



In an Emergency Meeting of the Troika and Palestine Committee:

PUIC Confronts U.S. Decision on Al-Quds



The PUIC Presidential Troika and the PUIC Standing Committee on Palestine held an Emergency Meeting in Tehran, on 18 December 2017, at the kind invitation of the Islamic Parliament of Iran. In response to the decision of the US Administration on recognizing Al-Quds as the Capital of the occupying Zionist entity and transferring the US embassy to this city. The PUIC Presidential Troika met in Espinas Hotel, Tehran, on 18, December, 2017, with the attendance of the three presidents

of PUIC Sessions namely: H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, President of the (next) 13th Session of the PUIC Conference, Chairman of the Meeting of the Presidential troika, H.E. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali, President of the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference and H.E. Mr. Salim Abdullah Al-Jubouri, Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq, President of the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference. [See page 10](#)

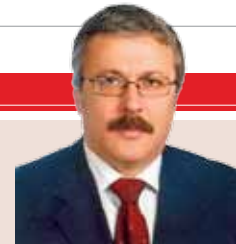
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PUIC Organs Meeting in Tehran

The Capital City of the Islamic Republic of IRAN, Tehran, will witness the convening of meetings of PUIC organs covering the period from 13 to 17 JANUARY, 2018. The culmination of these meetings will be the 13th Session of the annual PUIC Conference which brings together Speakers of Member Parliaments or their representatives. The PUIC organs and related bodies are: Executive Committee, Committee on Palestine, Women Parliamentarians Conference, General Committee, Secretaries General Association, Meetings of the 4 Specialized Standing Committees (Political Affairs and Foreign Relations, Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs, Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions, Economic Affairs and Environment) and Consultation Meetings of Arab, African and Asian Groups. [See page 5](#)

Editorial



Dear Reader

The The decisive stance of the overwhelming majority of the world states vis-a-vis the unjust decision of the U.S. Administration to declare the city of AL-Quds as the capital of the Zionist entity, and its intention to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city has underlined the clear isolation of the U.S.A. and the Zionist entity in the world arena. Instead of seeing the necessity of changing their course and returning to the road demanded by rationality, reality and international legitimacy, the two entities have continued to head for the erroneous destination. Not only this, but they have taken to insult the world community and use the weapons of threat and blackmail.

Having lost logic and political orientation, the Prime Minister of the Zionist entity described the UN General Assembly as the "House of Lies". This is not the first, and certainly not the last, that this entity throws dirt on a world forum that groups all countries of the world. The USA, having been defeated at the UN Security Council which compelled it to use the "Veto", threatened to use financial sanctions against any state that votes against Trump's decision. However, the world community stood by the principles of legitimacy, peace and security.

Certainly, the U.S. decision on Al-Quds was based on a faulty calculation. The fast Islamic response was strong, unified and commensurate with the deep-rooted religious symbolism of the city of Al-Quds and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque. The two are also a red line that cannot be overstepped irrespective of the sacrifices involved. The numerous meetings and conferences, held in various regions of the globe, and the adopted resolutions and stances, reflect the formidable resolve of the Islamic Nation to confront this rash challenge and imminent threat to the sanctities of the Nation. Muslims have realized that the U.S. move is only one step which will be followed by more catastrophic steps which, if not met with the power of unity of rank and discourse as well as avoidance of discourse and fragmentation, may result in threatening the existential survival of the entire Ummah.

We must substantially make use of the world consensus in favour of the Muslim cause through maintaining contact even with those powers which have not taken positive supportive position in our favour. We must also make the whole world realize that the city of Al-Quds, being the cradle of divine religions and a place of worship, is the concern of all human beings who love peaceful coexistence, understanding and tolerance. ❖



Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran to the “PUIC”: Practical Steps to Undermine the U.S. – Zionist Conspiracy

Introduction:

H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran was interviewed by the “PUIC”. His Excellency addressed the most important issues in the Islamic and international arena: Palestine and the unjust U.S. decision on Al-Quds; Muslim Unity; the Rohingya; Creation of a global Islamic current; confronting seditions and conspiracies; and the position of Africa upon the world stage.

Excerpts:

Developments in Palestinian Arena

“PUIC”: The Islamic Parliament of Iran, in coordination with the PUIC General Secretariat, has proposed “Al-Quds” to be the motto to the PUIC Conference. Could we be enlightened on the most recent developments in the Palestinian arena; and Trump’s decision on recognizing Al-Quds as the capital of the Zionist entity and transferring the U.S. embassy to the holy city?

Dr. Larijani: The new American conspiracy is to weaken and waste the energy of Muslim states. Now they believe that they have already affected, to some extent, the power of Muslims. This is the reason behind escalating the issue of Al-Quds. If they succeed in moving the capital of the Zionist entity to Al-Quds, then this entity will launch new adventures in the region. We will blame ourselves in the coming years if we do not take practical steps today concerning these conspiracies. I believe that the Parliaments of Islamic States can urge their respective governments to extend support to the Palestinians.

All the Islamic States must be vigilant about the move to make Al-Quds capital of the Zionist entity. This is not a small matter. The PUIC Presidential Troika and the Palestine Committee met in Tehran. Through presenting realistic analyses, the participants made the issue crystal clear. In the PUIC Conference we shall consider the matter more closely in order to find practical solutions in this regard to put at the disposal of the Islamic governments. Boycotting the Zionist entity is the least move to be done by Muslim States under the current circumstances.

I believe that the parliaments of Islamic States ought to recognize the city of Al-Quds as the eternal capital of Palestine.

All of us must sincerely defend the Palestinian people. This people is not defending its land only but this people is the first line of defence, defending all Muslim States, We all need to defend the struggle of this people. Palestinians do not owe us a favour. We should not expect them to offer us anything in return. In fact offering them support is an Islamic obligation.

The Palestinian arena needs today internal solidarity. We request all Palestinian parties, in recognition of current circumstances, to put aside their differences, and stand, united and solidified, in the face of international conspiracies that target the Palestinian cause. Indeed, this is a national obligation. All Muslim States must renounce their differences and rally to the cause of Palestine and AL-Quds. We, in return, aspire to brotherly relations with all Muslim States; we consider all of them as brothers.

The Rohingya Tragedy

“PUIC”: The harsh injustice against the innocent Rohingya Muslims is among the most important issues of the Islamic world. What do you, Excellency, expect the Tehran Conference to do about this tragedy?

Dr. Larijani: The horrible events, massacres, suppression, forcible dispersion of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims bring agony to the souls of all honest people. The terrifying scenes of the daily and organized butchery of women, men, children and the old are evidence of a new and huge human catastrophe taking place in our age.

What is more heartbreaking is the silence of those who claim to defend human rights in addition to some governments and international organizations which nonchalantly continue to view such frightening events as well as human rights violations and genocide of Muslims in Myanmar.

I must stress the accountability of the Myanmar government and the necessity of supporting the Muslim minority in the country. We definitely demand the intervention of a world fact-finding commission to investigate into the prevailing conditions in the area, send humanitarian assistance and address the matter immediately.

Pursuant to the UN Charter and international resolutions we affirm the necessity of avoiding patterns of behavior based on double standards when dealing with human rights issues.

We also stress the responsibility of all governments, parliaments as well as international institutions and organizations for establishing peace and security in the region, and extending support to the Rohingya Muslim people. It is obvious that the parliament Speakers meeting in Teheran will conduct consultations on this issue.

Necessity of Islamic Unity

“PUIC”: Differences inside the Muslim Ummah constitute the major challenge facing the Islamic World. Islamic unity, on the other hand, is an extremely significant issue. What are,

- Supporting Palestine is a Muslim Obligation
- We Demand a UN Fact-Finding Commission for the Rohingya Tragedy
- Muslim Solidarity Creates Huge World Current
- Washington Seeks to Ignite Shia-Sunni War
- Africa’s Renaissance Soon

in your view, the root causes of these differences and how can they be addressed?

Dr. Larijani: Our conviction is that all Muslims are equal and that they must live a good and honorable life. Comparing the present time and three decades ago, we recognize the progress which Muslims have made today.

Muslim countries may integrate their capabilities and potentials and these create a formidable current in the world. Let us consider the example of Europe. The population of the European Union does not exceed 500 million. However, they have recognized that by coming together they may colonize Muslim states. The population of Muslim countries is a billion and a half billion who are connected with close bonds, and consider themselves are brothers in religion. Through integration Muslims can become a massive power.

While Muslims were making progress during the past three decades, their enemies were hatching plots to stop this progress. To achieve this they have resorted to instigating seditions through escalation of sectarian differences among them.

When the USA occupied Iraq with the intention of imposing a long-term control, it was also intending to fan the embers of





**President of the 13th Session of
the PUIC Conference (Iran)**

Ali Larijani

Born in 1957 in a highly prominent religious family in Najaf. He is married and has two sons and two daughters.

● **Education and Studies:**

- B.Sc. in Mathematics and Computer, Sharif University of Technology, 1979
- MA in Western Philosophy, Tehran University, 1981
- PhD in Western Philosophy, Tehran University, 1984

● **Academic Career:**

- University Professor
- Faculty Member at Tehran University

● **Executive Career:**

- Director General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) Foreign Networks
- Director General of IRIB Central News Bureau
- Managing Director of IRIB, 1981-82
- Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs
- Deputy Minister of Post and Telecommunications and Telephone

- Minister of Guidance and Islamic Culture, 1991-1993

- President of IRIB, 1994-2004

- Supreme Leaders' representative to the Supreme National Security Council

- Secretary General of the Supreme National Security Council, 2005

● **Parliamentary Career:**

- Member of Parliament from Qom Constituency in the current term of the Parliament
- Speaker of Parliament since 2008

● **Other positions:**

- Member of the State Expediency Council
- Member of the High Cultural Revolutionary Council

● **Publications:**

- Mathematical Method in the Philosophy of Kant
- Metaphysics and Exact Sciences in the Kant's Philosophy
- Intuition and a priori propositions in the Kant's Philosophy. ♦

war between the Shia and Sunnah. There are also extremist groups that have infiltrated into the Muslim ranks. These groups consider all Muslim bodies as infidels except themselves. Sunnies and Shiites have lived in peace in Iraq through the years. However, the Americans have been seeking to cause schism between Shiites and Sunnis in Iraq and between other Muslim groups in the other states of the region.

