

# **Bylaws of the International Muslim Brotherhood**

The Muslim Brotherhood was found in Dhul Hijjah 1347 AH/June, 1928 A.D. Its headquarters is in Cairo and may only be transferred under exceptional circumstances by the Shura Council's decision if the Guidance Office is unable to do so.



Monday, January 18, 2010, 11:42

“In the name of Allah, the Merciful”

## **The Muslim Brotherhood's Guidelines**

### **Part I:**

#### *The Group's Headquarters*

Article (1):

The Muslim Brotherhood was founded in Dhul Hijjah 1347 AH / June, 1928 AD. Its headquarters is in Cairo and may only be transferred under exceptional circumstances by the Shura Council's decision if the Guidance Office is unable to do so.

### **Chapter II:**

#### *Objective and means*

Article (2):

The Muslim Brotherhood is an international Muslim Body which seeks to establish Allah's law in the land by achieving the spiritual goals of Islam and the true religion which are namely the following:

- A. The need to inform the masses, Muslims and non-Muslims, of Islamic teachings, explaining the signs in detail to those who understand the pure human nature upon which Allah Has created man. Distinguish the universality of Islam, in addition to refuting fallacy.
- B. Endeavor to purify the hearts and souls of men from evil and sin. Unify humankind into the fundamental principles of Islam and bringing closer the viewpoints of the Islamic sects.
- C. Make efforts to raise the standard of living of marginalized people and contribute to the further growth and development of the nation's wealth.
- D. Achieve social justice and expand social insurance to cover every citizen. Fight poverty, disease, ignorance, hunger, depravity, encourage, and invite others towards virtue, righteousness and piety.
- E. Insist to liberate the Islamic nation from the yoke of foreign rules, help safeguard the rights of Muslims everywhere and unite Muslims around the world.
- F. The need to work on establishing the Islamic State, which seeks to effectively implement the provisions of Islam and its teachings. Defend the nation against the internal enemies, try to present the true teachings of Islam and communicate its ideas to the world.
- G. The sincere support for a global cooperation in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia, which would safeguard the personal rights, freedom of speech for active and constructive participation towards building a new basis of human civilization as is ensured by the overall teachings of Islam.

Article (3):

The Muslim Brotherhood in achieving these objectives depends on the following means:

- A. Preaching to Islam, this can only be achieved by promoting it through various means such as radio and television, pamphlets, bulletins, newspapers, magazines, books, publications and preparing the delegations and missions at home and abroad.
- B. Teach the movement's younger members to flourish with these principles and demonstrate the true meaning of religiousness as individuals and families. Through teaching decent behaviour to young children ideologically according to the Qur'aan and Sunnah, mentally with

knowledge and spiritually with moral virtue, and physically through practicing sport. They endeavor to sow the seed of the true meaning of fraternity, full integration and genuine cooperation among them for international Islamic consensus aiming to create a new generation to understand Islam correctly acting in accordance with its provisions.

C. Guidance and admonition which is sound approach suitable for Muslims in the fields of education, legislation, judiciary, administration, military life, economy, health and governance. This may be aimed at by presenting thorny issues to the competent authorities in order to persuade the world's legislative and executive bodies to follow through with the original conceptual thinking and the tactical implementation with the necessity to work hard to refine the media guided by Islam.

D. Make every effort for the establishment of educational, social, economic and scientific institution and the establishment of mosques, schools, clinics, shelters, clubs as well as the formation of committees to regulate zakat affairs and alms. Seeking to bring reconciliation between Allah, individuals, families and resist succumbing to social ills, harmful habits, drugs, alcohol, gambling by guiding young people to the right path filling their leisure time with positive activities by creating independent sections in accordance with special regulations.

E. The Islamic nation must be fully prepared to fight the tyrants and the enemies of Allah as a prelude to establishing an Islamic state.

### **Chapter III:**

#### *Terms of Membership*

##### Article (4):

A. A candidate for the movement's membership must serve at least one year on probation. If he performs his duties well and is aware of missionary purposes and pledges to respect the rules espoused by achieving its sublime goals approved by the authority, he will become a regular member for three years.

