

THE MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE *Journal*

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No.5



**Muslim scholars from the Islamic world confirmed
the importance of the spiritual reference of the Kingdom**



Letter From the Editor

MWL Conference ...Legitimate destination & trendy necessity

Since its inception, the Muslim World League (MWL) seeks to achieve the unity of the Islamic nation, look forward to promoting shared values among peoples of different spectra, and extend bridges of communication and cooperation among followers of religions and cultures. No one can ever doubt the greatness of this supreme goal. The Islamic unity provides shades of pride, glory and protection for Muslims. Thanks to it, civilization is established, obedience is accepted, and Muslims are empowered. The weapon of unity is the best of all weapons. Close to 1,200 scholars and intellectuals representing 127 countries took part in "The International Conference on Islamic Unity... The Perils of Labeling and Exclusion", which was held by the MWL under the patronage of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz. They called for the establishment of the international conference on Islamic unity under the MWL's umbrella and the leadership of its Secretary General Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, who has been seeking, the moment he took over, to achieve the aspirations of Muslims with regard to deepening their unity, holding firmly to their Islamic guidance, strengthening ties of sincere affection and love among them, working to support harmony and convergence, and distancing them away from division and conflict.

The Conference's statute, steps of establishment and future of its programs are based on pillars of the relationship governing the Islamic components which are based on a set of rules derived from the Qur'an and the Prophet's practices, abiding by the precepts of religion and working to overcome the negative differences and solve their problems with the spirit of Muslim brotherhood, which

is represented in the words of God Almighty: To achieve these goals and recommendations, the participants recommended that the priorities of the Forum should be:

- Building bridges of communication and cooperation among followers of religions and cultures

- Carrying out practical programs to reinforce values of tolerance and co-existence for peace and harmony, especially among youth

- Monitoring and analyzing negative theses and wisely confronting them

- Proposing the rehabilitative programs supporting values of tolerant Islam and reinforcing the awareness of preachers and imams. These programs are assumed by a raft of specialized scholars in a way that serves peace, harmony and coexistence with all

- Developing new curricula prepared by a specialized group of pedagogues through the outputs of this conference which will see the participation of scientific, intellectual and educational cadres from all sects and religious schools with the aim of serving peace and righteousness and the welfare of the humanity

- Raising young people's awareness on respecting covenants, especially constitutions and laws of states where they live in and warning them against violating these regulations and laws

- Raising general population's awareness of the importance of good dealing with others and refraining from any abuse or harm to them together with the importance of forgiving them

- Spreading the culture of Islamic brotherhood, sincerely dealing with all common issues and refraining from the inter-communal strife and sectarian clashes that spread the culture of hatred and enmity.



The Muslim World League *Journal*

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Conference on Islamic Unity



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Conference on Islamic Unity



Sheikh Dr. Al-Issa Receives a Japanese Aca-
demic Delegation



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MWL Holds Two-Day International

By Syed Mussarat Khalil

Under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Muslim World League (MWL) organized two-day International Conference on Islamic Unity “Perils of Labeling and Exclusion” on 12 –13 December 2018 in the holy city of Makkah.

In the conference more than 1,200 prominent thought leaders, preachers, scholars and Intellectuals representing 28 schools of thought and sects form 127 counties participated.



Conference on Islamic Unity

The program started with the recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Dr. Mowaffaq Al-Dulaimi (member of the Iraqi delegation participating in the scientific deliberations of conference).

Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Governor of Makkah Region, inaugurated the

conference and delivered a speech on behalf of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, underlined the need to dispel misconceptions about Islam and Muslims through dialogue. He also urged Muslims to set aside their petty differences and work together to achieve a great and prosperous future.

In his message read by Prince



Khalid Al-Faisal, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman affirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with its approach of moderation, will continue fulfilling its commitments and initiatives to realize the hopes and aspirations of Muslims around the world. He also called on Islamic scholars to stand united in confronting the fierce campaign being unleashed against their religion, morals, culture and civilization.

The keynote speakers of the inauguration ceremony included Sheikh Abdul Latif Deriane (the Grand Mufti of Lebanon), Dr. Bouabdallah Ghulam Allah (President of the Supreme Islamic Council, Algeria), Dr. Shawki Allam

(the Grand Mufti of Egypt), Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen (the Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah (Chairman of the UAE Fatwa Council and President of Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies), Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa (the Secretary General of the Muslim World League and Member of the Council of Senior Scholars), Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh (the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Supreme Council of the MWL), Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, Pir Noorul Haq Qadri (Federal Minister for Religious Affairs of Islamic



Republic of Pakistan) and others.

They all highlighted the causes and motives of terrorism and extremism and discussed the main objectives of the conference aiming to develop a comprehensive strategic plan and address hatred and sectarian conflicts. Another objective is to create channels of communication among the followers of Islamic schools of thought and extend bridges of trust, understanding and cooperation on the all-embracing humanity's common denominators. A third objective is to neutralize the sectarian and extremist narratives.

A fourth one is to unite the opinions

of scholars and preachers, bridge the gap between their points of view, and underline their responsibility to reinforce the ranks of Muslims under one single stand and also to promote moderation values, tighten the bonds of brotherhood and harmony among Muslims, and renounce the rhetoric of hostility and division.

Several issues were discussed including the denominations' own unique characteristics and the culture of diversity as well as the impediments of Islamic unity and sectarian claims aimed at spreading Takfir, extremism and sectarian thought. The speakers emphasized the need for initiating cultural partnership with non-Muslims and exploring ways to counter



Islamophobia.

In his speech, Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa urged the

selves as rivalries, differences, divisions, and factionalism have already much harmed the Muslim Ummah. The MWL Secretary General was of the opinion that the problems being faced in today's world emanate from a lack of open dialogue and petty rivalries between sects and denominations.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Asheikh, who is also the head of the MWL Supreme Council, highlighted the teachings of Islam that categorically reject all forms of discrimination. The Grand Mufti urged the Muslims to forge unity among their ranks and do away with rivalries, petty differences and say no to divisions and factionalism.

Egypt's Grand Mufti Shawki Allam underlined the urgent need for the Mus-

Muslims to forge unity among them-





lim Ummah to unite efforts and consolidate economic, social and political projects now more than ever. He also called for bringing all Muslims under one banner and one word to face the challenges that surround them today.

Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, the president of the All Pakistan Ulema Council, presided over a session of discussion and addressed all disputes including Kashmir, Palestine and Yemen. He emphasized the importance of joint Islamic policy.

In its final communiqué or joint declaration, the conference called on states and organizations to shoulder their responsibilities in countering extremist and terrorist practices, stop wars and conflicts and putting an end to the inhumane conditions of the victims of these

wars, which have resulted in the death of millions and rendered thousands disabled, wounded and displaced, let alone increased hatred and hostility in the world.





The Kingdom will Adhere to its Commitments in Achieving Hopes of Muslims



Makkah - MWL

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud affirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was established on approach of

moderation and is honored to serve the Two Holy Mosques and pilgrims, will adhere to its commitments and initiatives in achieving the hopes of all Muslims.

On behalf of the Custodian



of the Two Holy Mosques, Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Governor of Makkah Region, delivered a speech at the opening of the International Conference on Islamic Unity titled “Islamic Unity - Perils of Labeling and Exclusion”, organized by the Makkah-based Muslim World League (MWL), in which he conveyed greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the attendees.

