

Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States

Speakers of Moroccan Parliament Talk to «Al Majalis»:

«PUIC» From Rabat to Rabat



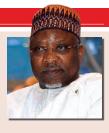
In their interviews with the "PUIC", the Speakers Moroccan the Parliament. excellencies their Habib El Malki, (House of Representatives), and Mr. Hakim Benchamach (House Councilors), addressed several pivotal issues of the Islamic Ummah. **Formost** among these are: affirming partnership and cooperation

among Muslim Peoples and States; absolute rejection of transgressing on legal and historical status of occupied Al Quds; call for ensuring international protection the unarmed Palestinians; call for establishing an integrated Islamic bloc; adoption of unified vision to combat terrorism, and studying the roots of violence and exclusion. See page 2,8

Editorial

Dear Reader,

These days we live the 20th anniversary of the establishment of PUIC. On this occasion I congratulate our 54 member parliaments on their efforts



aimed at achieving PUIC objectives in their drive to apply the "Shura" principle, which Almighty Allah has ordered Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh) in the Quran: "Their affairs by mutual consultation."

In response to the necessities of circumstances, the PUIC was concerned by the affairs of the PUIC peoples, parliaments and causes across the word. PUIC Conferences totality of issues concerning the states of the member parliaments, as well as Muslim minorities in all parts of the globe. The PUIC considered the Palestinian cause as the central Muslim cause, not only because it relates to an ancient Muslim people, but also because it relates to the occupation of the city of Al-Quds which cradles Al Agsa Mosque, First Qibla, Third of the Holy Mosques and destination of the night journey of the Prophet.

Pursuant to recommendations by the previous Conference, a PUIC delegation visited the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Members of the delegation were astounded by blood-curdling stories. The refugees gave accounts of the killing of thousands of children and women, torture, confiscation of properties, burning of houses and mosques. Weeping women and young girls, spoke about gang rapes by Myanmar soldiers, scenes of the murder of family members, crushing the heads of children against tree stems, throwing of children and elderly men into burning houses, and shooting of their husbands.

The Rohingya people are exposed to real genocide, which forced those who escaped the carnage to seek safe refuge in neighboring states, especially Bangladesh which is now giving shelter to about a million Rohingya refugees. The PUIC has taken the initiative to adopt the Rohingya cause and issued several resolutions thereon which call for removing injustice from this minority, and leaving them to live in safety and peace in their own country.

This issue necessitates mobilization of energies in order to project the magnitude of the human disaster befalling these people. It also needs coordination among member parliaments in International fora. Perpetrators of brutalities must brought to international justice. There is a need to intensify pressure on the government of Myanmar in order to find a political solution that ensures return of the refugees to their homes, and provides for their security and all their rights. Such cooperation will help in solving all problems and differences in a brotherly and kind way to all. It was said in old times that "no rights is lost if there is a claimant behind it."

PUIC Mission's Report on Tragedy of the Rohingya:

Biggest Humanitarian Crisis and Ethnic Cleansing

The PUIC has stressed its strong concern with what happens to the Rohingya in terms of violations and brutalities committed by the Myanmar authorities and the extremist Buddhist militias. The PUC decided to effectively move in such a way as to contribute to putting an end to the suffering of

the Rohingya in their homeland-Myanmar. The PUIC sent a mission to the region for this purpose. The Delegation arrived Bangladesh, on 10 September, 2018. The beginning has been to closely gauge the magnitude of this tragedy and to listen to the victims in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

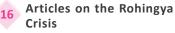
10 14th PUIC Conference





PUIC Delegation to the Rohingya









Dakar Meeting





24 Parliamentary News





Activities of the Secretary General





H. E. Mr. Habib El Malki to the «PUIC»: |

Parliamentary Diplomacy Assumes Major Role in Shaping New World Oder



H.E. Mr. Habib El Malki, Speaker of the august House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco addressed, in his interview with the "PUIC" several crucial issues of concern to the Islamic World and Islamic Joint Parliamentary Action, including current challenges; Palestinian cause; role of Parliamentary diplomacy; expanding economic and financial interactions among Muslim states; combating terrorism and extremism; and anti-Muslim rhetoric in the

Following is full text of the interview:

slamic Parliamentary Activities

Moroccan The Parliament hosted the second Conference of Islamic parliaments during the first years of the life of the PUIC. Now we are on threshold of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Union, and Morocco is hosting this important event. How do, your Excellency, evaluate parliamentary activities among Muslim countries in almost two decades?

Mr. Habib El Malki: Parliamentary activities among Muslin countries have known tangible mobility and dynamism and action since the establishment of the PUIC. Conferences and meetings have been organized in which a number of issues of common concern were discussed, especially those related basically to the security of Muslim countries as well as issues of Muslim communities in non-Islamic countries, and the Palestinian Cause, considered as a central cause to the Muslim States. Parliamentary meetings among those states addressed focal issues, including foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Muslim States, in addition to extremism and terrorism. Meetings of the Parliaments of Muslim States focused on recalling the necessity of respecting human rights; enhancing the role of women and youth; condemning violations of these rights which take place in all regions of the globe, including the rights of Muslim

minorities; affirming the importance of dialogue of civilizations, and confronting Western campaigns which run Counter to Islamic Values.

On the other hand, these meetings have discussed ways of developing trade relations among Muslim states, and reminding of available opportunities and potentials which enhance competitiveness of these states on the international arena

Islamic parliamentary activities also paid attention to the discussion of the challenges of sustainable development with its economic social and environmental dimensions. well as, ways counteract them in order to ensure the rights of coming generations, and the necessity of following up the process of development, modernization, and reform in the Islamic World, in addition to reviewing new crises that affect a number of sisterly Muslim countries. Joint Statements and recommendations were issued that express the vision ofMuslim **Parliaments** thereon.

In general, joint Islamic parliamentary action was able to achieve the minimum level of contact and dialogue among Muslim Legislative Councils, and the PUIC has constituted the possible

and necessary institutional space for encompassing such dialogue.

dvancing Joint Islamic Action

PUIC: How is it possible to activate Parliaments of Islamic States aimed at advancing joint Islamic action in various fields?

Mr. Habib El Malki: To achieve this objective, parliamentary prudence ought to be consolidated, which is considered a constitutional and moral necessity for the sake of promoting the functions of parliamentary action. In this respect, we ought to recall the necessary values and principles of Parliamentary prudence in terms of equality, fairness, quality, transparency, linking responsibility accountability, equity, evaluation, creativity, productivity, seeking to serve public interest, qualifying institutional structure ofParliaments, enabling human resources to have access to appropriate work mechanisms, and the constant feeling that parliaments are the heart-beat of the street and the expression of its concerns and aspirations.

There must be keenness on continuing to create and develop knowledge, as well as continuous training within a vision that considers parliamentary prudence as

the prudence of the state and society and the system of public rights. Of course, all that is pursuant to practical programs that include aspects of legislation, control and diplomacy, good evaluation of public policies, as well as organized and transparent structure. and qualified human resources.

We must work to develop exchanging experiences and the best practices in the field of parliamentary management, and keenness also the independence of the legislative powers that render them effective forces through Parliamentary diplomacy, in several international issues such as climate, migration, combating terrorism and extremism, and all forms of defending the causes of Muslim peoples.

Morocco's **Established Stances on Palestine**

PUIC: The cause Palestine continues to be the focus of great attention to the Islamic World. Here we would like to refer to the US decision to relocate Washington's **Embassy** from Tel Aviv to occupied Al-Quds, and consequently making Al-Quds capital of the Zionist entity instead of Tel Aviv which means that the Palestinians lose some of their rights and demands. What is the stance of Morocco on this matter?

Mr. Habib El Malki: Firstly. we must recall in this respect the great efforts exerted by His Majesty King Mohammad VI, Chairman of Al Quds Committee for supporting the Palestinian cause and preserving Islamic and Christian sanctities in Al Quds, and offering material and political support to the brotherly Palestinians until their independent State is established with Al Quds as



Necessity of continuina to creatand develop knowledge as well as training

Recalling the great efforts exerted by **His Majesty** Kina Mohammad Vlinsupporting the cause of **Palestine**





Morocco strongly condemns the savage Israeli Crimes againstthe unarmed **Palestinians**

Parliamentary **Diplomacy** promotes negociation to harmonize differentinterests its capital.

We must not also ignore the big role assumed by the Agency of Beit Mal Al Quds in supporting the efforts of the Palestinian people in Al Quds; and preservation of the Arab and Islamic character of the City, its status and sanctities, as well as, maintaining Palestinian properties and heritage, and offering social services to the Palestinians in the fields of health, education and culture.

The stance of the Kingdom of Morocco was, and continues to be, well- established vis-àvis the Palestinian cause which exists in the hearts of Arabs and Muslims, and is included in the Parameters and priorities of the Moroccan nation. The Kingdom of Morocco is keen on continuing efforts to defend the right of the Palestinian people to national independence, liberating their land and establishing their independent state with Al Quds as its Capital. As customarily, the Kingdom of Morocco does not accept, but strongly condemns the savage crimes against the unarmed Palestinian people which are considered a blatant violation of the International law and the international humanitarian law, and the necessity of serious action to stop these crimes, and provide international protection for the Palestinian people, and hold the USA fully responsible for the implications and disastrous consequences of its decision, which is rejected by the international community, on transferring its embassy to occupied Al-Quds. In the most recent development, the House of Representatives has considered the decision of relocating the US Embassy to the City of Al Quds, nil and void, and contrary to international law and the UN Charter, and it cannot alter the established historical truth that the city of Al Quds is an occupied city, and that it is the immortal capital of State of Palestine.

ole of Parliamentary Diplomacy
PUIC: "Parliamentary diplomacy is gaining further importance in the field of international relations. What role can this diplomacy play in shaping a new world order which is more equitable and beneficial, especially to the peoples of the developing countries?

Mr. Habib El Malki: Parliamentary Diplomacy is a distinctive and methodical mechanism and style in the field of international relations. It practices its activities through international, regional, and multilateral relations between and regional parliamentary organizations and institutions; that such institutions and organizations are democratic



representatives of peoples and one of the manifestations of practicing constitutional competencies by the legislative institution.

Activities of Parliamentary diplomacy encompass all political, security, social and environmental fields of life, considered as subjects for discussion by its meetings and symposia in order to keep abreast of the fast transformation known to the life of peoples aimed at preserving social cohesion and conformity as well as creating a balance between countries of the world. In this regard, parliamentary diplomacy seeks to assume an essential role in the formation of a new world order which is more equitable and beneficial, especially to the interest of the peoples of developing countries. It must act in the name and interest of peoples, aimed at materializing common humanitarian and world values, primarily, democratization of international relations, and rendering the international order more humanitarian, just and equal.

Parliamentary diplomacy is keen on negotiation in order to harmonize between the different interests of states through finding acceptable and compromise solutions that are favored by the majority of the states, and which enable parliamentary organizations, institutions and bodies to take decisions that serve the interest of peoples.



Expanding Economic and Financial Interaction PUIC: Have Islamic parliaments the ability to expand economic and financial interactions in the Muslim space through enacting common laws?

Mr. Habib El Malki: of Course, expanding economic and financial interactions, and consolidating relations among Muslim countries lead to strengthening coordination and solidarity among countries of the Islamic World, through permanent institutional channels, whether at the bilateral or multilateral levels.

