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News : World Islamic Call Council issues final communiqué at the end of its 20th session in Istanbul - Turkey

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conclusion of it proceedings, held in the Turkish city of Istanbul, between the 25th and 27th of April 2010 inclusive, the World Islamic Call Council at its 20th Session issued the following statement.

Text of the statement:

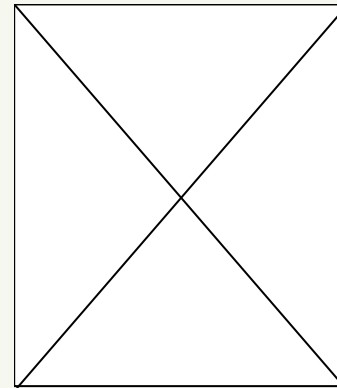
The proceedings of the 20th session of the World Islamic Call Council, held in the Turkish city of Istanbul from At-Tayr (April) 25 to 27, 1378



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DP (2010) was attended by the council members, guests and hundreds of scholars and representatives of Muslim organizations, heads of Sufi orders and officials of Waqf in Turkey.



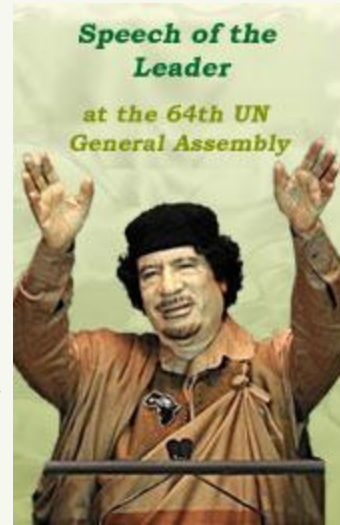
The opening ceremony was attended by the Turkish Minister of State for Religious Affairs, Mr. Farouk Calik and Vice Chairman of Religious Affairs, Mr. Mohamed Qurmaz, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Dr. Abdel Aziz al-Tweijri and the representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Dr. Salim Hun.



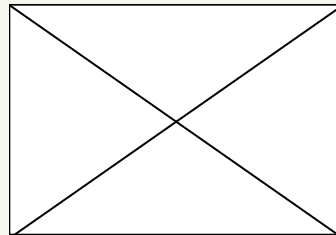
The ceremony began with the recitation of some verses from the Holy Qur'an, which was followed by the opening speech delivered by the General Secretary of the Council.

The General Secretary conveyed the salutations of Brother Mu'ammr Al-Gaddafi, Leader of the World Islamic People's Leadership, to the conference, then observed that the Council members are proud to meet in Istanbul; a city with a rich Islamic heritage and distinguished historical contributions to human

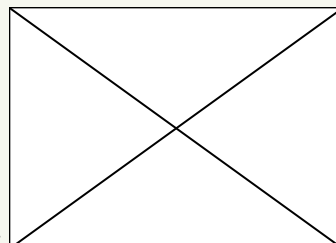
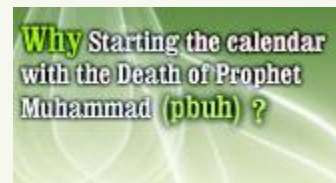
civilization. He thanked Turkey from the President to the Government , to its people for accepting to host the conference.



The Council's General Secretary, who is also the Secretary of the World Islamic Call Society, briefed the opening session on the role of the World Islamic Call Society and its Executive Council, and its areas of cooperation with international and regional organizations. He also highlighted the fruitful meeting between some members of the Council and His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey on the evening of April 24th in the capital Ankara, during which they exchanged views and ideas on a number of Islamic issues.



The General Secretary, in his speech, also affirmed that Islam is a religion of goodness and love, and that Muslims believe in all the previous messages; and object to affronts to any of them; and respect the cultures of others and cooperate with everyone in order to bring about stability and to promote justice and peace in the world. Simultaneously, they (Muslims) reject desecration of their sanctuaries and the undermining of



the principles of their faith. In this particular regard, the Secretary general pointed to the Swiss racist ban on the construction of minarets, saying that this move encourages racism and opens the door to hostility towards Islam and its symbols.