King Salman affirmed the importance of this conference to

bridge the gap, renounce discord and unify the ranks, looking forward to reaching outcomes of achieving the Islamic unity.

It's worth mentioning that more than 1,000 religious, intellectual and academic leaders from 127 countries participated in the conference in order to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the menace of hatred and sectarian conflict and create channels of communication among followers of Islamic teachings to extend bridges of trust, understanding and cooperation on the all-embracing

humanity's common denominators.

The conference also aims to unite the ranks of scholars and preachers, bridge the gap between their points of view, and underline their responsibility to reinforce the ranks of Muslims under one single stand in addition to spread moderation values, tighten the bonds of brotherhood and harmony among Muslims, and renounce the rhetoric of hostility and division.





**SPECIAL ISSUE ON
THE ISLAMIC UNITY CONFERENCE**



Excerpts from the address of H. E. Sheikh Dr.
Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa



When we find that the majority of the world's muftis in our Muslim world and senior scholars are here with us today answering the call of the Muslim World League to the subject of this important conference which is held in the immaculate Makkah dis-

trict, we realize with certainty that the conscience of the masters of the Ummah immersed in science and thought involves abundant good. They are the herald of a promising future imbued with more awareness and giving in the face of discord, division, extrem-



ism and terrorism risks. This future is forewarning people against the risk of giving a hasty look at the other non-Muslim. This should not happen in world requiring greater reflection, wisdom and careful consideration of the consequences.

What a beautiful sight to behold, when one finds himself close to a brother exchanging with him good intention, accepting his excuse; understanding Allah's design in difference and diversity. He would tell him what he sees as true and fair in good manners and kind advice without antagonism, arrogance or defamation, as well as falling prey to the deviation of takfir and the like.

Analytical surveys conducted by the Muslim World League have shown that the main reason for a number of drawbacks and repercussions are the result of three issues:

1. The absence of an open dialogue with its lofty manners. Take the example of a recluse person, keeping to his own self-cloistered within his own group. That person will revolve in his own world in a vicious circle that gradually becomes hermetically tight leading to self-defeatism and growing suspicious of others
2. Unproductive debates between sects and denominations based on flimsy pretexts have produced more



harm than anticipated benefits; proof to that is the constant detriment between them. It is no secret that showing the truth should be preceded by mercy and leniency, the way Islam's lofty ethics are. With strong certainty, each of us is required to convey (the message). After that, whoever is embittered, or shows added stubbornness or rowdiness, that individual has broken the covenant of Islam's brotherhood and character.

3. The negative urgency to attain spiritual leadership in terms of its scientific and intellectual aspects; here we say that there is no exclusive leadership in that for any individual

or institution. There is no priesthood in Islam. Moreover, no one is infallible after our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Therefore, all the panting in this case is a second situation that calls for the ending scientific realm, along with sidelining others, and the imposition of one-sided hegemony on them. With this in mind, we must highlight the importance of directing the public to ask advice from scholars and people of faith, individual members and institutions. We also call for the importance of cooperation between these institutions and individuals with appreciation and due respect to all of them.



Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia

Muslims must adhere to their religion, which has done away with all differences among humans and abolished all forms of discrimination based on color, race, language or tribalism.

To sound a warning against the lack of unison among many Muslims, in addition to some negative attitudes, such as division, disunity, sectarianism and splitting into many warring factions.

To call on Muslims to unite under the teachings of Islam, according to the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah as well as the action of the predecessors of

the Ummah.

Muslims must be warned against disunity, rivalry, divisions and sectarianism that have separated Muslims, and created a rift among them and destroyed the feelings of brotherhood, affection and mercy among them.

Commend the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its positive role in achieving Islamic Unity, and for shouldering the great responsibility towards the Ummah, based on the Kingdom Islamic position and the land of the revelation, and the Qibla of all Muslims.



Head of United Arab Emirates Fatwa Council

Unity is optional, however, attention should be paid to its steady progress based on temporal, spatial and human contexts.

The concept of unity does not mean that the Muslims should be part of one single entity. The caliphate is useful, yet not an act of worship. This is what led wise people of this epoch to establish organizations and institutions for cooperation and solidarity.

The multitude of the States of Islam and that of their leaders are a historical

practice. Therefore, there is no proof that anyone sought to unite countries under one banner with a religious motive underlying the necessity of a caliphate under one single leader (Imam). Developing solidarity through the promotion of common denominators and to believe in unity with diversity.

To warn against exclusion and isolation; that have caused the rejection of the other and Takfir (accusing others of apostasy), which is the most extreme features of exclusion.



Egypt's Grand Mufti: we permanently back Saudi Arabia out of our faith and Arabism

Grand Mufti of Egypt Dr. Shawki Allam extended gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for sponsoring the Conference of Islamic Unity, which was held in Makkah and organized by the Muslim World League (MWL).

H.E said we pray that Allah may reward the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and grant to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia peace and security together with sparing it strife and evil.

The Grand Mufti stressed that supporting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is derived from Islam and Arabism. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever".

He also highlighted the themes of the Conference of Islamic Unity entitled "Perils of Labeling and Exclusion",

stressing that the Muslim World League holds this important conference amid difficult circumstances experienced by the Islamic nation. The surrounding challenges and perils cannot be ignored and all scholars and Islamic thinkers and intellectuals should exert arduous efforts worldwide to secure our Islamic nation and peoples in face of strife, evils and seditions. MWL has stood before fateful challenges that faced the Islamic unity.

The Grand Mufti made

clear that Allah blessed the Islamic nation with security and safety. But in the same time, the Islamic nation should be aware of and well-secured against the perils and the danger of disagreement, strife and infighting warned against by our Islamic religion.

The Mufti added: “Allah guided us to ways how to survive a failure, strife and disagreement by abiding by the Holy Qur’an and Prophet Muhammad’s Sunnah.” He warned against challenges and perils that face the Islamic nation and the steps to confront them. These challenges include the emergence of different sects that see themselves on the right track while other on the wrong one. Avicenna (Ibn Sina), a Muslim scholar, said: “We were stuck with sects and groups who believe they are on the right track while the others are on the wrong one.”

The Grand Mufti indicated that disagreement is not only the sole risk and peril threatening the existence of the Islamic nation, but the phenomenon of labeling others and deeming them infidels as well. These matters weaken the Islamic nation and destabilize it. He also added that if we want



to learn the correct jurisprudence of different viewpoints to spare the nation any threats and challenges, we should adopt the sound scientific approach adopted by distinguished high-ranking scholars of the Islamic Ummah from Prophet Muhammad’s companions, pointing out that disagreement should be on secondary issues in Islam that do not prejudice the essence of the Islamic faith.

He also stressed that there were many disagreements on secondary Islamic issues not on key ones that took place in the era of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) including the disagreement on the readings of the Holy Qur’an. Islamic heritage volumes and books are full with such disagreements that are considered a huge wealth. Imam Al-Shafe’i (a

Muslim scholar) said: “My opinion is correct and it may be wrong and others’ opinion is wrong and may be correct.”

The Grand Mufti of Egypt said it is clear-cut that the absence of the scientific method and approach adopted by these misleading groups and sects and the disagreement with Islamic consensus resulted in many problems and crises that destabilize the safety and security in the Islamic nation.