B. In these three years if he proves to be an active member, by performing the duties of his office, he is entitled to be accepted as an active member pledged to lead the allegiance to the Brotherhood's Chairman as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Almighty Allah to constantly uphold and safeguard the principles of Islam, to fight in the cause of Allah, to adhere to the terms and duties of the Brotherhood's membership, showing as much as possible obedience to the just leaders in sorrow and in joy as long as it does not involve disobedience to Allah, I pay allegiance and may

Allah be my witness. He may take the oath as a member before the Brotherhood's Controller-General or his representative if it could not be given directly to the MB Chairman.

Article (5):

Each member must pay monthly or annually a full subscription fee according to the country's financial regulations. This does not exclude the possibility of contributing to the Dawa's expenses with donations, financial endowments, will, etc. The missionary work also obligates the wealthy to pay their Zakat on the profit earned.

Article (6):

If the member fails to accomplish some of his duties or neglects it, disciplinary or penal action may be taken against him according to the country's penal system, including the exemption from the movement.

Article (7):

Each member has the right to express his/ her opinion according to the etiquette of Islam and the group's organizational structure.

Article (8):

Every member of the organization is entitled to offer various proposals.

Article (9):

Each member has the right to file suits against other members and make appeals.

Article (10):

The Member also has the right to attend and to give his vote and his peers must express solidarity with him as ordained by Islam.

#### **Chapter IV:**

##### *The Muslim Brotherhood's main administrative bodies*

Article (11):

The Group's principal bodies are:

- i. Chairman
- ii. Guidance Office

### iii. The General Shura Council

First: Chairman:

Article (12):

The Brotherhood's Chairman is the movement's overall leader who heads the Executive Guidance Bureau and the General Shura Council and undertakes the following tasks:

- A. He is expected to supervise the entire group's units, give advice, guidance and direct officials and hold them accountable for every fault, failure, corruption, deviation or disregard and neglect of rules according to the group's regulations.
- B. He has the right to represent the group in all matters having managerial responsibility on behalf of the organization.
- C. He is also permitted to mandate any one to undertake some duties.
- D. He is entitled to invite Controller-General representing their countries to meet, if necessary.

Article (13):

Whoever wants to run as a general guide must meet the following conditions:

- A. He must be at least forty years of age.
- B. He must have at least 15 years of creditable service.
- C. He must have decent manners, an administrative ability and religious knowledge (particularly Islamic jurisprudence) that would qualify him to assume the duties and lead the movement.

Article (14):

The Brotherhood's Chairman must be chosen according to the following stages:

- A. Members of the Guidance Bureau, after consultation with the executive offices in the countries, Controller-General one-third of the Shura Council members to nominate more popular and acceptable by people once consensus does appear to have been reached for a particular candidate meets the conditions mentioned in article (13).

B. Accordingly, by a decision from the Guidance Office, First deputy to the Chairman asks members of the General Shura Council for a meeting within at least one week to elect the new Chairman scheduling the time and, place. They must be notified at least a month ahead of the scheduled date.

C. It is permissible to convene meetings of the Shura Council under the presidency of First deputy to the Chairman. If he is the nominee, the oldest person in attendance can represent him in electing the Chairman who must meet two thirds of Council members (a quorum of at least two-thirds). If they fail, the meeting is postponed to a later date not less that [sic] one month, and not more than two months for a week in which they elect the new Chairman by an absolute majority attendance of Council members.

Article (15):

The Muslim Brotherhood's General Guide to take the oath if assigned by the Shura Council as follows:

I pledge allegiance to Allah Almighty constantly upholding the sublime principals of the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace be upon him) and commitment to the Brotherhood's platform to act promptly in implementing the decisions entrusted to me as much as possible even if I disagree with the decisions.

Members of the Shura Council sworn in before the General Guide perceiving ten elements of allegiance:

I pledge allegiance to Allah Almighty constantly upholding and safeguarding the principles of Islam, fighting in the cause of Allah, adhering with terms and duties of the Brotherhood's membership, showing as much as possible obedience to the just leaders in sorrow and in joy as long as that does not involve disobedience to Allah, I pay allegiance and Allah be my witness.

Article (16):

The Chairman immediately undertakes his responsibilities after his election and should therefore resign from his private business and devote himself to the task that he is entrusted to as long as he is qualified to do so.

Article (17):

The Chairman is not allowed to engage in the management of a business or economic activities relating to the movement's interests, its objective is to protect his reputation, save his leisure time and effort but he is legitimized to engage in religious, scientific, or literary activities approved by the Guidance Office.

