



PUIC Delegation Visits Rohingya Refugee Camps:

Abominable Tragedy under World View



A delegation from the PUIC Executive Committee visited the Camps of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh during the period 10-13 September, 2018. The delegation included representatives of member parliaments of the Committee, as well as a delegation from the PUIC

General Secretariat headed by H.E. the Secretary General. The delegation took stock of the magnitude of the tragedy to which the refugees were exposed in Myanmar. Eyewitnesses spoke about incidents of Killing, rape, burning, plunder.

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Dakar Hosts 40th Executive Committee Meeting

National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal hosts in Dakar the 40th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Union on 2-3 October, 2018. The meeting is deemed important because of its preparatory nature for the PUIC annual Conference due to be held in the Moroccan Capital next January, 2019. The meeting is to draw up the draft agenda of each one of the 4 Standing Committee; the draft agenda of the subsidiary organs: Palestine Committee, Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians, and Meeting of Secretaries General of the PUIC Parliaments. The agenda of the Executive Committee meeting also includes: Session of General Committee as well as drawing up draft agenda of 14th PUIC Conference.

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Editorial



I have the honor to appear, for the first time, before the readers of the "PUIC", through this editorial in my capacity as PUIC Secretary General. I highly underscore the role which this publication has played (its 23rd version is produced now) in the field of communication between Member Parliaments; informing them about each other; and disseminating news of the Union and Parliaments of the Members.

Dear Reader,

Muslim Rohingya community in Myanmar is currently experiencing a genuine tragedy which is reflected in instances of systematic ethnic cleansing, barbaric acts of murder and dispersion as well as forcible displacement with the connivance and participation of security forces and Buddhist militias.

The number of the displaced in Bangladesh today exceeds one million people following the burning of their houses, looting of their possessions and facing savage actions.

All this takes place amid suspicious world silence, which is inexcusable, unless the rights of Muslims are not human rights. If the matter concerned non-Muslims, the "free world" would have launched an international campaign in the framework of UN adopted laws. Super powers would, under the cover of "international legitimacy", or without it, impose a blockade on Myanmar officials, and have them internationally criminalized together with criminal gangs. How can anyone endorse the fact that the Myanmar authorities ban the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the remaining Rohingya, and prohibit the access of international media operators for fear that the world would be informed about the magnitude of the tragedy to which Muslims are exposed in that region.

Those authorities also refused to grant entry visas to a UN human rights team.

In its last conference which was held in Tehran on January, 2018, the PUIC has approved a number of resolutions aimed at protecting the Muslim Rohingya in Myanmar. In this framework the Conference has mandated the General Secretariat to dispatch a PUIC mission to Bangladesh to visit the Muslim Rohingya who have been forcibly repatriated to this Muslim country and to gauge the possibility of extending humanitarian assistance to them.

The mission has carried out its task on 11 and 12 September, 2018 with the presence of the representatives of: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran; Malaysia; Kingdom of Morocco; Republic of the Sudan; and Republic of Turkey. The mission became familiarized with the magnitude of the tragedy experienced by these refugees, as well as the effort which Bangladesh exerts to shelter and care for them.

The responsibility of our parliaments at the present time is to establish an Islamic awareness of the tragedy of our brother co-religionists who are exposed to gross injustice; launch an international campaign to give justice to these afflicted people; and to implement all relevant resolutions and recommendations adopted by PUIC conferences and its specialized committees. ❖



13th PUIC Conference in Tehran: Ummah Underlines Stances on Crucial Issues

Proceedings of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference were held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 16 – 17 January, 2018, as well as related meetings which took place during the period from 13 to 15 January, 2018, in response to the invitation of H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran.

INAUGURAL SESSION:

- The Inaugural Session was honoured by the presence of H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Their Excellencies the Speakers and delegations of the august Member Parliaments from 42 Parliaments, comprising of 15 Speakers and 13 Deputy Speakers. The Session was also attended by a large number of Their Excellencies the Ministers, Politicians, members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Tehran, and a number of the members of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, as well as the media.

- The Inaugural Session was addressed by H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibe, President of the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali.

- H.E. Mr. Sidibe handed over the PUIC Presidency to H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran.

- H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, and the President

of the 13th Session of The PUIC Conference, addressed the meeting.

- H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, The Honourable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered a speech.

- Their Excellencies addressed the pressing issues facing the Ummah, called for unity of ranks and avoiding disputes.

FIRST WORKING SESSION:

At the beginning of the Session H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kilic, PUIC Secretary General, took the floor and stressed that the Conference is held amid circumstances that necessitate deploying our energies to achieve safety and security out of the dangers of terrorism which has been defeated in most areas through the will of cooperation. His Excellency talked about conspiracies hatched against the Ummah, foremost of which is the unjust, unilateral decision of the US President on recognizing Al-Quds as the capital of the State of Israel and transferring the US Embassy to it. In conclusion His Excellency referred to the end of his tenure as Secretary General and wished the coming Secretary General success and triumph.

Election of The Members of The Bureau:

Members of the Bureau were elected as follows:

Vice President: H.E. Mr. Sonli IDI (National Assembly of the Republic of Niger from African Group)).

Vice President: H.E. Mr. Mohammad Al-Sheikh (National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from the Arab Group).
Rapporteur: H.E. Dr. Kazim Jalali (from the Islamic Parliament of Iran).

Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work:

The Agenda and Programme of Work were adopted.

Speeches of Their Excellencies Heads of Delegation:

The speeches of Their Excellencies Speakers of Parliament and Heads of Delegation, and representatives of observer organizations covered the following pivots:

- The Cause of Palestine and Al-Quds is the main pivotal cause which necessitate cooperation and coordination among the Member Parliaments in order to defend and championing it, also welcoming Palestinian National reconciliation.

- Affirming that Al-Quds is the eternal capital of the independent State of Palestine, and recognizing this state.

- Condemning the unjust US decision on recognition of Al-Quds as capital of the State of Israel, and transferring the US Embassy to it, and calling and demanding its revocation.

- Adopting suspension of membership of the Israeli Knesset at the IPU.

- Calling for cooperation in order to settle

problems that are afflicting the region and the Islamic world.

- Calling on parliaments, through parliamentary diplomacy, to act in order to achieve the sublime objectives of the PUIC.
- Rejecting normalization with the Zionist enemy, and cautioning against Israeli attempts to hold conferences and visits to the States of Africa and requesting African States to thwart such attempts.
- Paying attention to the tragedy of the Rohingya Muslims, extending material and moral support to the Republic of Bangladesh which is hosting Rohingya refugees. Also, paying attention to Muslim minorities living in non-OIC member countries.
- Affirming the resolve to combat terrorism and extremism; and expressing congratulations to states which achieved victory over terrorism and extremism.
- Enhancing democracy in the Islamic world through free media.
- Paying attention to economic affairs, and calling for widening investment opportunities, and making use of the resources of Muslim States in order to curb poverty.
- Paying attention to environmental issues, and calling for cooperation in sanitary matters, combating drought and desertification as well as solving the problems of water in the Islamic World.
- Energizing Al-Quds funds in order to support the steadfastness of its inhabitants.
- Warning against attempts to abolish support for the UNRWA.
- Expressing thanks and appreciation to the Islamic Parliament, government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this important Conference.
- Congratulating H.E. the new Secretary General and sincerely wishing him success and triumph.
- Expressing thanks to His Excellency the outgoing Secretary General for the efforts he exerted to develop the work of the PUIC.
- Expressing condolences and consolation to the Iranian people for the victims of the

accident of the Iranian ship which took place in the China Sea.

Election of the PUIC Secretary General

H.E. Mr. Sheikh Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass has been elected as the new PUIC Secretary General. He will assume the duties of his post on the 1st August, 2018. His Excellency delivered a brief speech thanking the members who had confidence in him, and then was sworn before the Conference.

Re-election of the PUIC Assistant Secretary General for a New Term of Office:

H.E. Ambassador Ali Asghar Mohammadi

- Palestine in the Forefront of Concerns
- Resolve to Fight Terrorism
- Resolve to Enhance Cooperation in All Fields
- Absolute Rejection of Islamophobia
- Election of the PUIC Secretary General

Sijani was re-elected as PUIC Assistant Secretary General. His Excellency was sworn before the Conference.

Defining the Date and Venue of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference (Kingdom of Morocco from the Arab Group):

The offer made by the august House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the 14th PUIC Conference early next year 2019 was approved.

Defining the Date and Venue of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference (Burkina Faso from the African Group):

The offer made by the august National

Assembly of Burkina Faso to host the 15th PUIC Conference in early 2020 was approved.

Defining the Date and Venue of the 40th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.

The offer made by the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal to host the 40th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee was approved.

CLOSING SESSION:

Adoption of the Tehran Declaration and the Final Communiqué:

Tehran Declaration and the Final Communiqué were adopted.