We must continue to build partnerships that generate mutual benefit and launch projects of economic and financial development, through accelerating the setting up of cooperation strategies based on values of solidarity, justice and common interest.

It is worth referring to the necessity of enhancing joint actions among governments, parliaments and the private sector, in the framework of a system of harmonious and coordinated efforts, and promising cooperation at the level of the Islamic World, which are closely connected with the objectives of sustainable development and combating Climate Change, as well as enacting appropriate legislations which enhance economic and commercial cooperation, and finding solutions and answers to the economic and social issues and challenges which face the Islamic World.

ombating Terrorism and Extremism
PUIC: How do you envisage finding an effective
and agreed mechanism in the Islamic framework
aimed at combating the phenomenon of terrorism and

Extremism?

Mr. Habib El Malki: In order to combat the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism we must adopt a unified vision based on several points which we summarize in: confirming non-linkage between Islamic religion and the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism; enhancing mechanisms of international Islamic cooperation in the field of combating extreme terrorist groups in order to preserve national security; drying up sources of terrorism; and informing about tolerant Islamic principles and values, including the values of moderation and tolerance.

At the same level, channels of communication and coordination with the various initiatives and national regional and international efforts exerted in this respect must be enhanced and coordination established, in order to eliminate this phenomenon and its causes. We must deepen the spirit of tolerance, brotherhood, rejecting all calls for bias, discrimination, and refusing to screen or broadcast any material that may constitute incitement for extremism and violence.

▲ ttack on Islam and Muslims in the West

PUIC: Islam and Muslims are currently under attack launched by some circles in western countries, what, in your opinion, are the necessary ways and means to counter such an attack?

Mr. Habib El Malki: There are several ways and means necessary to counter anti- Islam and Muslim rhetoric which may be summarized in the following: Consolidating the principle of tolerance, which means respecting, accepting and appreciating the rich diversity of the cultures of our world, and the different forms of expression and human characteristics. This tolerance may be further enhanced by knowledge, openness, communication, freedom of thought, conscience and belief. This is not only an ethical obligation, but also a political and legal duty that contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by the culture of peace.

Tolerance is necessary among individuals and groups. Efforts to enhance tolerance and to form stances based on openness, and listening to each other as well as solidarity, must be exerted in schools and universities, and through non-regular education, at homes, and in places of work. The mass media may also play a constructive role in facilitating dialogue and discussion in a free and open manner, and in propagating the values of tolerance, especially through raising the awareness of peoples of their common rights and freedoms.

Focusing on awareness and education, considered essential pillars to materialize tolerance, may be viewed as an urgent necessity. Therefore, we must encourage the adoption of systematic and intellectual means to address the causes of intolerance in the course of a cultural, social, economic, political and religious campaign i.e. the major roots for violence and exclusion. Then policies and educational programs may contribute to enhancing understanding, solidarity, and tolerance among ethnic, social, cultural, religious and linguistic groups, and between nations, also.







Morocco's current legislature is regulated by the 2011 constitution.

The 2011 constitution maintains a bicameral parliament composed of a Chamber of Representatives (Majlis Al-Nuwwab), which is elected by universal direct suffrage for five years, and a Chamber of Councilors (Majlis Al-Mustasharin), which is elected directly by local and national electoral colleges.

The text of the 2011 Constitution stipulates that both houses of parliament, the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors, have legislative powers, vote on bills, including the Finance Bill, and control the government and evaluate public policies.

ODIES OF THE HOUSE OF BUDIES OF THE REPRESENTATIVES

The current House of Representatives consists of 395 members elected by direct universal suffrage through list ballot on October 07, 2016 for a mandate of five years; they are distributed as follows: (305 Members as elected at the level of local constituencies), (90 Members as elected at the level of national constituency: 60 of them women and 30 youth)

The Headquarter of the House of Representative is located in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

President:The President of the House of Representatives is elected twice by secret ballot, at the beginning of the legislative mandate and in the April session of the third year of this legislature. He ensures the proper functioning of the House of Representatives and coordination between the various bodies of the House. He also presides over the Bureau, presidents' conference and plenary sessions, in addition to other functions set out in the constitution.

Board:
The Board consists of the President, eight Vice-Presidents, two quaestors and three parliamentary secretaries. The Bureau members are elected at the beginning of the legislative mandate and in the April session of the third year of the legislature, on the basis

of proportional representation for each group. It ensures the overall management of the House and draws up its agenda.

Parliamentary Groups and Parties

Parliamentary group consist of at least twenty deputies belonging to one or more political parties, chaired by one of its members. Groups, for their part, consist of at least four parliamentary deputies not members in parliamentary groups. The Bureau of the House of Representatives provides parliamentary group and groups with different human and material resources to support deputies in the exercise of their functions.

Parliamentary Groups and Groups Justice and Development Party

Authenticity and modernity Party Constitutional Unity

Istiqlalian(Independence) Group of Unity and Egalitarianism Haraki Group

Socialist Group

Progress and socialism Group MPs not belonging to any group

arliamentary committees:
The chairs of parliamentary committees are elected at the beginning of the legislative mandate, and in the April session of the third year of the same legislature. There are nine parliamentary committees in the current legislative mandate.

ommittees:

- Committee on Foreign Affairs, National Defense, Islamic Affairs and Moroccans living abroad.

- Committee on Internal Affairs, Housing, Urban Policy.
- Committee on Justice, Legislation and Human Rights.
- Committee on Finance and Economic Development.
- Committee on Social Sectors.
- Committee on Productive Sectors.
- Committee on the Infra-Structure, Energy, Minerals and Environment
- Committee Education, Culture Communication.
- Committee of control of public finance.



Speaker of the House of Representatives

Mr.Habib EL MALKI, was elected President of the House of Representatives for the tenth legislative (2016-2021) on 16 January 2017 by a majority of 198 vote. He was born on 15 April 1946 in Bijaâd (province Khouribga).

Mr. El Malki Professor of Economics at the Mohammed V University, Chairman of the Mediterranean Studies and Research Group (MSRG) and President of the Moroccan Center for Economic Studies (CMS).

On November, 1990, he was appointed by the late King His Majesty Hassan Secretary General of the National Council for Youth and the Future (NCYF).

Не was elected Member of Parliament representing USFP party (Socialist Popular Union of Forces) at the House Representatives during legislatures:1997-2002; 2007- 2011 and reelected in 2016.

El Malki is a member of the "Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco' since November, 1992. since 2010, Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies is Mr. Nagib Al Khadi.



of Political Science. He was, assistant professor of higher education at Mohammed V University, Faculty of Law, Suez, professor at Moulay Ismail University, faculty of Law. (2011-2014) He is Secretary General of the Authenticity and Modernity Party, and ex- President of the province of Yacoub Mansour in Rabat – Saba, H.E. Mr. Benchamach, is also Head of the Center for the Care of the Elderly and abandoned children and actually, president of Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World.

The House of Councillors (Majlis al-Mustacharin)



The House of Councilors, governed by the provisions of the 1996 Constitution and has 120 members, elected by indirect universal suffrage for six years.

Members of the Board shall be elected in proportion to the size of their respective groups. The President and the members of the Board shall be elected at the beginning of the session which follows the election; they shall seek renewal of their term of office at the beginning of the October session during each renewal operation in the House.

The President of the House of Councilors and officers, as well as the chairmen of the standing committees and offices are elected at the beginning of term and the end of the half of the legislature and for the remaining term of the said period.

Motions of warning or of no confidence

a) The House of Councilors may vote on a motion of warning to the Government, which must be signed by at least one third of the councilors.

The vote may only take place three clear days after the tabling of the motion, the text of which is immediately sent to the Prime Minister and he has a time limit of 6 days to present to the house the Government's position on the grounds for the warning.

The Government declaration is followed by a debate without a vote.

b) A motion of no confidence is only admissible if it is signed by at least a third of the members composing the House of councilors.

It must be voted for by a two-thirds majority of the councilors. The vote may only take place 3 clear days after the tabling of the motion.

A vote of no confidence leads to the collective resignation of the Government.

C - DISSOLUTION

The King may, after having consulted with the Presidents of both chambers and the President of the Constitutional Council and having addressed a message to the Nation, dissolve the two chambers of Parliament or just one of them by royal decree.

An election is held at the latest 3 months following the dissolution. In the meantime, the King exercises the powers devolved to Parliament in legislative matters.

Authenticity and Modernity Independence for Unity and

Independence for Unity and Egalitarianism Justice and Development Haraki Group National Rally of Liberals

The Socialist Party
General Confederation of Enter

General Confederation of Enterprises of Morocco

The Moroccan Union of Labor Democratic Constitutional Social Group Democratic Confederation of Labor Group

ommittees and Commission

Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Committee on Agriculture and Productive Sectors

Education, Cultural and Social Affairs Committee

Finance, Planning and Economic Development Committee

The Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the occupied Moroccan territories

Committee of the Interior and the parties and groups of land and basic infrastructures







H.E. Mr. Hakim Benchamach, the Speaker of the House of Councilors of Morocco, to the «PUIC»:

Emergence of an Integrated Islamic Bloc

In his interview with the «PUIC» publication H.E. Mr. Hakim Benchamach, highlighted the role of the PUIC in enhancing dialogue and cooperation between Muslim Parliaments. He also stressed Morocco's rejection of any measure to alter the legal status of the City of Al Quds. His Excellency called tor establishing an integrated Islamic Bloc to function in the world arena. He also addressed a number of issues of common concern to joint Islamic action.

Sollowing is the text of the interview:

PUIC: The Moroccan Parliament hosted the second Conference of Islamic parliaments during the first years of the life of the PUIC. Now we are on threshold of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Union, and Morocco is hosting this important event. How do, your Excellency, evaluate parliamentary activities among Muslim countries in almost two decades?

Mr. Benchamach: I would like on this occasion to underline PUIC action and initiatives since its establishment for the sake of enhancing dialogue and cooperation among the states of Member Parliaments, and consulting about different issues of common concern, whether at the political, economic, cultural or social levels. I also commend PUIC efforts for establishing contacts and coordination with the various regional and international parliamentary, non-governmental governmental organizations in order to address regional issues, project the position of Muslim States vis-à-vis issues and challenges existing on the international arena, inform about the sublime Islamic teachings and acting to propagate them, while affirming and defending the humanitarian principles of the Islamic civilization.

This is an occasion to confirm that the initiative to host this PUIC Session for the second time, comes in the framework of the involvement of the Moroccan Parliament in strengthening the bonds of cooperation among the states of the PUIC Member Parliaments, and enhancing coordination and dialogue about the various issues of common concern. It also comes in the context of the efforts of the Kingdom of Morocco, under the sagacious leadership of His Majesty King Mohammad VI, may Allah grant him victory and support, aimed at consolidating and developing partnership and cooperation among countries and peoples of Muslim states, and seeking all horizons in order to enrich these relations.

Palestine Primary cause of Morocco

PUIC: The cause of Palestine continues to be the focus of great attention to the Islamic World. Here we would like to refer to the US decision to relocate Washington's Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Al-Quds, and consequently making Al-Quds capital of the Zionist entity instead of Tel Aviv which means that the Palestinians lose some of their rights and demands. What is the stance of Morocco on this matter?