Intelligence services of foreign countries are behind those who create differences between the Shia and Sunnah. At the same time we should not treat those who sow discord among Muslims with extremist patterns of behavior. Our actions must proceed from genuine Muslim unity which looks to the future.

Regrettably there are those who seek to maintain the scourge of the breakdown of security. They know that prolonging differences between Shia and Sunnah would allow the USA and the Zionist entity to realize their anti-Muslim objectives. We must, therefore, be vigilant, vis-à-vis how to deal with this plague.

Islamic sects, whether Shia or Sunnah, do not differ over the fundamentals of the religion. But Americans do not like the two groups to unite because if they do this, the Americans will fail to achieve their objectives. I believe that Islamic Parliaments have a historical mission that they should accomplish in this regard.

Parliamentary Diplomacy

"PUIC": What in your view are the measures that ought to be taken in order to energize PUIC role in the field of Parliamentary diplomacy?

Dr. Larijani: The PUIC is the second largest Parliamentary Union after the IPU. Its members today are 54 parliaments.

Also the extension of its geographical scope is also striking. Many important African and Asian states are PUIC members. They possess various economic resources. If they forge integrated economic relations they will constitute significant economic pivots in the world. From the point of view of political geography the Islamic domain is one of the most important strategic regions in the globe. The domain also has the most essential water passages making world economies much in need of them. No one can deny the significance of Islamic states in political geography. It is also blessed with one of the richest regions in oil.

African in the Islamic World

At this juncture I would like to refer to the Status of Africa in the Islamic world. Africa is the only country in the world where Islam is number one religion. When we talk about Africa we immediately remember Bilal the Abyssinian. The new identity of Africa has been shaped by Islam. Even non-Islamic African movements have been formed around the pivot of justice and fighting inequity and colonialism. All these movements have accorded special attention to Islam. In view of possessing precious economic resources, Africa will rise soon.

I request all Islamic states to pay special attention to investment in Africa. It will be useful to ponder the activity of China in Africa. Essentially there is no Islamic unity without Africa.

I say, firstly, therefore, the PUIC must give special attention to all its geographical groups. Secondly, the PUIC must conduct the necessary academic studies in order to energize integrated economic relations among its members. Thirdly, the PUIC must take the opportunity of attending parliamentary fora to defend the interests of the Islamic Nation as well as the common positions of Muslims. Lastly, the PUIC must act with more seriousness to follow up implementation of the resolutions of its conferences. ♦



In Tehran Meetings: Important Subjects for Discussion by PUIC Delegations



Tehran, Capital of the Republic of Islamic Republic of IRAN, is hosting important meetings of PUIC organs during the period from Saturday 13 January 2018 to Wednesday 17 January 2018. The meetings are: 39th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, 8th Meeting of the Standing Committee on Palestine, 3rd Consultation Meeting of the Association of Secretaries Generals of Member Parliaments, 6th Meeting of the 4 Standing Specialized Committees (Political Affairs and Foreign Relations; Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs; Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions; Economic Affairs and Environment); 20th Session of the PUIC General Committee, 7th Conference of the Muslim Women Parliamentarians, Consultation Meetings of Arab, African and Asian Groups and 13th Session of the PUIC Conference. Items included in the agendas of these meetings reflect such importance, and underscore their expected impact on joint Islamic Parliamentary action.

Executive Committee Meeting:

The PUIC Executive Committee is scheduled to convene its 39th meeting on Saturday 13th January, 2018. It will consider the items of its agenda which is composed of (11) points, most importantly:

- Updating the Draft Agendas of the 6th Meetings of the:
 - Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
 - Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
 - Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family;
 - Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- And also updating the agendas of:
 - Eight Meeting of the Standing Committee on Palestine;
 - Seventh Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- Third Consultation meeting of the Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- 20th Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- 13th Session of the PUIC Conference.

Committee on Palestine:

The Committee on Palestine will hold its 8th meeting on Saturday 13, January, 2018. It will discuss the items included in its agenda which is

composed of (7) points, including:

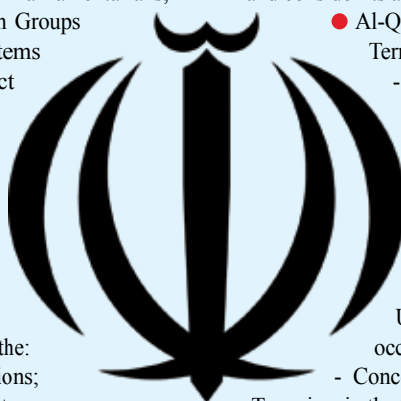
- Review of the recent developments in Palestinian arena. (Representative of the Palestine National Council – Vice Chairman of the Committee)
- Welcoming the accession of the State of Palestine to the Interpol.
- Affirming the importance of the unity of the Palestinian ranks of national reconciliation.

Meetings of the Standing Specialized Committees:

Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations:

This Committee will hold its 6th meeting on Sunday 14, January, 2018, and consider its agenda which is composed of (23) items, including:

- Al-Quds Al Sharif, Palestinian Cause and the occupied Territories in Syria and Lebanon.
 - Situation in Palestine.
 - Role of Islamic Parliaments in confronting Zionist Israeli plans concerning Jewishness of Zionist entity (Israel) and judaization of Al-Quds.
 - Occupied Arab Territories in Syria and Lebanon.
- Combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations:
 - Combating terrorism under the umbrella of the UN and reconfirming the legitimate right to resist occupation and foreign aggression.
 - Concerted management of situation related to acts of Terrorism in the Sub-region of Lake Chad and Africa in general.
- Fetullah Gulen Terrorist Organization (FETO) (Proposed by the Republic of Turkey)
 - Progress made in finalizing the basic project of the OIC Centre for Police Cooperation and Coordination
- Rejection of all types of sanctions imposed on any Muslim country.
- Possible Negative Impacts of passing JASTA
- The inalienable equal and balanced rights of all peoples to have free access and free use of modern technology for peaceful purposes.
- Making the whole Middle East region a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons with no exception.
- Situation in Republic of Iraq.
- Situation in Republic of Sudan.
- Humanitarian situation in Syria



- Situation in Republic of Somalia.
- Situation in Afghanistan.
- Consideration of the situation in Republic of Mali and its effect on neighboring States.
- Consideration of Security situation and the Situation of refugees and returnees in Republic of Chad.
- Conflict Resolution Mechanisms.
- Problem of Migration and Refugees and internally displaced Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar.
- Cooperation and coordination among Muslim States and communities to project the sublime value of Islam and curb the prevailing phenomenon of extremism and violence in the Islamic world and address their root causes.
- Situation in Cyprus. (Proposed by the Republic of Turkey)
- Situation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Solidarity with Muslim Minorities around the world.
 - Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim population of the Dodecanese. (Proposed by the Republic of Turkey)
 - Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.
 - Cause of Muslims in Southern Philippines.
 - Muslim Minority in Central Africa.
 - Situation of Muslim Tatars in Crimea.
- Consideration of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region.
- Combating intolerance, Islamophobia, and xenophobia.

Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family:

This Committee will hold its 6th meeting on Sunday 14 January 2018, and discuss its agenda which is composed of (14) items, including:

- Ongoing human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.
- Ongoing Human Rights Violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir
- Coordination in international and regional fora on Human Rights issues among the States of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Enhancing the role of women in all development aspects in PUIC Member States, including their participation in decision making positions.
- Preventing the exploitation of women in commodity promotions.
- Participation of women in the delegations of the PUIC Conferences.

- Promoting the Status of Youth in the Islamic World.
- Child care and protection in the Islamic world.
- The Role of the Islamic Parliaments in Promoting Basic Health among PUIC Member States.
- Study presented by the National Assembly of the Sudan on hosting the Islamic Health Centre in the Sudan.
- Custody problems of Muslim Migrant Families in Europe.
- Supporting societal peace in areas liberated from the control of terrorist groups.

Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs, and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions:

This Committee will hold its 6th meeting on Sunday 14 January 2018 and discuss its agenda which is composed of (8) items, including:

- Encouraging the teaching of Arabic language to students from non-Arabic-speaking Islamic States.
- Protecting the Al Aqsa Mosque against Zionist Israeli threats.
- Protection of Holy Places in Muslim States.
- Following up the protection of the Islamic cultural heritage, religious and endowment institutions in non-Muslim countries.
- Dialogue among Civilizations with special emphasis on facing Western Campaigns against Islamic values.
- Alliance of Civilizations (Proposed by the Republic of Turkey)

Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment:

This Committee will hold its 6th meeting on Sunday 14 January 2018, and discuss its agenda which is composed of (14) items, including:

- Increasing Trade Exchange and Lowering Trade Barriers among OIC Member States.
- Confronting Unilateral and Multilateral Sanctions affecting the people of targeted States.
- Energizing and supporting economic Institutions active in the field of development in the Islamic World.
- Dealing with foreign debts of Islamic States.
- Environmental issues and sustainable development.
- Combating desertification particularly in African Sahel States.
- Cooperation in the field of preserving of water resources in States Member Parliaments.
- Combating sand and dust storms.
- Enhancing cooperation in the field of environmental protection and combating climatic change.





- Cooperation among PUIC Member Parliaments in Science and Technology.
- Commission of the Chad Lake Basin, in acronym LCBC.
- International parliamentary cooperation in overcoming natural disasters, particularly in the framework of extending relief.

Muslim Women Parliamentarians Conference:

This Conference holds its 7th session on Monday 45 January 2018, and considers its agenda which is composed of (8) items, including:

- Women abilities for solving local and regional problems and conflicts.
- Protecting Muslim Women and Children in areas under occupation and conflicts, especially in Palestine, and other conflict-ridden countries.

Consultative Meeting of the Secretaries General:

The Secretaries General will hold the 3rd Consultative Meeting on Saturday 13 January 2018, and will discuss their agenda which is composed of (6) items, mainly:

- Discussing the conception of the activities of the Association in the light of the Rules of Procedure.