He also urged high-ranking intellectuals, thinkers and scholars to exert strenuous efforts to consolidate the culture of accepting others and their viewpoints and adopt the approach of Al-Salaf Al-Salih (pious ancestors). He called upon Allah to guide our Islamic nation to the way of right and grant us security and safety.



Excerpts from the speech of the Grand Mufti of Lebanon

The sentiment of the Muslim Ummah for meeting and cooperation is a logical and realistic desire, as there are an urgent need and necessity to empower the Ummah to preserve its unity and face the challenges.

Conference participants voiced the need for the unity of the Ummah, their call is honest and Muslims from all over the world must honor their call.

One of the factors that adversely

affected Islamic unity is the horrendous actions of extremists against the Muslim community, and the violence they have practiced in Muslim countries; causing great damage, and spreading terror across the world.

We must work together to face the challenges adversely affecting Islamic unity, the dangers of labeling and exclusion, especially in Makkah and in Saudi Arabia- the Kingdom of faith, dignity, safety, honor, and benevolence.



المؤتمر العالمي للوحدة الإسلامية
مخاطر التصنيف والإقصاء
International Conference on Islamic Unity
The Perils of Labeling and Exclusion



تعزيز مفاهيم الدولة الوطنية وقيمها المشتركة
Promoting the Concepts of the National State and its Common Values



The Message of the Conference

We must boost the principle of returning to the unifying name, which Allah the Almighty has called us with, and rise above being defined by sectarian and restrictive group labels, which can cause negative consequences and rip the Ummah's unity apart. This unity, however, is possible through solidarity and joint action. Our points of difference can be viewed and addressed through a fraternal dialogue, avoiding the discourse of accusing one another with Takfir and treason, and at the same time rejecting exclusion or sectarianism.



The Objectives of the Conference

- ❑ To unite the word of Muslim scholars, preachers, and thinkers, and bring their views together. This should be achieved through upholding Islamic and cultural understanding of the universal law of God in regards to diversity and pluralism. We must insist on everybody's responsibility to unite the Muslim rank from within, and act in the best of manner and cooperation possible with the other -non-Muslims-, as dictated by the values of our true religion which calls for peace and harmony; while at the same time rejects all forms of extremism, violence and terrorism.
- ❑ To promote awareness about the importance of disseminating the values of scientific, ideological and social moderation and to show the factual truth of the religion of Islam to all.
- ❑ To propose practical initiatives to thwart all forms of animosity, hatred and sectarian conflict.
- ❑ To Establish communication channels connecting different followers of Islamic schools of thought and sects to expand bridges of trust, understanding, and cooperation based on common Islamic denominators to corner the sectarian and extremist narratives.
- ❑ To reiterate the considerate concept of Islamic unity with its fullest meaning of harmony, peace, convergence, between the notion of Ummah and the nation state.
- ❑ To make pledges of trust, understanding and exchange with the other - non-Muslims-, and promote the value of the nation state, and humanity as a single family, inspired by the significance of Islamic unity that radiates its positive energy of love, goodness and prosperity to all.

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SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE ISLAMIC UNITY CONFERENCE



Excerpts from the Speech of His Eminence Sheikh

Salakh Mezhev

The Grand Mufti of Chechnya

**At the Conference on Islamic Unity
«the Perils of Labelling and Exclusion»**



We congratulate the MWL for its success in this pioneering initiative in gathering this constellation made of Islamic components for the first time in a situation where they find themselves in dire need of close ranks and united discourse.

What the Muslims have in essentials of unity and mutual support requirements have no equal with the nations of the entire world.

We have to seek comfort with ourselves, and relish our unity, our bond and our fabric, which made us, throughout our history, a nation with a civilization worthy of praise and recognition for its splendor.

We are called upon to restore our Islamic unity where differences and conflicts fade into oblivion, and where sectarian banners vanish.

Our duty as scholars and preachers is to frankly reject issues of labeling, fragmentation and exclusion, and to repudiate deception and misinformation.

The world is waiting for the Muslim Ummah to reclaim its cultural role, and to contribute to the civilization of the 21st century.

Heartfelt thanks to the leadership and people of Saudi Arabia for the efforts exerted to serve Islam and Muslims, and present a proud and true image that characterizes our pure religion.

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Excerpts from the Speech of Sheikh

Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah Al-Asheikh

The Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**At the Conference on Islamic Unity
«the Perils of Labelling and Exclusion»**



Muslims must adhere to their religion, which has done away with all differences among humans and abolished all forms of discrimination based on colour, race, language or tribalism.

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Commend the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its positive role in achieving Islamic Unity, and for shouldering the great responsibility towards the Ummah, based on the Kingdom's Islamic position, for being the land of the revelation and the Qibla of all Muslims.



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**SPECIAL ISSUE ON
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**Excerpts from the Speech of
His Excellency Sheikh**

Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid

Imam and preacher in the Grand Mosque and
advisor in the Royal Court

**At the Conference on Islamic Unity
«the Perils of Labelling and Exclusion»**



Islamic unity does not mean integration, but coexistence and harmony, and coexistence. It is to recognize the right of all citizens to live in one country.

The call to promote a spirit of tolerance and coexistence among Muslims everywhere, to overcome narrow views and understanding the other.

Unity and coexistence are rooted in Islam. It has urged people not to discriminate against others on the basis of color, race or language.

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Excerpts from the Speech of His Eminence Sheikh

Yusuf Estes

American Da'i, and a Member of the Supreme
Council of the MWL, United States of America

**At the Conference on Islamic Unity
«the Perils of Labelling and Exclusion»**



From this Holy land Makkah is the beginning of all civilizations in the world.

Islam does not recognize race, and Allah says in his holy book in Sura An-Nissa, verse 1 "O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women"

Unfortunately, all of us Muslims, Jews, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and atheists, share a one big mistake: we do not recognize the unity of the human race.

From this great gathering, on this immaculate place and the companionship of our scholars, preachers, and sheikhs, we supplicate Allah to achieve our Islamic unity.

We all hope that we will come out of this gathering with hearts united for love and peace.

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**SPECIAL ISSUE ON
THE ISLAMIC UNITY CONFERENCE**



**Excerpts from the Speech of
His Eminence Sheikh Dr.**

Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al Sudais

Chief of the Presidency of the Two Holy Mosques
and Advisor to the Royal Court

**At the Conference on Islamic Unity
«the Perils of Labelling and Exclusion»**



The purposes of Islamic Sharia has given great importance to Islamic unity because convergence is a basic element of religion.

Fiqh, vision, wisdom and good management of disputes constitute the basics of achieving unity and the prevention of labeling and exclusion.

We must expose suspicions and clarify the truth to extremist groups in relation to their practice of bombing and Takfir and their grave violations of Sharia.

Encourage coexistence and respect for human dignity, and stand firm in the face of those who advocate extremism and aberrations.

In our efforts to combat extremism and terrorism, we must support and invest in modern technology and the emerging media platforms.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a role model in achieving Islamic unity.

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Excerpts from the speech of His Eminence Sheikh

Abdullah Bin Bayyah

Head of UAE Fatwa Council

At the Conference on Islamic Unity «the Perils of Labelling and Exclusion»



Unity is optional, however, attention should be paid to its steady progress based on temporal, spatial and human contexts.

The concept of unity does not mean that the Muslims should be part of one single entity. The Caliphate is useful, yet not an act of worship. This is what led wise people of this epoch to establish organizations and institutions for cooperation and solidarity.