Mr. Benchamach: The Palestinian cause, was and still is, the primary cause of Morocco and Moroccans. Our country has a firm position on the occupied city of Al Quds. More than once, Morocco has confirmed its absolute rejection of transgressing upon the legal and historical status of Al Ouds in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the international legitimacy; and Morocco calls for upholding all the agreements that lead to the establishment of a unified and fully sovereign Palestinian State, with Al Quds as its eternal capital.

We recall, on this occasion, the message which His Majesty, Emir of the Faithful, King Mohammad VI, may Allah grant him victory

and support, addressed, in his capacity as Chairman of the OIC Al Quds Committee, to the US President, in which His Majesty stated that the "City of Al Quds", according to the relevant international resolutions of the Security Council, in particular, is at core of the final status issues, which necessitates preserving its legal position and refraining from any transgression upon its political status quo.

Rise of an Islamic Bloc PUIC: "Parliamentary diplomacy is gaining further importance in the field of international relations. What role can this diplomacy play in shaping a new world order which is more equitable and beneficial, especially to the peoples of the developing countries?

Mr. Benchamach: The Kingdom of Morocco, faithful to the values of brotherhood, solidarity and cooperation, is resolved, under the prudent leadership of His Majesty King Mohammad VI, may Allah grant him victory and support, to engage in all positive initiatives aimed promoting partnership and cooperation among our countries in the framework of mutual respect, good neighborliness and respect of the sovereignty and unity of states.

I confirm that the future is for big blocs in all fields, which necessitates revilization and renewal of inter-Islamic, local and regional diplomacy in order to materialize this strategy, and ensure the best conditions for the emergence of an integrated Islamic bloc, through carrying out certain measures in the fields of governance, consolidating stability and providing the conditions for growth and production of wealth.

At this juncture, I call on the PUIC to be host to this choice through popular presence in all its programs, intensifying diplomatic initiatives, developing and widening its powers, and enhancing potentials put at its disposal.

PUIC: Have Islamic parliaments the ability to expand economic and financial interactions in the Muslim space through enacting common laws?

Mr. Benchamach: Yes, we consider that Islamic parliaments have the ability to expand economic and financial interactions in the Islamic Space through enactment of common laws. Therefore, we stress, in the first place, their importance and role in consolidating joint action of Islamic States, and in enhancing and supporting parliamentary dialogue, considered as one of the most significant mechanisms of joint action, and an effective tool of cooperation and coordination, and also expressing the hopes and aspirations of Muslim peoples. Secondly, Islamic Parliaments may energize their powers in the field of legislations through enactment of laws that serve the expansion of economic and financial interactions, especially that relate to economic, financial, taxation and excise cooperation and to facilitate all that may serve the economic interest of our Islamic countries.

PUIC: How do vou envisage finding an effective and agreed mechanism in the Islamic framework aimed at combating the phenomenon of terrorism and Extremism?

Mr. Benchamach: We propose to set a work plan or strategy in the framework of Islamic States for combating the phenomenon of extremism and terrorism following the example of the UN strategy and action plan, and in this respect to be guided by the declaration concerning the measures for eliminating international terrorism which is enshrined in the General Assembly's Annex No. 60/49, dated 9/12/1994, and the declaration supplementary to the

declaration of 1994 relating to the measures for eliminating international terrorism, contained in the General Assembly's Annex No. 210/51, dated 17/12/1996, and the conclusions of the World Summit Conference of 2005, especially the part concerning terrorism, in addition to all resolutions of the General Assembly on measures for eliminating international terrorism, including resolution No. 51/46 dated 9/12/1991, and resolutions of the Security Council concerning the dangers threatening international peace and security as a result of terrorist actions, as well as General Assembly resolutions relevant to the protection of human rights and basic freedoms in the context of combating terrorism.

We propose to benefit from the experience of the Kingdom of Morocco in the field of combating terrorism and extremism, recognized by the international community as pioneering, especially that relating to restructuring of the religious fields, and the adoption of a series of measures which aim, especially, at combating all forms of extremism and enhancing the values of moderation and tolerance which are enshrined in Islam. We recall here the establishment of " Mohammad VI Institution For Africa Scholars" which aims at unifying and coordinating the efforts of Muslim Scholars of African States in order to enhance propagating and consolidating the values of tolerance promoted by Islam.

We also refer to the efforts exerted to ensure religious action toward members of the Moroccan community in the diaspora, as well as of reviewing school curricula and courses relating to religious education, and also launching television channels to broadcast programs for the propagation of the teachings of Islam.

PUIC: Islam and Muslims are currently under attack launched by some circles in western countries, what, in your opinion, are the necessary ways and means to counter such an attack?

Mr. Benchamach: Among the ways and means necessary for countering this attack is to utilize whatever is suitable for correcting the image of Islam and Muslim at these circles, especially in the fields of information, communication, cinema, research and study centers, universities, scientific research institutions and political fora. Islamic States must seek to consolidate their influence in terms of election mechanisms, circles of decision-making and preparing, as well as economic and social actors. Also through actions to influence public opinion formation, and decision-makers in

We must not ignore the important role of social contact media in countering this attack, and utilizing this media in such a way as to serve the just Islamic causes. This must go hand in hand with uncovering all designs that vilify and distort the image of Islam and Muslims.



Future is for big blocsinall fields

Islamic parliamentsare ableto expand economic and financial interactions among **Muslims**







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Consideration of the items included in the agendas of the PUIC meetings reflect importance for joint Islamic action, in general, and parliamentary advance in particular.

1st MEETING OF THE PUIC **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

This meeting will take place on 11th March 2019, and will consider its (11) items in its agenda, most important of which are:

- Report of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Following up implementation of the resolutions adopted by the PUIC in general.
- Updating the Draft Agendas of the 7th Meeting of the: -
- Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
- Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
- Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family;
- Committee on Cultural and Legal

Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.

lso, Updating the Draft Agendas

- Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Palestine;
- Eighth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- Second Meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Updating the Draft Agenda of the 21st Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Updating the Draft Agenda of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Moto of the 14th PUIC Conference and other related meetings.

OMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN **RELATIONS:**

This Committee will hold its meeting on 12 March, 2019, and will look into its agenda which is composed of (19) items, including:

- Review of the follow-up and implementation of the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Committee.
- Al-Quds Al Sharif, Palestinian Cause and the occupied Territories in Syria and Lebanon.
- Situation in Palestine.
- Role of Islamic Parliaments in confronting Zionist Israeli concerning Jewishness of Zionist entity (Israel) and judaization of Al-Quds.
- Decision of the US Administration to stop funding United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- Occupied Arab Territories in Syria and Lebanon.
- Combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations:
- Combating terrorism under the umbrella of the UN and reconfirming the legitimate right to resist occupation and foreign aggression.

- Concerted management of situation related to acts of Terrorism in the Sub-region of Lake Chad and Africa in general.
- Fetullah Gulen Terrorist Organization (FETO).
- Progress made in finalizing the basic project of the OIC Centre for Police Cooperation and Coordination
- Rejection of all types of sanctions imposed on any Muslim country.
- Possible Negative Impacts of passing JASTA
- The inalienable equal and balanced rights of all peoples to have free access and free use of modern technology for peaceful purposes.
- Making the whole Middle East region a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons with no exception.
- Situation in Republic of Sudan.
- Humanitarian situation in Syria
- Situation in Republic of Somalia.
- Situation in Afghanistan.
- Consideration of the situation in Republic of Mali and its effect on neighboring States.
- Problem of Migration and Refugees and internally displaced in Muslim countries. (particularly Chad and other African countries etc.)
- Cooperation and coordination among Muslim States and communities to project the sublime value of Islam and curb the prevailing phenomenon of extremism and violence in the Islamic world and address their root causes.
- Situation in Cyprus.
- Situation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Solidarity with Muslim Minorities around the world.
- Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim population of the Dodecanese.
- Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.
- Cause of Muslims in Southern Philippines.
- Muslim Minority in Central Africa.
- Situation of Muslim Tatars in Crimea.
- Consideration of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT:

This Committee will meet on 12 March, 2019, and will consider its agenda which is composed of (13) item, including:

- Review of the follow-up and implementation of the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Committee:
- Increasing Trade Exchange and Lowering Trade Barriers among OIC Member States.
- Confronting Unilateral and Multilateral Sanctions affecting the people of targeted States.
- Energizing and supporting economic Institutions active in the field of development in the Islamic World.
- Environmental issues and sustainable development.
- Combating desertification particularly in African Sahel States.
- Cooperation in the field of preserving of water resources in States Member Parliaments.

- Combatting sand and dust storms.
- Enhancing cooperation in the field of environmental protection and combatting climatic change.
- Cooperation among PUIC Member Parliaments in Science and Technology.
- Commission of the Chad Lake Basin, in acronym LCBC.
- International parliamentary cooperation in overcoming natural disasters, particularly in the framework of extending relief.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WOMEN AND FAMILY:

This Committee will meet on 12 March, 2019, and will discuss its agenda which has (14) items, including:

- Review of the follow-up and implementation of the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Committee
- Ongoing human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.
- Ongoing Human Rights Violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir
- Coordination in international and regional fora on Human Rights issues among the States of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Enhancing the role of women in all development aspects in the states of PUIC Member Parliaments, including their participation in decision making positions.
- Preventing the exploitation of women in commodity promotions.
- Participation of women in the delegations of the PUIC Conferences.
- Promoting the Status of Youth in the Islamic World.
- Child care and protection in the Islamic world.
- The Role of the Islamic Parliaments in Promoting Basic Health among PUIC Member States
- Custody problems of Muslim Migrant Families in Europe.
- Steps taken by the National Assembly of the Sudan to put into effect its offer to host the Islamic Health Centre in the Sudan.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS AND DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS AND RELIGIONS:

This Committee will be meeting on 12 March, 2019, and will look into its agenda which is composed of (7) items, including:

- Review of the follow-up and implementation of the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Committee.
- Protecting the Al Aqsa Mosque against Zionist Israeli threats.
- Protection of Holy Places in Muslim States.
- Following up the protection of the Islamic cultural heritage, religious and endowment institutions in non-Muslim countries.
- Dialogue among Civilizations with special emphasis on facing Western Campaigns against



- Rejection of all types of sanctions imposed on any Muslim Country
- Enhancing the role of women in all development aspects in the States of Member Parliaments

Islamic values.

Alliance of Civilizations.

OMMITTEE ON PALESTINE:

This Committee meets on 11 March, 2019, and will discuss its agenda which has (7) items, including:

- Speech of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Review of the recent developments in Palestinian arena. (Representative of the Palestine National Council Vice Chairman of the Committee):
- Repercussions of moving the US Embassy to Al-Quds on the political situation in the region.
- Affirming the importance of the unity of the Palestinian ranks of national reconciliation.
- Date and Venue of the 10thMeeting of the Committee on Palestine.

CONFERENCE OF THE MUSLIM WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS:

This Conference will convene on 11 March, 2019 and will discuss its agenda of (8) items, including:

- Speech of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Report of the Bureau of the 7th Conference on progress made in implementing the recommendations adopted by the 7th Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- Women abilities for solving local and regional problems and conflicts.
- Protecting Muslim Women and Children in areas under occupation and conflicts, especially in Palestine, and other conflict-ridden countries.
- Date and Venue of the 9th Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.

MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES GENERAL

This meeting will take palce on 11 March, 2019, and will consider its agenda which has (6) items, including:

- Speech of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Consideration of a Working Paper about Developing Administrative Work by the Consultative Council of the Sultanate of Oman.
- Date and Venue of the next Meeting.

CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

This Group will meeting on 12 March, 2019 and will discuss its agenda, which is composed of (5) items, including:

- Election of the President of the 15th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session. (Proposed by Burkina Faso from the African Group).
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the African Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2019.
- Consultation for hosting the next PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the following four Standing Specialized Committees from the African Group for 2019: -
- Political Affairs and Foreign Relations.



- Economic Affairs and Environment.
- Human Rights, Women and Family.
- Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.

Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the African Group for 2019.

CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE ARAB GROUP

The Group will meeting on 11 March, 2019 and will discuss its agenda which is composed of (5) items, including:

- Election of the President of the 17th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Arab Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2019.
- Consultation for hosting the PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the following four Standing Specialized Committees from the Arab Group for 2019: -
- Political Affairs and Foreign Relations.
- Economic Affairs and Environment.
- Human Rights, Women and Family.
- Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the Arab Group for 2019.



Repercussion of relocating the US embassy to occupied Al-Quds

Affirming importance of the Unity of Palestinian ranks



CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE ASIAN GROUP

The Group will meet on 12 March, 2019, and will consider its agenda which is composed of (5) items, including:

- Election of the President of the 16th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Asian Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2019.
- Consultation for hosting the PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the following four Standing Specialized Committees from the Asian Group for 2019: -
- Political Affairs and Foreign Relations.
- Economic Affairs and Environment.
- Human Rights, Women and Family.
- Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.

Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the Asian Group for 2019.

21st SESSION OF THE PUIC GENERAL COMMITTEE

This Session will convene on 13 March.

2019, and will look into its agenda which is composed of (10) items, including:

- Report of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Examination and adoption of the Reports of the 40th and 41st Meetings of the PUIC Executive Committee and their Annexes.
- Adoption of the following financial documents of the Union:
- Report of the Financial Control Committee on the Accounts of the Fiscal year 2018.
- Proposed Budget for the fiscal year
- Studying the proposal of the Lebanese National Assembly on the Institute for Parliamentary Training and Legislative Studies at the Lebanese National Assembly.
- Formation of an Open-ended Committee chaired by the Conference Rapporteur with the participation of the Rapporteurs of the Four Standing Specialized Committees (S.S.C.s) in order to draft the Final Communiqué of the Conference.
- Updating the Draft Agenda for the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Report of the 21st Session of the PUIC General Committee.

14th SESSION OF THE PUIC CONFERENCE

This Session will be held on 13-14

March, 2019, and will discuss its agenda which is composed of (17) items, including:

- Report of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Addresses by the Heads of Delegations.
- Adoption of the Report of the 21st Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Examination and adoption of the Reports and the Draft Resolutions presented by the Rapporteurs of the following Standing Specialized Committees (S.S.C.s):-
- Seventh Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
- Seventh Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
- Seventh Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family;
- Seventh Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- Examination and adoption of the Reports and Draft Resolutions of: -
- Ninth Meeting of the Committee on Palestine.
- Eighth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- Second Meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Nomination of the Members of the PUIC General Committee for the year
- Nomination of Members of the PUIC Executive Committee for the year 2019.
- Nomination of the Members for the following PUIC Specialized Standing Committees for the year 2019:
- 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.
- Defining the date and venue of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference. (Burkina Faso from the African Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference (from the Asian Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 17th Session of the PUIC Conference. (From the Arab Group)
- Defining the date and venue of the 42nd Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.
- Adoption of the Final Report of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Rabat Declaration and Final Communique of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference.





PUIC Mission's Report on Tragedy of the Rohingya:

Biggest Humanitarian Crisis and Ethnic Cleansing



Introduction:

Media reports and reports of human rights organizations, as well as statements by UN bodies, are unanimous in characterizing the tragedy of the Rohingya Muslims as the biggest of its kind in the world today, and that it is tantamount to genocide and ethnic cleansing.

The PUIC has stressed its strong concern with what happens to the Rohingya in terms of violations and brutalities committed by the Myanmar authorities and the extremist Buddhist militias. The PUC decided to effectively move in such a way as to contribute to putting an end to the suffering of the Rohingya in their homeland-Myanmar. The beginning has been to closely gauge the magnitude of this tragedy and to listen to the victims in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. The PUIC sent a mission to the region for this purpose.

Following is the report of the mission and the recommendations which it deems necessary to address this painful issue:

Upon the resolution No. 27/PFR/13-CONF adopted by the 13th PUIC Conference held in Tehran, I. R. Iran on January 2018, which "mandated the General Secretariat to follow up the dispatch of a PUIC delegation to Bangladesh to visit Rohingya refugee camps to take stock of their conditions and consider the possibility of extending humanitarian aid to them", The PUIC Secretary General was of the view that a PUIC delegation to be formed for this matter.

In response to the call of His Excellency to the Member Parliaments of the Executive Committee, the following Excellencies participated in the delegation;

Algeria: Mr. Deputy Adjissa Youcef, Iran: Mr Deputy Seyed Hemayat Mirzadeh, Malaysia: Deputy Speaker Dato Haji Mohd Rashid Bin Hasnon, Morocco: Deputy Speaker Mohammed Ouzzine, Sudan: Mr. Deputy Mohamed Alhassan Ahmed Mohamed and Mr. Deputy Asim

Omer Ahmed Adam, Turkey:Mr. Deputy Orhan Atalay And on 10 September 2018 this delegation arrived Bangladesh.

EETING WITH THE SPEAKER

On 11 September, 2018 the PUIC Parliamentary Delegation met at the Parliament Building H.E. MRS. SHIRIN SHARMIN CHAUDHURY the Speaker of the Parliament of People's Republic of Bangladesh. After introduction of the members of the delegation from both sides, Her Excellency briefed the delegation as follows:-The ongoing humanitarian crisis resulting from latest Myanmar military operations against Rohingya civilians has caused suffering on a catastrophic scale. By the end of 2017, there have been nearly one million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar – of whom 700,000 have arrived since 25 August 2017, added to the 300,000 who came after similar waves of violence in the past. This means that more Rohingyas now live in Bangladesh than in their homeland. Not only the pace of new arrivals since 25 August 2017 has made this the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world but the concentration of refugees in Cox's Bazar is now amongst the densest in the world. Refugees arriving in Bangladesh—mostly women and children—are traumatized, and some have arrived with serious injuries caused by gunshots, shrapnel, fire and landmines. But everyone has a story to tell that includes some of the worst forms of human rights violations suffered over a long time.

Mr. Mouhamed Khouraichi NIASS, PUIC Secretary General, thankedthe Speaker of the Parliament of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the warm reception given to him as well as to the other members of the delegation, and said he was honored to listen to explanations and opinions concerning the human tragedy that our brothers in Islam are subjected to because of fanaticism and

extremism, and added: there is no doubt that Muslims in general, and all the international community, are grateful to Bangladesh and its people for receiving these numbers of Rohingya refugees. He expressed his solidarity with Bangladesh and stood with it to face the pressure which is on these refugees.Mr. NIASS further said that this issue requires international sensitization and exploitation of all political and media platforms to inform the world of the magnitude of the tragedy, and to stand with the victims and to condemn the injustices against humanity which were committed in Myanmar.

MEETING WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On 11th September, 2018, the PUIC delegation met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H.EMr. Md. Shahriar Alam, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs who gave the following briefing:

- Hon'ble Prime Minister sheikh Hasina took a bold and humanitarian decision to shelter the Rohingya People for the sake of humanity. However, Bangladesh cannot bear the burden indefinitely.
- The Government of Bangladesh has allocated around 6000 acres of forest land for sheltering the Rohingyas incurring the risk of huge ecological hazard and environmental threats.

VISIT TO THE REFUGEES CAMPS

On 12th September, 2018 the PUIC delegation left Dhaka to Cox Bazar and from the airport to the Refugee Camps. The PUIC delegation first visited the camps where the Refugees had just come before one month. The Refugees told of their plight and the disappearance of their family members. The PUIC delegation asked questions and the Refugees answered the questions.

Later they were taken to other Rohingya Refugee Camps in Cox's Bazar, PUIC delegation had the opportunity to meet and discuss in details with the other Rohingya refugees who told of the sordid state of human rights situation faced by them in Myanmar. The horrifying tales of human rights violations narrated by the Rohingya refugees, included systemic discrimination which denied all sorts of civil, political, economic and social rights to them. In addition, innocent civilians including women, children and elderly, endured widespread and indiscriminate violence in the form of torture, rape and extrajudicial killings. Eye witnesses also provided poignant details of dreadful events of August 2017, when in the garb of pursuing the attackers of two security posts, hundreds of Rohingya villages were torched and thousands of innocent civilians were tortured and brutalized by the Myanmar military using helicopters and rocket propelled grenades.

Some of the worst forms of violence, including extrajudicial killings, torture, rapes and forced displacement have been committed against the Rohingya women and children. PUIC delegation received first-hand information from victims who suffered these violations and fled to Cox's Bazar. Many Rohingya women narrated in tears how they, including the young girls were gang-raped by soldiers. Some of them also shared the horrific accounts of witnessing their family members killed, thumping the

heads of their children against trees, throwing children and elderly parents into burning houses, and shooting their husbands. Based on multiple reliable reports. these widespread violations in particular sexual violence against women and children, especially girls, are systematic, multidimensional and part of the organized campaign of ethnic cleansing, which falls in the category of crimes against humanity under international law.

It is worth noting 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 heavy influx of refugees in a short period of time, the ecology of the area has faced extensive damage as most of the bamboo trees have been cut 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 might worsen during the monsoon season, which will bring about landslides and heavy floods 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.

Recommendations of the Delegation: - Enhancing media attention and mobilizing the

Enhancing media attention and mobilizing the entire energies of Muslim Communities to highlight the importance of the issue of the Rohingya Refugees and to focus on the magnitude of injustice and their suffering as well as conveying the real picture of this human catastrophe to the whole world.

- Requesting the member parliaments to promote the level of coordination and cooperation among themselves in international fora and calling for prosecuting the perpetrators of these atrocities and violations and bringing them before international justice.
- Also enhancing political attention for the sake of intensifying international action to exercise pressure on the government of Myanmar in order to reach a political solution that stops the influx of refugees and prepares the atmosphere for the return of the Refugees to their homeland.
- Requesting the member parliaments to urge their respective governments to offer further material assistance to the government of Bangladesh and to all charitable and rescue institutionswhich are providing assistance to the Rohingya Refugees.



Extrajudicial
killings,
rapes and
forces displacement
of Muslims

Throwing children and
the elderly
burning
homes



Rohingya Muslims in the **Face of the Storm**



Youssif Adjissa, Algerian Member Parliament

The tragedy of the Rohingya Muslims is an account of minority in the world. The Rohingya are facing the most savage crimes of

involving murder, arson and rape aimed at inflicting genocide the hands of the Burmese security men and Buddhist extremists. Genocide aims at total or partial destruction of a national, ethnic or religious

is

persecuted

which humanity ashamed,

community. Genocide is a term rarely used. However, it was used in Bosnia and Herzegovina before. Now it is used in the issue of the Rohingya Muslims in view of the methodology, of the gravity and range of the action.

