

The World Forum For Proximity Of Islamic Schools Of Thought No .:

Date.: April 7,2012

ICANN Suite 330, 4676 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA 90292 Attention: New gTLD Evaluation Process Subject: Letter for support for .Islam, .Shia, .Halal gTLDs

This letter is to confirm that World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects fully supports the application for *.ISLAM* and *.SHIA* and *.HALAL* submitted to ICANN by Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. Ve Tic. Ltd. Sti in the new gTLD Program.

As the Secretary General of World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought I confirm that I have the authority of the Islamic communities to be writing to you on this matter. By bringing the perspective of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought means: Convergence between the followers of Islamic schools in order to know some of them over others by achieving harmony and religious brotherhood on the basis of Islamic principles common fixed and firm. Islamic unity is: Cooperation between the followers of Islamic schools on the basis of Islamic principles and interests of the Muslim and its enemies to the common position with respect for the obligations of every Muslim to his doctrine of faith and deed.

The gTLD will be used to Principles of rounding i.e. the march of rapprochement between Islamic sects on the general principles. Therefore providing the opportunity to expand religious believes through a guided line could be a satisfactory achievements for both authorities and non-radical religion followers.

This application is being submitted as a community-based application, and as such it is understood that the Registry Agreement will reflect the community restrictions proposed in the application. In the event that we believe the registry is not complying with these restrictions, possible avenues of recourse include the Registry Restrictions Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this application. Yours sincerely

Thanks and best regards Secretary General The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought Mohammad – Ali Taskhiry

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# Forum for proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought

The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought is the only and most welcomed Forum among Muslim Community in both Shia'a and Sunni's.

The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought was established in response to the thoughts of Islamic Unity, a revolution which is not only related to all Muslims but also all the oppressed masses of the world.

The Members of the Supreme Council comprise of eminent thinkers of different Islamic Schools of Thought from various Islamic countries such as **Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia, America, Pakistan, Oman and Iran**.

The Forum's activities are aimed toward bringing Proximity and Unity among Muslims, whatever group they belong to. That had made the Forum popular among Muslim leaders all around the world.

## **FORUM'S ACTIVITIES**

The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought's activities is mostly directed to education, clarification and explanation of the Proximity Thoughts to Muslims.

Such activities consist of:

1. The annual International Islamic Unity Conference:

The 25<sup>th</sup> International Islamic Unity Conference was recently held. Muslim world scholars from 57 countries of the world attended this annual conference held by the World Forum for Proximity of Proximity of the Islamic Countries headed by Secretary General Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri.

2. Publications: The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought publishes books, journals and internet content in different languages for all Muslims in the world.

The Forum's website "www.taqrib.info" is published in 16 different languages the majority of Muslims speak.

More than 250 books and journals are published by the Forum till today.

## **DEFINITION OF PROXIMITY AND MUSLIM UNITY**

From the viewpoint of The World Forum of the Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought, proximity of Islamic schools of thought entails closeness of the followers of Islamic sects with the aim of getting acquainted with one another in order to attain religious brotherhood according to the principles and common goals of religion. Muslim Unity entails co-operation among the followers of schools of thought while adopting joint approaches to reach the desired goals for the interests of the Muslim Ummah and confronting enemies of Islam.

## **BASICS OF PROXIMITY**

The movement of proximity of Islamic schools of thought is based on firm general principles, the most important one being:

- 1) The Holy Qur'an and Prophetic traditions, which are the basic sources of Islamic Law. All Islamic schools of thought share commonalities in these two elements and rely on them as their main and reliable reference points.
- 2) Belief in the principles and pillars being the criterion of a Muslim
  - a) Belief: Oneness of God the Almighty.
  - b) Belief in the Prophethood and the Holy Prophet (SAW) as the seal of Prophets including belief in the traditions of the Messenger as one of the mains sources of religion.
  - c) Belief in the Holy Qur'an and its concepts.
  - d) Belief in the Day of Judgment.
  - e) Not denying the necessaries of religion and submitting to the pillars of Islam such as prayers, Zakat, Fasting, Hajj, Jihad...
- 3) Legitimacy of Jihad and freedom of debate and officially acknowledging differences of opinion within the framework of basic Islamic sources.
- 4) To be bound to Islamic unity according to the mentioned definition.
- 5) The principle of brotherhood and Islamic morals in relations among Muslims.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM**

- 1. Assistance towards reviving and spreading Islamic culture and teachings and defending the sanctity of the Qur'an and traditions of the Holy Prophet (SAW).
- 2. Making efforts towards creating acquaintance and more understanding among scholars, thinkers and religious leaders of the Islamic world in the fields of beliefs, Fiqh including on social and political fronts.
- 3. Spreading proximity ideas and thoughts among scholars of the Islamic world and transferring that to Muslim masses while informing them of plots aimed at creating divisions by enemies of Islam.
- 4. Solving pessimism and arguments among followers of Islamic schools.
- 5. Making efforts to strengthen and propagate the principle of Ijtihad and deduction in religion.