He was followed by Mr. Mohamed Kormaz, Deputy Chairman of Religious Affairs in Turkey, who expressed his appreciation and gratitude for this year's choice of the prestigious Islamic city of Istanbul as the venue for the 20th session of the Council. He praised the role of the World Islamic Call Society in introducing Islamic heritage and serving its cause. He also prayed that the conference achieve its objective.

Then Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director-General of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Dr. Salim Hun, Representative of the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) addressed the opening session, respectively. They both expressed their appreciation

for the positive cooperation between WICS on the one hand and ISESCO and OIC on the other and also articulated their readiness and determination to strengthen that cooperation. They also commended the inestimable role being played by Brother Mu'ammarr Al-Gaddafi – Leader of the World Islamic People's Leadership (WIPL) in defense of Islamic causes and his support to the two institutions within the framework of introducing Islam as a religion, culture and civilization. They also lauded the role of the World Islamic Call Society, and the willingness of ISESCO and the OIC to consolidate their cooperation with it to serve the Islamic nation, defend its identity and bring to light its contribution to world civilization.

On behalf of the members of the World Islamic Call Council, Dr. Nevzat Yalsnattash, one of the founding members of the Council, stressed on the status of Turkey in the Islamic world; and welcomed the Council members and guests to Istanbul, a city whose horizon is bejeweled by three thousand minarets, as if responding to the Swiss racist move to impose a ban on the building of minarets in Switzerland. He described the

position of the WIPL Leader Brother Mu'ammr Al-Gaddafi, as an outstanding Islamic stance in responding to that affront. He also highlighted the importance of intercommunication among Muslim countries, and praised Turkey's role in this area.

At the end of the opening session, Mr. Farouk Calik – State Minister for Religious Affairs in Turkey welcomed the Council members to the ancient city of Istanbul on behalf of the Turkish Government, on the "week of the birth of the Prophet," an occasion which is meant to inspire from the fountain of its nobility. He also affirmed the commitment of his country to enhance communication with the Muslim world and that it has taken concrete steps in that direction.

Mr. Farouk Calik also extended thanks and appreciation to the Libyan Leader, Mu'ammr Al-Gaddafi, for supporting the rights of every Muslim and redeeming the oppressed in the world. He also noted in his speech that the principles of Islam reject all forms of violence and terrorism, and consider the killing of the innocent an unforgivable crime. He also

condemned the phenomenon of Islamophobia, which is abusive to Islam and its symbols. He then urged Muslim leaders to increase their efforts and coordinate their actions to deal with this phenomenon in order to present Islam as a religion of transparency and tolerance and one that embraces all previous divine messages.

In the first working session, the Rapporteur-General observed that the quorum is present with 33 members attending and only three members absent due to unavoidable circumstances. The draft agenda was then presented to the conference, which is as follows:

- Report of the General Secretariat on WICS's various activities during the period between the 19th and 20th sessions of the Council.
- Report on the activities of WICS with various international and regional institutions and organizations.
- Report on the Faculty of Islamic Call and its branches; and the Islamic College in London.
- Reports of the members of the Council on Islamic cultural activities.

- Contemporary Islamic issues.
- Administrative issues.

Accordingly, the Council reviewed the first three items, namely reports by the General Secretariat, WICS's cooperation with international and regional organizations and the Faculty of Islamic Call and its branches.

After lengthy and detailed deliberations, the following recommendations were formulated:

- The need to activate the participation of the members of the Council in the activities organized by WICS in their geographical locations, or according to their specialties and interests, and to strengthen the link between them.
- Following up of graduates of the Faculty of Islamic Call, documenting their work and strengthening links with the Faculty, as well as coordination of their cultural and call activity.

- Doubling efforts in developing the work of the preachers, especially in the African continent, and working on increasing their numbers, particularly in densely populated countries in the eastern part of the African continent.

- Enhancing the performance of radio broadcasts, and working on expanding their coverage in space and time, organizing courses for those in charge of these stations, and taking advantage of all local da'wa potentials in that regard.

Regarding the fourth item, the Council listened to a number of reports from its members about their activities in various cultural aspects, the discussions and deliberations on those reports and the following recommendations were made:

- Expanding the area of religious dialogue and cultural exchanges to include religions which are widespread in Southeast Asia, including Buddhism and Hinduism, and investing in the capabilities of Muslim figures from the region

towards that aim.

