in this regard.

17. **Takes note of** the visit of a General Secretariat delegation to Cambodia and Vietnam on 1-5 February 2009; and **emphasizes** the strengthening of their relations with the Muslim world and on the provision of all possible assistance to them in the establishment of Islamic schools and centers.
18. **Reiterates** the need to respect the human rights of the Turkish Muslim community in Bulgaria and to safeguard the properties of Muslim endowments there; and **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.
19. **Expresses its concern** over the situation of Muslims in Georgia and the Crimean Peninsula because of the non-addressing of the repercussions of coercive policies in the past, which led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of inhabitants and the obliteration of their national Islamic identity; emphasizes their right to return to their homeland and regain all their rights, including the right to their citizenship, their lands and properties; and **calls on** the Secretary General to work with the Member States and international human rights organizations in order to provide assistance towards the achievement of these goals.
20. **Invites** the Members States and the General Secretariat to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group on Muslim Communities and Minorities in non-Member States; and **urges** the above-mentioned Expert Group to continue its activity on a regular basis.
21. **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.
22. **Expresses** satisfaction with the substantial development in the activities of the OIC General Secretariat's Department of Muslim Communities and Minorities and stresses the need for the support of this department with human and material resources in line with the tasks entrusted to it.
23. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Thirty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 2/36-MM
ON
QUESTION OF MUSLIMS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES**

The Thirty-sixth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (For Enhancing Islamic Solidarity), held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic from 28 Jumadal Awwal to 1 Jumadal Thani 1430H, (23-25 May, 2009);

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;

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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;

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, Colonel Moamar Kadafi, Leader of the Great 1st of September Revolution in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the OIC Secretary General to ensure the release of Prof. Nur Misuari, Chairman of the MNLF, and to support peace efforts in Southern Philippines; and commends H.E. Gloria Makabajal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippine for responding to these efforts;

Hails the role of Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, in the name of its President Saif Al-Islam Kaddifi through his visit in December 2007, and the visit a delegation from the Foundation in April, 2008,

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;

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Reiterating Resolutions adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers and No. 2/34-MM and 2/35-MM on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines.

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines (**Document No. CFM/36-2009/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 1996 Peace Agreement.
3. **Renews** the mandate of the OIC Peace Committee for Southern Philippines (PCSP) and requests the Committee 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 1996 Peace Agreement.
4. **Lauds** the progress made at the tripartite meeting held in Manila on 11-13 March 2009 between the OIC, the Government of the Philippines and Moro National Liberation Front on the review of the implementation of 1996 Final Peace Agreement; and **calls** on the Government of Philippines to show the necessary flexibility to surmount the problems impeding full implementation of this Agreement.
5. **Reiterates** the importance of continuing to convene the Tripartite 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 action to overcome such obstacles.

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6. **Expresses** regrets that the plan of signing the already initialized Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) between the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), in Malaysia on 5 August 2008, did not materialize, takes note of the constitutional constrain which prevented the GRP to sign the MOA-AD, and expresses concern with the deterioration of the situation following it, and calls on both parties to resume negotiation and to build on previous achievement.
7. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary General on the readiness of the Government the Philippines to return to the negotiating table with the MILF.
8. **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.
9. **Appeals** to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to see to the early resolution of the reported environmental problems resulting from the failure on the part of power and electricity plants in Lake Lanao and its surroundings to observe environmental standards, which has had a serious and adverse environmental impact on the local population's health and economic and social conditions.
10. **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 and urges the Philippine Government to agree to the General Secretariat's request to send a joint delegation of the OIC, IDB and other Islamic NGOs willing to offer assistance in order to assess the needs.
11. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Thirty-seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION No.3 /36-MM
ON
THE SITUATION OF THE TURKISH MUSLIM
MINORITY OF WESTERN THRACE, GREECE**

The Thirty-sixth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (For Enhancing Islamic Solidarity), held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic from 28 Jamadaul Awwal to 1 Jamadul Thani 1430 A.H (23 -25 May, 2009);

Recalling Resolution No. 3/35-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-36/2009/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** Greece's recent practice regarding the appointment of 240 imams/religious instructors by a commission of Orthodox public employees, despite reactions from the Turkish Muslim Minority and urges Greece to abolish the respective legislation.
5. **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", and urges Greece to implement the three verdicts issued by the European Court of Human Rights (HCHR) concerning the Non-Governmental Organisations (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-seventh 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-seventh session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 4/36-MM
ON
THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN MYANMAR

The Thirty-sixth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (For Enhancing Islamic Solidarity), held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic from 28 Jumadal Awwal to 1 Jumadal Thani 1430H, (23-25 May, 2009);

Reaffirming Resolution No. 4/11-MM (IS) adopted by the 11th Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, in March 2008; and Resolution No. 4/35 adopted by the 35th Session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Muslim Community in Myanmar (Document No. OIC/CFM-36/2009/MM/SG.REPS);

1. **Calls upon** the Government of Myanmar 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, and **urges** government authorities to respect the texts of international legitimacy on human rights.
2. **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.
3. **Expresses** concern over the continued deprivation of thousands of Rohingya Muslims citizenship right, and **requests** the Secretary General and Member States that have close to the Government of Myanmar to intensify contacts in order to gain recognition for Rohingya as one of its ethnic minorities and to stop all forms of violence, expulsion and violation of human rights against them, and to remove all restrictions imposed on their freedom to move, learn and to own property.
4. **Commends** the efforts of the Secretary General aimed at coordinating the work of the Rohingya Muslim organizations and uniting their ranks under a united coordination council and calls on him to continue these efforts to reclaim their rights.

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5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and report thereon to the Thirty-seventh session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.