The multitude of the States of Islam and that of their leaders are a historical practice. Therefore, there is no proof that anyone sought to unite countries under one banner with a religious motive underlying the necessity of a caliphate under one single leader (Imam.)

Developing solidarity through the promotion of common denominators and to believe in unity with diversity.

To warn against the spirit of exclusion and isolation; that have caused the rejection of the other, and Takfir; (accusing others of apostasy) which is the most extreme features of exclusion.

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**SPECIAL ISSUE ON
THE ISLAMIC UNITY CONFERENCE**



Excerpts from the Speech of

Mr. Mohamed El Sammak

Secretary-General of the National Islamic Christian
Committee for Dialogue - Lebanon

**At the Conference on Islamic Unity
«the Perils of Labelling and Exclusion»**



Islam urges respect for difference, diversity and the pursuit of human common denominators.

Muslims are one nation based on the unity of faith.

Familiarity and Homogeneity are based on recognizing differences and variance rather than removing or eliminating them.

We must respect those who we disagree with, and seek with them the common human bonds, so that we can coexist with them in peace, love and respect.

Raising slogans that call for the abolition of the national state does not serve the Muslim Umma in anyway; it does cause it harm.



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Excerpts from the Speech of

Dr. Abbas Shoman

The Secretary-General of the Council of Senior
Scholars, Al Azhar

**At the Conference on Islamic Unity
«the Perils of Labelling and Exclusion»**



Extremists' tidal waves of ignorance, subversion and suspicion have hit our tolerant religion and Sharia.

We came to the land of the Two Holy Mosques preceded by our hearts, and our bodies seeking glimmers of hope that would set our nation back on the right path.

We hope that the conference will develop a roadmap to save our Ummah from the predicament it finds itself in, and that the conference will reach deep to the origin of the problem we are experiencing.

The groups of contemporary extremism are deceptively raising the banner of Islam to restore what they call Caliphate by shedding the blood of innocent Muslims.

Caliphate is a human system that is not obligatory, and there are other systems that lead to different experiences.

All systems in place now in Muslim countries are legitimate.



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Recomendations of the International Conference on Islamic Unity

It is a historical conference attended by 1,200 Islamic figures from 127 countries representing 28 Islamic sects and communities. The attendees stressed the importance of the religious authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They also applauded its strenuous and arduous efforts in serving Islam, Muslims and humanity together with rejecting abuse campaigns that target the Kingdom.



The participants called upon the Muslim World League to establish a global Islamic unity forum that includes programs and initiatives of the Islamic States about values of tolerance and the rehabilitation of imams and Muslim preachers worldwide. They also appreciated sincere efforts of MWL in interaction with followers of other religions and cultures to promote common values.

The conference encourages minorities in non-Muslim countries

to achieve the positive national integration and reject attacking the followers of sects along with reinforcing relations among the sects and the Muslim communities by consolidating the common constants and understanding the jurisprudence.

The speech delivered by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques represents an important document for this historic gathering located in this purest part of the earth.



Makkah - MWL

Activities of the International Conference of Islamic Unity entitled “Perils of Labeling and Exclusion- Promoting the Concepts of the National State and its Common Values” concluded in the holy city of Makkah. The Muslim World League (MWL) organized the conference with the participation of 1,200 dignitaries, scholars, thinkers and intellectuals in the Islamic World from 127 countries representing 28 Islamic sects and communities on December 12 – 13, 2018 under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two

Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, may God protect him.

The conference confirmed that the speech of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques represents an important document for this extraordinary historical gathering in the purest parts of the earth where Makkah is the direction of prayer for all Muslims and a motivating power for scholars and thinkers for the aim of achieving goals of the conference.

In addition, all attendees appreciated the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of Custodian



dian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz in the service of Islam, Muslims and humanity. The participants also praised the Kingdom's strenuous efforts in fighting extremism and terrorism as it is the most prominent and effective power in this regard. The Kingdom also established and led the most important alliance in this regard entitled "Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition". Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia effectively participated in the Global Campaign to Counter Daesh

by establishing the world's most powerful platforms to counter radicalism and terrorism.

The participants also called for the establishment of a committee representing different Islamic components to draft a comprehensive Islamic charter that includes rules of dispute governing the relationship among Muslims, sets parameters, principles and constants for them and refers important issues and disputes to the competent authority for the purpose of studying these issues and bringing viewpoints closer. The Muslim World League shall take the responsi-



bility of these tasks through a whole Islamic document entitled “Document of Makkah”.

The conference warned against exporting fatwas outside their spatial scale, as each community has its special customs, norms and traditions and every state issues laws and regulations according to its spatial geography without interfering in its internal affairs. It also stressed the importance of creating a unified religious authority for each country and this authority will be responsible for issuing fatwas related to religious topics. Moreover, it made clear that such measures shall preserve the religious tranquility in every state including the so-called re-

ligious minorities whose religious authority must be respected and the mutual cooperation in this regard should be limited to countering the ideas of extremism, terrorism and conducting studies and research together with organizing scientific and intellectual meetings to raise awareness and confront the developments related to public concern.

The participants also called upon minorities in non-Muslim countries to achieve positive national integration through the concept of a comprehensive national state and the demands related to their religious specificities should be consistent with the national state laws without prac-



ting any form of violence or antagonism. The conference also urged all Muslims worldwide to agree on principles and precepts of tolerant Islam in addition to overcoming the negative differences and solving problems in accordance with Islamic teachings and constants. The conference also stressed the importance of the unity of Muslims to be able to confront all challenges and obstacles in the modern era.

In their recommendations, the participants stressed the importance of co-existence and cooperation with others toward our common goal represented in establishing peace and stability around the world. The unity of

the Islamic nation leads to achieving common goals of all Islamic States and reinforcing the awareness of the Muslim community together with protecting and immunizing the Islamic nation against extremism and terrorism along with opening the horizons of dialogue with everyone in accordance with informed cultural logic.

Regarding the interrelationship among different spectra of the Islamic nation, the conference affirmed that some Islamic countries suffer from problems due to the internal state of rupture. These countries suffered from sectarian violence, a matter which led to wasting their resources and strength in useless past battles.



The participants also indicated that the governing relationship among Islamic components is based on a raft of rules:

- Islamic countries is one nation that worships Allah, has one Prophet and Holy Qur'an whose slogan as Allah says: "Verily, this brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood, and I am your Lord and Cherisher: therefore serve Me (and no other)" (Surat Al-Anbiya'a, Verse 92). All these Islamic countries are partners in enriching Islamic civilization and confronting the current challenges.

- Muslims are one body and equal in rights and duties. Whatever their viewpoints and jurisprudence are dif-

ferent, they believe in one religion and one God.

- Religious and cultural unity is a noble goal that is deeply- rooted in the conscience of Islamic peoples. This unity promotes efforts of spreading Islamic values, especially the values of justice and peace and confirms the importance of auditing to correct the wrong tracks. This unity is considered the most important element in our present time for the purpose of activating the universal message of Islam.