- The Session was addressed by: H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, President of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference and Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of IRAN.
- H.E. Mr. Al Said Bouhadja, Speaker of the National Assembly of Algeria delivered a speech on behalf of the Conference in which he expressed thanks and gratitude for the warm reception and honouring by the Parliament of Iran, the government and the brotherly Iranian people foremost of whom is His Excellency Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, President of the 13th PUIC Conference and Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran. His Excellency expressed his sincere wishes of good health and success for them, and further progress and prosperity.
- The participants sent a motion of thanks and appreciation to H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for patronizing the proceedings of the 13th PUIC Conference, and also to His Excellency Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, President of the 13th PUIC Conference for the warm reception and generous hospitality, as well as for the excellency organization and preparation which largely contributed to the success of the proceedings of the Conference and related meetings.
- The participants also offered sincere appreciation and respect to His Eminence Leader of the Revolution Sayed Ali Khamenie, for kindly receiving them.❖





Final Communiqué

Speakers, Heads and Members of Delegations of the PUIC Member Parliaments participating in the proceedings of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference have deliberated on the developments and challenges facing the Muslim World as included in the Agenda of the Session, and have resolved as follows:

First: Palestinian Cause, mainly:

- Emphasize that the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds lies at the core of the concerns of the Islamic Ummah, and stress the importance of the city of Al-Quds as the capital of the independent State of Palestine and the home of the third of the holy sites of Islam, considering it thus as a red line which cannot be crossed, until the realization of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, namely the return of refugees, liberation from occupation, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital.
- Re-emphasize that the city of Al-Quds is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories -as stated in Security Council Resolutions No. 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973- to which the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 is applicable, as provided in several UN Security Council Resolutions; strongly condemn the occupation authorities for their repeated violations of the holy sites in the city of Al-Quds, by building the separation wall and settlements, as well as their continued excavation works underneath the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, which would undermine its pillars and might cause its collapse. Also denounce the Zionist Entity's illegal measures and practices carried out -in violation of all international resolutions and laws- by the occupations authorities in the city of Al-Quds, with a view to judaizing the Holy city and obliterating the identity of its Arab and Islamic landmarks.
- Strongly reject the plan by the Zionist entity (Israel) to declare the occupied City of

Al Quds as the capital of the Zionist entity and of the Jewish People; a plan that constitutes a direct aggression on the Palestinian people and their established and inalienable rights; and categorically reject all Israeli assertions about "The Greater Al-Quds" and any other proposals to resolve the issue of Al-Quds by placing it under international mandate.

- Condemn and categorically and incontestably reject the decision taken by the Head of the US Administration, Donald Trump, on Al-Quds considered as a grave aggression against the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and as a null measure that exacerbates tension, fuels anger, and threatens to lead the region towards further violence and anarchy; support the efforts of the Palestinian leadership, particularly President Mahmoud Abbas, and the efforts of the Palestinian factions and powers, in their unwavering position against the US decision and Israeli occupation.
- Reaffirm that resistance, in all its forms, is a legitimate right, until the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly the right to return and the right to establish the independent Palestinian State on the territory of Palestine, with Al-Quds as its capital, are realized
- Affirm that defending Palestine and Al-Quds is the duty and responsibility of every Muslim and every Arab; and call for supporting the third uprising (intifada) of the Palestinian people with all the means available in the Muslim world.
- Support the accession of the State of Palestine to all international agreements and organizations, including the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice, which would hold the Zionist entity (Israel) accountable for its crimes, and provide protection to the Palestinian people and to their land and private and public property; and Denounce all punitive measures taken by the Zionist

Entity (Israel) and by any other State, as a result of such a legitimate step.

- Request the managers of the funds created for Al-Quds to operationalize them in support for the steadfastness of Al-Quds people and reinforce their settlement in their city; appeal to the peoples and governments of the Muslim Ummah to demonstrate further solidarity to confront the Israeli arrogance and the occupation authorities' express disregard of the historical, cultural, and religious rights of the Palestinian people; call for the execution of the projects that enhance the steadfastness of the Holy city, its people and institutions; call for supporting all the initiatives and the commendable actions carried out by various bodies, in particular the OIC Al-Quds Committee, and its financial and field arm "Bayt Mal Al-Quds Agency"; and recommend the revival of the Islamic waqf for Al-Quds "Waqf Al Quds Al Shariif" as it was under the crusaders' occupation, with a view to reinforcing the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their land with all available means.

Second: Occupied Arab Territories in Syria and Lebanon, mainly:

- Praise the steadfastness of the Syrian and the Lebanese citizens, and commend their holding onto their land and identity as well as their resistance to the Zionist Israeli occupation; strongly condemn the decision of the Zionist entity (Israel) to impose its laws and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan and its non-compliance with international resolutions, especially the UN Security Council Resolution No. 497 of 1981; emphasize the nullity and illegality of the Zionist Israeli decisions in this regard; also Condemn the Zionist Israeli threats against Lebanon and the Zionist Israeli provocative military maneuvers on the borders of Lebanon, as well as the repeated air and sea violations; and demand that the Zionist Israeli occupation of Shebaa Farms, Kafarshouba

Hills and the Lebanese section of Al-Gajar village be ended, as it runs counter to the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1701, with all available means, particularly the heroic national resistance.

Third: Protection of Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar, mainly:

- Mandate the General Secretariat to follow up the dispatch of a PUIC delegation to Bangladesh to visit forcibly displaced Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar sheltered in Bangladesh to take stock of their conditions and consider the possibility of extending humanitarian aid to them.

- Request the UN Security Council to conduct an international independent investigation on the killings, violation of freedoms, and displacement of the Muslim minority in Myanmar; and to file a criminal case with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Fourth: Combating Intolerance, Islamophobia And Xenophobia, mainly:

- Call on all States to prohibit incitement to religious discrimination, hostility and abuse of Islam, through taking administrative and legal measures that ban defamation and make it legally punishable.

- Call on the United Nations to adopt an international legal instrument criminalizing abuse of divine religions and slandering Messengers and Prophets, in order to ensure peaceful coexistence of different views, and recommend to the OIC Member States to continue their endeavor at the UN for the purpose of achieving this aim.

Fifth: Combating Terrorism and Extremism, mainly:

- Stress the need to combat all forms of radical and extremist discourse in order to delegitimize acts of violence committed in the name of religion, ideology or alleged cultural supremacy.

- Emphasize the inevitability of separating between terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and the right of states and peoples to resistance and armed struggle against foreign occupiers and colonizers in order to liberate their homelands and recover their legitimate rights guaranteed by the UN Charter and all international agreements and conventions, considered as an inherent right of peoples under occupation, and recommend to the OIC to set up a legal committee to be tasked with reviewing the concept of terrorism and defining the controls which distinguish terrorist actions from other actions, so that the views of the committee shall be a reference in this field.

- Strongly condemn the violent coup attempt against the Constitution, President, Government, Parliament and Government of Turkey and its people, perpetrated on 15 July 2016 by an armed faction and their civilian collaborators belonging to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), and invite

the States of the member Parliaments to take the all necessary measures against the entities, groups, institutions and individuals affiliated to FETO, and to cooperate with Turkey to this end.

- Call for convening an international counter-terrorism conference during which a global definition of terrorism will be adopted by consensus.

Sixth: Rejecting the Unjust Sanctions Imposed on Muslim Countries, mainly:

- Strongly reject the principle of imposing any kind of sanctions on any people, especially Islamic peoples, whether unilateral or multilateral, on any Islamic state, express our strong support for these states; call for cancelling these sanctions and condemn their continuation due to their negative impacts on the social and humanitarian activities of the peoples of these states as well as their socio-economic development.

Seventh: Access to Modern Technologies for Peaceful Purposes, and Making the Middle East A Zone Free From All Weapons of Mass Destruction, Particularly Nuclear Weapons, mainly:

- Emphasize the right of all countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the NPT.

Eighth: Iraq

- Call for convening an international conference, with the participation of the UN and its specialized agencies, to contribute to the process of reconstruction of Iraqi cities and to removing the destruction caused by wars and terrorist operations over the recent years; and commend the efforts of the State of Kuwait aimed at hosting the Donors Conference in February 2018 to rebuild Iraqi cities.

Ninth: The Sudan

- Emphasize our support to the Sudan against all foreign threats and express solidarity with it in defending its sovereignty, security and stability; highly appreciate all the good efforts exerted regionally and internationally in order to establish peace in Darfur, and invite the international community to fulfill all its declared commitments to realize peace

and sustainable development in the Sudan.

Tenth: Libya

- Reaffirm that the Libyan Parliament elected democratically by the Libyan people is the legitimate representative of the will and choices of the people; and reject interference in the domestic affairs of the State of Libya, by passing the Parliament violating national law and imposing stands and policies on the Libyan people.

Eleventh: The Humanitarian Situation In Syria

- Emphasize our principled position calling for the necessity to preserve the unity, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and diverse social fabric of Syria, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter; and condemn the presence of US forces and all other forces illegally present on the Syrian territories, against all international laws and covenants.

- Commend the significant efforts that have been made by Syria's neighboring countries and the other countries in the region to shelter Syrian refugees.

Twelfth: Somalia

- Stress commitment to act in order to restore the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Somalia and restoration of security therein and reject strongly any foreign intervention in Somalia outside legitimate frameworks.

Thirteenth: Afghanistan

- Appeal to the Governments of the PUIC Member Parliaments to spare no efforts to help the National Unity Government in Afghanistan at this critical stage, in order to achieve peace, security and economic prosperity, especially in the fields of education, youth welfare and health.

Fourteenth: Situation In Mali And Neighboring States

- Stress our position in support of preserving the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of the Republic of Mali and the neighbouring States; and call for stepping up efforts to help these States overcome the difficulties facing hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons in these countries.





Fifteenth: Situation In Cyprus

- Call upon the governments of PUIC Member Parliaments to support effective solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot State and maintain close links with it, aiming to help it overcome the inhumane isolation imposed on it and consolidate and strengthen their relations with the Turkish Cypriot State in all fields; and reiterate the necessity of implementing previous OIC resolutions on the issue of Cyprus as well as the PUIC resolutions.

Sixteenth: Protection of Muslim Communities and Minorities

- Confirm the PUIC commitment towards Muslim communities and minorities living in non-OIC Member States, and call for action to solve their problems in such a way as to ensure their enjoyment of their fundamental rights, such as exercising political, religious and ritual freedoms, and the protection of holy places and historical sites.

Seventeenth: Jammu and Kashmir

- Call upon the United Nations Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to send a Fact-Finding Mission to the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and ensure fair, independent and transparent inquiry into the killings and blatant human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces.

Eighteenth: Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan

- Demand the strict implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, and the unconditional, complete and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azerbaijan territories; and strongly urge Armenia to respect the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its territorial integrity.

Nineteenth: Economic Affairs And Environment

- Call for encouraging the joining of funding and insurance institutions in the

OIC, such as the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), and the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), aimed at benefiting from the services that these institutions provide to enhance trade.

