

Reinvigoration of OIC and the Muslim World

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It was for the time in the last 36 years, since the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) was established in 1969, that the Muslim leaders, at the Makkah Summit dealt loudly, clearly and extensively, on the basic issues of the Muslim Ummah. The Organisation was established in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 12 Rajab 1389H (25 September 1969) when the first meeting of the leaders of the Islamic world was held in the wake of the criminal Zionist attempt to burn down the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque on 21 August 1969 in the occupied city of Al-Quds.

The OIC conducted an extraordinary summit from December 7-8, 2005 in Mecca. The session provided the 57 nation intergovernmental organisation representing 1.5 billion of the world's Muslims -- the opportunity to refocus the OIC's role in confronting challenges and crises. About 40 heads of state represented their countries at the session, the first since the OIC met for the regular triennial meeting in October 2003. This extraordinary session was convened in response to a call from Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz.

In a joint communiqué and a 10-year action plan, the Muslim leaders called for better education, faster economic development, more trade, promoting religious moderation, and strengthening rights of Muslim women.

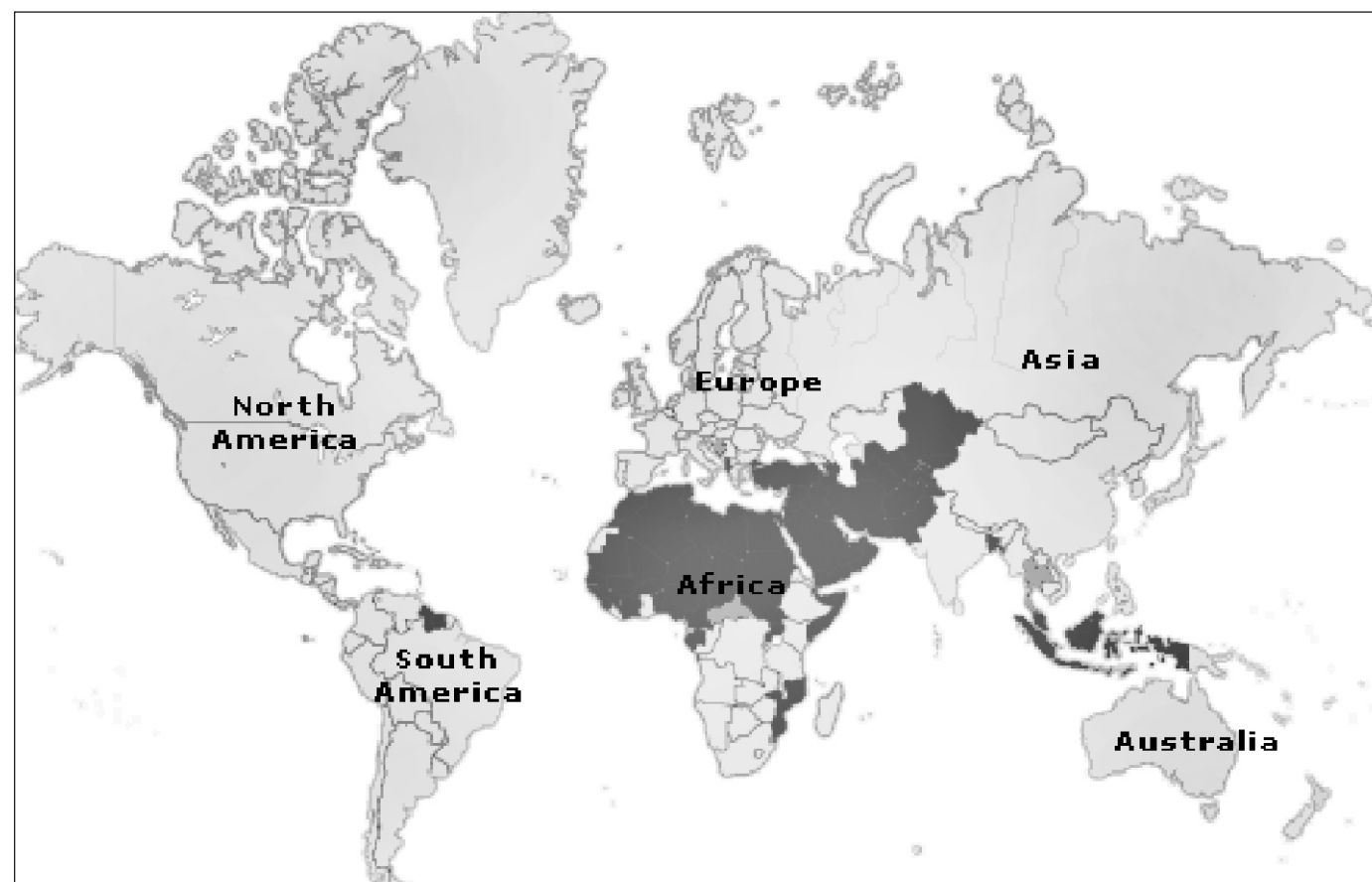
This is the first time when heads of Muslim states in a spunky manner called for joint action against any foreign threats that imperil the security of any Muslim nation. They for the first time openly blackballed any unilateral sanctions against OIC member state and this is the first time the resolution on Kashmir, Turkish-Cypriots were demanded through United Nation with Palestine.