20th Session of the General Committee:

The General Committee will hold its 20th session on Monday 15 January 2018, and will consider its agenda, which is composed of (9) items, including:

- Adoption of the following financial documents of the Union:
 - Report of the Financial Control Committee on the Accounts of the Fiscal year 2017.
 - Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2018.
- Formation of an Open-ended Committee chaired by the Conference Rapporteur with the participation of the Rapporteurs of the Four Standing Specialized Committees (S.S.C.s) in order to draft the Final Communiqué of the Conference.
- Updating the Draft Agenda for the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference.

Consultative Meetings of Geographical Groups:

The three geographical groups (African, Asian and Arab) will hold their Consultative meetings on Monday 15 January 2018:

African Group:

- Election of the President of the 15th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session. (proposal from Burkina Faso from the African Group)
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the African Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2018.

- Consultation for hosting the PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the four Standing Specialized Committees from the African Group for 2018
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the African Group for 2018.

Asian Group:

- Election of the President of the 16th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Asian Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2018.
- Consultation for hosting the PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the four Standing Specialized Committees from the Asian Group for 2018
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the Asian Group for 2018.

Arab Group:

- Election of the President of the 14th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session. (Proposal from the Kingdom of Morocco from the Arab Group)
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Arab Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2018.
- Consultation for hosting the PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the four Standing Specialized Committees from the Arab Group for 2018
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the Arab Group for 2018.

PUIC Conference:

The PUIC Conference will hold its 13th Session on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17, January, 2018. Participants will consider during this period subjects included in the agenda which is composed of (19) items, mainly:

- Examination and adoption of the Reports and the Draft Resolutions presented by the Rapporteurs of the four Standing Specialized Committees.
- Examination and adoption of the Reports and Draft Resolutions of:
 - Eighth Meeting of the Committee on Palestine.
 - Seventh Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
 - Third Consultation meeting of the Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Election of the PUIC Secretary General
- Re-appointment of the PUIC Assistant Secretary General for another term. (proposed by the Host Country)
- Nomination of the Members of the PUIC General Committee for the year 2018.
- Nomination of Members of the PUIC Executive Committee for the year 2018.
- Nomination of the Members for the PUIC Specialized Standing Committees for the year 2018.
- Defining the date and venue of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference (Kingdom of Morocco from the Arab Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference (Burkina Faso from the African Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference (from the Asian Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 40th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.
- Adoption of the Final Report of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Tehran Declaration and Final Communiqué of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference. ❖



Highlights of Palestine National Council

The Palestine National Council (PNC) constitutes the highest authority of the Palestine people wherever they may be. The PNC draws up PLO policies and programmes for the sake of realizing the legitimate national rights which are materialized in the return to the homeland, independence, sovereignty and establishment of the independent state with AL-Quds as its capital.

PNC Tasks:

- Drawing up policies, plans and programs of the PLO and its organs.
- Discussing the annual report submitted by the Executive Committee on PLO achievements.
- Discussing programmes submitted by the Executive Committee as well as recommendations made by PNC committees.
- Considering the annual report of the National Fund and adopting the budget.

Al-Quds is the permanent Seat of the PNC. However there is a main office of the Council in Amman. The PNC also opened two branches in Ghaza and Ramallah after the establishment of the PLO. Members of the Palestinian National Legislature (PNC) are also PNC members.

Speaker's Bureau:

The Bureau is composed of the Speaker, two Deputy Speakers and Secretary whom the PNC elect at the beginning of its convocation. Bureau members are elected by secret ballot, and absolute majority of members present.

Bureau Powers:

- Supervising PNC proceedings and discussions according to the provisions of the regulations. It draws up the system for writing the minutes of the sessions and the secretariat of the committees.
- The bureau meets in response to a call by the Speaker. Meetings are held in camera and no one, except its members can attend its meetings except the administrative secretary.

The meetings are not deemed valid without the attendance of the majority of the members. Resolutions are taken by absolute majority. When votes are equal the side having the Speaker will win.

Holding Sessions:

- Sessions are held in camera. No one is allowed to attend except when the Council decides otherwise.
- The Council is regularly held once a year by an invitation from its Speaker. It can hold an extraordinary session by a call from its Speaker based on a request from its Executive Committee or from a quarter of the PNC members. If the Speaker does call for such a meeting it will be considered as held in venue and time specified in the request of its members or the request of its Executive Committee.
- The Council shall not be held except with a quorum of two thirds of its members at least.
- Resolutions are taken by a majority of the votes of members present except in special cases where it is provided otherwise.
- The Speaker prepares the Agenda and informs the Members thereof before the start of the parliament's convocation at least one week before.
- The Speaker, with the approval of the Council, announces the closing of the Council's term.
- There shall be no discussion of any subject not included in the Agenda except upon a request by the Executive Committee or the Speaker and the approval of the Council; or upon a written request by twenty members at least and approved by the Council.

Minutes of Session:

Each session has minutes containing details of all the procedures of the session, subjects, discussions and resolutions.

- The minutes shall be circulated to the members and are presented to the Council for ratification in the first sitting after circulation.

● Following ratification the minutes are signed by the Speaker, his two Vice-Speakers and the Secretary.

Speaking Order:

No one may be allowed to speak without requesting it and following permission of the Speaker of the Council. The Speaker shall not refuse permission to speak except for a reason provided in the Regulations. When there is a difference over this matter, the opinion of the Council is taken, and the matter is decided discussion. The Secretary writes without down requests for speaking according to the priority of the request.

General Budget:

● The Speaker of the Council refers the Draft General Budget to the Committee on Financial Affairs for giving an opinion thereon.

● Chairmen of Committees shall participate in the meetings of the Financial Affairs Committee to express their opinions concerning the budget of the section of the Committee which each of them chairs.

Closing Discussion:

● The Speaker may close discussion if he is of the view that the subject has been sufficiently discussed.

It may be proposed to close discussion upon a written request signed by 20 members. The Council may decide upon any of the two cases.

● Closing discussion may not be raised unless 3 of the supporters of the subject and 3 of opponents of the subjects at least have taken the floor.

Revocation of Membership:

The Council shall consider revocation of membership in the following cases:

- a- If the member was absent for three successive sittings without permission of the Council or without an acceptable excuse.
- b- If the member is recruited by a foreign non-Arab government, institution or State which raises doubt about his national integrity.
- c- If he acts contrary to the basic PLO Charter.

Membership:

PNC Members are elected by direct balloting by the Palestinian people according to a system drawn up by the PLO Executive Committee for this purpose.

In case it is not possible to hold PNC elections the Council shall continue until conditions for elections are feasible.

Committees:

1- Legal Committee.



2- Foreign and Parliamentary Affairs Committee.

3- Education Committee.

4- Committee on Culture, Science and Arts.

5- Fact-Finding Committee.

6- Political Committee.

7- Refugee Affairs Committee.

8- Control and Accountancy Committee.

9- Al-Quds Affairs Committee.

The Council has the right to constitute committees for certain purposes, abolish some of existing committees, or integrates the work of two or more committees into one committee.

PNC Representation in Parliamentary Unions and Fora:

● Arab Parliamentary Union

● Arab Parliament

● InterParliamentary Union (IPU).

● OIC

● Afro-Arab Parliamentary Union.

● Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

● Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member states (PUIC)

● Euro-Med Parliamentary Assembly.

● Asian Parliamentary Assembly

● Euro Med Parliament Speakers Conference.

● Arab Parliamentarians Against Corruption organizations.

● Forum of African and Arab States Parliamentarians for Population and Development.

● Observer at All-Africa Parliaments in 2017. ❖

Speaker of the National Assembly of Palestine

Saleem Deeb Al- Zanoon

Date and Place of Birth: 28/12/1933, Gaza
Palestinian politician and lawyer.

- Attorney General in Palestine and Kuwait.
- Member of PLO Central Committee
- Speaker of PNC
- Head of Palestinian Constitutional Committee since 2011.
- Head of Committee charged with preparing election system for PNC.

Education:

- Studied Law at Cairo University and holder of B.A. in 1955.
- Diploma of Higher Studies in Law from Cairo University in 1967.
- Diploma of Higher studies in Political Economy from same university in 1958.

Posts and Responsibilities:

- Acting Attorney General in Gaza in 1955-1960.
- Attorney General in Kuwait.
- Lecturer in Police College in Kuwait until 1975.
- Member of the Committee on drawing up Kuwait's penal law.

Political Life:

- Secretary General of Association of Palestinian Students, Cairo, 1954-1955.
- Led popular resistance in Gaza Strip during the tripartite aggression on Egypt, 1956-1957.
- Vice-Speaker of PNC 1969.
- Acting PNC Speaker, 1993-1996.
- Unanimously elected PNC Speaker in 1996.
- Member of the PLO Central Committee.

Publications:



- 5 poetry books.
- Book on Criminal investigation
- Several legal and political studies.
- Memoirs 2013.
- Khulud Al-Ghawafi- Poetry book 2015. ❖



In Emergency Meetings:

PUIC Troika and Palestine Committee Consider Attempts to Alter Status of Al-Quds

In response to the decision of the US Administration on recognizing Al-Quds as the Capital of the occupying Zionist entity and transferring the US embassy to this city, the PUIC Presidential Troika and The PUIC Standing Committee on Palestine held an Emergency Meeting in Tehran, on 18 December 2017, at the kind invitation of the Islamic Parliament of Iran.

The Emergency Meeting of the PUIC Standing Committee on Palestine:

The Emergency Meeting of the PUIC Standing Committee on Palestine held in Espinas Hotel, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on Monday 18th December, 2017, at 10:30 to considered the implications of the attitude of the US Administration, towards the city of Al-Quds. The Meeting was opened by a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Then H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, President of the (next) 13th Session of the PUIC Conference delivered the opening speech.

The Meeting was attended by Members of the committee, representing the Parliaments of: Algeria, Chad, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Palestine, Senegal and Turkey.

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General also delivered a speech. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Kazem Jalali, representing the Islamic Parliament of Iran. The representative of the Palestine National Council and participating delegations delivered speeches.

