

EXTRAORDINARY RELIGIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

3-4 August 2016

After the bloody coup d'état attempt on 15 July 2016 by an organization that exploits religion (FETO/PDY), the Presidency of Religious Affairs held an emergency meeting for the Religious Council as per the Religious Council Regulation Article 5 in Ankara on 3-4 August 2016 with a single agenda item in order to evaluate the period we are going through as a country and a nation, to detect the damage inflicted on our country, our nation, and our religion by this and other similar organizations, to hold discussions on these matters from a religious standpoint, and to determine the concrete steps to be taken.

Setting an example for the entire world with their dignified, high-minded, and brave stance against the treacherous and bloody coup attempt and protecting their homeland, their people, their national will, and their rule of law, our glorious nation's honorable stand on the night of July 15 and our religious officials who kept spirits of the nation alive during the resistance will be remembered with gratitude for generations to come. I wish Allah's mercy upon our glorious martyrs who immediately accepted the invitation to protect the nation's own dignity and honor like in the days of the War of Independence and also I wish a quick recovery to our wounded veterans.

Attempting to overthrow by force of arms a legitimate government that is based on the nation's will by organizing under the pretense of religion means disregarding the national will and usurpation of rights. It cannot be legitimized in religious terms. We vehemently and vigorously curse this attempt.

In the two-day Council, the agenda was discussed by the members, participants, and guests. Resolutions were unanimously accepted and found suitable to be shared with the public:

FETO/PDY cannot be characterized as a religious structure

1. The definition of a religious structure is not compatible with Fettullahist Terror Organization (FETO/PDY) which deemed everything permissible to reach their secret and dark goals, which exploited religion and religious sentiment, which stole our people's zakat, fitr, and qurban, which took away our people's sons and daughters, which distorted and destroyed the basic values and concepts of our religion, which recruited people and created opportunities with un-Islamic and immoral acts and behaviors, with mischief, sedition, lies, and tricks; which infiltrated into all bodies of the state and tried to endanger the nation's future, and which was caught in the act by the nation in its recent coup attempt. The head of this organization cannot be accepted as a "religious scholar" or "hocaefendi."

Titled attributed to the leader of FETO/PDY cannot be associated with Islam

2. In Islam, no “innocent and indisputable” authority and guide can be accepted other than the Prophet. Nobody and no group can see themselves as the sole representative of religion and call people to show them unconditional obedience and commitment. Since absolute loyalty and commitment is only valid in Islam for principles the framework of which is determined by the Quran and Sunnah, there is no legitimacy according to Islam when someone considers themselves as an infallible authority and guide or when they are viewed as such by those who are affiliated with them. It is clearly against Allah’s book and the Prophet’s Sunnah. Within that framework, it is unacceptable from a religious perspective when it is claimed a person is special, chosen and infallible or their statements and teachings have holiness.

FETO/PDY is clearly a movement of religious exploitation.

3. In Islam, people are called to the path of Allah and the Prophet. The call to various individuals, organizations, and factions using the name of Allah is deceiving people using religion and Allah; and it is the greatest injustice done to religion. Nobody can surrender their mind, will, and character to another individual. It is impossible for structures that are founded by exploiting people’s religious sentiment in the name of religion and Allah to receive approval from Islam.

FETO/PDY is a movement of power and interest under the cover of religion.

4. It is not compatible in any way whatsoever with the fundamental principles of Islam to turn educational activities disguised as religious into a network of power and interest and create a political and financial organization, and therefore cover all sorts of secret and dirty relations. Moreover, capitalizing on and gaining influence off religion has no religious basis.

FETO/PDY movement is a fake mahdi movement

5. There were many movements of sedition and malice throughout history that had mahdi/messiah arguments and hurufi/esoteric character that threatened public safety. Secrecy, mystery, commitment, exhibition of charismatic personality were the most apparent traits of these movements. In modern times, these types of movements were used to tear apart and exploit the Islamic community under the yoke of international political engineering.

FETO/PDY has shady sources of religious information

6. In the so-called religious discourse of this organization, dreams and mysterious stories were more in demand than Islam’s basic sources of knowledge. Through those dreams and stories, innocent masses were deceived and charmed and a diseased mentality was

created. To that end, they resorted to distorting religion through conversations, sermons, and preaches especially using media. It was claimed the Prophet attended these sermons and conversations and orders and instructions given to the followers were predicated on the Prophet through dreams. It is impossible to religiously legitimize such an organization that considers it a method to fortify its authority by deceiving people in this way.

FETO/PDY is a movement of division tearing apart the unity of Islam's Ummah.

7. Different denominations, dispositions, and schools of thought came together in harmony and created tremendous richness in the Islamic community. However, all sorts of division and factionalism that may ruin the unity were forbidden in Islam since the unity of Muslims is essential. (FETO/PDY) An organization that monopolizes the truth and ostracizes everyone else does not accord with the Islamic tradition. Therefore, no organization, thought or movement that aims to tear apart Islam's Ummah can be considered innocent.