International reports have informed that the government of Myanmar has allowed the spread of hate rhetoric and failed in protecting the Muslim Rohingya minority against crimes described as savage and ethnic cleansing committed by the army in the States of Rakhine, Chin, and Kachin. The Government is considered a contributor to the perpetration of such awful crimes through its neglect, silence, disregard

and obstruction of legal and humanitarian organizations to have access to these regions as well as suppression of the media so as not to convey facts to the entire world.

This slaughter resulted in the dispersion of more than two million of the Rohingya and killing of thousands of children, women, and men; the raping of women and children, torturing them; burning of houses and mosques; denying them the right of citizenship, preventing them from returning to their homes; confiscating their identity and possessions. All these actions have contributed to the destabilization of the general set-up and led to tense relations with neighboring states and creation of huge economic and social problems.

Through our visit as part of the PUIC delegation to Bangladesh we have observed the catastrophic conditions of the Rohingya refugees who continue to flee their country in huge numbers which keep rising.

These people keep walking through jungles and mountains for days. They come by boats through Bay of Bengal. They come to the refugee camps exhausted, hungry, and ill. They need protection and humanitarian assistance. They gave us horrifying accounts of what has happened to them, and they refuse to go back without international protection.

We have found them lying on the ground without cover. They are in dire need of all support and relief such as tents, cover, blankets, safe roads, planning of their site, building of latrines and wells. They need



Slaughtering in Myanmar dispersed more than two million Rohingya Muslims

Ethnic Cleansing carried out by **Myanmararmy** and militias



better water facilities and drainage of waste water. They need facilities for medical treatment and surgical operations. Over and above all this is to preserve their belief and identity which is the cause of all their suffering. Allah Almighty says: "And they ill- treated them for no other reason than that they believed in Allah, exalted in power, worthy of all praise".

It is our obligation to call on the free world and governments of Muslim States, through their Parliaments to:

- Carry out action to immediately stop the continuous massacres.
- Repatriate the displaced people to their homes and to refrain from any political understanding to settle them in any other place.
- Rebuilding what has been destroyed and to give compensation to those who have lost properties.
- Provide protection for the Muslim Rohingya minority and deploy international observers.
- Prosecute perpetrators of these crimes before international tribunals as war criminals.
- Support international legal and relief organizations so as to perform their roles.

The ordeal of Rohingya Muslims is really a disaster of the age. It is another proof of the connivance of the world forces of evil against anything Islamic. The disaster (Nekba) of Palestine and the suffering of the Palestinian refugees is not far from this. Fleeing their homes for thinking weeks, returning will not take long, now they are spread in the regions of the world for more than / seventy years.

Ordeal of the Rohingya



Orhan Atalay, Turkish Member Parliament

The ordeal began with the Britain occupation and colonization of the country of the Muslim Rohingya, known as Burma, in 1826. Then successive crises and disasters afflicted the Muslims there over the years. The world was a witness to these bloody and unjust

The story which we talk about or hear or narrate about the Rohingya is one of the stories of colonization. From ancient time and until the advent of the white man there, people were

developments.

living in peace and conciliation, even though they differed in ethnicity and religion, especially during the reign of the first Muslim state in 1430 under the rule of the Sultan Suleiman Shah. That state continued to rule until 1784.

The white man, in possession of fatal and destructive weapons, was roaming the world, not for scientific discovery but for colonization alone. He was seeking to turn his country into paradise by the riches and blood and labor of other people. His only aim in life was to usurp the riches of others; wherever he finds them he plunders them and takes them to his homeland, being unlawful and immoral, and without the permission of the owners. He believes that might is right. His belief, promise and honor are focused on the riches and nothing else.

The white man continued to carry out his shameful deeds over the years until the time of his return to his country. The British were forced to leave this country. But he wanted to leave behind something which is true to his nature. He left behind divisions, differences and sedition among the peoples of Arakhan so as to achieve his aim. The British colonial administration gave the new Buddhist government a document bearing the names of the people who live in the region. Name of the Rohingya people was left out because they are Muslims.

There is a saying that "when you see two fishes fighting in a pond be sure that a white man was in the area before". After the British departed in 1948, a Buddhist government was established. It started to violate the rights of the Muslims with the

collaboration and support of the British government, citing fake excuses.

Tensions continued until 1982

when the Buddhist state

enacted the Citizenship
Law which deprives
Muslims of citizenship
rights because the
law defines Muslims
as "foreigners". In
fact, the source of all
problems facing the
Rohingya today is this
law. The law denies
Muslims the right to own
estates, engage in trade,
occupy government posts, or
vote in parliamentary elections.

of tensions, pressure and murder, about a million Rohingya Muslims migrated to Cox's Bazar area in Bangladesh where they live under hard circumstances.

In recent years and after the spiraling

Last year the PUIC Conference adopted a resolution on visiting the Rohingya in Bangladesh. A PUIC delegation composed of deputies from parliaments of Turkey, Iran, Algeria, Morocco, Pakistan and Sudan, led by the Secretary General visited Bangladesh in September, 2018.

The PUIC Delegation met with the lady Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh and the Foreign Minister who briefed the delegation on the conditions of the Rohingya refugees and the memorandum exchanged with other states in this regard.

The next day, the delegation, including deputies from Bangladesh visited the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, and saw the situation on the ground. The picture we saw calls on the world:

"Where are the organizations that claim to be defenders of justice, rights and peace?"



The Rohingya Muslims: Necessity of Finding Quick Solution



Dr. Fahd Al- Enizi, Member of the Saudi Shourah Council

The Rohingya Muslims: Necessity of

Finding Quick Solution

The Rohingya question is an outstanding case and present evidence of the powerlessness of the international community stand in the face of the humanitarian violations horrible massacres inflicted on the Rohingya minority in Myanmar. The international community is still unable to find a just solution that the humanitarian

principles, concepts of justice and ethical values common to all humanity of which many states feel proud and include in their constitutions and international covenants and conventions. However, most regrettably, reality is different. The International community remains incapable of preserving the rights of this Muslim minority, stop the massacres and savage violations against the Rohingya Muslim people, and restrain those who are behind these violations.

The Rohingya minority have been deported from their land and denied any rights relating to their homeland Arakan as well as their right to self-determination in it. The Rohingya, or the Bormanion, as we call them in Saudi Arabia, are the indigenous people of the Arakan Kingdom in South -East Asia which was occupied by Burma and annexed to it as one of its regions whose inhabitants converted to Islam in the second century hijri through the Arab traders.

The suffering of the Rohingya Muslims began in 1784 AD when the Buddhist Buddha Baya occupied Arakan region and annexed it to Burma. Following this historical catastrophe, numbers of the Rohingya population started to emigrate from Burma. Their migration, or flight, went in the direction of neighboring Muslim States such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Thailand and some of Gulf Arab States. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been hosting the Rohingya since 1948. Their number has reached now, 300.000, and they are mostly to be found in Makkah Al-Mukarama region.

The entire world has witnessed the most painful violations against the Rohingya in Myanmar, such as murder, dispersion, genocide and burning of houses. The Rohingya were subjected to brutal actions which shocked human communities of different cultures and orientations. World mass media have brought such shameful actions to the whole globe. Human Rights Watch Organization has directly accused government officials in Burma of committing acts of ethnic cleansing and massacres of the Muslim Rohingya. A report of the international mission has confirmed that the armed forces in Myanmar burned complete villages. Several cases of random killing, mass rape of women and attack on children have been recorded, as well as cases of forced disappearances, in addition to other forms of violence, suppression and enslavement of the minorities in Burma which the report described as tantamount to collective genocide. Even the former presidency of Burma considered the sole available solution to the unrecognized Rohingya minority is to collect them in refugee camps or deport them abroad. In an official statement the former presidency said that it was impossible to accept the Rohingya, who illegally entered the country; and that they are not part of our ethnicity. This reflects the official position of the Myanmar government which resulted in the commission of vicious actions in an extreme manner.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia denounced this position and demanded the government of Myanmar to grant total citizenship rights to the Muslim Rohingya in Rakhine State, restore their rights to vote in elections, allow their right to define their ethnic identity, and take the necessary measures to prevent their exploitation, including human trafficking; and to cooperation with the international community to ensure return of all Muslim refugees and those dispersed from their houses. Also ensure cooperation with all parties and allow total access of humanitarian assistance to them.

It is demanded to amend the citizenship law of 1982 to include all religious and ethnic minorities, including the Rohingya,



Evidence of the powerless of the international commu-

The Rohingya indigenous to the Arakan **Kingdom in** South - East Asia

in order to ensure total and equal citizenship rights. This is in addition to eliminating all policies that target the Rohingya in Rakhine State, especially, those policies that violate basic human rights. The Kingdom expressed regret for non- cooperation by the government of Myanmar, and called for cooperation and allow the UN Special Rapporteur, Yangee Lee, to enter the country and have safe access to all affected areas.

The position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Rohingya Crisis is clear and specific: demanding a halt to the brutal actions and violation of human rights. The Kingdom has employed its diplomatic abilities and capabilities in International fora in order to exercise pressure on the government of Burma to stop all the savage acts against the Rohingya. This is not strange because the cause of the Muslim minority in Myanmar is a priority issue that concerns the Kingdom in International fora, and in the field of defending issues of Muslims and Muslim minorities, as well as defending humanitarian causes wherein the Rohingya cause, constitutes all these religious and humanitarian dimensions.

The Kingdom also denounced the non-recognition of the Rohingya Muslims as citizens since 1982 on the pretext that they are illegal Bengali immigrants. In the framework of humanitarian assistance, the Kingdom has offered them the amount of 50 million US dollar to alleviate their suffering following their massacres on the hands of extremist Buddhists.

It is a well-established fact that the forced migration and violations against the Rohingya minority is still continuing despite international resolutions that demand the government of Myanmar to provide the necessary atmosphere, stop violations, and cease the forced migration of the Muslim Rohingya minority to neighboring countries, as well as facilitate their return to their country, especially that the MOU signed between the UN High Commissioner For Refugees, and the UNDP, in early June, 2018, and the Myanmar government, makes it necessary for Myanmar to find a solution to the crisis and to voluntary return of the Rohingya refugees to their homes without any hindrance, and that the Myanmar government should abide by implement this Memorandum, and put an end to the plight of the Rohingya refugees. This is in addition to the request for the international community to find a humanitarian solution to the Rohingya that protects them from acts of violence and ethnic cleansing, and leads to their recognition as citizens with full rights.

Plight of the Rohingya Refugees



Dr. Kazem Jalali; Iranian Member Parliament

Old Burma, present day Myanmar, is multi-ethnic state with more than 140 ethnic groups, having different languages and customs. In Arakan region, there is the Rohingya ethnic group which has a story differing from the others. Rohingya, The professing Islam since many centuries ago, are suffering a tragedy unlike any of its kind in the world. They live a life of oppression and injustice. Their rights and resources of their land are plundered. They experience murder, arson and prohibition of their religions practices.

Islam entered Burma through this region by Muslim merchants during the time of the Abbasid Khalif Haroun Al –Rashid in the seventh century AD. An independent state was created in the region and was successfully ruled by 48 Muslim Kings for three and half centuries (1430AD- 1784 AD). These rulers left Islamic antiquities, mosques and schools.