- Call on States of PUIC Member Parliaments and their financial institutions to take all the necessary measures to achieve the new goal of the expansion of intra trade so that it reaches 25% of their trade exchange by the year 2025, as provided for in the Program of Action adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 14 April, 2016.

- Appeal to our governments to secure financial and technical support required to address desertification and climate change in Islamic countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, which are affected by natural disasters and desertification, and call for considering the possibility of involving non-governmental civil society organizations working in the Islamic world in providing all forms of humanitarian aid, including addressing desertification and climate change, to affected countries.

- Stress the importance of the executive plan for the activation of the Islamic strategy for disaster risk reduction and management in Islamic countries, adopted by the Islamic Summit in 2010, and appreciate the existing cooperation between the OIC, the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in this regard.

Twentieth: Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions

- Calls for preparing a project through consultation with the OIC Cultural organs as well as scholars and elites from various parts of the world to contribute to an effective and constructive dialogue between the Islamic and Western Civilizations.

- Stresses the importance of establishing

national Islamic television channels broadcasting in foreign languages, in order to project the true image of Islam; and urge ISESCO to establish a specialized satellite channel in this respect.

Twenty First: Human Rights, Women and Family

- Strongly reject and condemns politicization, selectivity and discrimination in addressing human rights issues at the regional and international levels.

Reject attempts to exploit the issue of human rights in order to cast doubt on the principles and fundamentals of Islamic Sharia, and to interfere in the internal affairs of Muslim States.

- Request also PUIC Member Parliaments to enact necessary legislations to ensure that all women could enjoy equal access to economic resources, including access to land, productive resources, micro credit and finance, and enhancing technological and medical capacities of women in order to improve their skills through training programs.

- Call on the OIC in cooperation with WHO to create a mechanism for taking care of the psychological, mental and physical health, and the rehabilitation of women and children who have suffered the woes of destructive wars.

- Call again on the Member Parliaments to ratify international agreements banning trafficking in children and child labour in particular.

- Call for non-involvement of children in armed conflicts, stress that it contradicts divine religions and international laws, and call for enacting laws to protect children and communalize their exploitation.

- Call for condemning terrorist suicide attacks on religious sites and health care, scientific and cultural centers in Afghanistan; and call for ending them as they cause casualties among women, the youth and children. ❖



In a Visit to the Rohingya Refugee Camps In Bangladesh: PUIC Delegation Witnesses Evidence of Horrifying Humanitarian Tragedy

According to the mandate of the 13th PUIC Conference, a delegation of the PUIC Executive Committee visited the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh on 10-13 September 2018. The delegation included representatives of PUIC Member Parliaments of the following countries: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; People's Republic of Bangladesh; Islamic Republic of Iran; Malaysia; Kingdom of Morocco; Republic of the Sudan; Republic of Turkey and a delegation of the PUIC Secretariat.

● During the first day of the visit, the delegation met, at the Parliament Building, H.E. Mrs. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Having listened to her briefing on the suffering of the Muslim Rohingya, the PUIC Secretary General delivered a brief speech in which he thanked the People's Republic of Bangladesh and its people for receiving such numbers of the Rohingya refugees. He expressed his solidarity with Bangladesh to face the pressure which is on these refugees.

On the other hand, all the members of the PUIC delegation thanked the People's Republic of Bangladesh, government, people and parliament for the warm welcoming, and promised to urge their respective parliaments and governments to apply pressure on Myanmar to immediately allow the return of the Rohingya refugees to their homeland in the Rakhine State.

● The PUIC delegation also met with H.E. Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, and listened to the valuable explanations about the tragedy of the Muslim Rohingya people as well as briefing on the efforts exerted by the Government of Bangladesh to help these refugees.

His Excellency underscored the problems caused by the huge influx of refugees to Bangladesh. He gave proposals to be communicated to the PUIC Member Parliaments in order to exhort the Muslim nation to stand by the side of Bangladesh and

the Rohingya in this terrible tragedy and to move the entire world for the sake of justice and dignity.

● On 12th September, 2018, the PUIC delegation, accompanied by a number of Bangladeshi members of Parliament, went to visit the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox Bazar region where they closely took stock of the suffering of the Muslim Rohingya People.

During the visit the delegation had the opportunity to meet with the Rohingya refugees and discuss details of their plight. Their Frightening stories included human rights violations. Eyewitnesses gave details of horrifying events of August 2017 in which hundreds of Rohingya villages were burnt and thousands of innocent civilians were brutalized by the Myanmar army which used helicopter gunships and rockets. The worst forms of violence took place against the Rohingya Muslims, including murder, torture and the rape of women and children. The PUIC delegation took note of information directly from the victims who suffered those violations and who fled to Cox Bazar. Several Rohingya women, including young girls, told that they were gang-raped by soldiers. Some told frightening stories about witnessing the killing of members of their families and the hanging of heads of their sons from trees, as well as throwing children and old people into burning houses and shooting their husbands.

It may be mentioned that the refugee camps have been established in an area stretching along the border with Myanmar in a valley which previously had a lot of wildlife and a great number of trees and lakes. However due to the heavy influx of refugees in a short period of time, the ecology of the area has faced extensive damage, as most bamboo trees have been cut down to build makeshift huts for the refugees, and for use as firewood. One of the key fears expressed by Bangladeshi officials is that the situation may worsen during the monsoon season, which will cause landslides and heavy flooding, unless more engineering works were carried out. Additional resources are, therefore, critically needed as Bangladesh, despite, its best efforts, would not be able to cope with the massive humanitarian challenge during the upcoming rainy season.

● Bottom-line: while the situation of refugees and their stories were heart wrenching, it was pleasing to note that the government of Bangladesh is doing its best to ease the life of the Rohingya refugees and help them to bear their tragedy and facilitate delivery of humanitarian relief to them.

We ought to hail the generosity of the host community of Cox Bazar who have provided shelter for their brother Rohingya and gave time to teach their children the language and the Quran, as well as assist the Rohingya refugees who have fled Myanmar in fear for their lives and dignity.

However, the PUIC delegation, observed, with sorrow, the terrible psychological condition of the refugees due to the horrifying violations which they have witnessed, as well as the refusal of most of them to return to their homes, unless guarantees for their safety are provided and their basic human rights are realized. ❖





Highlights of The National Assembly of Senegal

The National Assembly is the unicameral institution of Senegal.

The deputies to the National Assembly are elected by direct universal suffrage. Their term is 5 years. It can be abridged only by dissolution of the National Assembly.

The Courts and Tribunals ensure that the electoral counting campaign or system is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Code.

The sittings of the National Assembly are public. They may be in camera only in exceptional cases and for a fixed period. The textual report of the proceedings with pertaining parliamentary documents will be published in the Journal of Debates or in the Official Journal.

Legislative texts:

There are two kinds of text: Law projects and bill of law.

● Law Projects:

They are deposited by the Government on the Bureau of the National Assembly.

Transmitted with their decree of presentation, they are registered and numbered in order of arrival at the level of the Direction of the Legislative Services and distributed to the deputies.

● Bill of Law:

They emanate from the deputies and are deposited on the Bureau of the National Assembly which examines them for the purposes of their admissibility, before communicating them to the President of the Republic who must make known his opinion within ten (10) days, as from their transmission. After this period, the procedure is ongoing.

Standing Committees:

There are eleven (11) committees.

One of the most important steps in the development of the law is its review by standing committees, commonly referred to as technical commissions.

The members of the commissions are appointed by the National Assembly according to the

groups administratively constituted and on their proposal.

Excepting the Accounting and Control Commission and the Committee of Delegations, the standing committees, the temporary special committees and the inter-committees sit during the sessions for the cases submitted to them.

In principle, no case may be submitted to the deliberations of the Assembly without first, having been the subject of a report by the committee responsible; with the exception of oral questions, current affairs, questions in writing, and, exceptionally, any other matter that is not necessary for a commission to know.

Plenary Sessions:

They are public except in the case provided for, in Rule 62 of the Rules of Procedure.

The plenary session is chaired by the Speaker of the National Assembly or by one of the Vice-Speakers. Two elected secretaries sit on his right and left. The presence in the room of the other elected secretaries is desired.

After reading the report, undertakes a general discussion in which the deputies and the Government Representative take part.

Members have the opportunity to request an urgent debate on the matters submitted to the deliberations of the Assembly. This discussion is of right when it is requested by the President of the Republic.

They may also request a second deliberation. Voting of bills and Projects is done item by item and then on the whole.

Voting Mode:

The National Assembly votes on the questions submitted to it:

- with raised hand;
- sitting up and up;
- by public vote;
- by secret ballot.

An electronic voting system is in the process of being finalized.

Voting attorney:

The vote of the deputies is personal. Any

imperative mandate is void (Article 64 of the Constitution).

However, the attorney of vote may be authorized in the cases and under the conditions provided by Rules 88 and 89 of the Rules of Procedure. A deputy may hold only one attorney.

Promulgation:

When the law is adopted, it is registered and sent for the signature of the chairman of the meeting, and then transmitted, by the General Secretariat, without delay and in fifteen copies, eight of which signed, to the General Secretariat of the Government, for its promulgation by the President of the Republic.

Referral to the Constitutional Council:

The Constitutional Council may be seized of an appeal to have the unconstitutional law declared by the President of the Republic within six clear days following its transmission and by a number of deputies in the hands equal to one-tenth of the members of the National Assembly within six working days (6 jours francs) of its final adoption.

The President of the Republic promulgates the laws definitively adopted within eight working days (8 jours francs) following the expiration of the period of appeal according to the Article 72 of the Constitution). The time for promulgation is reduced by half in case of emergency declared by the National Assembly.

Parliamentary control

It takes many forms:

- Policy Statement by the Prime Minister
- Question of trust
- Motion of censure
- Budget orientation debate
- Resolutions: the National Assembly may include in its agenda the discussion of resolutions submitted by one of its committees.
- Information or study missions of the permanent committees: they provide information to the Assembly to enable it to exercise control over the Government's policy. The fact-finding mission deals

with a given subject and aims to provide MEPs with specific answers to problems that preoccupy them in carrying out their activities. The study mission aims to study a problem of major interest, which MPs' understanding can help to make their work more efficient.