- The unity and solidarity of Muslims worldwide are not directed against anyone, but this unity is in compliance with Allah's order Who says: "And hold fast, all of you together, to the rope of Allah, and do not separate"



(Surat Al-Imran, Verse 103). In this Quranic verse, the expression “rope of Allah” refers to the ‘religion of God’. The reason for use of the word ‘rope’ (habl) is that it both establishes a bond between man and God and joins all believers together. To take a firm hold on this rope means that the believers should attach profound importance to their religion: this should always be the center of their concerns; they should continually strive to establish it; and the common desire to serve it should make them co-operate with each other.

- Cultural and religious diversity in Islamic communities requires the establishment of a fair partnership within a social contract to be agreed

upon by everyone. This contract rejects calls for sectarian and cultural superiority and promotes different viewpoints in enriching civil and cultural life together with safeguarding capabilities of the Islamic nation and achieving comprehensive national development.

- The necessity to revive dialogue initiatives among Muslims to overcome negative conflicts and raise awareness related to reinforcing sectarian peace and spreading fraternity and compassion and bringing viewpoints closer.

- Regarding disadvantages about Islam, this is an indication to not knowing the essence of the Islamic religion and, on the other hand, reveals



the failure of some Muslims in understanding this great religion in a correct and sound way.

- The conference stresses that the Islamic unity means tolerance, compromise, cooperation and concerted efforts against waves of evil, especially the ideas of extremism and terrorism.

Participants in the conference reiterated that Islamic unity is a very important issue in modern era. They also rejected what is currently called “political Islam” that means a neologism used to label the wide-scale activities of individuals and organizations, which advocate the transformation of both the state and society according

to “Islamic” rules. The term is often used in connection with the movements that emerged at the end of the 20th century and represent the current political powers in the name of Islam.

Within this context, we shall describe the Islamic principles for unity of humankind and mutual peaceful co-existence of different cultures and faiths. Among them the most important is common origin of humankind according to which all human beings have been “created of a single soul”, and that all descended from the same parents “ (Surat Al-Hujurat, Verse 13), so there should not be any discrimination based on clan, creed or race. The Qur’an negates distinction based on



racial, linguistic and national grounds and it identifies diversity as a sign of God and hence to be respected. Different identities are for recognition – not for pride – and hence necessary and it should not lead to any conflict. Promoting divisiveness and hatred based on religious and cultural differences is absolutely against Islam. The Holy Qur'an makes it clear leaving no room for any doubt that the Muslims have to regard the Torah, Psalms and the Gospel as books of God revealed to Moses, David and Jesus (may God send His blessings on them) respectively and should believe in these and in all books of God without any exception. They should believe in all prophets like Prophet Muhammad. The Holy

Qur'an refers repeatedly to the previous scriptures, Torah and the Gospels, and claims that its message does not differ from them.

The conference stressed that Islamic unity shows philanthropy, good understanding, coexistence, cooperation, and good-faith dialogue to the other and that the negative aspects of hatred and fighting predominating the writings of those who lack the refined values of Islam do not represent Islam and they are only attributed to them.

The conference called upon Muslims to adhere to the holy unified name, which Allah has given us "Allah named you Muslims before", "Surat Al-Hajj, verse 78", and to overcome



the limited names based on classification and exclusion, a matter that threatens the individual and the group. It called on them to avoid the deepening of sectarian prejudices; excluding theories and asceticism under the honorable great umbrella that brings together all Muslims under it. It is the name and emblem of Islam but not others. The conferees called for strengthening relationships among Muslim sects. It will be by consolidating the well-established principles, understanding possible discretions, building bridges of confidence, understanding and cooperation on the collective commonalities, overcoming abnormal opinions and positions. Not succumbing to the historical legacy that is imbued with a negative spirit secreted by useless historical conflicts. Spreading the culture of Islamic brotherhood, having credibility

and objectivity in dealing with inter-related issues, seeking excuse and better believing, and not being embroiled into sectarian clash which spreads the culture of hatred and envy, provokes discord and tension misuse of the feelings of Muslims, and drags into violence and extremism and their consequent fadeless and useless battles.

Participants also called for rejecting the phenomenon of attacking the symbols of the Islamic schools of thought, and preventing offence of their members by atonement, defamation, humiliation and contempt, as well as condemning the sectarian rallies and considering them as a form of provoking hatred and violence, which negatively raises religious sensitivities.



The conference also stressed its rejection of calls for supereminence, exclusion and favoritism. Called for gathering energies and bridging gaps to confront the forces of extremism, terrorism and sectarian exaggeration, which misrepresented Islam with their false slogans and corrupt theses in the context of futile controversies carrying ideas saturated with ignorance and underdevelopment in addition to the agenda of interests that everyone is aware of its sweet words and barbaric actions, as well as rejecting the sterile debates among sects, whatever their cognitive and intellectual pretexts are, and considering them as inflaming the sectarian exaggeration and seditious and that preventing their mischiefs is better than bringing their benefits, but unfortunately the contrary is true.

Conferees called for the support of the media and social societies and institutions that work on strengthening the Islamic commonalities, consolidating the moderate values, starting the establishment or activation of the monotheistic Islamic institutions, and developing their work to achieve Islamic integration in all vital fields. They called for enabling all religious, sectarian and cultural components to practice their rituals freely, respecting their privacy, helping them maintain their cultural and social identity, as well as benefiting from diversity in building a harmonious development society based on just and comprehensive citizenship that involves everyone in the development programs and their outputs.

The conference recommended finding a



just solution to the political problems and inter-related tensions, mitigating their consequences, striving to spread the Islamic values, deterring extremist forces from fueling the conflict among the Islamic sects, cooperating against unjust challenges and criminal acts, in or out the Islamic entity, combating intolerance, extremism and ignorance, rejecting sectarian projects that exercise hateful exclusion and developing common plans for the priorities of working on that in order to overcome obstacles seeking to tear apart the national fabric, waste its resources and ban its integration. Conferees, in this vein, praised the efforts of the Republic of Algeria in terms of the peace and national reconciliation charter, with which it defeated (by the grace of God) attempts to tear down its national unity and influence its moderate Is-

lamic conscience, ending the civil war and restoring Algeria's peace and unity thanks to that strong and sincere determination. They urged the effective cooperation in the face of poverty, disease and disasters, and refusal to exploit these conditions in passing the sectarian expansion projects. In their closing statement, conferees condemned the policies of murdering and forced sectarian displacement. They rejected concepts of sectarian participation and called for ensuring full citizenship rights in accordance with the principle of equality of opportunity for everyone by approving efficiency in the face of the entire aspects and forms of corruption in accordance with a system and a periodic evaluation announced to everyone clearly and transparently. They called on states and organizations to shoulder their responsibili-



ties against the practices of extremism and terrorism, put an end to the inhumane conditions experienced by victims of these wars which have resulted in millions of dead, disabled, wounded and homeless people and led the world to more hatred, hostility, ethnic cleansing and attempts of fully obliterating the religious identity that some minorities are exposed to through terrorist methods that are not less brutal and barbaric than the terrorism of Daesh and Al-Qaeda. They called upon the international community to be more neutral, serious and firm about these terrorist crimes to continue its action with a glimmer of hope before losing its credibility.