Now, the Rohingya people are imprisoned for seventy years in the biggest prison in the world, i.e the Arakan Prison. Arakan is bordered by the sea and the Bay of Bengal in the West, Himalya mountains in the North. The region also faces a media blackout. No media in the world was able to penetrate the region to convey information about events taking place inside.

This catastrophe has resulted due to the savage policies adopted by the Myanmar government. The army of Myanmar has methodically planned a campaign of genocide to rid the country of the Rohingya Muslims who have already suffered catastrophic experiences in terms of misery, murder, rape of women and girls by officers and soldiers of the Myanmar army, and burning of the Rohingya cottages on the hands of militias.

Discrimination against the Rohingya takes several forms such as denial of their legal and basic

> rights i.e. education, employment, right to vote, ownership and even getting an identity card. The harsh situation and

situation and suffering faced by these innocent people have forced a large number of them to flee their homeland and seek refuge in neighboring

Bangladesh which has opened its doors to them and received them in the Cox's Bazar region where more than 700,000 live in refugee Camps.

Therefore, deploying efforts to convince the Myanmar government to accept a peaceful solution is necessary. We entertain the hope that realization of this wish will help our people, the Rohingya Muslims, as well as our brothers in Bangladesh who have shouldered quite a heavy burden of sheltering the refugees. They may not be able to give shelter to more refugees.

The demand of the Rohingya Muslims is not a separatist one, but rather an incessant search for recognition of their identity and the right of decent citizenship. The Rohingya crisis is not only an emergency humanitarian case, but relates also to issues of security, identity and development.

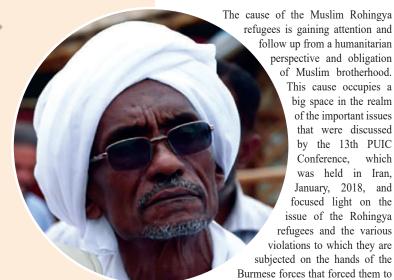
Consequently, unless these challenges are addressed, long-term reconciliation shall always remain a dream rather than reality. Now, we ask the conscience of the International Community" what action may be taken? How do we help these victimized people? These Rohingya people need international support in order to compel the government of Myanmar to stop the genocide and expulsion of the Rohingya Muslims, and help in their safe and secure return to their homeland. It is our hope that these Rohingya shall go back to their country of origin in dignity and safety.



Obligation of the Ummah Towards our **Brotherly Muslim Rohingya Refugees**



Mohammad Al- Hassan Ahmed, Sudanese Member Parliament



This cause occupies a big space in the realm of the important issues that were discussed by the 13th PUIC Conference, which was held in Iran, January, 2018, and focused light on the issue of the Rohingya refugees and the various violations to which they are subjected on the hands of the Burmese forces that forced them to

flee their homes. The PUIC Conference mandated the PUIC General Secretariat to dispatch a mission to Bangladesh to visit the refugee camps who took refuge in neighboring Bangladesh coming from the Rakhine State in the State of Myanmar. In response to the invitation of the PUIC General Secretariat, the Speaker of the National Legislature (Sudanese Parliament) nominated the delegation of the parliament to participate in the PUIC mission to visit the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh aimed at closely taking stock of their conditions and consider the possibility of extending humanitarian assistance to the refugees. Sudanese delegation joined parliamentary delegations as well as the delegation of the PUIC General Secretariat.

Following the arrival in Bangladesh and meeting with the Speaker of the Bangladeshi Parliament and the Foreign Minister, the PUIC delegation was briefed on the recent developments in the case of the Rohingya refugees, their needs, and the humanitarian and diplomatic efforts which Bangladesh has been exerting in this regards.

The Sudanese delegation praised the effective and impressive role which the PUIC has been assuming in addressing important and vital issues of the community as well as dealing with the common affairs of Muslims and the entire mankind. The Sudanese delegation also lauded the resolution to dispatch a PUIC mission. It also underlined the role of Sudan's government and people, and their attention and support of the causes of the Islamic World and Muslim Minorities in various parts of the world. It expressed its great appreciation of the mounting role of the government and the kind people of Bangladesh who have received and hosted our brother the Rohingya refugees and extended humanitarian assistance to them.

The Sudanese delegation offers thanks to the Parliament of Bangladesh and the PUIC General Secretariat for organizing this important visit and facilitating the task of participating delegates.

The PUIC delegations visited the Rohingya refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar region. They listened to the detailed statements about refugees' suffering. These refugees appealed to the visiting delegation to continue efforts with the international community so as to ensure their return to their homes and the homeland of their ancestors- a permanent return, as soon as possible, in safety, with dignity and preserving their rights in citizenship and identity. The delegation toured the camps which included dwellings, general and service facilities. It met with workers from different nationalities who work in the camps, and became familiar with the conditions of the refugees, in general, which were miserable. The delegation listened to horrifying accounts from the refugees- about how they were forced to leave their homes, following suffering all kind of affliction and torture perpetrated by Burmese Forces who murdered their relatives and sons and raped their women. They were forced to leave their homes and flee to Bangladesh, arriving after long marches and suffering, with no possessions of their own. Our visiting delegation realized that local and international organizations periodically offer basic necessities to the groups of refugees coming from Burma. These needs included medical assistance, water, food, blankets, and oilcloth. However, these do not satisfy the needs of the huge incoming numbers of refugees.

Continuation of the efforts with the inter-

national community to see return of Rohingva to their homeland

Blatant violation of international law and treaties

Through the visit, the PUIC delegation arrived at important details, including:

- The number of refugees is continuously increasing. They need big quantities of medicines and food. They are in dire need of protection, medical treatment, mosquito-nets and blankets.
- The camps are situated on uneven land with hot tropical climate. All facilities were erected with non-permanent material like bamboos. The dwellings are not suitable and would not withstand heavy and continuous rainfall.
- Many children have no schooling. Also, there are no qualified teachers for most school subjects.
- According to available information people in whole villages are on their way to the already crowded camps. The financial situation of those responsible for managing the camps is weak due to the stopping of contributions from states and support organizations according to pledges made last year. No additional material assistance has been arrived. The Sudanese delegation agreed with other delegations on the necessity of quick action through PUIC Member Parliaments and

their respective governments to convince the government of Myanmar through the perspective of an issue of human rights and basic rights and not a religious issue. Nevertheless, it is clearly, an issue of "ethnic cleansing" as it became apparent from statements made by Rohingya refugees. Pressure must be exercised on the Burmese government. There is an urgent need to repatriate the Rohingya refugees to their homes in a safe manner.

Therefore we conclude as follows:

- Pursuant to the resolutions of the 13th PUIC Conference, held in Tehran, the delegation condemned the acts of murder, coercive displacement of the Muslim Rohingya inhabitants, as well as, all other savage acts, committed against the Rohingya in a systematic manner, which constitute a serious and blatant violation of the international law and International treaties and conventions concerning human rights. We demand the international community to punish perpetrators of such violation. We call on the Myanmar government to abide by its responsibilities according to the international law and human rights conventions, and to take all measures to stop racist practices against the Rohingya Muslims as well as attempts to obliterate their Islamic culture and identity. - We call through the PUIC on the governments of the states of Member Parliaments to continue their efforts with the international community and the United Nations in order to ensure permanent return of all the displaced Muslim Rohingya to their territory, securely, safely and with dignity, and enjoying total citizenship rights, and compensating them all the material and moral losses which they have
- We urge all OIC Member States, relevant UN agencies, voluntary organizations, and all philanthropists to honor their commitments and carry out their duty of extending urgent humanitarian aid to the Rohingya refugee camps in order to stop their suffering and to lessen the burden on the State of Bangladesh.

sustained, and also providing them with the

means of decent living.

In order to realize the objectives of the visit and its sublime purposes of informing about the ordeal of our brothers the Rohingya refugees, and the possibility of extending humanitarian assistance to them, the Sudanese delegation, prepared, upon its return, a detailed report on the visit and the needs of the refugees. The delegation submitted the report to the leaders and members of the Sudanese parliament.

Furthermore, all the media, humanitarian and legal bodies concerned with the cause of the Rohingya Muslims, will be invited to a workshop in order to discuss the modality of extending assistance to the Rohingya refugees.

Report on the Visit of the Rohingya Camps



Mohammad Ouzzine, Deputy Speaker of Moroccan House of Representatives

ntroduction: The deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Mohammad Ouzzine, represented Moroccan Parliament in the visit organized by the PUIC in collaboration with the Parliament of Bangladesh, to the Camps of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh during the period 10 to 13 September, 2018. The visit

furnished the opportunity to be

closely informed about the conditions

of the Rohingya refugees, especially the harsh humanitarian circumstances which they endure as a result of their migration. The aim was to stress the urgent need for extending further humanitarian assistance to the camps inhabitants who faced violence, oppression and ethnic cleansing which are practiced by Myanmar authorities against the Muslim Minority.

The most prominent events in the work program of the visit has been meetings with senior officials in Bangladesh which included the Speaker of the Parliament and the Foreign Minister, as well as field visits to the Rohingya refugee Camps in Bangladesh.

During the visit, Mr. Mohammed Ouzzine had a meeting with the Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh which focused on the tragic conditions facing the Rohingya as a result of the continuous savage practices carried against the Muslim Rohingya community in Myanmar, constituting a blatant and serious violation of the International law as well as international conventions and laws concerning human rights. During this meeting the lady Speaker expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI who dispatched in September 2017, emergency humanitarian assistance to the migrant Rohingya Muslims.

Tield visit to the Rohingya Refugee Camps
The visit was an opportunity to closely take stock of the situation in the reception camps and the relief points. These we listened to the representatives of the camps who recounted the bitter events, the painful sufferings and inhuman violations which they have experienced such as killing innocent people, dispersion and forced

migration of children and women, and destruction of properties.

It may be noted that the

Rohingya refugee Camps in Bangladesh are the largest of their kind in the region. They are giving shelter to 800.000 refugees and 50.000 children without families which constitutes fertile ground for the spread of violation. extremism and terrorism.

Conclusion
Recommendation

-The participants in the visit called on the states of the PUIC Members to act swiftly to energize the provisions of the agreements on resettlement of the Rohingya which was signed an official from the government of Myanmar with the authorities of Bangladesh during the former's recent visit to the refugee Camps.

- -It is necessary to call upon the Myanmar government to abide by its obligations according to the International Law and human rights conventions and to take all the necessary measures to stop immediately the operation of ethnic cleansing, forced migration and discriminating practices against the Rohingya Muslims.
- -Calling on the international community and the United Nations in order to ensure permanent return of all the migrant Rohingya Muslims to their country.
- -Restoring citizenship rights and to live on security and peace through continuous pressure on the Myanmar government in order to put an end to this horrifying tragedy.
- -Commending the royal initiative involving emergency humanitarian assistance to the migrant Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh. Stressing their gratitude and appreciation to the Moroccan people, leadership and government, for such a generous and humanitarian gesture in the circumstances through which the Rohingya Muslims are passing.
- -Recognizing that Morocco's solidarity is not something strange to His Majesty the King and the Moroccan people. The kingdom of Morocco has always supported the Islamic Nation; and considering this initiative an available opportunity to continue the position of the Kingdom of Morocco and its radiance within the Islamic space in the manner of the authorities in Turkey and Iran.





