

Islamic Conference

31st Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

Resolutions on Muslim Communities and Minorities in Non-OIC Member States

Istanbul, June 14-16, 2004

RESOLUTION NO. 1/31-MM

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

The Thirty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani, 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

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 covenants, 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/31-2004/MM/SG.REP.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 and to , enjoy equal treatment in terms of rights, obligations and duties.
4. Invites the General Secretariat to continue to receive representatives of Muslim Communities and Minorities in non-OIC Member States with a view to closely monitoring the conditions and to extending assistance for the development of their societies within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of their home states.
5. Calls Upon Member States and various Islamic institutions and bodies 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 department of Muslim Minorities can create a database enabling it to fulfill the tasks entrusted to it in this respect.
6. Urges Member States to coordinate efforts to train able workers who can perform Islamic Dawa missions among Muslim communities 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 live.
7. Requests the General Secretariat to make contacts with the governments of non-Member States in order to develop a cooperation formula with the OIC aimed at improving the conditions of these Muslim communities in their countries at preserving their religious and cultural identity.
8. 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
9. 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 and relevant international charters.
10. Denounces the vilifications made by some circles in non-OIC Member States concerning the ill-treatment of non-Muslim communities 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.
11. Invites the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the follow-up to the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on considering the situation of the Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States, to establish coordination between them in international quarters concerning the conditions of these minorities and communities in non-OIC Member States.
12. Approves the report and recommendations of the Ninth meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Muslim Affairs in non-Member States held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 11 to 12 April, 2004 and calls on Member

States and the General Secretariat to implement them, and urges this Group of Experts to continue its work on a regular basis.

13. Invites the General Secretariat to hold the symposium which had been recommended by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to be held at the United Nations Office in Geneva on Questions of Muslim Communities in Non-OIC Member Countries and urges Member States to participate in and contribute to the success of this activity, and requests the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to extend financial and technical contributions towards the holding of this Conference.

14. Invites the Non-Governmental Experts Group of the Committee on the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action entrusted with devising a Plan of Action to Safeguard the rights of Muslim Communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States, composed of eminent Muslim figures to meet and finalize the setting up of a comprehensive plan to safeguard the identities of Muslim Communities and minorities in non-Member States.

15. Highly appreciates and calls for the implementation of recommendations adopted by the meetings and symposia organized by the General Secretariat in many non-Muslim countries, with the cooperation of Islamic organizations, institutions and bodies working in this field, and calls of the General Secretariat to exert more efforts to undertake more of these activities in the future.

16. Invites the General Secretariat to continue to hold regular meetings and extended conferences of Muslim Community and minority affairs in non-OIC Member States in various parts of the world, preferably in a Muslim community and minority country, once preparations and planning have been done for these meetings. The General Secretariat may refer to the Intergovernmental Group on Muslim Communities and Minorities regarding anything it may require to hold these symposia in the best conditions.

17. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.2/31-MM

ON QUESTION OF MUSLIMS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

The Thirty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani, 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

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 also 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;

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;

Taking note of the important developments recorded in implementing the 1996 Peace Agreement between the Government of Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), in accordance with the terms of the said peace Agreement and the national laws of the Republic of Philippines.

Taking note of the efforts and interests of the international community, particularly the United Nations, as shown by the 24 September 2003, meeting between Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines and His Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations where the latter offered to assist to find comprehensive, peace and lasting political solution to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) problem (Bangsamoro problem);

Taking into account the report of the Chairman of the Committee of the Eight before the 10th Summit of the OIC in Putrajaya, on 16 October 2003 mentioning that the social and economic developments which are elements of the Phase 2 of the Peace Agreement are already in progress and the phase 1 consisting of military and political aspects of the Agreement has therefore been completed.

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines (Document No. ICFM/31-2004/MM/SG.REP.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"), 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 and the Unity and Solidarity Meeting of the MNLF leaders on 6 April, 2003.
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 with the efforts of the Ministerial Committee of Eight in this regard.
6. 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.
7. 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).
8. Recognizes 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), as mandated by the 1996 Peace Agreement between the GRP and the MNLF.
9. 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.
10. Decides that Phase I has been completed with the committee of eight to continue monitoring its implementation and urges both the GRP and MNLF to fully implement phase II of the 1996 Peace Agreement.

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Welcomes the Tripoli Declaration adopted by the Unity and Solidarity meeting of the leaders The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), held on 6 April 2003, which emphasized the unity and solidarity of the Moro people and their pledge to exert their utmost efforts and endeavors to achieve the vision and objectives of the Moro National Liberation Front aimed at securing justice, freedom and security for the Bangsamoro people under a single organization and leadership.
15. 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.
16. Appeals to all Islamic and other charitable organizations in OIC Member States to continue to extend economic, humanitarian and other assistance through appropriate channels aimed at helping displaced people in areas affected by conflict in Mindanao.
17. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.3/31-MM

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

The Thirty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani, 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

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

Realizing 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 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 guarantees the rights of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace such as to use their Turkish language, to practice their religious rites and to elect freely their representatives in all fields;

Further recalling UN General Assembly Declaration on 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 Agreements to which Greece is a party;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the issue of the Turkish Muslim Minority of Western Thrace in Greece (Document No.ICFM/31-2004/MM/SG-REP.3);

1. Condemns the judicial harassment of the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini, Mr. Mehmet Emin Aga and Mr. Ibrahim Serif.
2. Demands that the necessary steps for the election of the administration board of the Waqfs be taken to enable their self-governance.
3. Urges Greece to take all measures to respect the rights of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and urgently recognize the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini as the official Muftis.
4. Requests the Secretary General to inquire the authenticity of the continuing reports about the destruction of Mosques and Muslim cemeteries and present a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.
5. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.4/31-MM

ON THE MUSLIM MINORITY IN MYANMAR

The Thirty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani, 1425H (14-16 June 2004),

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, dispersion, and deprivation 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/31-2004/MM/SG.REP.4);

1. Commissions the Islamic Contact Group entrusted under Resolution No.38/24-P with considering the conditions of Muslim communities and minorities, to monitor violations of the rights of the Muslim minority in Myanmar and submit a 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. Urges the government of Myanmar to review its treatment of Muslims in Myanmar and to enact necessary laws founded on human dignity and on equality of all citizens without discrimination.
4. Requests the OIC Secretary General to hold further contacts with the parties concerned and to report thereon to the next Ministerial Conference.
5. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the situation of the Muslim Minority in Myanmar and to submit a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.