Participants called for stopping the claims of unbelief, immorality and heresy, and referring the general issues of dispute to the

wise dialogue conducted by experienced scholars and councils, apart from fanaticism and abhorred fanaticism, and regarding the individual fatwas on general issues as threatening the Islamic law in most cases and their negative repercussions to the good management of the public affair, in addition to their impact on national harmony and its tranquility and peace. Participants stressed the importance of raising the awareness of Muslim youth about the danger of religious enthusiasm which is void of awareness, including the lack of awareness about the Islamic ruling in every case through the well-versed experts who well consider the facts, apply them to the texts of Shari'ah and their implications and preponderance between interests and benefits, as well as considering the jurisprudence of the results, prohibition



of what may lead to committing sins, and the interests, the controls of changing fatwas and judgment, as well as considering the rules of release and restriction, explanation and manifestation, the general and the particular, and concepts with all its forms and rules regulating them. All these and other rules of jurisprudence represent an absent dimension and a missing link for whoever showing no respect to the provisions of the law.

Participants called upon every provider of fatwa, based on individual or collective references, to adequately survey for each addressed incident, and not to issue a legal statement about it unless having obtained all the details from reliable sources and consulted relevant specialists for clarification and asked for opinion, warning that leniency in this has led to fatwas, decisions and references bearing grave errors that some of them apologized and made up their minds, and followed them by other references that explained by facts and the evidence of Shari'ah

the mistakes and illusions that required correction, while others persisted in their grave error in the name of fatwa and Shari'ah, which gave them the opportunity to undermine and underestimate these references, aiming to cause loss of confidence in them.

Conferees asserted that intellectual and cultural forums should gather the word of Muslims, away far from classification and exclusion under any slogan other than the slogan, name and description of inclusive Islam, along with the consolidation of faith in the universal way of diversity and pluralism. They also asserted that the role of official religious institutions in every country should be limited to its own religious affair without interference in the affairs of others, as every country has its own conditions and customs that change the fatwa and judgment, and that their meetings should enhance the Islamic cohesion in their scientific, intellectual and emotional affairs and seek enrichment and mere exchange among them. They stressed



the importance of calling on universities and scientific and intellectual bodies to enhance their educational role in consolidating the concepts of unity, solidarity, cooperation, love and harmony, by consolidating the diversity of Islamic schools in the context of their legitimate scientific and intellectual contribution, and deem this role as one of the aspects of the Islamic law's consideration and universality and mercy for humankind. They also emphasized the important role of the spiritual reference of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to all Muslims, as the beacon of Islam and Muslims and the destination that their hearts long for, reiterating that vicious attempts aimed at prejudicing the Kingdom which is a red line for them, as it actually prejudices more than one billion and eight hundred million Muslims who see the Kingdom as their great incubator from a holy site that the Kingdom is honored to serve its holy places and serve its pilgrims while performing their rituals.

The recommendations of the conference

confirmed that the national state, with its values shared with its sister countries in the scope of their Islamic identity, is an extension of the concept of the nation as one of its components, which integrates with its sisters in its international religious framework with its scientific and intellectual programs under the umbrella of the Muslim World League, and its international political framework under the umbrella of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its international economic framework under the umbrella of the Islamic Development Bank, and other Islamic institutions of the whole, especially the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, which includes the Islamic countries that are allied with a number of friendly supportive countries, with the emphasis on pledge gathering the Islamic countries with their national independent sovereign entities.

Participants valued the MWL's communication, from its holy seat in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, and out of its scientific, intellectual, social and rights missions, with followers of



religions and cultures to enhance the common values and activate its role in achieving harmony and peace, especially consolidating the concepts of co-existence and positive integration in the comprehensive national state, with its religious and ethnic spectra. They called on the MWL to continue taking care of and supporting the Muslim peoples, valuing the MWL's efforts in hosting them to visit the Holy Places in Makkah and Madinah, and holding the annual conference on Hajj, which had a great spiritual impact on the Muslim peoples.

Conferees called on the MWL to establish a global Islamic unity forum that includes:

- Practical initiatives and programs to enhance shared values within the Islamic world, along with extending bridges of communication and cooperation among follow-

ers of religions and cultures and working on their commonalities.

- Developing practical initiatives and programs within the activities of the International Islamic Unity Conference to reinforce the values of tolerance and co-existence for peace and harmony, especially among young people.

- These programs include the monitoring and analysis of all negative theses and then address them with high efficiency based on wisdom, logic and serious and aware follow-up in dealing with them.

- The International Islamic Unity Conference works to propose qualifying training programs that consolidate the values of Islamic moderation and enhance awareness about it for imams, preachers and guides all around the world. This is carried out by a number of senior experts in the Islamic



world with its entire beliefs and schools through their common denominator, which is scientific and intellectual moderation that carries the message of tolerance, peace, harmony and coexistence with everyone, and consciously understands God's way of diversity and plurality among humans.

- The forum works to propose curricula supporting its awareness-raising objectives through programs jointly developed by a group of senior scholars and educators via the outputs of this forum, in which various scientific, educational and intellectual competencies of all doctrines, schools and trends wishing good for humanity through their sincere and serious efforts to deepen and spread awareness, and counter extremist and disruptive ideas that provoke cultural and civilized clash and hinder cooperation, exchange and positive emotion towards others.

- The forum focuses, in its awareness-raising efforts for Muslim youth, on respecting the covenants and conventions, especially the constitutions and regulations of the national states wherein they live (Islamic and non-Islamic) and warning against offense under any pretext.

- The forum focuses, in its awareness-raising efforts, on dealing with everyone with wishing good, honesty with them and abstaining from any method of countering offense with offense, but forgiveness and working on bringing together hearts.

At the conclusion of their work, conferees expressed gratitude and appreciation for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, God protect him, and his Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Mohammad bin Salman, for their contribution to Islam, Muslims and humanity



Egyptian Awkaf Minister: MWL conference deals a severe blow to terrorist and extremist groups

H.E. Egypt's Minister of Religious Endowments (Awkaf), Prof. Muhammad Mokhtar Joma'ah described the Conference on Islamic Unity, held by the Muslim World League (MWL), as the most flexible, open and disciplined in terms of reading the reality and considering its circumstances and developments.

In an article published in Al-Youm Al-Sabea Egyptian Daily, Prof. Joma'ah commended the conference's rejection to all the labels used by extremist groups in order to attribute themselves to Islam and ascribe some of its qualities to their members only. He added that the final communique clearly

and categorically rejects these groups that try to confine the description of Islam or one of its characteristics to their members only, along with describing others as advocates of new ignorance. He said extremists accuse the society of being ignorant, corrupt and kafir and call for killing the violators. These extremist groups have gone astray from the path of righteousness.

Prof. Joma'ah noted, "The conference highly supports our adoption and emphasis on the necessity of distinguishing between the fixed and the variable, considering the circumstances, nature and developments of the age, confirming the legitimacy of the na-

tional state in its contemporary concept, the necessity of maintaining its strong, stable and cohesive structure, seeking a social pact that achieves equal citizenship for all the people of the homeland in relation to rights and duties without discrimination, while respecting the right of the other to be different.”

His Excellency pointed out that the modern national state should be aware of such groups that misuse religion and try to discriminate based on it. Each state should reject them whether they are names of groups, associations or parties.

“We must not confuse political or even social work with the religious affairs, as these groups, associations and parties deliberately trick the public into supporting them by using labels and names carrying religious connotations.”

Dr. Joma’ah said that one of the recommendations made by the conference is the non-exportation of the fatwa related to the

internal affairs of other countries; every official religious institution should be concerned with the internal affairs within the scope of its affairs and responsibility.