The participants adopted the final Communiqué of the Meeting which read as follows:

Proceeding from the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter and the PUIC Statute,

Pursuant to the resolutions adopted by PUIC Conferences and all Islamic meetings on the cause of Palestine, and the city of Al-Quds, in particular, Stressing the centrality of the cause of Palestine and its eternal capital, the city of Al-Quds, for the Muslim Ummah,

Affirming that, pursuant to the UN Security Council Resolution 478 of 1980, all attempts by the Zionist entity, aimed at altering the legal and historical status of the City of Al-Quds, and its Islamic and Christian sanctities, as well as its identity and demographic constitution, are null and void,

Appreciating the initiative of President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Current President of the Islamic Summit

concerning holding the Extraordinary Islamic summit in Istanbul on 13th December, 2017,

Expressing its support for the role assumed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in its capacity as custodian of the holy places in Al-Quds Al Sharif, and for the unshakable stances of the Jordanian waqf department relating to preservation of the sanctity of Haram Sharif and its historical status, considered as a place of worship.

The Meeting has resolved as follows:

1- Affirming the centrality of the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds for the Islamic Ummah and that it is necessary for all states, Parliaments and non- governmental organizations, to cooperate among themselves, and coordinate in international and regional fora aimed at supporting and defending this cause until it prevails and until the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are realized in terms of the return of all the refugees, liberation from occupation and establishment of the independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its Capital.

2- Reiterating that the city of Al-Quds is an integral part of the Palestinian territories; expressing strong condemnation of the occupation authorities for their repeated violations of the sanctities in the City of Al-Quds; denouncing the measures taken by the Zionist entity and its illegal practices which are contradictory to all international laws, that are carried out by the occupation authorities in the City of Al-Quds aimed at Judaizing the Holy city and obliterating its Islamic and Christian landmarks.

3- Rejecting the decision of the US President on Al-Quds, categorically and non-negotiably, considered as a blatant aggression on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, also considered as null, which deepens tension, sets off anger and threatens to push the region towards further violence and chaos and Calls on the UN Security Council a resolution rejecting the decision of the President of the US Administration on Al-Quds.

4- Affirming anew that the duty to defend the City of Al-Quds is the responsibility of all Muslims and Arabs.

5- Supporting the third uprising (Intifada) of the Palestinian people, with all available means, and also enhancing it in the Islamic world, so that every Muslim feels that he is participating in this just uprising

which aims at resisting the Zionist injustice and aggression, with whatever each individual possesses.

6- Stressing that resistance, in all its forms, is a legitimate right, until rights are achieved, foremost of which is the right to return, to establish the independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital, on the land of Palestine.

7- Affirming the necessity of energizing the activity of the funds which have been established for the sake of Al-Quds, and intensifying offering all kinds of financial support, in order to enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in confronting the force of occupation, through providing material support and fulfilling the daily needs of this resisting people.

8- Directing all Islamic efforts towards employing all potentials to enable the Palestinians to acquire their rights, and to avoid all other conflicts.

9- Urging the states which have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to shoulder their historical obligations towards the Palestinian People and their right to establish an independent sovereign state; and inviting the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures to grant the State of Palestine full membership of the United Nations.

10- Expediting the steps for implementing the Palestinian reconciliation accord, aimed at enhancing national unity and rallying all energies in order to counter the imminent dangers facing the cause of Palestine.

11- Calling for energizing the resolutions on proscribing dealing with the Zionist entity, and not to violate the boycott laws, and to reject normalization with this entity in any form, and stressing the necessity of boycotting Israeli and American products in the Islamic World.

12- Expressing appreciation to the Parliaments which have already formed standing Palestine Committees in their administrative structures, and urging the other parliaments which have not done so to take the initiative.

13- Offering sincere thanks and gratitude to the leaders, people and the Islamic Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their kind invitation to hold this Meeting and for the warm reception and generous hospitality.

The PUIC Presidential Troika afterwards held its meeting and adopted the following Final Communiqué:

In response to the decision of the US Administration on recognizing Al-Quds as the Capital of the occupying Zionist entity and transferring the US embassy to this city, the PUIC Presidential Troika on the kind invitation of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, met in Espinas Hotel, Tehran, on 18, December, 2017 at 15:00, with the attendance of the three presidents of PUIC Sessions (past, current, and next), namely:

- H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, President of the (next) 13th Session of the PUIC Conference,

Chairman of the Meeting of the Presidential troika,

- H.E. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali, President of the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference,

- H.E. Mr. Salim Abdullah Al-Jubouri, Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq, President of the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference.

FIRSTLY: The Meeting was opened with a recitation of verses of the Holy Quran.

SECONDLY: H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament, Chaired the meeting.

THIRDLY: H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, PUIC Secretary General, welcomed the attendees.

FOURTHLY: The three Speakers delivered important speeches on this occasion. The Meeting adopted these speeches as its official documents for it.

And following exhaustive discussion, the Meeting adopted the following points:

1- Adopting the Communiqué issued by the PUIC Standing Committee on Palestine, which met in Tehran simultaneously with the meeting of the Presidential Troika and attaching it as a document complementary to this communiqué.

2- Rejecting the decision of the President of the US Administration, categorically and irrevocably, considered as a blatant aggression on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People, as well as a null and void measure that has provoked the sentiments of Muslims, Christians and the entire free people of the world.

3- Extending support and backing to the continuous struggle of the Palestinian people, and considering the resistance, in all its forms, as a legitimate right until the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, primarily, the right to return and to establish the independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital.

4- Calling on the Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU) to terminate the membership of the Knesset of the Israeli entity in the IPU, as a punishment for the aggression of the Zionist entity on international laws.

5- Confirming the necessity of releasing abducted Palestinians and those imprisoned in Israeli jails as well as administratively detained Palestinians, especially Palestinian Parliamentarians.

6- Requesting the Members who are politically and economically connected to the Zionist entity to freeze these relations until the US Administration retracts its erroneous decision concerning the transfer of its embassy to Al Quds.

7- Urging all PUIC Members to effectively and actively participate in the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference scheduled to be held under the motto “Al Quds” on 13- 17 January, 2018, in Tehran. ❖





Highlights of the Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

The Parliament of Guyana, consists of the President and the National Assembly. The parliament has 69 Members, 65 are elected directly and 4 non-elected members. The National Assembly may have up to 72 members. Members are elected for 5 years. The last election was held 11 May 2015, the A Partnership for National Unity - Alliance for Change (APNU-AFC) party got 33 seats and People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) 32 seats in parliament, distribution according to the sex was 48 men and 21 women, it means percentage of women is 30.43%.

Speaker

After each general election, the Members of Parliament elect a Speaker. The Speaker oversees the administration of the House and chairs several committees including the Parliamentary Management Committee.

Committees Business

Parliamentary Committees in the National Assembly can be categorized as:

- (a) Standing Committees;
- (b) Sessional Select Committees;
- (c) Special Select Committees.

There is also the Committee of the Whole Assembly: This Committee meets when the entire membership of the National Assembly is sitting as a Committee to consider a Bill or as the Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates/Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure and Statements of Excess.

Standing Committees

- (a) The Committee of Selection;
- (b) The Parliamentary Management Committee;
- (c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional Reform;
- (d) The Committee on Appointments;
- (e) The Public Accounts Committee;
- (f) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Oversight of the Security Sector;
- (g) The Sectoral Committees:
 - Committee on Natural Resources
 - Committee on Economics Services
 - Committee on Foreign Relations
 - Committee on Social Services.

Sessional Select Committees:

- (a) The Standing Orders Committee;
 - (b) The Assembly Committee;
 - (c) The Committee of Privileges; and
 - (d) The Statutory Instruments Committee.
- The difference between Standing and Sessional Select Committees is that the business and proceedings before a Standing Committee do not lapse as a consequence of the prorogation of Parliament but continue in the ensuing session of the same Parliament.

Special Select Committees

These are appointed for any purpose in which they assist the National Assembly. For example, a Special Select Committee can be appointed to consider or inquire into and, if so empowered, to take evidence upon matters and to report their opinion or observation thereon to the National Assembly.

Membership of Committees

As far as possible, the membership of a Committee is composed to reflect the balance of parties in the Assembly.

The membership of Committees varies from six to ten Members excluding the Speaker, if he or she is the Chairperson, and is restricted to Members of the Assembly in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Staff

Each Committee is provided with a Clerk, who is assisted by an Assistant Clerk, a Researcher, if necessary, and support services from the Committees Division and sometimes from other sections of the Parliament Office.

Departments

Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly

The Clerk of the National Assembly is a Constitutional Office Holder. The Clerk has a public administrative role as well as being a specialist in the rules of parliamentary procedure and practice. As departmental head, the Clerk administers the Parliament Office.

The Legislative Department

This Department comprises of the Supervisor and two (2) Legislative Clerks.

The functions of the Department are:-

- Advise the Speaker of the National Assembly on the admissibility of Bills, Motions, Questions and Amendments;
- To coordinate Private Member's

Business: including Petitions, Motions to adjourn the Assembly on Definite matters of Urgent Public Importance, Questions, Motions, Bills, Notices of Motions and Private Bills.

- To provide advice on Parliamentary Procedure to Members of Parliament, public servants, academics and parliamentary officials from other countries, and also provide advice on Parliamentary Practice and precedents to Members of Parliament.

- To assist in the preparation of the Order Paper and Minutes of the National Assembly.

- To answer queries about the business of the National Assembly.

- To coordinate the external activities of the Parliament of Guyana.

- To receive, number and proof read Bills for grammatical and other errors.

- To ensure all Acts of Parliament are conveyed in a timely manner to the Head of the Presidential Secretariat for His Excellency's assent, and to convey all Acts and Bills of Parliament to the Guyana National Printers for publication and reproduction of copies.

- To keep accurate records of all Bills received by the Parliament Office, Acts passed by the National Assembly, and the sale and distribution of legislation.

- To manage the sale of legislation at the Parliament Office.

The Committee Division

The Committee Division which was established in May 2003 provides secretarial, administrative support and procedural advice to all the Committees of the National Assembly. Each Committee is provided with a Clerk and an Assistant Clerk of Committee and, where necessary a researcher.

Library Department

The Parliamentary library which comprises the research unit of the Parliament Office is the heart of the Parliament as it has the capacity to provide knowledgeable, timely, non-partisan information services to all Members of Parliament, staff and the general public.

Expenditure, Planning & Management

The Finance Department comprises the Expenditure Planning & Management Unit (EPMU). The EPMU deals with budgetary and strategic issues, and advises management on matters relating to financial data of programmes to facilitate informed decision making.

Information Technology Section

The Information Technology Section provides technological support to all members of staff and members of parliament during sittings of the National Assembly, maintains wired and wireless networks, website and live streaming.