- Investigation committees
- Oral and topical national or international questions: they are tabled on the Bureau of the National Assembly and included in the sheet of cases that will be examined by the Conference of Presidents.
- Written questions: deposited on the Bureau of the National Assembly, they are communicated, without delay, to the President of the Republic. If the members of the Government fail to reply within one month after the publication of the question, it is automatically converted into an oral question.
- Hearings: Committees may hear any person they deem useful to consult.
- Visits by the permanent (technical) committees of State structures.

The Bureau of the National Assembly

At the beginning of the legislature, the oldest member present, who can read and write the official language, chairs the meeting until the election of the Speaker.

Upon his election, the Speaker of the National Assembly takes office. The election of the other members of the Bureau takes place under his presidency.

Functions

The Bureau shall have all powers to regulate the proceedings of the National Assembly and to organize and direct all its services under the conditions determined by this By-law and by subsequent by-laws.

The Bureau determines, through a financial regulation, the methods of preparation, elaboration and execution of the budget of the National Assembly.

The Bureau determines, by an Administrative Regulation, the methods of application, interpretation and execution, by the different services, of the provisions of these Regulations, as well as the statute of the staff of the National Assembly.

The Bureau, on the proposal of the President, shall, by decree, appoint the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General who attend its meetings, the Conference of Presidents, and any ad hoc committees where their presence is necessary.

If an ordinary or extraordinary session is closed without the Assembly having fixed the date of opening of its next session, it shall be fixed in due time by the Bureau of the National Assembly.

The Bureau may set up ad hoc committees on a specific subject.

On the proposal of its Bureau, the National Assembly may, during a solemn sitting:



Receive eminent personalities to deliver a message;

Give the honorary rank to its past speakers.

A Bureau Order determines the benefits to which Honorary Speakers are entitled, as well as the status of past Speakers.

The Office constantly watches over the consideration and assistance of former Members and reports to each regular session. It is competent to solve all the problems relating to the retirement of the deputies.

When the Assembly is called upon to be represented in external bodies, this representation is fixed by the Bureau.

The Bureau meets at least once a month.

Speaker Election Method:

The Speaker of the National Assembly is elected by uninominal ballot, by an absolute majority of the votes cast. If this majority is not reached in the first ballot, it is preceded by a second ballot for which the election is by a relative majority.

Deputy-speakers, Secretaries and Quaestors are elected. All these polls are secret and take place in proportional representation.

The Speaker's Office:

The Speaker's Office

The Speaker of the National Assembly is assisted by a Cabinet under the authority of a Director of Cabinet, who is a Senior Officer of the A hierarchy (grad).

The Cabinet includes in addition to its Director:

- a special secretariat of the Speaker;
- special advisers;
- technical advisers;
- a chief of cabinet and a cabinet attaché;
- a chief of mission (chargé de mission);

The Cabinet Director is responsible for coordinating the cabinet work and the private secretary.

The Chief of Staff may take the initiative to study or cause to be studied on behalf of the President any matter or question of particular interest.

If necessary, the Director of Cabinet is the spokesperson for the Speaker.

Structure of the National Assembly by political parties (165 seats)

- Benno Bokk Yaakaar, 125
- Winning Coalition - "Wattu Senegaal", 19
- Coalition "Mankoo Taxawu Senegaal", 7
- Party of Unity and Rally (PUR), 3
- Patriotic Convergence Coalition - "Kaddu Askanwi", 2
- Minorities Groups, 9. ❖

Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal

Moustapha Niasse



Born November 4, 1939, in Keur Madiabel (Kaolack) - Senegal

Education:

- Primary: Keur Madiabel (Kaolack)
- Secondary: Lycée Faidherbe de Saint-Louis
- Graduate: University of Dakar
- University of Paris (Panthéon- Sorbonne- Assas) Public Law, Administrative Law, Public International Law.
- Institute of Economic and Social Development Studies of the University of Paris (development strategies)
- National School of Administration of Senegal (ENAS)

Professional Career:

- 1967-1970. Director of Information and Press Services of the Republic of Senegal.
- 1970-1978. Director of the Cabinet of Mr. Léopold Sédar Senghor, President of the Republic of Senegal, for nine years.
- 1978-1979. Minister of Urban Planning, Housing and Environment
- 1979-1984. Minister of Foreign Affairs; again from 1993 to 1998.
- Elected President of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly (Paris, April 1979) on the fight against apartheid in South Africa.
- Elected, in September 1980, in Geneva, President of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the settlement of the question of Palestine and the Middle East.
- Prime Minister briefly in 1983; again from 2000 to 2001
- 1984-1993. Spent eight and a half years in private sector activities.
- July 14, 1999. Mr. Niasse created the Alliance of Forces of Progress (AFP).

Political Itinerary:

- 1960-1965. President of the National Union of Students of Senegal
- 1966-1976. President of the National Youth Secretariat
- 1966-1984. Member of the Political Bureau of the UPS became Socialist Party, as National Secretary in charge of Political Life of the Party.
- Twelve times, has been Head of the Senegal Delegation to the UN General Assembly as well as to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC,) and the Non-Aligned Movement.
- From 1981 to 1984, a member of the OIC Mediation Committee on the Iran-Iraq war, alongside the late President Ahmed Sékou Touré, Chairman of the said Committee
- Assumes the functions of International Consultant on North-South exchanges, on political and diplomatic issues and on the question of human rights and civil liberties in the world.
- Special Adviser to several African Heads of State.

Parliamentary Career:

- 2012 Elected to the National Assembly.
- 30 July 2012 Elected as Speaker of the National Assembly
- 11 October 2013 Re-elected as Speaker of the National Assembly.

Family Status:

Married and father of six (6) children, Mr. Niasse holds decorations conferred by more than 56 countries in the world. ❖



Open-Ended Meeting of the PUIIC Palestine Committee: Participants Highlighted Gravity of Situation in Palestine

The PUIIC Standing Committee on Palestine held an open-ended emergency meeting in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 14th May, 2018, in response to a kind invitation extended by H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran and President of the 13th Session of the PUIIC Conference. The aim was to consider the Current Situation in Palestine following two significant events: Relocation of the US embassy to the City of Al-Quds and the anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba.

Delegations of Member Parliaments of the following countries participated in the meeting: People's Democratic Republic of ALGERIA, Republic of AZERBAIJAN, BURKINA FASO, Republic of CHAD, Republic of GUINEA-BISSAU, Islamic Republic of IRAN, Hashemite Kingdom of JORDAN, State of KUWAIT, Republic of LEBANON, State of LIBYA, Republic of MALI, Republic of MOZAMBIQUE, State of PALESTINE, State of QATAR, Republic of SENEGAL, Republic of The SUDAN, SYRIAN Arab Republic, Republic of TURKEY, Republic of UGANDA; The Meeting was also attended by a number of diplomats from Muslim Countries accredited to Tehran.

The Opening Session was chaired by H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, who delivered a speech in which he described developments in Al- Quds as serious, which necessitate the Islamic Ummah to confront the insensible decisions of the President of the US Administration, with all firmness and resolve.

Then the meeting was addressed by H.E. Dr. Radwan Al-Akhrass, member of the Palestine National Council (PNC) who underlined the sensitivity and critical nature of the current situation in Palestine, in general, and in the City of Al-Quds in particular.

Then he posed the question:” Have Muslim countries offered political and appropriate replies to the US anti-Islamic measures?”

He requested formation of a task group from Islamic parliaments to follow up the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds in a sustainable manner.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, PUIIC

Secretary General delivered a speech in which he referred to the gravity of the simultaneity of relocation of the American embassy to Al-Quds with the Nakba anniversary. He described this development as a blatant violation of the rights of the Palestinian people and a provocation of the sentiments and dignity of Muslim.

Following the speech of H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, H.E. Dr. Kazim Jalali, representative of the Islamic Parliament of Iran to the PUIIC, offered thanks to His Excellency for his work during his tenure as PUIIC Secretary General, and underlined the achievements which the PUIIC has witnessed under both terms which H.E. Prof. Dr. KILIÇ, has served in this position.

Then H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani gave a brief statement on the achievements of the PUIIC Secretary General during the past years and appreciated the wise method of His Excellency in directing the affairs of the Union under the current troubled circumstances.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, delivered a brief speech: He stressed that those brotherly sentiments shall remain vividly in his memory of which he will feel proud as a reminder of the years he served as Secretary General of the PUIIC.

In conclusion of the opening session, H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani presented an honorary plaque and another valuable gift to H.E. Prof. Dr. KILIÇ, in recognition of the splendid works which he has done for the Union.

The proceedings of the meeting continued under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Kazim Jalali, MP representative of the Islamic Parliament of Iran to the PUIIC. The Following representatives of the participating delegations took the floor successively: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Republic of Chad, Republic of Guinea Bissau, Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon, State of Libya, Republic of Mali, Republic of Mozambique, State of Qatar, Republic of Senegal, Republic of the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Turkey, and Republic of Uganda.

Interventions of participants:

- Cause of Palestine and Al-Quds is a red line that cannot be overstepped.
- Nakba of Palestine, was, and remains the Nakba of the entire Muslim Ummah.
- Marches of return, and the scores of martyrs, demand Arab and Muslim nations to rise to the same level of heroism and sacrifice.
- Proposal of forming a parliamentary delegation from a number of Parliaments to go to Gaza to break the siege imposed on it.
- Condemning in the strongest terms the decision of the President of the US Administration on the city of Al-Quds and transferring the American embassy to it, considering the decision a new link in the chain of aggressions on the Arabs and Muslims, as well as a provocation of the sentiments of 1.7 billion Muslims around the world.
- Lowering level of relations with every state that moves its embassy to Al-Quds.
- The right to return is an acquired right of the Palestinians, and no Arab or Muslim leader can relinquish it.
- Muslim States are requested to take serious practical measures to support the Palestinian people, materially and morally.
- Resistance is the only way to face the occupying Zionist entity.
- Proposal on forming a parliamentary delegation to urge the Palestinian factions to establish reconciliation among themselves.
- Condemning US withdrawal from the nuclear agreement concluded between Iran and the 5+1 Group.

