

One Day Forum – Held at IDFR on Thursday May 16th 2013

ISLAM & DIPLOMACY –
The Search for Human Security

With Featured Keynote Speakers :

- * HRH Raja Dr Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, REGENT OF PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN :

“Islam And Peace Making: Legacy And Promise”

- * HE Dr Khaled bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, The State of QATAR



◀ And A Keynote Address at an Evening Banquet: Ritz Carlton Hotel ▶

Y.A.Bhg Tun Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi

Former PRIME MINISTER & Foreign Minister of MALAYSIA :

“Islam and Peace Building in the 21st Century”

Bismillah ar-Rahman al-Rahim

A One Day Forum *THE SEARCH FOR HUMAN SECURITY* was held on May 16th at Malaysia’s Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) which explored Islamic teachings on *Diplomacy* in the light of Peace Building and Human Security. The chief organizers were IAIS-Malaysia, IDFR, and the UK-based International NGO The Cordoba Foundation (TCF). Their contributing partners were the Foreign Ministry of The State of Qatar and the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF). Twelve scholars and officials offered insights into the relevance of Human Security for the Islamic ideal of harmonious relations between nations. Planning and directing this 2013 Forum were The International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS-Malaysia) chaired by the leading scholar Professor Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali (Founder & CEO of IAIS), Ybhg Ambassador Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari (Director General, IDFR), and the Honorable Dr. Anas Altikriti (CEO of TCF).

Outstanding highlight of Thursday’s Forum was the morning Keynote address “Islam And Peace Making: Legacy And Promise” delivered by HRH Raja Dr Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah – Regent of Perak

Post-Forum Press Release

Darul Ridzuan, as well as the Royal Patron of IDFR. HRH gave an exemplary comprehensive overview of the current conditions of Muslim nations regarding human security. HRH stated that many Muslim nations are gravely lacking in its basic aspects, since “the comprehensive wellbeing of the people in a number of Muslim-majority countries leaves much to be desired.” Shortcomings include poverty, income inequality, poor educational and health care opportunities, political repression, and violent conflict. He pointed especially to the destabilizing effects of sectarian rivalry and tribal animosities which plague large areas of the Muslim world. HRH provided valuable insights into how our understanding of security should transcend the nation-state security paradigm, by adopting human and social requirements for developmental wellbeing and flourishing in harmony with Islamic teaching. HRH Raja Dr Nazrin Shah eloquently stated:

“If we take our humanity seriously, and are motivated by the guidance conveyed in our sacred traditions, then we should expand our conception of security to embrace its human dimensions. ... Indeed the search for human security is the gateway to the future of a reformed global order. The combined experiences of human societies in the modern era in the economic, political, social and cultural domains of life are pushing towards recovering the basis of security reflected in basic human needs and hopes. Peace will only be achieved between nations, and among the diverse peoples within nations, when security is understood in these terms.”

His dignified and stimulating keynote address was preceded by the opening statement of His Excellency Shaykh Khaled bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, featuring Qatar’s policy of balance, realism and collective security; as well as welcoming remarks by Professor Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali of IAIS. The crowded auditorium of over four hundred persons including many prominent individuals were spellbound by the remarks of HRH Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, who then graciously mingled with guests and spoke informally with participants at the tea service after the opening session.

This Forum held two Panel sessions. In the morning session ‘Diplomacy—The Islamic Legacy’ chaired by Dr Anas Altikriti, aspects of Islamic teachings on human security were explored from conceptual, ethical, and pragmatic perspectives including the humanitarian role of international NGOs. Presentations were given by: Tan Sri Distinguished Professor Dr Mohd Kamal Hassan (ISTAC); HE Dr Hassan Ibrahim Al-Muhannadi (Director, Diplomatic Institute, The State of Qatar); Dr Karim Douglas Crow (Principal Fellow, IAIS); and Amjad Saleem (TCF).

The afternoon session featured an open exchange on the theme ‘In Search of Human Security’ chaired by Professor Dr Chandra Muzaffar (President of JUST). Four speakers offered convergent views on national and global challenges posed by seeking human security: Professor Dr M. Hashim Kamali (CEO, IAIS), Tuan Haji Nasharudin Mat Isa (Al-Quds Foundation), Most Venerable Datuk K Sri Dhammaratana (Chief High Priest of Malaysia, Buddhist Maha Vihara), and En. Asrul Daniel Ahmed (GMMF). Reflections both personal and spiritual marked this interesting exchange. A lively question and answer period raised a variety of concerns from many participants in the audience. Final remarks were offered by Ambassador Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari of IDFR.

In the evening of May 16th a large Banquet was held at the Ritz Carleton Hotel in KL hosted by the Embassy of The State of Qatar, where Y.A.Bhg Tun Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi (Former Prime Minister of Malaysia & Patron of IAIS) gave his Keynote speech on ‘Islam and Peace Building in the 21st Century’. HE Khaled Al-Attiyah was in attendance along with HE Dr Hassan Al-Muhannadi (Director of The Diplomatic Institute, The State of Qatar) and many other dignitaries. In his remarks Tun Abdallah Badawi spoke of the “Muslim dilemma” which hinders Islamic nations from contributing effectively to Peace Building and promoting effective human security. He cautioned those present not to be complacent about conditions prevailing in Muslim societies, and to creatively re-think the need for fresh approaches to security and peace.

This *SEARCH FOR HUMAN SECURITY* Forum reflects expanded engagement with contemporary issues of Islamic peace and security by the two institutes IAIS and IDFR, who held their first conference in October 2011 on *ISLAMIC*

PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE AND SECURITY. These two Forums highlight the close link between security and peace, for the word “Islam” signifies both closely related principles. This 2013 Forum was intended to energize efforts by Islamic governments, Muslim civic organizations, and international NGOs to devote more resources to peace building efforts, and to actively pursue shared efforts at reconciliation and humanitarian needs.

On the following morning of Friday May 17th a planning Workshop was convened by IAIS to discuss details of a common strategy for policy dissemination, capacity building, and joint future activities. The Directors and CEOs of IAIS, IDFR, TCF and the Diplomatic Institute of Qatar attended, as well as several invited guests including Tan Sri Hamid Albar (former Foreign Minister of Malaysia). Mutual consensus was reached to strengthen and widen their combined effort towards embedding human security through sharing human and material resources. IAIS proposed that a collective network be established known as the **FORUM FOR PEACE & SECURITY (FPS)**. This global platform could link institutions both private and public including Ministries, Think Tanks, and International NGOs in a common effort to advance Islamic solutions to conflict and violence by means of reconciliation, social and economic equity, and peace building. The Diplomatic Institute of The State of Qatar accepted to host the forthcoming meeting of this Forum in Doha in May 2014. A ‘Working Group’ of eight persons was appointed to draft initial plans and advance commonly agreed goals, and is tasked with reporting every four months on its progress.

wa l-Hamdulillah

Submitted by Karim D. Crow, IAIS

May 20th 2013