Accounts Section

The Accounts Section of the Parliament Office of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana is responsible for the day to day running of the financial aspect of the Office.

This includes the payment of salary and allowances to all the Ministers of the Government, including the Prime Minister, Attorney General, Auditor General, Speaker of the National Assembly, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Leader of the Opposition, Members of Parliament, Clerk of the National Assembly, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly and the staff of the Parliament Office.

Personnel Section

The Personnel Section carries out the processes of recruitment, dismissal, performance appraisal, rules and regulations, leave, records management, preparation of record of service and computation of Members of Parliament (MPs) superannuation benefits, staff welfare and, training and development for the staff of the Parliament Office.

Public Relations Department

The Parliamentary Public Relations Office, which was established in 2009, is administratively responsible to the office of the Clerk.

Purpose

- Foster the good corporate image of the institution of Parliament

- Disseminate accurate information and educate the public on the operations and functions of Parliament

- Enhance the public awareness and understanding of Parliament

Functions

- To facilitate the daily media coverage of Parliament's plenary sitting and committee meetings

- To produce the staff bulletins

- To inform and educate the Public about Parliament

- Conducting tours

- Development of public outreach programs e.g. school outreach

- Television productions

- To stream proceedings

- The preparation of publications and educational material

Media Relations

- Foster good image of Parliament

- To update information on the Parliament website

- To manage the interface between the Parliament of Guyana and other Parliaments

- To manage the interface between the Parliament of Guyana and the wider public

Registry

The Registry Department comprises of the Supervisor, three (3) Typist Clerks, one (1) Telephonist, five (5) Office Assistants and three (3) Vehicle Drivers.

This department is responsible for providing services to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Members of Parliament, Parliament staff and members of the public. The staff of this department is required to be present during sittings of the National Assembly.

The functions of the Department are:-

- Typing of correspondences for the office;

- Compiling and filing of all general and personal files for the office;

- Photocopying of documents for the office;

- Receiving all incoming and dispatching all outgoing correspondences. ❖



The Speaker of the Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

Barton U. A. Scotland

- He is a Guyanese politician and former diplomat. Since 10 June 2015, he has served as Speaker of the National Assembly of Guyana. Scotland formerly worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a senior diplomat and advisor.

He was also the head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation, and a Commissioner on the CARICOM Competition Commission. A lawyer, Scotland holds Master of Laws and PhD (international law) degrees from the University of London.

- In his private practice, he was involved in the areas of Natural Resources and Investment Law and International law. ❖



The 38th PUIC Executive Committee Meeting: Focusing on Rohingya Tragedy

In response to a kind invitation extended by H.E. MIn response to the kind invitation extended by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, the 38th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee was held at the Headquarters of the PUIC General Secretariat, on 7 October, 2017. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali and President of the 12th PUIC Conference.

The Session was attended by Members of Parliaments of: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Benin, Cameroon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Pakistan, Senegal and Turkey. Saudi Arabia was absent.

Speech of the Chairman of the Meeting:

H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali and President of the 12th PUIC Conference offered thanks and appreciation to H.E. the Secretary General and to the General Secretariat for hosting the Meeting and for the good organization.

In his speech he focused on the issue of terrorism and the huge challenges it raises in some of our States. He urged the Islamic World to take the necessary steps in order to realize peace and security in its various regions. He also urged for strengthening relations among Muslim States and parliaments so as to promote cooperation in the economic fields. He requested extension of assistance in favour of the victims of terrorism.

Speech of H.E. the Secretary General:

His Excellency welcomed the honorable Members of the Committee for answering the invitation to participate in the Meeting which was held at the Headquarters of the General Secretariat in Tehran. He also expressed thanks to H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibe Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali, for the good hosting, organizing and presiding over the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference. He further thanked His Excellency Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran whose country is hosting the Seat of the General Secretariat, for their cooperation and coordination with the General Secretariat. He thanked all those who contributed to the preparation of the Meeting.

He hoped that the Meeting, which is being held amid complex international and regional circumstances, will be crowned with all success in preparing and updating agendas that are in touch with and responding to the hopes of our glorious Muslim Ummah in realizing peace, security, development and prosperity.

His Excellency affirmed that the cause of Palestine is on the top of our priorities. He saluted the struggle of the Palestinian People, and condemned the savage practices of the Israeli authorities.

He also affirmed continuation of the war on terrorism and on all organizations that act in the name of religion.

His Excellency appealed to Muslim States to extend urgent humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya Muslims, and requested them to coordinate their efforts with the international community to find durable political solutions that put an end to the tragedy of the Rohingya Muslims. He highly valued coordination among the august Member Parliaments in international issues related to peace, economic, cultural and environmental cooperation:

Then, His Excellency presented his report to the Meeting which covers the period between the date of convening the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference, in Mali, on 27 January, 2017, and the date of holding the 38th Meeting of the Executive Committee, at the Headquarters of the General Secretariat in Tehran. The report contains the following pivots:

- Participation, in an observer capacity, in international fora in response to kind invitations extended by similar organizations and unions.
- Statements issued by the General Secretariat and those of Member Parliaments on various occasions.
- Activities in the media field.

Agendas of coming PUIC Meetings:

● The meeting adopted the Draft Agendas of the 6th Meeting of the Standing Specialized Committees:

- Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations
- Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment
- Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family
- Committee on Cultural and legal Affairs, and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions

● The Meeting also adopted the Draft Agendas of the Subsidiary Organs:

- 8th Meeting of Committee on Palestine
- 7th Session of the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians
- Third Consultative Meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of PUIC Member Parliaments.

Conclusions of the meeting also involved:

- Drawing up the draft agenda of the 20th Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Drawing up the draft agenda of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference.

Specifying the date for holding the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference:

The PUIC Executive Committee has approved the proposal of the Islamic Parliament of Iran to host the 13th PUIC Conference on 13 – 17 January, 2018.

Motto of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference and related meetings:

It was agreed to charge the General Secretariat to coordinate with the Islamic Parliament of Iran to define the motto for the next Conference in the light of the discussions which took place in the Meeting.

The Meeting paid great attention to the conditions of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, and decided to act effectively in this respect in order to alleviate their suffering and find ways to address their problems. To achieve this, the Meeting decided to contact the competent authorities in Myanmar aimed at familiarization with the conditions of the Rohingya. The Meeting also discussed the situation of their camps in Bangladesh. The delegates of the Parliaments of: Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan, expressed their wish to participate in any move to be taken in this regard.

The Meeting charged His Excellency the Secretary General with considering the matter and reporting thereon.

The report and the DECLARATION of the 38th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee was adopted.

Chairman and Members of the Executive Committee addressed a message of thanks and appreciation to H.E. the PUIC Secretary General for the excellent preparation and organization of the Meeting as well as for the warm reception and generous hospitality and good care accorded to them since their arrival in the beautiful city of Tehran.

On the Sidelines of The 38th PUIC Executive Committee Meeting:

Secretary General Meets with Delegations

On the sidelines of the 38th PUIC Executive Committee Meeting, the PUIC Secretary General, Prof. Dr. KILIC had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Mohammad Arief Sapi'e Suditomo, Head of Delegation and Member of the House of Representatives of Indonesia and his accompanying Delegation. Prof. Dr. KILIC also had a group meeting with H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali; H.E. Mr. Boumeslat Touhami, Member of the National People's Assembly of Algeria; H.E. Mrs. Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, Member of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan; H.E. Mr. Bako Arifari Nassirou, Member of the National Assembly of Benin; H.E. Mr. Mohamad Yassine, Member of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique; H.E. Mr. Shakir Bashirawan, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Cheikh, Member of the National Assembly of Mauritania; H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraihi Niass, Member of the National Assembly of Senegal and H.E. Mr. Orhan ATALAY, Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. Dr. Kazem Jalali, Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran; H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohammad Bahrulaloum, Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq and H.E. Mr. Nawar Sahili, Member of the National Assembly of Lebanon had interviews with the press. The representatives of Alalam, IRNA, IRIB News, Press TV, PANA (Pupils Association News Agency) and Al-Manar News Agencies covered the 38th Executive Committee Meeting and had interviews with some delegations.

All of the attendees of the 38th Executive Committee and ambassadors of their countries and Iranian foreign Ministry guests had Lunch hosted by the PUIC Secretary General, Prof. Dr. KILIC. Then the participants in the Meeting attended a dinner party hosted by Dr. Kazem Jalali, Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran at the Building of Parliament.

Next day some delegates took part in a tour program prepared by the PUIC General Secretariat for visiting some interesting places in Tehran. On 9th October Secretary General had a meeting at the PUIC Headquarters with the delegation of Cameroon which was composed of H.E. Mr. Siroma Aboubakar, Senator, and H.E. Mrs. Zakiatou Epse Sale Goudoussou, Senator. They discussed different subjects related to the PUIC activities. The Secretary General gave lunch in their honor. ❖





Highlights of Mejlis of Turkmenistan

Mejlis (the Parliament) of Turkmenistan is a representative body, exercising the legislative authority.

The Mejlis consists of 125 deputies who are elected for a period of five years on constituencies with approximately equal number of voters.

The parliament independently establishes the powers of the deputies, elects from among the deputies the chairperson of the Mejlis, Vice-Chairperson, and determines the composition of committees and commissions.

The deputies of the Mejlis of the previous convocation remain in office til the first session of the Mejlis of the new convocation.

Procedure of Mejlis:

1. Enacts Constitution and laws, makes amendments and additions to them, monitors their performance and interpretation;
2. Considers for approval the programme activities of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan;
3. Examines questions related to approval of the state budget of Turkmenistan and reports on its implementation;
4. Considers the basic directions of internal and foreign policy, and programmes of political, economic and social development of the country;
5. Determines issues of holding national referendums;
6. Appoints [decides for] the election of the President of Turkmenistan, deputies of the Mejlis, members of the Halk Maslahaty and the Gengeshes.

7. Considers the recommendations of the President of Turkmenistan on the issues related to the appointment and dismissal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor General, the minister for Internal Affairs and the minister for Justice;

8. Elects the Authorized representative on human rights (Ombudsman) in Turkmenistan according to the proposal of the President of Turkmenistan.