At the same time, Muslim leaders also deplored indiscriminately the extremism and terrorism in any form or expression. They stressed on punishing the desperadoes enticing terrorist practices and financing support to terrorist.

The Muslim leaders pledged to develop educational curriculum to promote tolerance, understanding, dialogue and diversity according to the principle of Islam. They called for joining international efforts to combat the terrorist ideologies and to set up a Centre for International Counter Terrorism.

Addressing the importance of fighting poverty, unemployment and health pestilence, the members called to establish an exclusive fund through the Islamic Bank. They welcomed the creation of Islamic international institution to finance commerce.

The Summit proposed setting up a free trade zone for the member states and stressed the importance of increasing trade among member states. To deal with developing science and technology the OIC underscored



the narrow gap between the Muslim world and the developed countries and called for reforming the scholar academic forum to be the main reference source for Muslim nations.

On the issue of human rights abuses, the Summit proposed establishing an independent Islamic human rights institute to oversee human rights in OIC member states.

No question, this time the Muslim leaders addressed the issues and demands according to the needs, time, and the resolutions that are intrinsic to the Muslims to enter the 21st century with the aspiration to become at par with other developed nations. The resolutions on economic and social reforms are binding to become independent as one

global (Muslim) community or as an individual state. However, the reform cannot be achieved at macro level without its successful implementation at micro level.

The educational, social, economical reforms and technological development need free and democratic atmosphere at all levels where there should be the supremacy

of justice, freedom of speech and liberty of press.

Indisputably, OIC's current resolutions of Makkah summit are bang-up, but what about the governmental or ruling system of Muslim states. There is hardly any Muslim state where one could see the true democracy and freedom of basic human rights and speech. The monarchism, tribal system,

feudalism and army dictatorship are the part of ruling system in almost every Muslim State.

Even if there is a so-called democracy in some countries, the corruption from top to bottom in the establishment is the biggest hurdle in preserving and promoting equal rights and opportunities to the common people.

The industrial and technological developments relate with financial and economic stability and growth. The economical stability depends on political stability. Political stability depends on the degree of social and democratic values and democratic values depend on the supremacy of freedom of speech, justice and law and order.

These are interrelated and interdependent causes. The bottom line is that one cannot succeed in one area without having the others. You cannot construct a ten-story building starting from the tenth floor to the ground level.

If the Muslim leaders, today, want to stand beside the developed nations then they need to look into their history. Their economic and technological power did not come to them just by resolutions, political announcements and sermons studied with attractive words.

These nations have gone through the phases. The social justice, equality, honesty, supremacy of law, respect of civil rights, nationalism are the basic principles of a civilised society. One can also find that these basic principles in the developed

nations have also rooted through the teachings of Islam.