In the Meeting of the Executive Committee in Dakar:

Call For Assisting Muslim Minorities



Confirming focalization of the **Palestinian** cause

Importance of realizing the Spirit of brotherhood

The PUIC Executive Committee held its 40th Meeting on 2-3 October, 2018 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, in response to a kind invitation extended by H.E. Mr. Moustapha Niasse, Speaker of the National Assembly of

The Opening Session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Moustapha Niasse, and in the presence of H.E. Issaka Sidibe, Speaker of the National Assembly if the Republic of Mali, President of the 12th Session of PUIC Conference. The meeting was attended by delegates of the parliaments of following States: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Chad, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Lebanon, Malaysia, Republic of Mali, Kingdom of Morocco, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Sudan, Republic of Turkey, and Republic of Senegal (Host country).

The following members of the Executive Committee were absent: Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Mozambique, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

H.E. the Secretary General welcomed the august Committee Members for responding to the invitation to participate in the Meeting. He also thanked His Excellency Mr. Moustapha Niasse, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal.

H.E. Mr. Moustapha Niasse, delivered the opening speech. He welcomed their Excellencies ladies and gentlemen Members of the Executive Committee. He addressed the challenges which face the Islamic Ummah. Members of the committee praised the speech of His Excellency Mr. Moustapha Niasse, and requested to include it as a part of the documents of the Meeting.

H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali expressed thanks and appreciation to H.E. the Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal for hosting the meeting as well as for the good organization of it. In his Speech he focused on the challenges and differences which face the Islamic Ummah and which require urgent solutions. The most outstanding of these challenges is combatting terrorism, religious extremism, problem of minorities, and the tough Palestinian Issue-all of which impose on us the need for a lot of cooperation and amity.

REPOT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General submitted his report to the Meeting which covered the period between the date spanning the convening the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference, and the date of holding the 40th Meeting of the Executive Committee, in Dakar- Republic of Senegal, on 2 October 2018. His Excellency informed that what the report mentioned until 30th July 2018 concerns the activities of the former Secretary General. And as of First of August, 2018 the report concerns the activities of H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraichi NIASS, since His Excellency assumed the duty of Secretary General of the PUIC from that date.

The Report of Secretary General covered the following: -Participation in international Fora in response to kind invitations from similar organizations and unions, as Observer.

-Statements issued by the General Secretariat as well as

the Member Parliaments on various occasions.

-Messages of Felicitations and condolences sent by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General.

-Activities in the media field.

Organizational Matters:

Hosting of the 14th Session of PUIC Conference by the Kingdom of Morocco, early next year.

The PUIC Executive Committee has approved the proposal of the Moroccan delegation to continue contact between the Parliament of Morocco and the PUIC General Secretariat in order to define the date of holding the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference, in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, in January, 2019.

The Executive Committee mandated the PUIC General Secretariat in coordination with the Moroccan Parliament to define the motto of the next Conference in the light of the discussions which took place in the Meeting.

THE INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY TRAINING (OF THE LEBANESE PARLIAMENT)

The Executive Committee mandated the General Secretariat to study the way of submitting a recommendation to the Member Parliaments in order to benefit from the capabilities of the Institute for Parliamentary Training and Legislative Studies (of the Lebanese Parliament), and to refer the matter to the General Committee to take necessary action.

The Executive Committee adopted the Dakar Declaration as follows:

We, Chairman and members of the Executive Committee of the PUIC, participating in the 40th Meeting of the Executive Committee, on 2 and 3 October, 2018:

Affirming our respect for the objectives and principles enshrined in the charters of the OIC and the United Nations:

Being guided by the Statute of the PUIC and the PUIC Convention on Combating Terrorism and Extremism which was adopted by the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference, on 24 January 2016;

Affirming our attention for the causes of Muslim minorities in non-OIC Countries;

Declare the following:

- 1. Confirm that the crucial and complex circumstances through which the world is passing today necessitate unifying the visions, cooperation and coordination of our parliaments pursuant to our noble Islamic principles which urge us to maintain mutual cooperation on the basis of the lofty verse "help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancour", until our glorious Muslim Ummah realizes its aspiration to security, peace, development and progress.
- 2. Also confirm the focalization of the Palestinian Cause, considered as the primary cause of Muslims, as well as confirm the steadfastness and struggle of the Palestinian People until they regain their total rights to their entire national soil, and welcome the efforts exerted and the steps taken so as to achieve Palestinian national unity.
- 3. Reiterate our condemnation of the practices of the Zionist occupation and its oppressive and savage methods used against the Palestinian People who struggle and stand firm for the sake of their freedom and dignity.
- 4. Condemn the decision of the US Administration to stop funding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and

emphasize the need to paying attention to the condition of Palestinian refugees and those living under Zionist occupation.

- 5. Also Condemn terrorism in all its forms, which is practiced by terrorist organizations, and Call upon all States of the world to adopt constructive cooperation to fight and eliminate terrorism as well as address its root causes. We reject linking terrorism with any specific religion.
- 6. Call for extending support to Muslim minorities in non-Muslim States in order to exercise their basic rights and ensure their practicing of their religious rituals as well as their political, economic and civil rights.
- 7. Express our concern for the suffering of millions of refugees, repatriated and displaced Muslims who have been forced to flee their homelands and regions, and Call on Muslim States, in particular, and international and voluntary organizations, as well as civil society organizations to extend urgent and necessary assistance to them.
- 8. Express our great attention and utmost concern for the tragedy befalling the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar which has compelled about a million of them to flee their regions and become refugees, and Call for halting the military operations launched by the Myanmar authorities and Buddhist extremists against the Rohingya Muslims, and extending humanitarian assistance to them. Also Call on all Muslim States to coordinate their efforts with the international community and influential states to exercise pressure on the Myanmar government in order to find a just, political solution that ensures, for the Rohingya, their legitimate political and civil rights. We also thank the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and its Parliament for their efforts in sheltering the Rohingya refugees.
- 9. Emphasize the importance of realizing the spirit of brotherhood, cooperation and love among our sisterly States and invite Muslim peoples to exert more efforts to advance dialogue and understanding among themselves.
- 10. Affirm the importance of the role of the PUIC in defending the principles and beliefs of the Ummah, and confronting Islamophobia and vilification of the true religion and its symbols.
- 11. Express our gratitude and thanks to the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal for the excellent organization, preparation and care put in place in favor of the Chairman and members of the Executive Committee since their arrival in Dakar.



Extending support to Muslim minorities in non-Muslim States

Concern for the suffering of millions of refugees, repatriated and displaced Muslims







The 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:

- 27 September 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Faisal El-Fayez as Speaker of the Senate (Majlis Al-Aayan) of Jordan
- 8 October 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Cheikh Ould Baya as Speaker of the National Assembly (Al Jamiya-Al-Wataniya) of Mauritania
- 15 October 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Hakim Benchamach as Speaker of the House of Councillors (Majlis al-Mustacharin) of Morocco
- 24 October 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Maad Bouchareb as Speaker of the National People's Assembly (Al-Majlis Al-Chaabi Al-Watani) of Algeria
- 1 November 2018 Election of H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Qasim as Speaker of the People's Majlis (Majlis) of Maldives
- 6 November 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud as Speaker of the of Shura Council (Majlis Al-Shura) of Qatar
- 9 December 2018 re-election of H.E. Mr. Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh as Speaker of the Shura Council (Majlis Al-Shura) of Bahrain
- 12 December 2018 Election of H.E. Mrs. Fawzia Zainal as Speaker of the Council of Representatives (Majlis Al-Nuwab) of Bahrain
- 11 January 2019 re-election of H.E. Mr. Faustin Boukoubi as Speaker of the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) of Gabon
- 23 January 2019 Election of H.E. Mrs. Yawa Djigbodi Tsegan as Speaker of the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) of Togo
- 29 January 2019 re-election of H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Bensalah as Speaker of the Council of the Nation (Majlis al-Oumma) of Algeria
- 30 January 2019 re-election of H.E. Mrs. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury as Speaker of the Parliament (Jatiya Sangsad) of Bangladesh



Afghanistan

The Afghanistan House of Elders led by Speaker of the House approved, two International Documents, and on January 13, 2019

The House approved Agreement on the Development Framework between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Swiss Federal Council on Technical Assistance, Financial Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid after their reviews in the House Commissions. The aforementioned agreement, facilitates the realization of technical and humanitarian cooperation projects and support the process of reform in Afghanistan and help in sustainable development. Moreover, The Air Service Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Republic of Iraq was also approved.



Algeria

Mr. Murad Medlasy, Head of the Constitutional Council, who died, aged 76, was buried at Bin Aknoon Cemetery, in Algiers. The ceremony was attended by a High-level state officials,

foremost of whom was the speaker of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Abdelkader Bensaleh and Speaker of the National people's Asembly, Mr. Moaz Busharib, the prime Minister, Mr. Ahmed Oyahya, as well as other political and national figures, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Algiers.

Burkina Faso

The headquarters of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, hosted a ceremony on 26 November 2018 for exchanging posts between the incoming

and outgoing Presidents of the organization. Alassane Bala Sakandé officially now holds the torch of the APU. It was in the presence of several parliamentary personalities that the transfer of tasks between Alassane Bala Sakandé, incoming president of the African Parliamentary Union, and the outgoing President Cipriano Cassama took place.



House of Representatives Speaker, Bambang Soesatyo, urged reform in the United Nations, particularly the UN Security Council (UNSC), saying the world body should play a more

effective role in security and peace across the globe. Bambang Soesatyo, made that statement at the second plenary of The 4th MIKTA Speakers' Consultation, discussing peace and security through strengthening the UN function, at Bali, on 16 September 2018. H.E. Soesatyo said that the UN's bid to maintain international peace and security had not completely met the expectation of the international community, especially when the 193-nation organization's attempted to maintain peace and security did not go with the interests of the permanent members of the UNSC. "For example, in response to Palestine-Israel conflict, the UNSC failed to deal with the United States. As one of the permanent members of the UNSC, the US has used the veto for several times to prevent a draft resolution condemning Israel's use of force against Palestinian civilians," Indonesian Speaker said.



The second conference on the challenges of confronting terrorism and strengthening inter-regional ties was held on December, 07, 2018 in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

Parliament speakers of six countries including that of Iran attended the event. Asad Qaiser speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan who chaired the first round of the conference ceded the presidency of the conference to Ali Larijani Iran's parliament (Majlis) speaker. In the first round of the conference which took place last year in Islamabad the parliament speakers of Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, China, Russia and Afghanistan decided to enhance regional counter-terrorism cooperation. Confronting terrorism, reviewing past experiences, studying current strategies and deciding to adopt new and effective regional approaches, expanding communication and strengthening regional cooperation, achieving peace and sustainable development in the region were on the agenda of the Tehran conference.



Speaker of the Council of the Representatives, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Al Halbousi, participated in London, in Chatham House Symposium which discussed the most

outstanding challenges that face Iraq, the causes and the requirements of the next phase. His Excellency stated that those challenges include weak services and youth employment, and that government posts do not cover the numbers of graduates. Also the private sector cannot offer opportunities for employment. This contributes to the spread of unemployment in the country. He said that we need prepared plans to provide services and employment.