9. Establishes state awards, awards state decorations to the President of Turkmenistan and assigns him the military ranks and distinctions;

10. Determines conformity to the Constitution with the normative-legal Acts by the state authorities;

11. Ratifies and rejects international treaties;

12. Considers questions related to change of state borders and administrative and territorial division of Turkmenistan;

13. Examines the issues related to peace and security;

14. Decides other questions in the competence of the Mejlis under the Constitution and laws.



Chairperson:

The Chairperson of the Mejlis shall be elected by secret ballot. He reports to the Mejlis and may be relieved of his post by a decision of the Mejlis, voted by at least two-third majority of the established members of the Mejlis.

Vice-Chairperson of the Mejlis shall be elected by open ballot, performs functions on behalf of the Chairperson, and acts as Chairperson of the Mejlis in the absence of the Chairperson or his inability to exercise his powers.

Committees:

The Mejlis consisted of five committees up to now. However, with the view of improving the activities of the national parliament, it was decided to set up eight parliamentary committees for the duration of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan of the fifth convocation. They are as follows:

- The Committee on protection of human rights and freedoms,
- The Committee on legislation and its standards,
- The Committee on economic issues,

- The Committee on social policy,
- The Committee on science, education, culture and youth policy,
- The Committee on environmental protection, natural resources and agricultural sector,
- The Committee on international and inter-parliamentary relations,
- The Committee on relations with local authorities and local self-governance bodies

Seats of last Election of Mejlis according to the Political Group:

- Democratic Party of Turkmenistan (DPT), 47
- Federation of Trade Unions, 33
- Women's Union, 16
- Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, 14
- Youth Organization named after Magtumguly, 8
- Groups of citizens of Turkmenistan, 7

Gender Distribution of seats:

No. of total members of the Parliament: 125;

No. of Women in Parliament: 33;
Percentage of Women in Parliament: 26.40%.❖



**Chairperson of the Mejlis
of Turkmenistan**

Akja Nuberdiyeva

On duty since: 22 December 2006

Date of Birth: 1957

Political party: Democratic Party of Turkmenistan

Akja Nuberdiyeva is a Turkmen politician and current Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, in office since 2006.❖





At the IPU meetings: The storm of protest forces the Zionist delegation to withdraw

The 137th Assembly of the IPU, which was organized with the Russian Parliament, was held on 14-18 October 2017 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. The Assembly was attended by 1876 Delegates, including 829 parliamentarians, 82 Speakers, 64 Deputy Speakers, and 249 women parliamentarians, representing the biggest number of participants in the history of the IPU meetings.

The Israeli parliamentary delegation was forced to withdraw from the meeting while the IPU Governing Council was debating a report on the conditions of Palestinian deputies in the prisons of the Israeli occupation.

The opposition of the Israeli delegation and its head Nahman Shai to the report was met with a storm of huge protest and strong rejection by the entire meeting hall of the Israeli false allegation which attempted to sell the Israeli so-called democracy in this international parliamentary forum. This took place after the IPU Governing Council approved the report on the imprisoned Palestinian deputies prepared by a subsidiary committee on the human rights of parliamentarians, which demanded the Israeli occupation to immediately release the imprisoned Palestinian deputies, and which also criticizes the Israeli policy of administrative detention. It also criticizes the rejection of the Knesset representative of the IPU request to meet with the IPU Committee on the human rights of parliamentarians.

Mr. Qais Abu Leila, member of the Palestinian delegation said, in his response to the statement of the Israeli representative, that the alleged Israeli democracy should not be build on the rubble of international law and the rights of other peoples. He also said that the Israeli delegations have just offered a living example of foolish challenge to the will of

the international law and to the principles and objectives of the IPU. Mr. Abu Leila said further "We have just heard how Israel practices democracy and challenges the entire world, maintaining that rejection of the recommendations of the human rights committee by the Israeli delegation shows concretely the successive violations of the rights of the imprisoned Palestinian deputies. He asked, where is this democracy and where is the fair judiciary claimed by the Knesset representative." Is it justice by Israeli courts to deny information about the prisoners? This is not justice, he affirmed, but rather a military occupation judiciary, which should not supersede international law. Mr. Abu Leila also affirmed that democracy means respect for international law. He referred to the mock trial of the Israeli soldier who murdered a wounded Palestinian in the city of Al-Khalil before television cameras. His trial was phony. He will be released eventually. This is their respect of the law.

Then several delegations and Speakers of Parliament took the floor. They launched a storm of wrath and anger against the representative of the Knesset which forced the Israeli delegation to withdraw from the meeting.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, H.E. Mr. Marzoug Al-Ghanim strongly attacked the head of the Israeli delegation characterizing him as the representative of occupation, murderer of children, perpetrator of genocide and state terrorism. Mr. Al-Ghanim, in a forceful tone, enumerated several crimes committed by the Israeli occupation in the Palestinian territories. He said that the Knesset representative is a shameless person, and that if he had an iota of dignity he would leave the meeting after the attendees unmasked the

falsity of his intervention. Mr. Al-Ghanim addressed the head of the Israeli delegation, “You ought to carry your brief cases and get out of the hall after you saw the reaction of representatives of all honest parliaments. Get out now if you have an iota of dignity ... you occupier! You murderer of Children!”

Then the member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, Ms Wafaa Binni Mustafa, affirmed that the imprisoned Palestinian deputies are freedom fighters, defending their land and children. They are not terrorists as alleged by the Knesset representative. Terrorism is practiced by the Israeli occupation, day and night in Palestine. It also practices apartheid. We must not throw ashes in the eyes because the truth is clear.

The head of the Tunisian delegation, Ms. Solaf Al-Ghosanteeni, said that the Knesset representative represents a usurper entity and that he is a terrorist and murderer. His regime is targeting women and children and practices apartheid according to the report of Reme Khalaf the former Director General of ASCWa. His regime is maintaining the longest siege in History of Gaza. She requested to dispatch a fact-finding IPU Commission to investigate the conditions of the Palestinian deputies who are languishing in Israeli jails. She also demanded the expulsion of the Knesset from the IPU.

The Speaker of the Pakistani Senate, H.E. Mr. Mian Raza Rabbani, criticized the double standards in formulating some of the resolutions concerning Palestinian detainees and prisoners, especially deputies. He demanded strong resolutions because we are dealing with a state which is practicing terrorism against a whole people.

The representative of the Syrian Parliament described the opposing of the Israeli delegation to the IPU report on the prisoners as terrorism like that which was practiced by Fascist regimes in Europe in the past and demanded expulsion of the Israeli Knesset from the IPU.

The IPU adopted a report by the Human Rights Committee of parliamentarians on human rights violations against several parliamentarians around the world, including Palestinian parliamentarians detained by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The report, concerning the Palestinian deputies, condemned the Israeli delegation lack of interaction with the union and refraining from attending a hearing on the circumstances of the detention of prisoners, despite repeated requests from the Committee to members of the delegation of the Israeli Knesset.

The Governing Council of the Union today adopted two separate resolutions on Member of Parliament, MP Marwan Barghouti and MP Ahmad Saadat, in addition to a clause concerning the rest of the detained prisoners, including MP Khaleda Jarrar. The report presented a summary of the background and conditions of their detention. The Governing Council reiterated its deep regret at the continued detention

of Barghouti on the basis of an unfair trial 15 years ago, despite the fact that Israel is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and is obliged to respect it.

The Governing Council also expressed concern about reports of the occupation authorities’ threat to retaliate against Barghouti for exercising his right to Hunger strike. The Governing Council demanded information on the outcome of the agreement between Barghouti and the Israeli prison administration, which led to a halt to the hunger strike. The Governing Council called for the immediate release of Barghouti and Saadat, and until this happened, he called for improving the

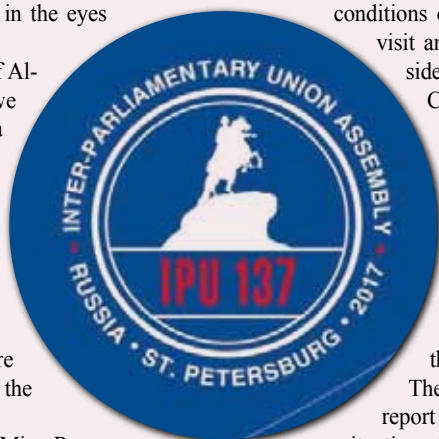
conditions of their detention and granting them the right to visit and providing official information from the Israeli side. Regarding the other deputies, the Governing Council, in its decision, condemned Israel’s resort to punishing Palestinian lawmakers through their arbitrary and repeated detention, and placing them under administrative detention without providing a legal evidence, and always relying on the so-called secret file.

The Governing Council called on the Israeli authorities to present a copy of the indictment, which Israel is trying to prosecute, and called for their immediate release.

The Governing Council included a reference to a report prepared by B’Tselem for human rights on the situation of the imprisoned parliamentarians and violations of their rights.

The Commission on Human Rights for parliamentarians in the Union has heard the Palestinian delegation, which reported on the conditions of detained prisoners in prisons under Israel’s occupation

Mr. Salim Al Zaanoun, Speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) expressed thanks and gratitude to H.E. Mr. Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait for his honourable and daring stance in confronting the Israeli terrorism and supporting the Palestinian People and their legitimate rights, and also for expressing, in all sincerity, the conscience of the Arab and Muslim Ummah as well as the free people of the world in their view of occupation and terrorism. Also for Al-Ghanim’s continuous action in support of Palestinians, the most recent of which has been at the IPU meeting in response to the incessant and continuous Israeli violations of the right of the people and their land, especially as regards the suffering of Palestinians in Israeli prisons which constitutes, according to international conventions and law’s “terrorism and war crimes.” This action prompted the Israeli delegation to leave the meeting hall as a result of the triumph of right as expressed by Mr. Al Marzouq and the majority of the IPU members. Mr. Al Zaanoun also expressed thanks to all world parliaments which defended the right of the Palestinians to establish their independent state, with Al-Quds as its capital, and also for standing against the crimes perpetrated by the savage Israeli authorities. ❖



**Al-Ghanim:
Get out now
if you have
an iota of
dignity**

At the IPU Meeting: The Islamic Group Approves the Item on Rohingya



The PUIC held its regular consultative meeting on the sidelines of the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The meeting took place on Saturday 14 October 2017, before the inauguration of the IPU Assembly, under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Salim al-Jaoubouri, Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq. The meeting was attended by H.E. Mr. Marzouq al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, and H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Omer, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Sudan, as well as a large number of representatives of Member Parliaments.