No 'ism' or ideology can provide better principles in all the lifestyles than Islam has provided to the Muslims. Islam is the religion that emphasises deeply on knowledge, literacy, social security, justice, equality and democracy. It is pathetic that the followers of Islam, in the era we are witnessing, could not impose these rules in their individual life or in the affairs of the state except providing lip service for others.

Today, Muslims are facing all sorts of problems socially and economically as an individual or as a nation. There was a time when Muslims bred great educationist, scholars, scientists, doctors, chemists, mathematicians and so on. Muslims were the originator of knowledge, civilisation and moderation.

Therefore, most important resolution, above all, for the Muslim heads of states, is to work with honesty to bring true democracy, social justice and freedom of speech with corruption free environment so they successfully achieve their end destination for prosperous status of Muslim Ummah in the world.

The OIC is an international organization have decided to pool their resources together, combine their efforts and speak with one voice to safeguard the interests and secure the progress and well-being of their peoples and of all Muslims in the world.

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Indo-US Nuclear Deal: Shyam Saran's visit and after

GARIMA SINGH

INDIAN Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran's visit to Washington has set the stage for implementing the civil nuclear agreement signed by Manmohan Singh and George Bush in July 2005. The latter is to visit India in early March 2006, and both countries would like to see the agreement well on its way by then. Saran's visit was to set a positive forward movement. Undoubtedly, this is a landmark agreement. However, outside the two governments, there are many doubts and suspicions.

Saran's visit laid out the first draft of the separation plan of civil and nuclear facilities, which places a large number of Indian nuclear facilities under international safeguards. This reflects on India's commitment in taking the agreement further and sets the agenda for third meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) to be held in Delhi in January 2006, which will be working on the implementation of this agreement. India's commitment to strengthen its export control regime and non-transfer of reprocessing and enrichment technology would further underscore its faith in non-proliferation. India has insisted on a "phased, sequenced and reciprocal" arrangement, which is already in the process.

On the other side, India still awaits the necessary amendment in US non-proliferation laws that prohibit India's access to fuel and technology. In keeping with the principle of reciprocity, it is not clear whether Saran received a draft legislation that the US will present to the Congress for approval. Richard Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, made it clear immediately before Saran's visit that Indian efficacy would be judged on the basis of three criterion; compliance with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, non-assistance to India's nuclear weapons programme, and transparencies.

In India there is a (mis)perception that adherence to the above criteria would affect its nuclear weapons programme. Despite clear division between civil and military nuclear facilities, India is likely to retain the option of removing facilities from the list it would eventually submit to the IAEA. It would also retain the option of withdrawing nuclear material, if national security so demands, from the facilities on which it voluntarily accepts IAEA safeguards. India will be negotiating with the IAEA under the 'additional protocol' arrangement not under the category of states that have given up nuclear weapons, but under the category of nuclear weapon states. All the five nuclear weapon states have similar and conveniently worded agreements. In 1998, the US signed an agreement with IAEA and agreed for safeguards only on those facilities, which were without 'direct national security significance'. The US is yet to pass a legislation to enable implementation of the additional protocol signed in 2004.

The non-proliferation lobby in US should appreciate India's unsoiled record on non-proliferation and recognize the double standards shown by its NPT partners. China has been helping Pakistan and the latter's role in nuclear proliferation requires no narration. Can the US ensure that the AQ Khan network is shut down and China stops supplying nuclear technology to North Korea and Pakistan? Has the US imposed any verifiable restrictions on Pakistan to prevent a

The present deal, if worked out, will be a win-win situation for India, the US and the international community. For India, it means sufficient energy for the ever-increasing energy deficit and recognition as a responsible nuclear power. For the US, it opens more business opportunities and a strong, stable partner in Asia who shares the same apprehensions on proliferation and terrorism and is the largest democracy in the world. It is a chance for the international community to engage India and assign it more responsibility towards proliferation and terrorism. It is said in the US that Bush is persuasive and if he decides on something, he moves forcefully; perhaps this could be the most sensible decision that he can animatedly implement.



repeat of the AQ Khan episode? How does the US verify Chinese and Pakistani compliance to non-proliferation commitments? Russia is still helping Iran in building its nuclear reactor in Bushehr. Half of Russia's nuclear materials are unaccounted and must be a matter of concern for all. The US non-proliferation lobby should also appreciate that India - despite being a non-signatory to NPT - is firmly rooted with the norms and practices of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, rather than signatories like China and Russia.