H.E. the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan, Mr. Atif Al Tarawneh, paid an official visit to Iraq in February, 2019. His Excellency stated that the future relations between

Jordan and Iraq are blessed with optimism in terms of coordination and cooperation in various fields. He said that this is what we felt from all Iraqi bodies during the series of meetings which the Jordanian delegation held in Baghdad. At the end of his two-day visit, in response to an invitation from his counterpart, Mr. Mohammad Al-Halbousi, he stressed that the visit of His Majesty King Abdullah II to Baghdad, and the visit of the Iraqi President to Amman, were extremely important for the relations of the two country.



H.E. Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, Mr. Marzouq Ali Al Ghanim,

stated that the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments, discussed a large number of major subjects which are expected to be included in the agenda. He pointed out that the discussion focused on several issues including future of democracies in the world and the relation between the IPU and the United Nations; mechanism for energizing the IPU Statute so that all members shall be committed to its provisions especially UN resolutions which are violated by some countries. He added that Kuwait calls for strong sanctions against those states which do not abide by the IPU statute.



The National Assembly of Lebanon gave a vote of confidence for the

government of Mr. Saad Al Hariri with a majority of 111 votes in favor out of 117 deputies who attended the voting session in February, 2019. In his ministerial statement at the Parliament, Mr. Al Hariri stressed the commitment of his government to what he called bold reforms in order fo avoid deterioration of the economic conditions of the country. He also stressed the necessity of positive action among the ministers, in order to achieve the contents of the ministerial statement which summarizes the government action plan concerning economic, financial and administrative reforms.



Seminar on Parliamentary Reforms organized by the Institut Darul Ehsan (IDE) in

collaboration with the Parliament of Malaysia was officiated by H.E. Dato' Mohamad Ariff bin Md Yusof, Speaker of the House of Representatives, on 8 December, 2018.

The process for parliamentary reforms will continue to be implemented towards making the Malaysian Parliament a credible, with integrity and respected institution, said Speaker Datuk Mohd Ariff Md Yusof.

Mohd Ariff announced the setting up of six new select committees and added: the committees were essential for democracy and to provide a check and balance on the executive body. The Parliament has to be an institution that is credible and with integrity. It has the people's respect.



The Speaker of the National Assembly H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibé received on, October

25, 2018, the members of the board of DM consulting, a company under Malian law in charge of the promotion of development initiatives of Islamic finance, led by the first person in charge, Mohamed Lamine Fofana. The team told Speaker Issaka Sidibé of the development projects and programs that will be financed in Mali by means of Islamic finance. These include agriculture with high ecological value, the establishment of national stocks of liquid and gas hydrocarbons.



The Parliament of Nigeria hosted the 73th Session of the Executive Committee and the

41st Conference of Speakers of National Parliaments of the African Parliamentary Union on 8 and 9 November 2018 in the beautiful city of Abuja. The Conference deliberated important subjects related to the role of Parliaments in the fight against terrorism, armed gangs and organized crime in Africa and the promotion of private investment as a major factor in economic development in Africa.



H.E. Mr. Khalid Bin Hilal Al Maoali, Speaker of the Consultative Council received

H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Spinosa, President of the UN General Assembly, and her accompanying delegation at the Assembly building in January, 2019.

His Excellency briefed the guest on the progress of consultation in the Sultanate, and its successive stages over more than three decades and the legislatives tools which members of the Assembly use, in addition to the integrative role which the State Council and the Consultative Council perform, within the system of the Oman Majlis. The two parties also discussed several issues and current subjects at the regional and international levels.



Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan, Asad Qaiser, has said when there will be rule of

law and peace within the country, and that the country will make development. Addressing the inaugural meeting of Former Parliamentarians Forum at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services in Islamabad, he said it is our country and we have to work for its betterment and progress, through shunning our political differences. He said the forum will prove to be beneficial and expertise of former parliamentarians will also be utilized in the best interest of the country.



The Palestine National Council informed the regional and international parliamentary

associations about the Israeli occupation plans to target and liquidate UNRWA schools operating in the occupied city of Jerusalem. Speaker of the Palestine National Council, Mr. Salim Al Zaanoon, explained in identical letters sent to a number of international Islamic Arab, African, Asian and European Parliamentary Unions, foremost of which are the IPU and the European Parliament, pointing to the objectives and dangers resulting from implementing the recommendations of the so-called Israeli National Security Council which adopted the plan of the former Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, announced in October, 2018, aimed at closing UNRWA schools in Jerusalem and replacing them with schools belonging to the Israeli Jerusalem municipality.



The 140th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and related meetings will be

held at the Sheraton Convention Center, Doha, State of Qatar, from 6 to 10 April, 2019. H.E. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid al-Mahmoud, Speaker of the Advisory Council welcomed the decision in his speech at the closing session of the 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)in Geneva on 18 October, 2018. He urged speakers and delegations of the world parliaments to take part in the event and learn about the great developments witnessed by Qatar under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and to see the good and noble people of Qatar and their love for peace, stability and good for all. He affirmed Qatar's

full readiness and confidence in the success of the conference in Doha for the good of countries and peoples.



Senegalese deputies adopted, on January 24, 2019 in the National Assembly, the draft

law on the Petroleum Code, during a plenary session at which the Minister of Oil and Energy Mansour Elimane Kane participated. The objective of this new petroleum code bill, which includes 10 chapters, is to safeguard and secure the economic and financial interests of the Senegalese people, while preserving the attractiveness and competition of the country. In addition to the need to have an oil code in line with the context of a country with high hydrocarbon potential, there is, on the one hand, the need to comply with the constitution and, on the other hand, the integration of best practices and practices in force resulting from changes in the oil and gas industry.



Grand National Assembly of Turkey hosted the Second Executive

Council Meeting and the 11th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly in the historical city of Istanbul, from 29 November to 2 December, under the Motto: "Promoting Economic Prosperity in Asia". The Conference was attended by the representatives of 23 countries.

H.E. Mr. Binali Yildirim, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, said in this meeting: "The aim of the meeting is to make Asia a center of civilization. If we want, we can make Asia the world's center of attraction again, make us the hope of humanity. We all have a duty as parliamentarians; Conflicts are of no use to our region, to humanity. What to do; to eliminate the existing problems, to make use of parliamentary diplomacy effectively, to contribute to the resolution of the problems of our governments."



H.E. Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi, Speaker of the Federal National Council, of the

UAE, stressed the importance of the historical visit of the Pope Francis of the Vatican to the United Arab Emirates, which coincided with the "year of Tolerance" and considered that it will have a great impact in terms of propagating values of tolerance and coexistence, internationally. She said that the visit aims at realizing humanitarian brotherhood, diffuse tensions, propagate peace and concord, and seriously seeking to spread security and stability in the world.



Big success for the Islamic Parliamentary Group at the Geneva Meeting

The Islamic Parliamentary Group held its regular meeting on the sidelines of the 139th Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), under the chairmanship of H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud, Speaker of the Advisory Council of Qatar, on Saturday, 13th October, 2018, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Meeting took place in the presence of their Excellencies the Parliament Speakers of the State of Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon, Republic of the Sudan, and the Republic of Turkey, as well as a large number of members of the PUIC delegations participating in IPU Meetings.

mergency Item Issue:
The Jordanian an and Kuwaiti delegations submitted separate proposals on the issue of UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) concerning a serious budgetary deficit and ensuring continuity in providing necessary services to the Palestinian refugees, and the US decision to stop assistance to the Agency.

The Meeting agreed to integrate the two proposals and to submit a single proposal to the IPU for inclusion in its Agenda. The unified proposal gained substantial support from amounting to more than two thirds of the votes of the participants in the IPU meeting. However, a tiny number of votes precluded the inclusion of the proposed item on the IPU Agenda.

1 ay Symposium:

At the 138th IPU Assembly which was held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, last year, a group of members of the IPU Human Rights Committee, managed to adopt a resolution to organize a symposium for gay people. But Islamic Parliamentary delegations resolved to confront this matter and rally support and backing from the various groups participating in the current IPU Assembly to defeat the said resolution. The Islamic Group meeting agreed on a common stand vis- a-vis this matter.

In the first IPU Meeting of the current Assembly, the Islamic Group requested removal of the item concerning gay people from the agenda of the IPU Human Rights Committee. It was decided to vote on whether the plenary session could change the agenda of the IPU committees. The Islamic Parliamentary delegations, especially Parliament Speakers, actively engaged the other delegations, until their efforts were crowned with success. The item on gay people was removed from the agenda of the Human Rights Committee. This was considered a huge success for the Islamic and Arab Group which was able to ensure support to its position from the African States as well as from China and the Russian Federation. It is worth mentioning that the participants in the IPU Geneva meeting agreed to hold the 140th IPU Assembly, in the State of Qatar on 6-10, April, 2019.

Secretary General Participates in APA Session



H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, Mr. Mouhamed Khouraichi Niass, accompanied by the Deputy Secretary General, participated as an observer, in the proceedings of the 11th Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), which was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 29 November to 2 December 2018 under the theme: "Promoting Economic Prosperity in Asia". H.E. the PUIC Secretary General delivered a speech in which he underlined that the great potentials of Asia, its geopolitical position and the diverse links among its peoples render this continent well-suited for increasing economic prosperity and a promising future. In his speech the Secretary General stated: "at this juncture let us recall the United Nations General Assembly's Declaration on "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" issued in 2015" which should be considered as a reference to achieve economic prosperity". H.E declared: "according what was mentioned in Bali Declaration of 2017, on sustainable development, Parliamentarians should have continued active involvement which can help to ensure effective implementation and timely realization of the sustainable development goals, through enactment of relevant legislation, adoption of enabling budgets, and promotion of awareness, accountability and social responsibility; following these recommendations we can achieve our goal i.e. promoting Economic prosperity in Asia which can help to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimension".

Secretary General Condemns Israeli Attack on the unarmed Palestinian people

H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraichi Niass, the PUIC Secretary General condemned and denounced the brutalities of the Israeli authorities of occupation. In his statement, H.E. PUIC Secretary declared solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people, and standing by their side in such critical circumstances. He called for providing international protection for them from the brutalities of the authorities and the settlers. He also called for urgent international intervention to stop this persistent aggression on the valiant Palestinian people. And he called on parliaments of the world to stand by the side of the Palestinian people, whose suffering has been so prolonged, requested and called on them to condemn the crimes committed by the Israeli authorities and settlers.



Secretary General Thanks Speaker of Bangladesh



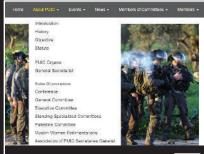
H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Mr. Mouhamed Khouraichi NIASS expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the parliament of Bangladesh and to its Speaker H.E. Mrs. Shirin Sharmin Chandhury for the warm reception and generous hospitality which was accorded to the delegation of the PUIC Executive Committee during its visit to Bangladesh. In his message the Secretary General emphasized that the visit to the camps of the Rohingya refugees furnished the opportunity to take stock of the conditions of those refugees who fled from the persecution which they suffered in their country Myanmar.



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- PUIC Secretary General Statement on terrorist attack in
- Secretary General Congratulates Bangladesh
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- Secretary General Congratulates Algerian Speak
- PUIC Secretary General Statement on Attack in Tripoli

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Upcoming Events

PUIC Confereces and Events



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The General Secretariat of the PUIC regularly prepares Flashes (USB) before holding its meetings. Flashes are distributed to all participants during the meetings in order to have all the Reports, Publications, and Regulations of the PUIC in PDF format and in 3 languages.

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