At the outset of the meeting H.E. the PUIC Secretary General presented a brief report on the proposed emergency items, and also on the subject of the election of the next IPU President. The attendees debated those issues, especially the emergency item. As the delegations of the Kingdom of Morocco, United Arab Emirates, State of Kuwait, Islamic Republic of Iran, People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Sudan offered proposals on the crisis of the Rohingya Muslims, it was decided to constitute a committee to integrate these proposals into a unified proposal to be submitted in the name of these six parliaments. Turkey joined those who proposed this item. The Proposal on the emergency item was submitted on behalf of these Parliaments. In the plenary Session this proposal got the biggest number of votes, and was chosen as an emergency item on the agenda of the 137th Assembly of the IPU. ♦

NEWS



PUIC Parliament Speakers Update:

The past few months saw the election of new Speakers of Member Parliaments, while others were reelected. Following is an update of Parliamentary leadership situation:

- 14 September 2017 re-election of H.E. Mr. Moustapha Niasse as Speaker of the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) of Senegal
- 28 September 2017 Election of H.E. Mr. Hammouda Sabbagh as Speaker of the People's Assembly (Majlis Al-Chaab) of Syrian Arab Republic
- 25 October 2017 Election of H.E. Mr. Dastanbek Artisbekovich Dzhumabekov as Speaker of the Supreme Council (Jogorku Kenesh) of Kyrgyzstan
- 14 November 2017 Election of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud as Speaker of the Advisory Council (Majlis Al-Shura) of Qatar
- 20 November 2017 re-election of H.E. Mr. Ismail Kahraman as Speaker of the Grand National Assembly (Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi) of Turkey



Algeria: On December 7, 2017, the Algerian parliament, in its chambers (the National Assembly and the National People's Assembly), issued a statement on the decision of the US administration to transfer its embassy to the occupied city of Jerusalem and recognize it as the capital of the occupying state Israel,

"At a time when the Palestinian people and the international community are looking for steps that will advance the path of peace through a just settlement of the Palestinian issue, despite the complexities that are paving the way towards the adoption of international legitimacy and the enabling of the Palestinian people to build their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, we are surprised by an uncalculated step and a hasty decision that does not conform to the path of conflict resolution in accordance with the principles set forth in the UN charters. This is a step that violates international legitimacy and disregards the legitimate aspirations for which the Palestinian people struggled, since the occupation of their land and holy places of rape.

In the face of this serious slide of the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by the current US administration, the Algerian parliament in both chambers strongly condemns this decision. While warning of its serious repercussions on the path of peaceful settlement of the conflict within the framework of international legitimacy, the parliamentarians of the world, particularly the representatives of the American people in Congress, and peace-loving people throughout the world, especially the Arab and Islamic countries, calls for to the need to confront the unjust decision of the United States Administration with its serious consequences for the situation in the region .. Also stresses at these difficult moments standing firm and steadfastness to the Palestinian people, Who are struggling In order to regain its legitimate rights to build its independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."



Bahrain: H.E. Ahmed Bin Ibrahim Al Mulla, Speaker of the House of Representatives, affirmed that the US administration's declaration of the city of Al-Quds as the capital of Israel is an unprecedented development in the region and its people and its future, describing the decision as faulty and it threatens the peace process in the Middle East and disrupts all initiatives and negotiations. Which is a clear violation of the international resolutions, which affirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and not to prejudice them, and that East Al-Quds is an occupied territory whose occupation must be ended.

This came in a speech delivered by His Excellency the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies at the Arab Parliamentary Union's Extraordinary Session held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 14 December 2017. He expressed the firm position of the Kingdom of Bahrain in supporting the aspirations of the brotherly Palestinian people and their legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian state on the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Al-Quds as its capital.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives pointed out that all the Arab peoples expect our parliaments to have an active and influential position for Al-Quds and Palestine, for which pure blood has been shed, in which men and women, youth and children have been martyred, and for which our generation has undergone great progress and transformations, in order to support them and to promote just peace therein.



Iraq: Iraq declared its strong keenness to preserve The Islamic sanctities, including the city of Al-Quds. Iraq also condemned in the strongest terms the American administration's decision to recognize Al-Quds as the capital of the Zionist entity and transfer the American Embassy to it.

This came in a statement issued by the Council of Representatives of Iraq. It also declared rejection of this resolution in its entirety and called on the US administration to withdraw it as a violation of international law and a sabotage of the peace process and an increase of tension and confusion in the entire region, Iraq also called on all Islamic countries in particular, the countries of the world, the United Nations and all international and humanitarian organizations to reject this unjust resolution and not to recognize it and not to deal with its consequences, because it infringes the Islamic sanctities and causes great injustice to the Palestinian cause and the denial of the rights and land of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian issue is the basis of the conflict in the Middle East. This unjust decision will increase tension in the region and make it suffer from instability and push the region into the abyss and into an uncertain future whose consequences are not assured. It also called upon all Arab and Islamic countries to adopt a unified and firmer stance in the face of this measure.



Iran: Scores of Iranian lawmakers strongly called on all Muslim countries to cut their diplomatic relations with the Zionist regime of Israel and decrease their economic exchange with the US to the least in the wake of the controversial decision by US president.

US President Donald Trump announced on December 6 that the American embassy would be moved from Tel Aviv to Quds, and Washington recognizes the holy city as the capital of the Zionist regime.

235 members of parliament also called on the parliaments of the Muslim countries to lead their respective states to the ways compatible with demands of the Islamic Ummah.

The President of the United States has declared Quds as the capital of the fake regime of Zionism,' reads the statement.

'Ironically, the very act of the US president is clear enough to prove lack of identity and falsehood of the Zionist regime, as the regime needs a so-called superpower to resort to force, irrespective of other dimensions of the issue, to declare the Muslim territories as its capital.' Trump's decision prompted strong criticism by the international community, including the US allies in Europe. World leaders have denounced it as a move in violation of UN resolutions and international laws.



Jordan: The Speaker of the Jordanian Parliament, H.E. Mr. Atef Al-Tarawneh called on the "Arab and Islamic Parliament" to convene an emergency meeting to discuss the repercussions of the transfer of the embassy to Al-Quds and recognition of the Holy City as the capital of the Zionist entity. "We call upon the Arab Parliament, the Arab Parliamentary Union and PUIC to hold emergency meetings to take a comprehensive position. We all have to take a stand that may bring things back to the right path," he said in a statement.

He said that the American decision does not only undermine the efforts of the peace process, but also undermines the efforts of years of peace negotiations. It sends messages of bias to injustice at the expense of right and strengthens the frustration of generations still waiting for the hope of living in peace and security.

He added that any American step that does not stem from the basis of a comprehensive solution that will achieve the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Al-Quds as its capital means to our peoples that there is a clear international neglect of the stability in the Middle East.

The world must realize that any prejudice to the historical and legal status quo in Al-Quds will have implications and repercussions that may be difficult to avoid. When it comes to the first of the two Qiblas

and the Third of the Two Holy Mosques, it will not pass in such a way as to skip the dreams and aspirations of entire peoples.

to undermine the efforts of years of peace negotiations, it sends messages of bias to injustice at the expense of the right and strengthens the frustration of generations still waiting for the hope of living in peace and security.

He added that any American step that does not stem from the basis of a comprehensive solution that will achieve the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital means to our peoples that there is a clear international neglect of the stability in the Middle East.

The world must realize that any prejudice to the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem will have implications and repercussions that may be difficult to avoid. When it comes to the first of the two Qibla and the Third of the Two Holy Mosques, it will not pass in such a way as to skip the dreams and aspirations of entire peoples.



Kuwait: The Speaker of the National Assembly H.E. Mr. Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim categorically rejected the decision to transfer the American Embassy to Al-Quds and considered the capital of the Zionist entity, noting that the decision is mockery and insult not only to the feelings of Muslims, but to all honorable people on earth.

"This decision was to be issued from the beginning of the 1980s, but the Americans were considering the reaction, but now they think that this is the right time for them to take it," al-Ghanim said in a press statement to the National Assembly.

"Certainly this is unacceptable denounced and condemned and we will go with all our capabilities to stop this decision."

"I told the president of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union that the emergency meeting of the Union should be held and that a road map and a working paper should be agreed upon so that our movements would be deliberate and effective, and we would not only stand at the words of denunciation and rejection, we need more."

In response to a reporter's question, Al-Ghanim said that "the regulations do not allow an emergency summit of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and we will demand that the IPU and its President issue a statement on this matter."



Lebanon: Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri noted that the House of Representatives discussed the American move to declare Al-Quds as capital of the Zionist entity and to transfer the embassy from Tel Aviv to Al-Quds and what will ensue, Berri wished all parties to note that the basis for resolving the Middle East crisis is certainly that a just and comprehensive solution based on securing the national and permanent rights of the Palestinian people, Foremost among which is return, self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital.

Speaker Berri received the Palestinian ambassador in Lebanon Ashraf Dabour, who conveyed greetings and appreciation of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership and people and their appreciation for Lebanon's official, partisan and popular stance.

The Palestinian ambassador affirmed that "together and in the Holy Qura'an we will pray in Al-Quds the first of the two Qibla and the third of the two Holy Mosques, and the place of ascent of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and the cradle of our Lord Jesus Christ, peace be upon him and liberated from the desecration of the occupation."



Morocco: On 11 December 2017, a joint parliamentary session was held between the House of Representatives and the Counselors following the decision of US President, Donald Trump

to transfer the United States Embassy to Al-Quds and declare it as the capital of the Zionist entity.

After listening to the speeches of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Speaker of the House of Counselors, the Ladies and Gentlemen, the heads of the parliamentary groups and parties intervened in the two Houses expressing the will of the Moroccan people to join with the Royal will embodied in the positions and initiatives of H.M. King Mohammed VI The Chairman of the Al-Quds Al-Sharif Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and in particular H.M.'s Message to the President of the United States, on behalf of fifty-seven countries and more than one billion Muslims, to make him back down from his decision.