Each institution should decide what is compatible with its reality as long as it does not act with prejudice toward an absolute fixed issue that cannot be disagreed at all. If it requires a legitimate statement that exonerates this institution before Allah Almighty, then utmost objectivity should be adopted and a constructive dialogue should be held with the body that issues the fatwa to get acquainted with its vision, and the source upon which the issuance of its fatwa is based, in a spirit of friendliness, civilized dialogue and good faith that our religion urged us to work within.

He added: “Eventually, it is necessary to issue a legitimate statement that should be very objective, avoiding any hint or statement that belittles the ijtiḥād of others, their vision, their characters or institutions.”





Iraq's scholars applaud the Makkah Conference

Makkah - MWL

*Iraq's scholars applaud presence of 1,200 intellectuals
and scholars along with 28 Islamic figures at Makkah
Conference*

*Iraq's senior scholars: MWL's Conference is exception-
al and qualitative. Final statement adopted all partici-
pants' recommendations*



The Secretary General of the Muslim World League and CEO of the International Organization for Muslim Scholars Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa met with a delegation of Iraq's high-level scholars and members of Fiqh Council of Senior Scholars chaired by Sheikh Ahmed Hassan Taha.

The Iraqi delegation praised the conference of the Muslim World League entitled "Perils of Labeling and

Exclusion – Promotion of the Concepts of the National State, and its Common Values" held under the patronage of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. The conference was organized by the Muslim World League in the Holy Mosque in Makkah in the presence of 1,200 scholars, thinkers and intellectuals from 127 countries belonging to the various religious denominations and sects.



The Iraqi delegation appreciated the open-minded approach that included the Islamic spectrum in its various components in this historic conference where a constructive dialogue was held with the aim of reinforcing Islamic unity under the umbrella of Islamic religion. Every Arab and Islamic country has its own social fabric that must be preserved. Any extremist

ideology threatening that fabric must be confronted. This country should face attempts of labeling and exclusion that jeopardize it.

The delegation asserted that they have a high regard for all religious denominations and sects. They also cooperate and integrate with all for one goal. In addition, the delegation said they will not allow any penetration in the rank of the Islamic nation

under whatever pretexts. All evils and seditions should be fought to spread peace and security in all Islamic countries.

The delegation looked forward to convening a related conference in Iraq that would bring together all denominations and sects for the purpose of disseminating peace and combating evils, seditions and tribulations, confirming that Iraq is cohesive and united de-

spite the presence of the various denominations and sects including Sunnis and Shiites along with other small sects. The Iraqi delegation also expressed their happiness for taking part in this great conference that comprises all spectra of the Islamic nation. The final statement of the conference clearly translated these supreme Islamic values into their ideal national concepts.





Sheikh Dr. Al-Issa Receives a Japanese Academic Delegation

Riyadh: the Muslim World League
The Secretary-General of Sheikh Dr. Muhammad

Al-Issa received in his office a delegation of senior Japanese academics concerned with oriental studies, headed by Professor Hiroshi Nawata. A number of topics related to extending bridges of cooperation between cultures and civilizations were discussed within the context of enhancing the values of communication, dialogue and cooperation in areas of inter-related common grounds to build a world where love and harmony are prevalent.



Muslim World League takes part in Al-Janadriyah 33

The Muslim World League (MWL) took part in the National Festival of Heritage and Culture “Al-Janadriya 33” with a distinctive and enriched pavilion for visitors to learn about MWL’s important and influential role in the Islamic world.

MWL’s pavilion in Al-Janadriyah included a myriad of pictures and video clips that showed the visitor its role in carrying an international humanitarian message working under the umbrella of tolerance, coexistence, mercy and love for everyone.

The Muslim World League seeks to hold many Islamic and international conferences that serve the nation and support its issues according to the method of moderation that is compatible with the requirements of today’s era and based on the foundations of moderation in the light of Islam’s pure sources: The Book of God Almighty and the teachings of His Messenger (peace be upon him).

This was evident in MWL’s conference recently held in the Place of Revelation, Makkah, and under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, may God protect him.

The conference “Islamic Unity - Perils of Labeling and Exclusion” was very successful with the participation of

1,200 religious figures of different sects who all gathered for the sake of an Islamic unity that unites and does not dis-unite.

This is a clear approach from which MWL derives its noble objectives and considers it as a moderate and balanced one. It is reflected in the photographs of MWL’s pavilion in Al-Janadriyah, such as MWL’s conference in the EU’s second capital Strasbourg, which was titled “Islam and the Message of Peace”, as well as MWL’s historical presence as a key speaker on behalf of the Islamic world at the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

The pavilion showcased the cultural communication between the United States of America and the Islamic World, as well as Islam’s civilization and leading historical experience and emphasized the conscious openness of Muslims to other civilizations, and their keenness to communicate with peoples of the world and to support and strengthen the global peace initiatives. Abdullah Al-Tayari, Director of the Media Department of the International Organization for Relief, Welfare and Development, General Supervisor of MWL’s pavilion in Al-Janadriyah Festival, pointed out that MWL seeks to convey the tolerant message of Islam by wisdom, dialogue and the call for coexistence and peace.



Muhammad Farhud

This is the most important conference on Islamic unity that has been held in recent times

Interview by: Mohammad Zakir Hossain



Muhammad Farhud is a representative of the Muslim World League (MWL) in Romania where he is engaged in social activities including dawah works. Mr. Farhud was recently in Makkah to attend an international conference on “Unity in Islam,” which was held under the auspices of the MWL. Muhammad Zakir Hossain, the MWL editor, spoke to him on the sidelines of the conference on a range of issues concerning Islam and Muslims in Romania as well as the Ummah. Following are the excerpts of the interview:



Tell us something about Romania and your activities there.

Romania is located in southeast Europe and enjoys great natural beauty and diversity and a rich cultural heritage, besides being rich in agricultural and animal wealth too.

The country, which has a population of about 22 million, derives its name from Romanus, which means a Latin citizen of Rome. It is bordered by Moldova, Serbia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine and the Black Sea. Romania joined the European Union in January 2007.

The Roman people are famous for their generosity and are open to all peoples and religions; they love co-existence and believe in peaceful living. This is manifest in the diversity of the people who live there and which has also made a huge tourist destination for tourists from all over the world.

The population of Muslims in Romania is about 150,000 and the majority of them are of various origins such as Arabs, Turks, and Tatars besides the original Romanians, many of whom enjoy full rights as citizens of the Romanian nationality. The Muslims are free to per-



‘INADEQUATE EDUCATION AND MIS-LEADING MEDIA KEY FACTORS IN CAUSING DISUNITY, INSTABILITY’

form their duties and maintain their mosques without any hindrance. They feel reassured and satisfied by the governmental and popular authorities without distinction or discrimination. The Romanians are quite liberal towards Muslims, often participating in their religious occasions.

There are about 75 mosques, run and supported by Muslims. Daily prayers are held in the mosques and special gatherings including religious events and holidays are also organized.

Romania enjoys consid-

erably good relations with the Islamic world, often characterized by love and appreciation for each other and mutual respect. This is shown through the business and economic ties and growing bilateral projects between them. Romania is open to Arab and Muslim investors, providing them with facilities and incentives.

Muslim students in several Romanian universities study medicines, science, engineering, and theoretical subjects. Many of them have graduated and were honored by the State in the annual

graduation ceremonies held at the end of the academic year.