6. Endeavor to co-ordinate and establish a joint front to confront the propaganda plots and cultural onslaught of enemies of Islam.

### **PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE FORUM**

- 1. The necessity of co-operations in all spheres to enable Muslims obtain consensus and agree among themselves.
- 2. The need for joint concerted efforts and co-operation in confronting enemies of Islam.
- 3. Abstaining from libeling one another as infidel and innovator.
- 4. Dealing respectfully on points of difference.
- 5. Freedom to select school of thought
- 6. Being bound by the culture of healthy dialogue and observing its rules and manners.
- 7. Endeavor to encourage Muslims to implement proximity in all its dimensions and ensure crystallization of its values in all aspects of life.

#### **IMPORTAN ORGANS OF THE FORUM**

1) Supreme Council.

The Members of this council comprise of eminent thinkers of different Islamic Schools of Thought from various Islamic countries such as **Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia, America, Pakistan, Oman and Iran**. They are mandated with setting the path and activities of the forum and oversee it.

2) General Assembly.

More than100 thinkers and Ulamaa from different Islamic schools of thought are members of this assembly and are charged with the important duty of studying the general issues and problems of the Islamic world and presenting solutions and programs of actions to the forum including management of such programs.

3) Secretary General.

The secretary general is the highest-ranking executive position of the forum and its holder is responsible for following up and implementing decisions and decrees of the Supreme Council, General Assembly and the management of all departments of the forum.

- 4) Departments.
- 5) The University of Islamic Schools of Thought.

This university, which is a fruitful outcome of action taken by this forum, was established in the year 1995 in Tehran. Students from different Islamic countries in this university are engaged in studying Islamic Sciences in the field such as, Jurisprudence of Islamic Schools of thought, Qur'an and Hadith Sciences, Islamic History, philosophy and Islamic speech. While practically learning the culture of proximity and peaceful co-existence in Islamic communities coupled with Islamic brotherhood, they will be the cream of experts in Islamic seminaries and suitable propagators of the culture proximity in Islamic communities.

Its scientific board members are professors, scholars and thinkers coming from various Islamic Schools of thought. Meanwhile the University of Islamic Schools of thought has up to now conducted four courses and will soon have complete study programs. The graduates of this University have excelled scientifically and have obtained high marks in various scientific Olympiads.

# Biography of Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri

**Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, Ayatollah** is a wellknown and highly respected intellectual figure among Muslims, both Shia's and Sunni's.

He was born in 1944 in the holy city of **Najaf, Iraq**. He acquired his primary and middle-level education from Najaf while for the acquisition of highest educational level of the Islamic Seminary (Hawzah) i.e. "Dars-e-Kharej" which contains advanced religious courses. He gained extensively from the renowned Ulama of Najaf Ashraf.



Taskhiri attained the university-level education on Arabic literature, Islamic law & Jurisprudence from the Fiqh College of Najaf Ashraf. Along with the acquisition of education, during his stay in the Islamic Seminary of Najaf Ashraf, he was also engaged in the teaching of the Islamic subjects. As regards the Arabic poetry and literature, he benefited from the distinguished mentors like Ayatollah Sheikh Muhammad Reza Muzzafar, Sheikh Abol Mehdi Matar and Sheikh Muhammad Amin Zain-ud-Din. Being fond of the Arabic poetry and literature at a tender age, he versified many Arabic odes and on diverse occasions delivered literary lectures at different forums of poetry and literature.

In the political arena, he played a dynamic role against the Bathist party of Iraq and for the same reason he was jailed and also given death sentence. But with the grace of Almighty Allah he was released later.

In 1971 he proceeded to the Qom Islamic Seminary in Iran and for ten years attended the lectures delivered by the leading Ulama like Ayatollah Golpayengani, Ayatollah Wahid Khurasani, and Ayatollah Mirza Hashem Amuli.

In the aftermath of the victory of the glorious Islamic Revolution in Iran, he fully got engaged in the cultural activities and the preaching of Islam, in Iran and elsewhere in the world. During this period, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri held different cultural, propagation and administrative positions and undertook various responsibilities.

Some of his responsibilities in political arena include: Representative Gilan province in the Assembly of Experts, Supreme leader's advisor in Islamic World's cultural affairs, Head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization from its establishment until 2001, International affairs director at the Islamic Ideology Propagation Organization, Member of Islamic Ideology Propagation Organization's Board of Trustees, Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister's advisor on international affairs, Secretary General of the Ahl-ul-Bayt (AS) World Assembly. Following appointment by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution he is now serving as the secretary general of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought.

Ayatollah Taskhiri has authored over 50 books on various Islamic topics including Islamic ideology, Fiqh (jurisprudence), Islamic economy and Islamic history. He has also penned some 350 articles on Islamic issues including unity. Many of his works have been translated into English, Urdu and other world languages.