The Moroccan Parliament, together with all its political and social components and responsible bodies, unanimously reject the decision of the President of the United States of America, Mr. Donald Trump, as a decision lacking any legal, political or moral basis and an explicit violation of international legitimacy and the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council.

The Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco considers that this decision will undoubtedly detract from the United States of America as the great State sponsor of peace in the Middle East and transform its legal status from one regime to another in the series of negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis.



Sudan: The Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the National Council, in cooperation with the Association of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds, the Sudanese Brothers Society and the Sunday Center for Studies, organized a symposium on the Balfour Declaration (Legal and Political Backgrounds and Counterinsurgency) under the patronage of Professor Ibrahim Ahmed Omar, the Speaker of the Assembly. The Committee was addressed by Judge Ahmed Tigani, Deputy Speaker. He expressed his happiness by choosing the National Council to discuss the issue of Palestine and explained that the question of Palestine is an Arab Islamic issue that remains in the minds of the Sudanese people, communities and people, calling for the organization of this activism every year and reflected by the media.

For his part, Ambassador Samir Taha, Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Sudan reviewed Sudan's efforts and support for the Palestinian cause, pointing out the importance of talking about the Balfour promise which he described as failure in the history of the covenants, referring to the ominous Zionist practices. He said that the Balfour Declaration came to demolish the entire Arab region and Palestine in particular. He praised the Sudanese research centers in reflecting the issues of Palestine and that Israel is an oppressive state.



Syria: The People's Assembly stressed that the decision of the American administration to recognize the occupied Al-Quds as the capital of the Israeli occupation entity and the transfer of its embassy to it constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions of international legitimacy and the violation of the Palestinian national and historical rights and a clear attempt to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The People's Assembly, in denouncing and condemning this act of the U.S. administration, affirmed that this decision will not change the fact that the occupied Al-Quds is a Palestinian Arab territory and is a possession of the Palestinian Arab people, which cannot be disposed of by any state that enjoys military power as well as all of Palestine. This decision is an extension of the disastrous promise that Balfour made 100 years ago.

And the American administration must realize that the rights acquired by the peoples by their own civilization, are not dropped

by improvised that are decisions hardly aware of the reality of the conflict in the region.

The People's Assembly also affirmed that this will constitute a new cover of the American administration to the occupying entity to continue to violate the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to continue their displacement from their land and deprive them of their right to establish their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. We call on the Palestinian brothers to unite ranks and resistance in the face of the occupier.



Turkey: Mr. İsmail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey strongly condemned and rejected the illegal statement of the US Administration declaring that it recognizes Al-Quds as the Capital of Israel and it will move its embassy in Israel to Al-Quds. Mr. KAHRAMAN affirms that; the preservation of the sanctity and the historical status of Al Quds bears great sensitivity for all humanity. Israel's decision to annex Al-Quds and all its acts and practices in this framework have never been accepted and are legally invalid.

The statement made by the US Administration to recognize Al-Quds as Israel's capital and to move the Embassy of USA to Al-Quds is in violation of the international law and the UN Resolutions, primarily the UN Security Council Resolution no 478. Beyond this, the statement of the US President is both null and void before conscience and the history of mankind.

Peace will only come with the existence of an independent, sovereignty and contiguous State of Palestine based on 1967 borders with East Al-Quds as its capital, as set out by the UN Resolutions.

The immediate ending of the Israeli occupation in the Palestinian territories is at the same time a historical, conscientious and human necessity.

Turkey called on the countries which have not yet recognized the Palestine State, which represents the national will and resolve for freedom of the Palestinian people to take this step which became a necessity upon the recent developments.

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey once again emphasized that it is standing with the Palestinian people in their just cause.



UAE: The Parliamentary Division of the Federal National Council confirmed during its participation in the emergency session of the Arab Parliament held on 11 December 2017 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo, Egypt, to discuss the repercussions of the decision of the United States of America to recognize the occupied city of Al-Quds as the capital of Israel, that this decision and this American step threatens international peace and security on the grounds that Al-Quds does not belong to Arabs only, but belongs to the entire Muslim world, and cannot be taken by Israel falsehood and claims, which may result in a Violent conflict between the basic civilizations of the world.

The Division pointed out that this resolution is a flagrant challenge to the principles and basics of international law which consider all the procedures and laws of the occupying Power that would change the legal and historical status of the city of East Al-Quds, its sanctities, identity and demographic structure null and void. It also contradicts the resolutions of the UN Security Council on Al-Quds.

The delegation of the Division in a speech delivered by H.E. Jassim Al-Naqbi, member of the Federal National Council, representing it during the emergency session, said that it was necessary to meet as representatives of the Arab peoples to express the pulse of the Arab street, which denounces this American step, which contravenes all international norms and laws that have affirmed the identity of Islamic and Arab Al-Quds. ❖

Secretary General Condemns US Decision on Al-Quds

H.E. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, the PUIC Secretary General condemned and denounced in the strongest terms the decision of the US President Donald Trump to transfer the embassy of his country to the occupied city of Al-Quds.

His Excellency affirmed in his statement that this decision is a blatant challenge and premeditated overstepping of all the international resolutions on the Palestinian issue and the status of Al-Quds which is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories. It also strongly provokes equally the sentiments of Muslims and Christians. Al Quds is a holy and historical city that belongs to the Palestinians and is the eternal Capital of the Palestinian State. Any aggression on this historical right shall have grave consequences for the region and the world. The Secretary General requested international and regional organizations, primarily the United Nations and the UN Security Council to denounce this unjust decision,

taking into consideration that Al Quds is an occupied city by Israel since 1967. The PUIC Secretary General warns against the implications of this prejudiced unilateral decision which may lead to sedition and a religious war which add to the complexity of the situation in the Middle East region. It will also threaten the efforts aimed at achieving a just and durable peace to the Palestinian issue which is the essence of conflict in the region. Commending the positions of the States, governments and international and regional organizations as well civil society organizations which have condemned the unfair US decision, His Excellency called for further international cooperation in such a way as to enable the implementation of international and UN resolutions pertaining to the position of the City of Al Quds, and restoration of the legitimate rights to the Palestinian people and to enable them to establish their independent state with Al Quds as its Capital.❖

PUIC Secretary General Congratulates New IPU President



H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ congratulated H.E. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas on the occasion of her election as President of the IPU, and expressed the best wishes for her success.

In his message he stated that during her tenure, the already good working relations between the two Inter-Parliamentary Organizations will prosper in the right direction of realizing the interests of all Members. ❖

Secretary General Participates in APA Session

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, accompanied by the Assistant Secretary General, participated as an observer, in the proceedings of the 10th Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), which was held in Istanbul, Republic of

Turkey from 20 to 25 November 2017. The session was honored by the attendance of H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, and H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. H.E. the PUIC Secretary General delivered a

speech in which he addressed the theme of the Session “Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia.” In his speech the Secretary General stated that regional cooperation constitutes an essential element in the sustainability of peace and development and that it cannot be realized without addressing the root causes of conflicts.

The Istanbul Declaration, issued at the conclusion of the session, confirmed the right of the Palestinian people to establish the Palestinian state on the borders of June 4, 1967 with Al-Quds as its capital.

The Declaration denounced all the illegal settlement activities and the demolition of buildings in Palestine, and also all the violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces. The Istanbul Declaration, adopted at the closing session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which includes 42 Asian parliaments, welcomed Palestinian reconciliation.❖



PUIC Secretary General participates in PABSEC Meeting

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General accompanied by H.E. the Assistant Secretary-General participated in the 50th Session of PABSEC General Assembly, held in Kiev, Ukraine on 29-30 November, 2017. His Excellency delivered a speech in which he focused on the agenda subjects: Development of economic cooperation, social protection of young families and youth. He maintained that such subjects deserve attention because of the resulting positive impacts on ensuring and promoting social security and creating reconciliation between the constituent parts of the community.❖



PUIC Brochure: Al-Quds, Red Line Threatened

The PUIC Brochure is a regular feature of the publications of the Union's Media Department. In this issue we seek to underline two issues: The US President's recognition of Al-Quds as the capital of the Zionist entity (Israel), and his decision to transfer the US embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy City is an action fraught with grave ramifications.



It shows high insensitivity for the sentiments of almost two billions of Muslims around the world. For Muslims Al-Quds is a red line whose crossing shall be met with strong reaction, the consequences of which only God Knows. The US action is also a shock to the international community which has been exerting ceaseless efforts through the years to find a just, durable and comprehensive peace to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and the Middle East conflict. Mr. Trump's move sabotages such efforts and threatens peace, security and stability in a region already witnessing turmoil and seditions in most of its parts.

Al-Quds is the focus of the unity of all Muslims who will not abandon the most sacred place after Makkah Al-Mukaramah

An Al-Madina Al-Munawarah. We are quite certain that unifying the efforts of Muslims together with those of all free people of the world will lead to the liberation of this holy city. While appreciating the efforts exerted by all the PUIC Member Parliaments in this respect, we are sure that all of them will have a unified voice in all fora and Conferences on all levels.

There is also reference to the most recent publication and the Ninth Parliaments Directory. It also contains information about the PUIC website and postal address and the email. By its very nature, the Brochure must be brief, informative, clear and colorful. Some readers may like to keep all editions for easily accessible reference about the PUIC.❖

PUIC USBs: Fact Access to PUIC Activities

The Flashes (USBs) has been prepared prior to PUIC 13th Conference, to be distributed during the Conference which will be held in the Islamic Republic of IRAN. The USB includes Preparatory Documents such as Agenda, Programme of Work, Reports of the Secretary General, List of Members, Nomination Forms and Guide book for the 13th Conference and Final Communiqués, Reports, Resolutions, Publications and Regulations of the PUIC in PDF format and in 3 languages from 1999 to 2017.❖

Parliaments Directory

The positive response and enthusiasm with which the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eight issues of the Directory were received has been further encouragement for the PUIC Media Department to publish ninth issue. Like its predecessor the new issue includes valuable and necessary information about our Member Parliaments: structures, legal set-ups,



memberships, leaderships as well as addresses, fax numbers, e-mail and websites. The issue also covers PUIC Observers, as well as Parliaments of Muslim states which are not members of the PUIC yet. We solicit comments and observations from our readers in order to produce better directories in the future.❖

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