

Seminar on Role of Universities & Seminaries in the Promotion of Peaceful Co- Existence.

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Excellency The Councilor General of Iran, Honorable members of the Delegation from Azan Educational & Research Institute, Al Mustafa University Iran, Honorable Vice Chancellors of the local Universities, Honorable guests, Ameer E Tahreek, A/ NA, Members of Faculty Minhaj University and Constituent Colleges, Members of Tahreek Minhaj UI Quran, Ladies and Gentlemen, Aslam Alakum.

It gives me great pleasure to be here at an historical occasion, where two seats of higher education and learning have joined hands to address a subject that is causing many a sleepless night for the leaders and the led all over the globe. I extend my candid appreciation to the organizers for having selected a theme that has global application and ramifications.

In today's world, when the spaces are shrinking while needs are escalating, nations at large, are clamoring to gather more and more resources for their existence and societies are becoming inward looking, edgy and intolerant. There is a general feeling of suffocation and uncertainty hanging in the air. The selection of a theme that directly impacts the lives of people by sharing and providing relief by promoting peaceful co-existence speaks of the sagacity of the management of the two institutions. Nonetheless, the phenomenon of peaceful co existence has its own connotations. It is like a two way traffic that flows from both ends and follows the dictates of resources at hand with the participants. Their economic, technological, educational defensive and national characteristics

are the factors that condition the attitudes between different groups and people. It is much easy for the groups and people with equal or near equal standing in these spheres to mutually co exist and eschew any temptation of adventurism against each other that militates against the noble notion of peaceful coexistence. Therefore, it is essential to acquire a sound standing in these fields to match the ability of the contemporary to deter any action detrimental to peaceful co existence.

Logically speaking, the seats of learning may these be schools, colleges or universities have an intrinsic role in promoting values and ideas that foster the spirit of peaceful co- existence. Unfortunately this aspect has some how not found its right place of interest in the curricula and environments of these places. For a multitude of reasons, these seats of learning, that is mandated to instill the youth with the higher values of life resulting in peace and tranquility, have been turned into the breeding ground for mayhem and violence. This can be attributed to a host of reasons like policisation of the institutions, myopic biased dogmatic religious vision propagating violence in the name of religion, being purveyed at the seminaries and other social, ethnic and economic factors.

The scourge of terrorism is a direct consequence of intolerance and a mind set to shun peaceful co- existence. Terrorism perpetrated any where, in any country, on any caste creed or religion has its global ramifications. As a consequence the spaces start shrinking, attitudes get hostile against even those who themselves abhor acts of violence, spaces hither to fore open to people are denied in the name of security, movement becomes restricted, travel gets cumbersome to the point of annoyance and mutual trust and confidence amongst nations is lost, forcing stringent measures upon each other in the name of security.

It is in this back drop that the two universities have embarked upon

a venture that has a potential to cement the ties between the two institutions. I have a premonition that this event is the foundation block for a larger edifice of cooperation to be built upon, by the two universities. The event is a precursor to an enhanced cooperation and collaboration in the form of student exchange, faculty exchange culminating in an adjunct degree programme.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the worthy guests who have spoken and expressed their views eloquently on the theme. It is also appropriate for me to express my gratitude, deep appreciation and compliment the managements of the two universities, the organizers of the Seminar and all others behind the scene participants for a circumspect and successful organization of the event.

In the end I extend my sincere thanks to all the honorable guests for making it convenient to join us, to the faculty and students of the colleges and MUL, to the organizers of the function and the Management of MQI for extending the support without which the function could not have come to fruition.

I offer my sincere prayers and wishes for a lasting collaboration and cooperation between the two Universities. May Allah grant them wisdom, fortitude, strength and resources for achieving their noble Goals.

Thank You and Allah Hafiz.