FETO/PDY is a movement of secrecy without any morality

8. It is for certain that structures and organizations operate in the field of religion which cannot be inspected and which especially have no transparent financial sources will involve all sorts of dubious activity and dark relations. At this point, there is no sound and accurate basis to the politics and strategy of a movement that tries to obtain legitimacy through fabricating religious arguments in their own way. Therefore, this organization exploited people's religious sentiment to use them for its own goals.

FETO/PDY is an unethical movement

9. Methods like hiding, acting different what they really are, being a hypocrite, speaking differently in different places, disregarding what is lawful/unlawful in Islam for deception, using code names, living a different life than what they believe, lying, curiosity, violating privacy, blackmailing, favoritism, organized solidarity for evil purposes are un-Islamic and unethical.
10. Recruiting their own followers in state staff, committing all sorts of corruption and illegal acts and especially stealing exam questions to take over the state mean infringement of rightful due. A structure that adopts such a method as the basic tool for its organization cannot be considered Islamic. Whoever leads, guides or overlooks such acts have no conscience, morality, and piety.
11. Religious obligations to Allah cannot be abused for entirely different purposes. Founding television channels, carrying out media operations, doing lobby work with

money from zakat and qurban and using the money to fund election campaigns in other countries can never be accepted.

FETO/PDY is a movement that does religious engineering for interfaith dialog and tears apart the kalimah tawheed (word of oneness)

12. FETO/PDY initiated dubious attempts propagating “interfaith dialogue” and “moderate Islam” to draw interest and support from the Western public and raise sensitivity against the thesis of clash of civilizations, and did not hesitate to be a part of dark projects created against Muslims in the world by participating in many secret and mysterious relationships. There is no doubt that Islam is the true religion in the presence of Allah. It is essential to live in peace with followers of other religions without damaging freedoms and it is possible to help and show solidarity with them on a common platform in every affair that works in favor of humanity. Therefore, the attempt to create a common religious theology or religious union of culture under “interfaith dialogue,” which is understood to be a product of political engineering, is unacceptable in any shape or form. Compromising the fundamental principles of Islam, for example neglecting the prophethood of Muhammad (s.a.w.) in the second part of kalimah tawheed, is completely unacceptable.

Eurasian Islamic Council will be held to give accurate information to our spiritual geography

13. FETO/PDY pioneered an empty argument of Islam through schools they opened in particularly our country, many parts of the world, and especially in Asia and Africa. They wasted the energy and hopes of Muslims living in these regions.
14. The distortion and destruction caused in our spiritual geography, Central Asia, Balkans, Africa, and Far East by FETO/PDY under the cover of being education volunteers will be detected as well as the hegemony they established in these countries using religion and religious values. The findings will be shared with the Religious Affairs Ministers and Religious Affairs Presidents of the countries that will attend the Eurasian Islamic Council which will convene in November.

Commissions will be founded to find out the damage FETO/PDY has inflicted on our religious life

15. It is a matter of urgency that the Diyanet and Theology community conduct scholarly research that examines the religious exploitation activities of FETO and similar organizations. In that context, so-called scientific works and publications that glorify the organization and its leader must be inspected by related bodies, evaluated in scientific terms, and necessary steps must be taken.

16. A special commission must be established under the High Board of Religious Affairs that involves academicians of different departments in faculties of theology. The commission should examine and find out the damage inflicted by FETO/PDY terrorist organization on Islam and Muslims, the distortion and destruction it caused on Islam's principles, viewpoint of religious obligation, and code of ethics, and the contortion it caused on Islam's fundamental concepts and these findings must be shared with the public.

The understanding of religious education at all levels must be reviewed

17. In order to prevent such religious structures from deceiving the public once again, religious education policies must be re-evaluated and religious education at all levels must be reviewed.

Cooperation will be initiated with NGOs to avoid emergence of similar structures and repetition of similar mistakes

18. The Presidency of Religious Affairs must engage in collaborative work, especially through the High Board of Religious Affairs with nongovernmental religious/social organizations –without intervening in their liberties- that support religious service and religious education in Turkey to ensure they do not deviate from the main path of Islam that founded civilizations throughout history, that they stay away from any rampancy and understatement, and that they have more transparent and auditable structures. Also, supreme boards should be established under the Presidency of Religious Affairs for religious and scholarly inspection and guidance.
19. Religion-driven structures, that emerged in the vacuum caused by a failure of sufficient and simultaneous institutionalization specific to our country in the periods of socio-political tension between the religion, the state, and the society during the history of Republic, sometimes grew to an extent that hindered religious life of the public. It necessitates the reconsideration of relations between religion, state, and society in our country including building the required legal ground.

Studies will be conducted for citizens to prevent the spiritual damage they have suffered and especially for youth.

20. Special studies will be conducted and publications will be issued to avert the potential risk of many citizens and especially youth suffering a deep spiritual depression as a result of this treacherous attack which did not hesitate to tarnish religion and religious sentiment.