

In The Name Of Allah The Most Gracious and Most Merciful
BY The Grace of GOD

To His Holiness Pope Francis I
The Pope of The Catholic Church
Apostolic Palace, Vatican City, 00120, Vatican City.

Your Holiness,

Salaam Alaykun and Greetings from the majority of the aching hearts of Muslims who love Peace and religious generosity as per the teachings of Islam. They know well The people of the Book hold an important status in Islam. Two (2) specific examples comes to mind. Example number (1): After Migration of Prophet Mohammad (SAS), from Mecca to Medina in the year 622 A.D. The Prophet Mohammad (SAS) laid the foundation of the first Interfaith community of Medina, to live in peace and to promote communal harmony – this is known as “Medina Treaty”. Islam recognized the “The Right to Citizenship”, some 1400 years ago. The Interfaith community was comprised of various Tribes, the Muslims, Jews, and Pagan Arabs, with this diversity the Prophet of Allah (SWT) wanted to establish a strong state, governed by peace, mutual respect and cooperation to prevail among all residents, this resulted in “The Medina Constitution,” known as “Al-WATIQA,” It is recognized as the earliest constitution in the world. The four (4) provision of the constitution were:

1. Religious Freedom 2. Security and peaceful co-existence 3. Full Citizenship 4. Individual Responsibility.

Example number two (2): The Promise to St. Catherine (628) A.D. when a delegation from St. Catherine Monastery – (The oldest Monastery), Came to the Prophet (SAS) and requested his protection. The Prophet Mohammad (SAS) responded by granting them “The Charter of Rights” the first and the last lines of this Charter is translated in English.

The First Line: “This is the Message from Mohammad ibn Abdullah as a covenant to those adopt CHRISTIANITY, Near and Far, we are with them.”

Last Line: It continues “No one of the Nation (Muslims) is to disobey the Covenant till THE LAST DAY (The end of the World). These sentences are critical they make The Promise eternal and universal – The Prophet Mohammad (SAS) asserts that Muslim are with the Christian – near and Far, clearly rejecting any attempt to limit The Promise to St. Catherine alone. By ordering the Muslims to OBEY it until The DAY of JUDGEMENT, The Charter again undermine any future attempts to revoke the privileges – The Rights are inalienable, The

Prophet Mohammad (SAS) declared CHRISTIANS all of them as the allies and he equated ill treatment of Christian with violating God's Covenant.

The remarkable aspect of the Charter is that it impose no conditions on Christians for enjoying its privileges – they are not required to alter their belief, they do not have to make any payments and they do not have any obligations. This is a “Charter without duties.”

Your Holiness, we the majority of the Muslims of New York, USA, in strongest terms denounce all acts of violence and terrorism as they are anti- Islamic. The enduring faith of 1.9 Billion Muslims is so much bigger, better, than the narrow hatred of few ignorant and, pathetic, so called Jihadist, who are because of their terrorism giving bad name to Islam and Muslims, all their barbaric actions and crimes are against Islam and humanity.

Respectfully,

Yousuf U. Syed, M.D.MPH.

Board of Trustee Islamic Association of Long Island

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