Having considered the items of the Final Communique of the Open-Ended Emergency Meeting of the PUIIC Standing Committee on Palestine, the participants adopted the communique.

The participants in the meeting expressed thanks and appreciation to H.E. the Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, President of 13th Session of PUIIC Conference for the warm reception, hospitality and good organization and preparation of the meeting. ❖

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Following exhaustive discussions of the current situation in Palestine and the surrounding regional and international circumstances, enriched by valuable interventions from the participants, the Meeting declares the following:

- Affirming anew that the Cause of Palestine, with Al-Quds as the Palestinian Capital, constitute the first priority of the Islamic Ummah, and the major focus of its attention, and that defending and supporting it is considered a belief obligation for all Muslims of the World, until the realization of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in their homeland, primarily, return of refugees and the establishment of the independent Palestinian State, on the land of Palestine, with Al-Quds as its Capital.
- Calling on Muslim countries to renounce their differences, unify their ranks and enhance bonds of Islamic brotherhood in order to confront the vicious attack launched by enemies of the Muslim Nation, exemplified by the Zionist entity and its greedy protectors, who bet on the current regional situation, and utilizing it to ignite the flames of sedition and agitation in order to divert the attention of the States of the region away from the grave violations of the rights of the Palestinian People, especially those concerning the City of Al-Quds, and affirming the necessity of rallying all the capabilities of the Islamic World in order to assist the Palestinian people achieve their legitimate rights, as well as Calling on all freedom-loving people to use all their efforts to support the Palestinian People.
- Rejecting all types of normalization with the Zionist entity, and precluding its utilization of the troubled circumstances which afflict the Middle East region at the present time, in order to avert the opportunity of fishing in disturbed water by this arrogant enemy.
- Supporting all forms of resistance against the Zionist entity, especially the resistance of the steadfast Palestinian people in the face of the Zionist aggression. This resistance is considered a legitimate right until the realization of the national rights of the Palestinian people.
- Extending all forms of assistance and backing to the uprising of the Palestinian people in terms of the marches of return until the realization of the Palestinian right of returning to the land of fathers and grandfathers; expressing strong condemnation of the oppressive measures practiced by the authorities of the Zionist occupation against the citizens of Gaza who are participating in the marches of return; and demanding carrying out impartial and immediate investigation into murder crimes and wounding of unarmed Palestinians, and that such investigations be adopted by the

UN Security Council, and that the perpetrators of such crimes should be brought to justice on the basis of International laws.

- Affirming absolute rejection of the decision of the president of the US Administration on Al-Quds, issued on 6th December, 2017, and rejecting all its concomitant outcome, including USA action to relocate its embassy to Al-Quds, a measure roundly condemned by international laws and conventions, and UN resolutions, which they consider as a naked and immoral aggression on the rights of the Palestinian people as well as a provocative action that is apt to push the region into further violence and anarchy.
- Holding the USA totally responsible for the consequences of its illegal steps and its illegitimate standing by the side of the occupying authority, and providing the means for it to escape punishment for its crimes against the Palestinian People. Requesting the United Nations and the international community to take practical measures and fulfill their obligations by preventing these invalid arrangements.
- Inviting all states of the world to refrain from supporting the USA's decision on Al-Quds, and to remain committed to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council which prohibit the relocation of diplomatic mission to Al-Quds, which they view as a negation of the historical and legal rights of the Palestinian people.
- Condemning the USA stand which is opposing adoption of a resolution at the UN Security Council denouncing the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist entity against the citizens of Gaza Strip who are participating in the marches of return, considering this stand as a US participation in aggression on the Palestinian People, as well as an incentive for the Zionist entity to continue perpetrating its crimes.
- Requesting all Palestinian factions to expedite realizing reconciliation among themselves in order to enhance national unity which strengthen the efforts of the Islamic Ummah to face the regional and international circumstances surrounding the Palestinian cause at the present time.
- Calling on the international community to pressurize the Zionist entity, the occupying Power, to end the illegal land, sea and air blockage of Gaza Strip applied as a form of collective punishment, open border crossing and ensure the free movement of people, materials and goods from and to the Gaza Strip and the rest of Palestinian territory.
- Charging the PUIC Secretary General with taking the necessary measures to follow up implementation of the provisions of this Communique, and to inform the IPU, the United Nations and all regional organizations thereof.
- Offering thanks and gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran, leaders, people and Parliament for their kind initiative to host this important meeting, and for the warm reception and generous hospitality.
- In conclusion of the meeting the attendees condemned the American withdrawal from the nuclear accord concluded between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the 5+1 group, considered as an outstanding example of negation of agreement and flouting international laws and conventions.❖



Highlights of

The National Popular Assembly of Guinea-Bissau



The 1993 Constitution provides for the existence of a single chamber with designation as the National Popular Assembly. Members of the National Popular Assembly, with the title ‘Deputies’, shall be elected ‘by universal, free, equal, direct, secret and periodical suffrage’. The number of Deputies provided for in the electoral law is 102.

Each legislature shall have a term of five years, beginning with the announcement of election results.

A Deputy has the right to question members of the Council of State and of the Government, either orally or in written form; the respective answer must be provided to him during the same session or within two weeks, at the most, in written form, if an investigation is required.

No deputy may be disturbed, prosecuted, arrested, imprisoned, judged, or condemned for his voting record or the opinions he expresses while performing his duties as Deputy.

The rights and privileges, as well as the

powers and duties of Deputies, are regulated by law.

A Deputy that neglects his duties seriously may be dismissed by the National Popular Assembly.

The National Popular Assembly elects its Speaker and other members of his Cabinet at the first session of each legislature.

The Cabinet shall be composed of the Speaker, one First Vice-Speaker, one Second Vice-Speaker, a First Secretary, and a Second Secretary, elected by the total legislature. The powers and jurisdiction of the Cabinet shall be regulated by the Rules and Procedures of the Assembly.

The following shall be incumbent upon the National Popular Assembly:

1. to proceed with revising the Constitution;
2. to elect the Council of State and its respective Speaker, for the total session of the legislature;
3. to make decisions to hold popular referendums;
4. to make laws and pass motions and resolutions;

5. to decide on the constitutionality of laws, laws-by-decree, and other legislation;

6. to approve, modify, or annul legislation and other measures adopted by organs of the State that are contrary to this Constitution and laws;

7. to approve the State’s General Budget Law;

8. to approve treaties that concern the participation of Guinea-Bissau in international organizations, treaties for friendship, peace, defense, the changing of borders, and any others that the Government decides to submit for approval;

9. to approve the National Development Plan and its respective law;

10. to declare a state of martial law or a state of emergency, according to terms of law;

11. to approve the accounting [audits] of the State related to each fiscal year;

12. to grant amnesty;

13. to draw up and approve rules and regulations;

14. to exercise other authorities granted to it by this Constitution and by law.

Speaker of the People’s National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau

Cipriano Cassamá



Place of Birth: Village of Bula in the Cacheu Region of northern Guinea.

Education: Graduated in agronomy in the Republic of Algeria in 1985 and also studied law at the Faculty of Law of Bissau.

Political Life: Joined the PAIGC (Africa Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) in 1973 at the end of the armed struggle for national liberation and after his return from studies, he worked as a delegate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the region of Bolama-Bijagós.

Cassamá was President Nino Vieira’s spokesman at the time of the 1998–1999 civil war. He subsequently served as President of the

PAIGC Parliamentary Group.

On March 17, 2008, Cassamá presented his candidacy to stand for the post of President of PAIGC at the next party congress.

Official Posts:

At the age of 31, he was appointed Director-General of Forestry and Hunting at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in 1990, and after the first elections held in the country in 1994 he was appointed Secretary of State for Tourism, Environment and Handicrafts. At that same time and in the context of a government remodeling, Cipriano Cassamá was promoted to minister of the guardianship.

And in 1997, Cipriano Cassamá was appointed

The National Popular Assembly shall create permanent specialized Commissions according to various matters and create temporary committees to take up predetermined subjects.

The National Popular Assembly shall meet in regular session once a year. It may also gather in special session when called by the Council of State at its own initiative, by the Council or Ministers, or when required by a majority of Deputies. All details of said operation shall be regulated by law.

Members of the Political Bureau of the PAIGC and members of the Government who are not Deputies may sit and speak in plenary sessions of the Assembly.

The following are powers of the Speaker of the National Popular Assembly:

1. to preside over sessions of the National Popular Assembly and to be vigilant that its rules and regulations are applied;
2. to call regular sessions of the National Popular Assembly;
3. to supervise and coordinate the work of standing committees and other committees of the National Popular Assembly;
4. to sign and order the publication of laws and resolutions of the National Popular Assembly in the Official Bulletin;
5. to direct the international relations of the National Popular Assembly;
6. to attend meetings of the Council of State;

Committees:

- Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Human Rights and Public Administration
- Committee on Internal Administration, Local Government and National Defense
- Committee on Economic, Financial, Planning, Trade and Industry
- Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism
- Commission for Health, Social Affairs, Education, Culture, Sports and Media
- Committee on Public Works, Housing, Transport, Energy, Science and Technology
- Committee on Foreign Policy, International Cooperation and Emigration
- Commission for Women and Children ❖

by the then President of the Republic João Bernardo Vieira (NINO), as his adviser for Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructures as Minister of State and spokesperson for presidency of the Republic.

