

ISTANBUL DECLARATION ON “FREEDOM FOR AL QUDS”

EXTRAORDINARY ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

**ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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OIC EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT

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We, in our capacity as Kings and Heads of State and Government of Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) coming together at the OIC Extraordinary Summit held in Turkey on 13 December 2017,

Having made deliberations regarding the statement made by the Trump Administration and following developments on the historical status of Al Quds, where Haram al-Sharif, our first Qibla and one of the three Holy Mosques of Islam is located, and where Isra and Mi'raj took place,

Considering the call made by the President of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoan as the Summit Chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to the world public opinion on the day of the above mentioned statement,

Emphasizing the centrality of defending the Cause of Palestine and Al Quds for the whole humanity, which constitutes the main motive for founding the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation,

Reaffirming once again the vital importance of preserving the sanctity and historical status of Al Quds and Haram al-Sharif for the whole Muslim Ummah,

Emphasizing that the Muslim Ummah could strongly defend its causes globally only by acting in unity and solidarity,

Asserting our commitment to the Charters of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and of the United Nations and to the principles of international law,

Referring to the resolutions adopted by the Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Palestine and Al Quds,

Reiterating the resolutions adopted by the United Nations on Palestine and Al Quds, in particular the Security Council Resolution 478, adopted in 1980,

Saluting the exceptionally peaceful resistance that the entire Palestinian people, especially the residents of Al Quds, sustained and accomplished through many sacrifices against the reckless violations at Al-Haram al-Sharif in July, 2017,

Underlining the importance of joint action against the statement of the US President Trump, together with all like-minded international partners on the basis of international law and legitimacy as well as refraining from all forms of violence,

Supporting the role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as the custodian of the sacred places in Al Quds and the firm stance of the Jordan Islamic Foundation, in reference to preservation of the sanctity and historical status of Al-Haram al-Sharif, which is an Islamic place of worship as a whole,

Condemning the illegal settlement activities, expropriations, demolitions and use of excessive force by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories,

Noting that our common endeavours will continue with a view to putting an end to the inhuman blockade that deprives 2 million Palestinian brothers of their freedoms and means of a civilized life, isolating them both from Palestine and from the rest of the world for more than a decade. Efforts will be aimed at alleviating their plight,

Reaffirming our commitment to safeguarding the rights of Palestinian refugees until a just and lasting solution is found, and emphasizing the importance of supporting the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) which provides the necessary basic services to the Palestinian refugees for their survival since 1949,

Underlining the fact that the decision of President Trump on Al Quds is in violation not only of the UN resolutions but also of the ancient character of Al Quds going back to centuries; thus it disregards the historical, social and cultural facts as well as the international law,

Stressing the importance of protecting the multi-cultural and multi-religious character of Al Quds, where the sacred places of three Monotheistic religions stand side by side as a historical consequence of the philosophy of tolerance inherent in Islam, a religion of moderation and peaceful coexistence,

Noting that each step that disrespects the rights of the Palestinians in Al Quds which have been affirmed many times by the relevant UN resolutions constitutes a major blow to aspirations to coexistence among people from different religious backgrounds.

Recalling the immense sufferings experienced in the past when the special religious identity of Al Quds and its resulting inviolability were disrespected,

Stressing that protecting Al Quds is the cornerstone for the establishment and maintenance of a sense of conscience, justice and mutual respect in our region and beyond,

Reiterating that a true peace for all is only possible when the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza is over and once Palestinians are free in their own homeland,

Emphasizing to the entire world the need for safeguarding the peace and security of future generations by standing against such illegal acts,

Confirming that today, it is the collective responsibility of every person with common sense and conscience, irrespective of religion, nationality and belief that he may belong, to stand by the people of Palestine and Al Quds in their just cause,

Appreciating the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish people for hosting the Extraordinary Islamic Summit regarding this important cause of Ummah, especially the call for this Extraordinary Summit made by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey,

1. We reject and condemn the US Administration's unlawful statement regarding the status of Al Quds.

2. Just like the fact that Israel's decision to annex Al Quds and its actions and practices therewith are never accepted, we declare that this statement is identically null and void from the point of view of conscience, justice and history.

We invite all members of the UN, the EU and the international community to remain committed to the status of Al Quds and all related UN Resolutions.

3. We emphasize that it will never be possible to give up on the aspiration to a sovereign and independent State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital; which we regard as a prerequisite for peace and security in the region.

4. We declare that we will act in cooperation and coordination to protect the cause of Palestine and Al Quds in the international arena, especially in the UN.

5. We declare that we will mobilize support in the name of entire humanity to strengthen the State of Palestine and its institutions in every field.

6. We call upon all countries which have not yet recognized the State of Palestine, which was declared in 1988 in Algeria as the result of the will of the Palestinian people to live freely, to take this vital step. Recognition of the State of Palestine has now become essential in order to achieve balance for the prevalence of common sense and conscience in the region in the wake of recent developments.

While we reaffirm that we recognize the State of Palestine **with East Jerusalem as its capital**, we invite the whole world to recognize East Jerusalem as the occupied capital of the State of Palestine.

7. We are of the opinion that, for the defense of the Palestinian cause, it is essential under current conditions to achieve Palestinian reconciliation without further delay on the basis of mutual respect, trust, compromise and a full sense of national solidarity. We reiterate our support in this regard.

8. We invite the Trump Administration to reconsider its unlawful decision that might trigger chaos in the region and to rescind its mistaken step.

9. As the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, we reaffirm our full support for our each and every Palestinian brother particularly the President of the State of Palestine, His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas in their struggle for an independent and sovereign Palestine, with Al Quds as its capital.