Article (18):

The movement bears the travel and living expenses of the chairman according to the Financial Regulations of full time employees.

Article (19):

The Chairman's mandate expires in the following cases:

A. If he violates his duties or loses legibility, members of the Shura Council must analyze the situation and make the appropriate decision. If the reason is acceptable he may be relieved from office, a meeting must be immediately called dedicated to that with a majority of two thirds of the Council members.

B. If the chairman submits his resignation, he should call the Guidance Office and the Advisory Council to study the cause and take the appropriate decision. His resignation becomes fait accompli by absolute majority of Council members if he insists to do so.

C. If the Chairman dies during his term of office, the vice-Chairman becomes acting president and new procedures are to be taken in accordance with Article (13) of this Regulation.

Article (20):

The Chairman can choose one or more deputies from the members of the Guidance Bureau.

Article (21):

The Chairman's term in office is 6 years, subject to renewal, with the exception of the current general guide.

Article (22):

The Chairman after the end of his term holds his membership of the Shura Council for life unless the mandate not subject in paragraph (a) of Article (19) of the Rule that provides he breaches his duties or loses eligibility.

*Second: The General Guidance Office:*

Article (23):

The newly elected Guidance Bureau is the Brotherhood's senior executive and administrative board as well as watchdog authorized to conduct the policy-oriented management plans and mechanisms which would form the basis of the group.

Article (24):

The Muslim Brotherhood's Guidance Office with its leader the General Guide is composed of 14 members is to be selected according to the following basis:

- A. Eight members to be elected by members of the Shura Council from the chairman's country.
- B. Five members elected by the Shura Council members and regional representation should be taken into account.
- C. General Guide chooses from among members of the Guidance Bureau Treasurer and Secretary.

Article (25):

Any individual who intends to run for membership of the General Guidance Office must meet the following conditions:

- A. He must be a member of the Shura Council.
- B. He must be at least 30 years of age.
- C. He must devote himself to the Office.

Article (26):

In the event that members of the Guidance Bureau have been elected, they must swear to the following:

I pledge allegiance to Allah Almighty constantly upholding with sublime principals of the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace be upon him) and commitment to the Brotherhood's platform act to promptly implement the decisions entrusted to me as much as possible even if I am in disagreement with it. I pledge to struggle in order to achieve the group's highest goals as soon as possible and I pay allegiance and Allah be my witness.

Article (27):

The term of office for the Guidance Bureau is four lunar years and the member may be chosen more than once. In the event a seat of an elected member becomes vacant before the specified period, it shall be assumed by the next highest receiver of votes. If member of the Guidance Bureau serves as MB General-controller, his people must choose another alternative.

Article (28):

A member of the Guidance office must acknowledge the country's interests, constantly attend its meetings, preserve the confidentiality of its internal deliberations and commit to implementing the decisions even if it goes against what he believes. Has not right to criticize or challenge the decisions as long as they are issued legally. He must completely accomplish tasks assigned to him. If the member breaches his duties, Member of the Guidance Office are entitled to reprimand, warn or suspend his membership for not more than a month or exempt him from office and he must be taken to the Shura Council at a meeting attended by members in which he explains his arguments.

Article (29):

General Guidance Office performs the following tasks:

- A. Explain the group's intellectual and political attitude with regards to worldly affairs to those who are related to its policy that affect its interests in any state due to a work plan established by the Shura Council taking into account the provisions of Article (50) of chapter 6. He must assume responsibility or delegate someone else to compose sermons, issue bulletins and regulations and ensure that the movement's Platform is explained.
- B. Set up a watchdog authorized to conduct, guide and implement the provisions of the General Rules and hold accountable those responsible for the tasks entrusted to them.
- C. They must take the necessary steps to implement the resolutions of the Shura Council in all branches.
- D. They must form specialized committees, adopt internal regulations and hold officials accountable.
- E. The need to develop a general plan and bring up for discussion and approval of the Shura Council.

F. Prepare the annual general report on the work of leadership, the movement's circumstances and present its financial situation to the Shura Council.

G. Election of inspector not belonging to members of the Shura Council.

Article (30):

The Bureau's meetings must be periodically designated by the Chairman in which every member is bound to attend regularly. The members of the Executive Bureau can meet at any time if necessary on the Chairman's, deputy or consent of four executive members' request. Its meetings can be legalized if attended by an absolute majority of the members, its decisions are valid when issued by an absolute majority of those present and if votes are equal, giving preference to the Chairman.