The last ministerial role that Cassamá played was that of Minister of Internal Administration in 2008

Parliamentary Experience:

- Has extensive parliamentary experience
- Consistently elected as MP since 1994
- In 2004 he was parliamentary leader of PAIGC
- Currently vice-president of the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union Inter-Parliamentary Committee (CIP-WAEMU)

Family Status: Married and has 5 children. ❖

In preparation for the PUIC Conference:

Dakar Hosts an Important Meeting



The 40th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee will be held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 2-3 October 2018, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Moustapha Niasse Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal.

The meeting shall prepare draft agendas for the 14th PUIC Conference and other related meetings, scheduled to be held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in January, 2019:

Firstly: It draws up the draft agenda of the 7th meeting of the following specialized standing 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.

Secondly: It draws up the draft agenda of each of the following subsidiary organs:

- Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Palestine;
- Eight Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- Second Consultation meeting of the Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.

Thirdly: The meeting also covers the following items:

- Drawing up the Draft Agenda of the 21th Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Defining the date of the 14th PUIC Conference.
- Drawing up the Draft Agenda of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference.

● Motto of the 14th PUIC Conference and other related meetings.

● Studying the proposal of the Lebanese National Assembly on the Institute for Parliamentary Training and Legislative Studies at the Lebanese National Assembly.

● Adoption of the Report of the 40th Meeting of the Executive Committee **Report of the Secretary General:**

● The report covers the period between the date of holding the 39th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, which was held as part of the proceedings of the 13th PUIC Conference, in Tehran, on 13th January, 2018, and the date of the current meeting.

● The report includes the activities of the General Secretariat, Secretary General participation in international and regional fora, statements issued by the PUIC General Secretariat, statements issued by some Member States, Secretary General's congratulatory messages on the occasion of the election and re-election of some Parliament Speakers, Secretary General letters of condolence and sympathy, Extraordinary Open-Ended Meeting of the PUIC Committee on Palestine, Bidding Farewell to the Former PUIC Secretary General, Assumption by the New PUIC Secretary General of his duties at the General Secretariat, paying a visit to the Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh, media activities and organizational matters.

● The report also includes following-up the implementation of the resolutions of the 13th PUIC Conference and related meeting.

● The closing session will adopt the report of the Committee. ❖

Highlights of the Parliament of Sierra Leone



The 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone vests the legislative power in the Parliament. While the President is a part of Parliament the Constitution specifies that no Minister or Deputy Minister will be part of Parliament. The Parliament itself consists of a total of 146 seats.

The Parliament is headed by the Speaker who shall be elected by the Members of Parliament.

Sessions:

Sessions of Parliament shall commence in the manner prescribed by section 84 of the Constitution, and Parliament shall be dissolved in the manner prescribed by section 85 of the Constitution.

Not less than twenty-one days before the date of a meeting, the clerk shall transmit to each Member a written notice specifying the date, time and place of such meeting.

The President may at any time summon a meeting of Parliament; Twenty per cent of all the Members of Parliament may request a meeting if Parliament to commence in fourteen days through the channel of the Speakership.

Life of Parliament

1. Parliament shall stand dissolved at the expiration of a period of five years commencing from the date of its first sitting after a general election.

2. If there is in existence a state of public emergency in accordance with section 29 of this Constitution and the President considers it not practicable to hold elections, Parliament may, by resolution, extend the period of five years mentioned in subsection (1) from time to time but not beyond a period of six months at any one time.

Parliament shall sit for a period of not less than one hundred and twenty days in each year.

General Elections

A general election of the Members of Parliament shall be held not earlier than thirty days and not later than ninety days after any dissolution of Parliament:

Procedure of Parliament:

● Presiding in Parliament

There shall preside at any sitting of Parliament:

- the Speaker; or
- in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker; or
- in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, such Member of Parliament as may be elected for that purpose:

When the President of the Republic addresses Parliament or attends in person, the Speaker shall leave his chair.

● Quorum in Parliament

If it is pointed out that the number of deputies present in Parliament is less than one-fourth of all the Members of Parliament and the Speaker shall be so satisfied, then he should adjourn the session because of the lack of quorum.

Voting in Parliament

Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, any question proposed for decision in Parliament shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting.

Sessional Parliamentary Committees

- Selection Committee
- Standing Order Committee
- Public Petition Committee
- House Committee
- Business Committee
- Public Account Committee
- Appointments & Public Service Committee
- Finance and Development Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Foreign Affairs & International

Cooperation Committee

- Defence & Presidential Affairs Committee
- Internal Affairs Committee
- Local Government & Rural Development Committee
- Mines and Mineral Resources Committee
- Education Committee
- Agriculture & Forestry Food Security Committee
- Privileges and Ethics Committee
- Trade Committee
- Transport and Aviation Committee
- Works, House and Maintenance Committee
- Transparency & Accountability Committee
- Health, Sanitation & HIV Aids Committee
- Labour & Industrial Relations Committee
- Lands Country Planning and the Environment Committee
- Fisheries and Marine Resources Committee
- Information and Communication Committee
- Energy Committee
- Water Resources Committee
- Human Rights Committee
- Social Services Committee
- Sports Committee
- Committee on Youths Affairs
- Committee on Tourism & Cultural Affairs
- NGOS and NACSA Committee

Regulation of Procedure in Parliament

1. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may regulate its own procedure, and may in particular make, amend and revoke Standing Orders for the orderly conduct of its own proceedings.

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution or in any other law contained, no decision, order or direction of Parliament or any of its Committees or the Speaker, relating to the rules of procedure of Parliament, or to the application or interpretation of such rules, or any act done or purporting to have been done by Parliament or by the Speaker under any rules of procedure, shall be inquired into by any court.

3. Parliament may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership (including any vacancy not filled when Parliament first meets after the entry into force of this Constitution or after any dissolution of Parliament) and the presence or participation of any person not entitled to be present at or to participate in the proceedings of Parliament shall not invalidate those proceedings.

4. Parliament may, for the purpose of the orderly and effective discharge of its business, make provision for the powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament, its Committees and the Members thereof.

Contempt of Parliament

Any act or omission which obstructs or impedes Parliament in the performance of its functions, or which obstructs or impedes any Member or officer thereof in the discharge of his duties or affronts the dignity of Parliament, or which tends either directly or indirectly to produce such a result shall be a contempt of Parliament.

Exercise of Legislative Power

● Power to make laws

Subject to the provisions of this

Constitution, Parliament shall be the supreme legislative authority for Sierra Leone.

● Mode of Exercising Legislative Power

The power of Parliament to make laws shall be exercised by Bills passed by Parliament and signed by the President.

Subject to the provisions of subsection (8), a Bill shall not become law unless it has been duly passed and signed in accordance with this Constitution.

Election of Speaker:

Whenever the House desires to elect a person to be Speaker, whether after a general election or when a vacancy in the office of Speaker has occurred in any other way, the procedure for the election shall be as provided in this Order.

Any Member, having first ascertained that the Member or other person to be proposed is qualified and willing to serve as Speaker, if elected, may, addressing himself to the Clerk, propose any other Member then present, or any other suitable person then present, to the House as Speaker. If only one person is so proposed, the Clerk shall propose the question that that person do take the Chair of the House as Speaker. If more than one person is so proposed, the Clerk shall propose the question that the first person proposed do take the Chair of the House as Speaker.

Whenever a question has been proposed under this Order, the Clerk shall call in turn upon any Member who indicates his desire to speak, and when all Members have spoken who desire to do so, shall put the question to the House. ❖



Speaker of Parliament of Sierra Leone Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu

H.E. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu was born on 3rd June, 1948 in Gbinti, Port Loko District.

He was elected as Speaker of Parliament on 25th April, 2018.

From 1989 to 1993, Rt. Hon Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu was the Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He also served at various times as Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Tourism and Cultural Affairs and Foreign Affairs and International Corporations

Candidate of the now defunct Progressive People's Party (PPP) in the 1996 Sierra Leone presidential election.

Education

Rt. Hon Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu attended the St. Andrews Secondary School in Bo, the Methodist Boys' High School in Freetown and the St. Edward's Secondary School also in Freetown. Immediately after secondary school, Bundu left Sierra Leone as a youth and moved abroad to further his education. He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the Australian National University (ANU) and both a Master of Laws and a PhD in International Law from the University of Cambridge, England. He is also a Barrister-at-Law.

Career

Rt. Hon Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu numerous positions include a Law Tutor in Cambridge University, Assistant Director of International Affairs and Consultant in Constitutional Law in the Commonwealth Secretariat in London from 1975–82; Executive Secretary of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) from 1989–1993, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (1993–1995), Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources 1982–85; member of Parliament 1982-1992 and Presidential candidate in the 1996 Presidential election in Sierra Leone. Bundu has written a critical analysis of the Civil War in Sierra Leone, in his book entitled "Democracy by Force?" and several legal articles in various international legal journals.

He is an expert on constitutional and international Law. ❖





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:

- 15 January 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Bambang Soesatyo as Speaker of the House of Representatives (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat) of Indonesia
- 3 March 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Djibril Cavayé Yeguie as Speaker of the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) of Cameroon
- 12 March 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani as Speaker of the Senate of Pakistan
- 15 March 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Houmed as Speaker of the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) of Djibouti
- 30 March 2018 Election of H.E. Mrs. Gulshat Mamedova as Speaker of the Assembly (Mejlis) of Turkmenistan
- 5 April 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio as Speaker of the Senate (Sénat) of Cote d'Ivoire
- 25 April 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Abass Chernor Bundu as Speaker of the Parliament of Sierra Leone
- 30 April 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Mursal Sheikh Abdirahman as Speaker of the House of the People of Somalia
- 4 May 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Marcel Niat Njifenji as Speaker of the Senate (Sénat) of Cameroon
- 23 May 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Nabih Berri as Speaker of the National Assembly (Majlis Al-Nuwwab) of Lebanon
- 30 May 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Ali Larjani as Speaker of the Islamic Parliament (Majles Shoraye Eslami) of Iran
- 6 June 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Hammouda Sabbagh as Speaker of the People's Assembly (Majlis Al-Chaab) of Syria
- 12 July 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Binali Yildirim as Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi) of Turkey
- 16 July 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof as Speaker of the House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat) of Malaysia
- 15 August 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Asad Qaiser as Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan
- 15 September 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Mohammad El-Halbusi as Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq



Afghanistan: The Lower House of Parliament plenary session has discussed the country's foreign policy principles.

