



## **RESOLUTION NO. 538**

The Senate of Pakistan expresses its deepest dismay and shock at the vicious and vile act of the burning, tearing and desecrating the Holy Quran by racists, bigots and extremists in Sweden and the Netherlands to the utter shock and dismay of Muslims and civilized humanity.

The Senate of Pakistan strongly protests to the Governments of Sweden and Netherlands for allowing these extremists and fanatics to stage the burning of Holy Quran in the name of freedom of expression. The pretext of freedom of expression cannot be used to attack the religious emotions of 1.5 billion Muslims across the world.

The Senate of Pakistan strongly condemns this act of Islamophobia being hateful, vicious, highly explosive, and contrary to the principles of international law laid down in several instruments, including:

1. UN General Assembly Resolution No 36/35 of 25 November 1981 (by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief).
2. Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
3. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
4. The European Court of Human Rights & European Guidelines on Freedom of Religion or Belief which states, responsibility & freedom of expression go hand in hand and the latter should not incite hatred, shock or disturbance to any segment of society.
5. The call of the World Conference on Human Rights upon all Governments to take all appropriate measures to counter intolerance.
6. General Assembly Resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations.
7. Resolution of UN Commission on Human Rights 2005/40. and
8. International Day of Islamophobia proclaimed by the United Nations.

The Senate of Pakistan, therefore, stands for upholding the universal principles highlighted above and expresses the collective will of state and people of Pakistan against the act of desecration of the Holy Quran by racists and extremists. This vicious crime is a calculated and deliberate attempt to harm interfaith harmony, social peace, religious tolerance, and ultimately it will prove to be divisive for peace and stability amongst countries, cultures and civilizations.

Therefore, the Senate of Pakistan:

1. Urges the Muslims to maintain calm and composure, refuse to be intimidated by the hate- mongering Islamophobes, and promote Islam's message of peace, tolerance and universal brotherhood.
2. Calls upon the Government of Pakistan to initiate prompt action on the following lines:
  - i. To summon the Ambassadors of Sweden and the Netherlands and convey the strong sentiments, shock and anger felt by the people of Pakistan against the desecration of the Holy Quran.
  - ii. To impress upon Sweden and the Netherlands for firm lawful action against those who desecrated the Holy Quran.
  - iii. To contact, coordinate and cooperate among the Members of the OIC to take a unified position on this issue which is central to the core beliefs of all Muslims.
  - iv. To take up this highly important and urgent issue before the upcoming session of the UN Human Rights Council, which is meeting in Geneva next week.

Moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, on his behalf and on behalf of Senators Dr. Shahzad Waseem, Leader of the Opposition, Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Shahadat Awan, Faisal Javed, Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah, Saifullah Abro, Fida Muhammad, Saadia Abbasi, Seemee Ezdi, Bahramand Khan Tangi, Fawzia Arshad, Umer Farooq, Afnan ullah Khan, Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, Taj Haider, Zeeshan Khanzada, Danesh Kumar, Falak Naz, Hidayatullah Khan, Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen, Palwasha Mohammed Zai Khan, Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Khalida Sikandar Mandhro, Muhammad Akram, Molvi Faiz Muhammad and Faisal Saleem Rehman Unanimously passed by the Senate of Pakistan Islamabad, the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.