Article (31):

The Chairman's duty, or the oldest member of the bureau, has the right to chair meetings of the Executive Office in the case of his absence or inability to perform his duties, read minutes of the former meeting and examine to be ratified. The movement's agenda must be discussed precisely and the decision taken is not valid in the absence of the Chairman and his deputy.

Article (32):

The movement's Secretary-General completely represents the Guidance Bureau in all affairs except special cases where members of the Executive Office believe the need to recruit another member for a legal decision.

Article (33):

The General Secretary of the executive body chaired by the Secretary-General resides in the country of the general guide, and may assume its duties from outside if necessary to do so.

Article (34):

The task of the secretary General is to follow up the implementation of the guidance decisions and control its many aspects of activity. He may ask assistance from other members or staff but is principally responsible of the Executive Office and what is assigned to them. In the case of his absence or neglect, members of the governing body appoint from among its members a candidate to temporarily replace him.

Article (35):

The financial secretary's primary task is to control its finances and record input and output, closely monitoring all accounting and financial activities, supervising all financial activities in accordance with the Financial Regulations and not take not the Executive Bureau at more frequent intervals. He may have the staff member's assistance fall under his direct responsibility. In the event of his absence or inability to fulfill his assigned duties, they can assign others to temporarily do his work.

*Third: the Shura Council:*

Article (36):

The Shura Council is the Brotherhood's legislative authority and its decisions are binding. The term of office for the Shura Council is four lunar years.

Article (37):

- A. Shura Council is composed of at least thirty members representing the Brotherhood organization adopted in various countries and are selected from among the members of the country's Shura councils.
- B. The Shoura [sic] Council may annex five specialist members
- C. Any Brotherhood formation can be represented in the Shura Council if adopted by the Brotherhood's General Executive Office.
- D. Regulations provide that as long as the Controller-General for the Muslim Community is one person, it is obligatory he have one representative in the General Shura Council. If he has more than one delegate, the Controller-Genera must be the one if he can not participate as a permanent member, they may elect another.

Article (38):

Whoever is chosen for the Shura Council must meet the following criteria:

- A. He should be an active member who previously served in the Executive Office or the Shura Council in his country.
- B. At least thirty years of age.
- C. He must have been an active member for at least five years.

D. He must have good manners and administrative ability that would qualify him to assume his duties.

E. Has not received any warrant suspension of his membership during the previous five years.

Article (39):

The General Shura Council responsible for the following tasks:

A. Right to vote on General Guide and members of the Executive Bureau in accordance with articles (14), (24).

B. Adhere to the group's sublime goals and its policies and explain its stance on various issues and other parties.

C. Endorse the movement's general plan and necessary means.

D. Discuss and approve the inspector general's report on the annual financial report of the movement and approve the New Year's budget.

E. Members of the Supreme Court specialized to hear cases brought directly to them must be chosen by the Chairman and members of the Guidance Office or the Shura Council.

F. Hold the entire members of the general guidance Bureau accountable for the mistakes and must be approved by an absolute majority of all the Shura Council deputies.

G. Relieve the Chairman of his post or accept his resignation in accordance with Article (19) of these Regulations.

H. Amend the bylaws to be on a proposal submitted by the Chairman or the Guidance Office or submit a proposal approved by eight members of the Shura Council. Furthermore, members must be informed of the resolution to be considered for at least one month and is modified with the consent of two thirds of the members.

The Bureau's meetings must be periodically designated by the Chairman in which every member is bound to attend meetings regularly as members of Executive Bureau can meet in any time if necessary at the Chairman's request or his deputy or one of its members, with the consent of four. Its meetings can be legalized if attended by an absolute majority of the members, its decisions are valid when issued by an absolute majority of those present and if votes are equally, gives preference to the Chairman.

Article (40):

The Shura Council meets regularly every six months on a date set by the Chairman, his first deputy, members of the governing body or at the request approved by one-third of the members of the Shura Council. Meeting can be valid unless attended by an absolute majority only in cases where the quorum required in particular. If they did not have the required number, the meetings are postponed to another date members renewing the call for the convening of the Council raising the same subject on the agenda again. If there is no quorum has once again been accomplished, they apply Article (43) of these Regulations.