The session was held under the chairmanship of Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, while a report was presented by delegation from national security commission in relation to Nangarhar's security condition.

On the sidelines of the session, the country's important issues were discussed even coming of first vice- President General Abdul Rashid Dostum to the country was called a good step. Likewise, people representatives strongly condemned recent suicide attack close to Kabul Airport in which a few of our compatriots were killed and wounded.

People representatives meanwhile in session have suggested for construction of 150 schools in the different parts of the country, added, this adjustment should be ratified in budget.



Algeria: The National People's Assembly launched a training course for 60 parliamentarians on "Strengthening Rights Activities between Men and Women in Algeria" in implementation of the program signed between Algeria and the UN women organization.

This training course, organized by the Women Organization, aims to advance the skills of female parliamentarians and support them with the tools that can be used in gender.

This training workshop is part of the cooperation program "Enhancing" the promotion of the effectiveness of equality between women and men in Algeria from 2015-2018 and signed between the Algerian government and the United Nations.



Cote d'Ivoire : "African Continental Free Trade Area: Role of Regional Economic Communities". This is the theme of the seminar organized from 13 to 15 September 2018 in Abidjan, by the parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). At the opening ceremony of this seminar held in the village hall of the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, the President of the ECOWAS Parliament, Moustapha Cissé Lo, thanked the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Soro Kigbafori Guillaume, for his determination to accompany the government through parliamentary diplomacy. He therefore welcomed the creation of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), which is a major act for the economic development of the continent and for the well-being of the people.



Iran: The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, H.E. Dr. Ali Larjani Thanked the Saudi Arabia's government for facilitating Haji to Iranian Pilgrims, who return to the homeland.

Referring to the return of the pilgrims to the country, the Speaker of the Majlis said, "Thanks to the government of Saudi Arabia for providing this opportunity for pilgrims this year."

On the other hand Iran as the rotating president of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) condemned the US move to cut financial aid to UNRWA. He added The US move to cut aid to the United Nations Relief Works and Agency (UNRWA) is a

clear violation of the UN General Assembly resolution 302 (IV).

He urged all parliaments of the OIC member-states to take strong decision in condemning the US move.

Larjani described the US move against the Palestinian refugees as shameful and underlined that as the head of the PUIC will demand all international and regional communities to support UNRWA financially.



Iraq: The Council of Representatives elected Mr. Mohamed Halbusi as Speaker of the House of Representatives and his first deputy, Mr. Hassan Karim Al Kaabi.

At the beginning of the session, Ahmad Hama Rashid, Zafer al-Ani and Taha al-Dodi were sworn in as members of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker of the age received the requests for the nomination of each deputies Mohammed Tamim and Talal Zobaie and Ahmed Jubouri, Mohamed Halbusi and Mohammed Khalidi and Khalid al-Obeidi and Osama Najafi and Rad Dahlaki to the presidency of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker of the Age announced the election of MP Mohammed Halbusi as the Speaker of the Council after receiving 169 votes out of 298 votes and get MP Khaled Obeidi 89 votes, while Osama Nujaifi 19 votes and MP Mohammed Khaldi 4 votes and one vote for both deputies Talal Zobaie and Raad Dahlaki, and recording 12 blank cards and 3 invalid cards.

Mr. Hassan Al-Kaabi and Alia Faleh were declared candidates for the post of Vice-Speaker.



Kuwait: Speaker of the National Assembly, H.E. Mr. Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim stressed the policy of humanitarian intervention and relief in areas of conflict, which was established by His Highness the Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is a political approach and a strategic choice and not a reaction necessitated by circumstances and political changes.

Al-Ghanim said in a press statement on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the selection of the United Nations HH the Emir of Kuwait as a humanitarian leader and Kuwait as a center for humanitarian action. "HH the Amir has taken the firm initiative of the early 1960s to provide relief assistance in areas of conflict and natural disasters." This took place with the Syrian human file when Kuwait adopted this file and hosted three donor conferences, which contributed most to it financially," he said.



Lebanon: Speaker Nabih Berri received a delegation comprising the working team that works on the economic vision of Lebanon. It includes the Minister of Economy in the caretaker government Raed Khoury, the McKinsey Consulting Office, MP

Yasin Jaber and a team of consultants in the presidential, parliamentary and government presidencies.

Minister Khoury said after the meeting:

Our meeting with President Berri is a very important meeting and indicates an approach for the coming years, especially after the formation of the new government. We have seen from him his keenness on the economic situation and how much there is a match with the ideas for the economic plan that we put forward today. The meeting was attended by an advisory group of the Presidents of the Republic, the Parliament and the Government. And we are all going to activate the productive sectors so that we can get out of this economic crisis we are living. We also discussed the mechanism of implementation of this plan, which will begin first by the next government, which will develop an effective implementation mechanism.



Morocco: In the frameworks of the visit of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Habib El Malki to Australia, a working meeting was held with his counterpart Mr. John Ajaka, Speaker of the Parliament of South Wales.

Mr. Malki thanked Mr. John Ajaka for the invitation, which translates the strength of political relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and Australia, and considered that this meeting is of great importance for several reasons: first and foremost is the fact that the Parliament of the South Wales region is a regional parliament, and “that test and practice have proven that the regional dimension comprises the mechanisms of governance, and solidifies the democratic system of the state, “pointing out that the Australian experience is one of the most successful of its kind with which Morocco is to be guided.



Mozambique: The European Union believes that, as a pillar of democracy, the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique plays a key role in maintaining peace and strengthening the rule of law.

“For this reason, it is a priority for the European Union to strengthen citizens’ knowledge of the work of the House of the People,” said Stefan Simosas, Chargé d’Affaires of the European Union in Mozambique.

Speaking, in Maputo, in the solemn ceremony to launch the Assembly of the Republic’s “open doors and cultural agenda”, Simosas added that the consolidation of democracy, a fundamental value of the European Union, requires participating in electoral processes and voters who feel reflected in the work of democratic institutions.



Nigeria: Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Yakubu Dogara, has called for stronger synergy among

impoverished countries in Africa in order to achieve desired outcomes in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Speaker noted that due to lack of effective international cooperation and collaboration, criminals have globalised their activities, connecting across the globe seamlessly whilst the enforcers of the laws are hampered in no small measure.

Speaking while delivering a keynote address at the 28th plenary meeting of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) in Abuja, he expressed the National Assembly’s, and indeed, Nigeria’s readiness to fully comply with the global standards required of her by demonstrating political support to the relevant competent authorities in the country to deepen the anti -money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism culture in Nigeria.



Pakistan: Speaker of National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) in the National Assembly is a significant achievement of women parliamentarians. He further said that the Caucus has provided them with a forum where they could work for development, empowerment and emancipation of women above party politics. He expressed these views while talking with the general assembly of WPC in Parliament House.

“It’s high time we recognized the meaningful role of women and take substantial steps for ensuring equal participation of women by accepting the fact that the Constitution of Pakistan promises dignity, freedom and equality to all citizens and forbids discrimination on the basis of gender”, the Speaker added.



Palestine: The Palestine National Council (PNC) called upon the world parliaments and regional and international parliamentary associations to reject the US decision and to continue its support to UNRWA, to declare its rejection of US pressure to stop UNRWA’s financial contributions and to go to the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council to face this decision and take the necessary and mandatory decisions.

This call was made in identical letters sent by the Speaker of the Palestine National Council Salim Zanoun to more than ten regional and international parliamentary unions and associations.

The Palestine National Council stated that UNRWA is the international witness to the cause and to the right of the refugees to return to their homes and properties that they have been displaced since 1948. It has become more than an agency. It is the address, refuge and destination of responsibility, as the international community decided on the Nakba Day. It is also the international expression of

the recognition of injustice and bias inflicted upon them by the ethnic cleansing, transfer and Israeli robbery of their homeland and property and depriving them of all the ingredients of a decent life.



Saudi Arabia: The Shura Council organized a workshop on “Development aspects of Parliamentary Research and Studies” at the headquarters of the Council in Riyadh, in which some members of the Council, a number of experts and those interested in parliamentary studies participated. The workshop, which was organized by the Council’s Shura Research Center, focused on the development of specialized researches and studies in the parliamentary field through the submission of working papers on the development of parliamentary research and studies to support the decision in the Shura and parliamentary councils.



Uganda: The Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Children (UPFC) wants Parliament to incorporate provisions relating to child marriages into the Sexual Offenses Bill. The Chairperson of UPFC, Hon. Bernard Atiku said that this will protect girls and women against all forms of harmful sexual practices.

Atiku was appearing before the Parliamentary Select Committee investigating sexual harassment in institutions of learning. The committee was instituted following a motion moved by the National Female Youth MP, Anna Adeke Ebaju urging Parliament to investigate the increasing cases of sexual harassment in institutions of learning.

“Uganda still ranks among the two leading countries in Africa together with Malawi and the 11th globally as one of the countries where child marriage is prevalent and [with] high numbers of child brides,” said Atiku.



UAE: The Parliamentary Division of the Federal National Council called on parliaments to enact and discuss legislation capable of promoting coexistence and social cohesion, promoting the spirit of citizenship, criminalizing terrorist acts and perpetrators, draining the financing of these terrorist groups and pursuing terrorist and extremist thought, while observing protection of individual rights, democracy and respecting human rights.