India's participation in the global nuclear regime will only strengthen international non-proliferation. India can play a significant role in

containing if not stop the rising graph of proliferation. India's vote against Iran in the UN Security Council was not against Iran or to please the US, but it was for the cause of non-proliferation. The anti-nuclear deal lobby in US should look into larger perspectives.

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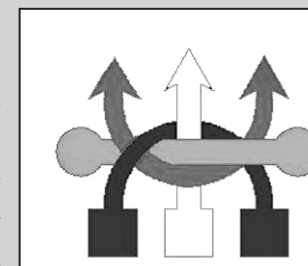
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Peace & Conflict Studies: An imperative

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The distinction between war and peace is fairly sharp, most historians can say whether two countries were at war or not, on a given date though there are a few ambiguous case. Similar is about the individual whether they had peaceful livelihood existence or they were at conflict with others. Conflict can be violent or non-violent. Likewise within the area of peace we have great variety of human conditions.

The condition of state peace are fairly simple, both parties must take national boundaries off their agendas, except by mutual agreement-both parties have to have a minimum amount of intervention in each other's affairs. The fact that military conquests and imperialism have not paid off economically on the whole for aggressive powers suggests that a learning process is going on which will expand the area of stable peace.

We are led to the hypothesis that the course of protracted social conflict is the denial of those elements acquired in the development of all people and societies and whose pursuit is a compelling need in all. These are security, distinctive identity and effective participation in the process that determine conditions of security and identity and other such development requirements. The real source of conflict is the denial of those human needs that one common to all and whose pursuit is an ontological drive in all 'Needs' not 'Interests' are at the heart of protracted social conflict.

Peace theory are linked with human behavior, mental attitude and the reasonable expectation from pragmatic point of extant situation. In the justice system to day the search for alternative means of resolving conflict is by far the most important current development. A wide range to dispute resolutions option such as negotiation, conciliation, mediation and arbitration is being practiced worldwide.

Adjudication is more likely to do justice than conversation, mediation, and arbitration, settlement of any other contrivance of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR), precisely become most effective means of the state officials who act as trustees for the public, who are highly visible and who are supposed to be committed to reason.

Peace and conflict studies, which studies how the world is organised through conflict, war, violence, non-violence and peace. Peace theory is practiced in different forums, individual, family, neighbor, society, and community, national, regional and international arena. And happily the trend is gaining ground particularly in political arena of course, in less developed countries-through international observers. While the watchdog of Human Rights and relevant affiliated organizations i.e. Amnesty International are feeling helpless to see the affront in the theory and practice of some superpower-where the highest body i.e. United Nations Organization's effectiveness is at stake.

People should listen and talk to one another but sometime it is not possible, because their relationship have disintegrated or because the community is fractionated or because those who have power are not interested in either looking or listening to the weak and disadvantaged ones. Moreover, even when people are prepared to talk and listen to one another, they might not understand the norms of the community or they might not be fully prepared to abide by them.

Globalization involves the trans-nationalisation and regionalisation of governance, because of the explosive growth in international organisations, regimes, and regulatory agencies. Religions encourage learning and knowledge, and it is this particular respect that aspects of globalisation have positively helped aspects of religion. Religion never speaks of violence rather always speak of humility, charity, modesty, chastity and piety.

"World peace is not only possible but inevitable." Whether it is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity's stubborn clinging to old patterns of behavior or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will-is the choice before all who are at the helm of affairs to determine the course of action for the betterment of next generations.

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