Resolutions can be valid only if issued with the consent of an absolute majority of those present only in cases when special quorum is required.

Article (41):

Members of the Shura Council must be informed in advance of meetings by at least one month accompanied with an agenda except in cases of emergency.

Article (42):

In the event a member is relieved from his position in accordance with the country's rules of procedure in which he belongs, they must inform the General Guidance Office immediately.

Article (43):

The General Guidance Office shall exercise all the powers and authority of the the General Shura Council except for amendment of the Regulations or exempt general guide so as to facilitate the meeting of the Council if meeting becomes impossible.

Article (44):

The General Shura Council shapes a Supreme Court to determine its terms of reference in a special regulation and members of the Shura Council have the right to form arbitration committees if necessary.

Article (45):

If a member of the Shura Council ignores his duties or has violated the terms of membership as stated, the Chairman exhorts him and they must refer him to the Supreme Court, if he constantly repeats the same acts. If he is a member of the Executive Office, this also applies to him as provided in Article (39).

Article (46):

By a decision taken by majority vote of members of the Shura Council or the Supreme Court, member's term of office expires the Brotherhood's Chairman is entitled to suspend his term of office immediately by the competent authority for discussion, then he may complain to the supreme guide.

Article (47):

The General Shura Council is composed of temporary and standing committees designated to examine every aspect of activity and produce bylaw is approved by the Shura Council.

Article (48):

The proposed sections and committees can be increased or decreased as required by the group's activity.

#### Chapter V:

*Terms and Conditions of nation's membership in the international organization (IO):*

Article (49):

Any member of national regulation to be approved in the international organization must meet the following conditions:

- A. International Guidance Bureau must approve its rules of procedure, which includes the establishment of at least Shura Council and an Executive Office as well as the Controller-General.
- B. They must adopt the group's approach.
- C. They have a significant Islamic impact in his country.
- D. Other national branches must be approved by the General Guidance Bureau after investigating the conditions set forth in each of the (a, b, c) paragraphs.

## Chapter VI:

### *Regulation of the relationship between Egypt's mother branch and leaders of the other branches*

#### Article (50):

The relationship between the movement's higher leadership and leaders of the other branches is determined within the following frameworks:

A. Leaders of the other branches "secretary generals" must abide by the higher leadership's decisions represented in the guide, the Guidance Bureau and the Shura Council and include the following:

1. Committing to the fundamental principles reported in these Regulations and adhering to the approach endorsed by the General Shura Council.
2. Commitment to promoting dialogue and understanding Islam is derived from two sources: the Qur'aan and Sunnah set out in the twentieth principals.
3. Adhering to the movement's policies and attitudes toward public issues, as defined by the International Guidance Bureau as well as the International Shura Council.
4. Obligation to get approval of the General Guidance Office prior to making any important political decision.

B. Second, leaders of the other branches must make consultations and hold agreements with the Guide, and Guidance Office before making a decision in all domestic key issues that may affect the Intentional Organization's future.

C. Third, leaders of the other branches act freely and send a report to the general guidance office at the first opportunity or in its annual report compiled by the Controller General and include the following:

1. All the Brotherhood's plans in the branch, its activities and its expansion abroad.
2. The movement's political positions in local issues that do not affect the group's future in the other branches is subject to its general attitudes.

3. Legitimate means adopted by the country to achieve the objectives and principles in the light of its particular conditions and circumstances.

Article (51):

Every branch has the right to develop its own bylaw regulating its activities and consistent with domestic circumstances, taking into account the compatibility of its provisions with the General Regulations and should be endorsed by the General Guidance Office before it becomes effective.

Article (52):

Each Controller-General must submit an annual report on the progress of work, activities and the proposals for the organization's benefits in its territory to the Guidance Office prior to the regular meeting of the Shura Council.

Article (53):

Each branch must pay an annual subscription in which its amount is determined by an agreement with the General Guidance Office in order to contribute to easing the financial burden.

Article (54):

The Brotherhood emigrants should be subject to the movement's leaders in the State wherein they reside.

Glory and praise be to You, Allah! I bear witness that there is no god but You.

(1 By (the Token of) Time (through the ages), 2 Verily Man is in loss, 3 Except such as have Faith, and do righteous deeds, and (join together) in the mutual teaching of Truth, and of Patience and Constancy) "Al-'Asr"

Allah is greatest and all Praise is for Him.