Noting that parliamentarians have an important role to play in combating terrorism and extremism, building a strategic partnership to eliminate extremism and spreading cooperation and values of tolerance between the civilizations and peoples of the world as a basis for international peace and security and developing preventive programs to immunize young people and future generations against radical ideas that lead to extremism. ❖

Success of the PUIC Members in Geneva:

US Declaration on Jerusalem Emergency Item at IPU Meeting



The PUIC held its regular consultation meeting on the sidelines of the 138th IPU Assembly, prior to the opening IPU Session, on Saturday 24th March 2018. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Marzoug Ali Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait and the participation of 26 PUIC Member Parliaments. The meeting was attended by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Bin Zeid Al-Mahmoud, Speaker of the Advisory Council of the State of Qatar, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Omer, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Sudan, as well as H.E. Mr. Ismail Kahraman, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and a large number of delegates of Member Parliaments.

At the beginning of the meeting H.E. the then PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC submitted a brief report on the proposed emergency items. Then the attendees debated the subject of the emergency item. As all proposals were about the issue of Palestine and the city of Al-Quds and being keen on reaching a consensus on the emergency item, the attendees formed a committee, headed by the representative of the Palestine National Council, and the membership of the representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Kuwait and the Republic of Turkey. It was agreed that the parliaments of these states should submit a single request for inclusion as an emergency item on the agenda of the 138th IPU Assembly under the title "The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem, and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions." This proposal in fact got the biggest number of votes in the plenary session, and was selected as an emergency item on the agenda of the 138th IPU Assembly. ❖

PUIC Secretary General participates in the 12th Plenary Session of PAM

H.E. the former PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC participated in the 12th Plenary Session of Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) which was held in Bucharest, Romania, on 15-16 February, 2018. This meeting brought to the parliamentarians' attention the recurrent theme of Countering the Evolving Threat of Terrorism among many other emblematic topics for this Assembly such as Political and Security Developments in the MENA Region; Facilitating Trade and Supporting Investments; Climate Change, Human Rights and Migration; and Protection of Cultural Heritage.

His Excellency delivered a speech on the topics addressed by the session which focused on the Countering the Evolving Threat of Terrorism.

In the speech His Excellency stated: "The entire world has denounced terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of the perpetrators place of action or purposes.

Terrorism has constituted, and continues to constitute one of the most dangerous threats to international peace and security. It has also grave effects on socio-economic development through its perpetrators of extremist groups being alien to the traditions of our religions and moral communities. Terrorism has surpassed all the above, to impinge upon and destroy cultural heritage by burning books, rare documents, demolishing tombs, engravings, monuments, and other world civilization heritage." ❖



The Secretary General Condemns Israel's Killing and wounding Hundreds of Palestinians

H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, the former PUIC Secretary General, strongly condemned the recurrent Israeli crime against the Palestinian people in which 17 Palestinians were martyred and 700 were wounded when Israeli forces fired on peaceful demonstrators, on Friday 30th March 2018. In the statement issued by His Excellency on this occasion, he strongly condemned and denounced this despicable crime. He exhorted all PUIC Member Parliaments to denounce such vicious crimes perpetrated by Israel against the unarmed Palestinian people; to extend material and moral support in favour of the Palestinian cause; unify their stances when addressing the international community and its world organizations in order to denounce the criminal actions of the Zionist entity, and for legitimate recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. ❖

The Secretary-General Condoles with Algeria

H.E. the former PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC expressed sorrow and grief over the crash of the military aircraft with more than 100 people aboard, near the airport of Boufarik, north of Algeria. His Excellency sent a message of condolence to H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Ben Saleh, Speaker Council of the National and H.E. Mr. Said Bouhja, Speaker of the People's National Assembly of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Prof. KILIC also expressed to H.E. Mr. Bouhja and H.E. Mr. Ben Saleh and the Algerian people sincere condolences for the victims of this incident and his consolation to their families. Prof. KILIC prayed to Almighty God to include these victims in His mercy and to grant their families patience and solace. ❖

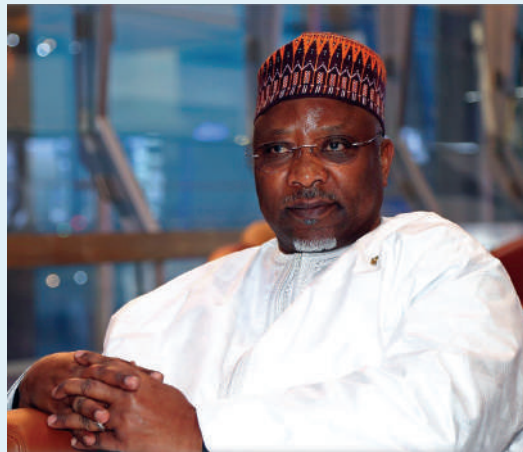
Prof. KILIC Bids Farewell to Larijani



On 5/5/2018, H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, the out-going Secretary General paid a farewell visit to H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, President of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference, at his office in the Parliament building. In this meeting, the out-going PUIC Secretary General highly appreciated the support which the PUIC received from H.E. Dr. Larijani over the past years. He thanked his Excellency for the excellent treatment, generous hospitality and sincere cooperation which he received from Dr. Larijani during his tenure at the PUIC. ❖

H.E. Mr. NIASS Assumes His Duties As PUIC Secretary General

His Excellency Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS assumed his responsibilities as Secretary General of the PUIC as of Wednesday 1/8/2018. His Excellency received members of the staff of the General Secretariat in his office at the PUIC Seat in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. He urged them to continue working with the spirit of one group aimed at enhancing the Organization as one of the mechanisms of joint Islamic action in the Parliamentary field. ❖



Secretary General Participates in Monitoring Azerbaijan Elections

In response to a kind invitation extended by the parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a PUIC delegation, headed by H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, the outgoing PUIC Secretary General, went to Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, to participate, as part of an international and regional monitoring team, in observing the elections which took place in Azerbaijan on 11th April, 2018. ❖

PUIC Secretary General Meets with Iranian Foreign Minister

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS met with H.E. the Foreign Minister of Iran Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif in his office at the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday morning 7th August, 2018.

The two sides addressed the task entrusted to the PUIC in terms of enhancing joint Islamic action, unifying Islamic stances in international and regional fora, and confronting the huge challenges which

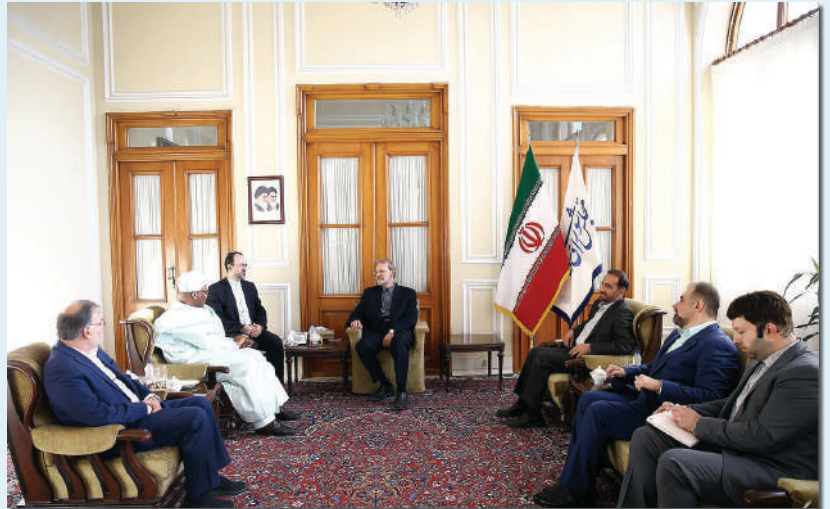
are facing the Ummah at the present time. Dr. Zarif expressed his total support and the support of his country to the Secretary General and his mission.

The two sides also affirmed the importance of promoting Islamic Solidarity, avoiding disputes, resorting to cementing confidence among Muslims, and positively interacting with peace-loving and freedom-loving entities in the entire world. ❖



PUIC Secretary General meets Dr. Larijani

On 3 September 2018, PUIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraihi NIASS met His Excellency Dr. Ali Larijani Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of I.R. Iran. During this meeting Dr. Larijani renewed his congratulations on the election of H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraihi NIASS as PUIC Secretary General and on assuming his duties, His Excellency wished him all the success in his duties. Dr. Larijani also announced the readiness of the Islamic Parliament of Iran to provide all the necessary assistance to the Union for achieving its performance in promoting and strengthening the parliamentary cooperation between Islamic countries. ❖



Secretary General Condoles with Indonesian Speaker

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Mr. Mouhamed Khouraihi NIASS expressed heartfelt condolences and sincere consolation to H.E. Bambang Soesatyo, Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament, on the occasion of the earthquake which has struck some parts of Indonesia, resulting in human losses and material damage. In his message of condolences, the PUIC Secretary General described the earthquake as a distressing catastrophe. He prayed to God to shower the dead with mercy, bring speedy recovery to the wounded and preserve all Muslim countries from all misfortune. ❖

PUIC Secretary General Welcomes Basic Law in South Philippines

H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraihi NIASS, PUIC Secretary General, welcomed the adoption by the Government of the Philippines of the Draft Bangsamoro Basic Law on 26th July 2018. It is worth mentioning that this Law will enhance the self-rule region in Muslim Mindanao in Southern Philippines in terms of further independence of financial resources, establishment of a regional government, parliament and legal system. The Law allows neighboring areas to join the self-rule region. The PUIC Secretary General also expressed his hope that peace and prosperity will prevail in the region and that the Moro people will promote more unity among its ranks. ❖

PUIC Secretary General Condoles in the Passing Away of Annan

The PUIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraihi NIASS issued a statement expressing his great sadness at the passing away of the former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, who died at the age of 80 on Saturday, August 18 2018 in a hospital in the city of Bern in Switzerland. Mr. Kofi Annan, who was buried in his homeland in Ghana on September 13, was one of the most prominent UN figures and as well as African countries, seeking for peace. In 2001, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the United Nations and to Mr. Annan for efforts to reform the United Nations and give priority to human rights.



For nine years (from 1997 to 2006), Mr. Annan assumed responsibility and fought for establishing peace in the world and helped to ease the tension here and there in the world. Mr. NIASS extended his deepest condolences to the family of the deceased, the people of Ghana and all United Nations staff. ❖

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