As part of the Islamic community in Romania, we focus on strengthening the bonds of cooperation and rapprochement between all the Islamic peoples and the peoples of the world for the benefit and well-being of our peoples.

We hope that the upcoming visit of MWL Secretary-General Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa will expand the horizons of cooperation and communications between the Muslim Ummah and the friendly Romanian people.

What is your opinion about the conference you have just attended? How is this going to bring about peace in the Muslim world?

Alhamdulillah, this is the most important conference on Islamic unity that has been held in recent times, thanks to MWL and the government of Saudi Arabia for sponsoring such an event and inviting a great many Muslim scholars and leaders. It was a hugely productive event. A comprehensive declaration was adopted at the end of the event, which



is no doubt a great achievement.

The conference discussed many important issues on Muslim unity and peace mostly from an academic perspective. This further requires efforts in promoting dialogue and education when the issue faces reality, especially in the non-Islamic environment.

How do you explain the reasons for instability

and disunity currently being observed in the Muslim world?

There could be several reasons, but I here cite the two most important causes: there are major outside forces, including certain countries that constantly plan to divide Muslim countries and weaken their political institutions.

What we need is to strengthen international forums like OIC and G-8 to



strengthen their position in the world.

The other key factors that are spurring instability and disunity in the Muslim Ummah are inadequate education and misleading information via global media. Besides, extremism is also eating into the vitals of the Muslim society. The Muslim leadership should make concerted efforts to tackle the menace.

It is up to governments, institutions, organizations, and scholars to adopt the spirit of the declaration so that the misguided elements could be corrected. We hope that all root causes of this menace including the political issues facing the Muslim world would be addressed. Muslim leadership should make joint efforts to stop the extremism.

How should we go ahead from here? How do we need to implement the decisions of the conference?

Implementation of such important decisions needs the institutional backing. Therefore, I think that some of the recommendations should be endorsed by some major Muslim organizations like the OIC and then by the government of each member country.

Do you think that the Muslim Ummah can be united again like before and in which way?

The unity of the Muslim Ummah is a common aspiration of Muslims all over the world. So it can be materialized provided Muslim rulers demonstrate political will. If entire Europe can turn into a single entity by adopting common market, joint parliament, and a military alliance, then why cannot Muslims? It is the duty of those leaders who are at the helms of the affairs to take an



initiative in this regard.

What are the major issues facing the Muslim Ummah?

Collectively, we can say that the major issues confronting Muslims are political, financial, militarily and cultural hegemony of the powerful countries and its cultural invasion in the context of the clash of civilizations. Besides, major political issues like unresolved Palestine and Kashmir disputes where the occupational forces have unleashed state terrorism against innocent Muslims and where all basic human rights and resolutions adopted by the United Na-



tions have been trampled by the aggressors. These issues of the right to self-determination demand a joint strategy for settlement.

Other issues are poverty, education and misrepresentation of Islam in the world. We should focus on how to encourage non-Muslims' understanding of Islamic religion and cultures, which is how the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) encouraged his followers to spread Da'wah.

Those who are not aware of Islam consider its Shari'ah law as a threat to their society. How we can change this stereotype about Islam?

Islam is a complete code of life. This should reflect on our lives on the individual as well collective levels. A peaceful society on the basis of Shari'ah law is a befitting answer to the critics. Saudi Arabia is a prominent case where Shari'ah laws are enforced, bringing the criminal record at the lowest in the world. The misconception about the Islamic jurisprudence (Shari'ah) was spread by anti-Muslim forces in the West propagated by biased global media. This was designed to defame Muslims and Islamic ideology. We can initiate a series of dialogues at the scholarly level along with implementing Islamic laws in all spheres of life.

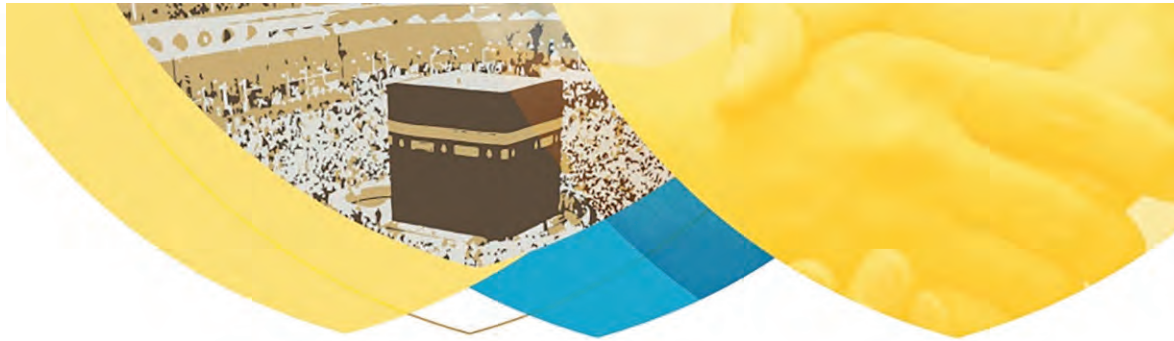
What are your suggestions to the MWL to build peace and security all over the world?

The MWL is making marvelous efforts under the patronage of Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and the dynamic leadership of its current Secretary-General Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa. The MWL is a ray of hope for the Muslims around the world. Sustained efforts to implement the resolutions adopted in the MWL conferences can create awareness and induce a sense of responsibility to bring about the target, a desire of every Muslim and human being.

MWL has executed many positive tasks under the direction of Sheikh Dr. Al-Issa. Surely, MWL should follow the objectives of this conference (International Conference of Islamic Unity, The Perils of Labeling and Exclusion), and be actively involved in achieving the conference's target. Meanwhile, we are also involved in the duty of reconciling the issue we face in society by pursuing these objectives.



**SPECIAL ISSUE ON
THE ISLAMIC UNITY CONFERENCE**



المؤتمر العالمي للوحدة الإسلامية
مخاطر التصنيف والإقصاء
International Conference on Islamic Unity
The Perils of Labeling and Exclusion



تعزيز مفاهيم الدولة الوطنية وقيمها المشتركة
Promoting the Concepts of the National State and its Common Values

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The All-Inclusive Islamic Unity

1. Inclusive Islamic Common Denominators.
2. Positive Coexistence: Reality and Expectations.
3. Streamlining Advocacy and Media Narratives.
4. Islamic Unity Projects.
5. The Concept of Ummah and Homeland: Convergence and Integration

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Muslims and the culture of Diversity

1. Religion's Incontestable Rules and their Necessities.
2. The Etiquettes of Disagreement and the Culture of Diversity.
3. Islamic Unity and the Unique Characteristics of Various Sects.
4. Islamic moderation.

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Impediments to Islamic unity

1. The Sectarian Claims for Disunity
2. Concepts of Exclusion and Ostracism.
3. Takfir and Extremism.
4. Apathy and Historical Buildups.
5. Misgivings of Extremism in the Separation between the Ummah and the Homeland.

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Towards an Effective Islamic Unity

1. Islamic Renaissance and the Adverse Challenges.
2. Islamic Dialogue and Prospects.
3. Judicious Measures to Confront Islamophobia.
4. Muslims and Cultural Partnership.
5. The Promotion of National Concepts and Its Common Values.



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Taneem Mosque in Makkah