- Paying more attention to Muslim minorities in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, and strengthening cooperation with Islamic societies in those countries and contributing to the alleviation of the suffering of Muslim refugees from those countries in Malaysia and Bangladesh, in coordination with the private and public sectors of each of those countries.

- Activating the programs of religious education, and instilling moral values in the minds of the youth by investing in incorporating the teachings and lessons of the biography of Prophet Muhammad and Islamic history in the curricula used in teaching children, particularly in primary school.

- Working towards widening the circle of relief activities in general and more particularly in the Horn of Africa, and benefitting from the national Islamic expertise in Kenya, Uganda and other countries in the region.

- Paying more attention to the teaching of Arabic and developing its acquisition methods, encouraging the use of the Arabic script in writing African languages and supporting libraries and related institutions in promoting a culture of reading among the young.

- Doubling efforts in caring for women and expanding her responsibilities in da'wa in different continents, supporting female students to offer courses in applied science and legal studies, besides organizing training courses to increase da'wa efficiency at the cultural and educational levels.

- The Council also expressed its appreciation for all the legal efforts that seek to condemn the crimes committed by the Zionist entity against our holy places and our brothers in Palestine, which were presented before the international courts, and it called for more support to be allocated towards these efforts as well as better coordination between the legal institutions that have embarked on the task.

- Emphasizing the importance of experimenting the Awqaf system as

implemented in Islamic history, promoting its objectives and reviving its role in the service of da'wa and education within a contemporary vision, encouraging the investments of funds from Muslim individuals and institutions for the work of introducing Islam as a religion, culture and civilization and financing other da'wa activities.

Within the framework of the fifth item on the agenda, the Council discussed a number of contemporary Islamic issues and their impact on da'wa and cultural development. After lengthy interventions and discussions, the members of the Council affirmed the following:

- The Council calls for the Muslims' participation: from popular to governmental levels to support our brothers in Palestine against the campaign of ethnic cleansing and the process of "transferring the dead bodies" of hundreds of thousands of them from their ancestral homeland; and also calls upon all those who support truth and justice in the world to act against such crimes which contradict all norms and international conventions.

- Doing everything possible to reveal the Zionist crimes against Islamic sanctities in Palestine, at the forefront of which is Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is exposed to risk of judaization and demolition, and also what the dwellers of Al-Quds continue to face in terms of crimes at the hand of the Zionist entity who are trying to change the demographic status of the city. The Council also stresses on the dangers involved in tearing apart Palestinian territories and transforming them into scattered "cantons" left at the mercy of the racist occupier. It also calls for the adoption of a single democratic state, home to Christians, Muslims and Jews and the return of refugees displaced by the occupation of towns and villages.

- The Council condemns all kinds of siege, starvation and methods of collective punishment, especially the injustices suffered by our brothers in Gaza by the unjust embargo that has killed innocent, exposed many of them to hunger, disease and cold, and calls upon all Islamic forces to condemn the embargo and to work towards

lifting it.

- The Council also made a follow-up on some of the consequences of Islamophobia, particularly the Swiss racist decision to ban the building of minarets on its territory; and decided to issue a statement outlining the position of the Council on this attack, and formed a committee to follow-up, coordinate and discuss relevant issues. The Committee includes:

Mr. Ibrahim Al-Goeil - Rapporteur-General.

Mr. Mubarak Al-Mutawa - member of the Council.

Professor Abu Zeid Muqri Idrissi - member of the Council.

Mr. Ibrahim Tabu - General Secretariat.

During the review of the sixth item on administrative issues, the Council selected its executive committee as follows:

Sheikh Qureshi Nias - Africa
Sheikh Mohammed Sadiq Yusuf - Asia

Sheikh Salah al-Din Al-Mustawi - the Arab World

Dr. Mahmoud Mustafa Ayoub - The Americas

Ms. Nora Zaccai - Europe

In addition to the Secretary-General

and the Rapporteur-General, with
their status intact.

At the conclusion of its
proceedings, the Council sent a
cable of thanks and appreciation to
the Prime Minister of the Republic
of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip
Erdogan and to Brother Mu'ammarr
Al-Gaddafi, Leader of WIPL.

Istanbul, Republic of Turkey - 25-
27 / 04 / 2010

