

KAZAKHSTAN TERRITORY OF PEACE AND CONCORD**Baimagambetova A.A.**Ye.A. Buketov Karaganda University
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At the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev in Kazakhstan, the tradition of holding congresses of leaders of world and traditional religions has become.

The dialogue between the leaders of world and traditional religions of the world, built on the basis of mutual understanding and trust, which will open great prospects for international cooperation in this field and will help to overcome such negative manifestations of our time as violence, extremism and terrorism. The Congress of World Religions calls on the community for constancy and interaction in order to prevent wars and conflicts on religious grounds.

That over the years of its existence, the Congress clearly showed that in the modern world all religions have many common tasks. This is overcoming the spiritual vacuum and the threat of a crisis of moral values of mankind. It is the need to strengthen the creative principle of any society - the value of hard work, honesty and justice. The relevance of the topic is that the peacemaking power of religions lies in the prevention of conflicts, manifestations of intolerance and radicalism in all societies.

The conclusion that the holding of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions of Kazakhstan shows the whole world community an example of national consensus and consolidation of society. Kazakhstan has a wealth of experience in maintaining inter-ethnic and interfaith harmony and is ready for broad and effective cooperation in this area. And the initiative of the Head of State to convene religious leaders of the world in Astana is important in the development of a global process of dialogue between cultures and civilizations. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union there were various religious faiths in multiethnic Kazakhstan. There developed historical collisions, and also it was far from being a simple political situation, but Kazakhstan managed to show flexibility, far-sightedness, and put into practice a constructive policy, having created the atmosphere of inter-ethnic consent, and tolerance.

With the view of regulating inter – religious relations in the country there was created in 1991 the religious department at the President’s Administration and the Cabinet combined. In this department’s Council for religious affairs there were representatives of the largest religions. In Kazakhstan which has declared itself a secular state, “there has been passed a bill on freedom of worship and religious associations”, which guaranteed in a legislative manner the real freedom of worship. Having decided to construct a civil society, the Government of Kazakhstan has provided equality of all religious faiths and guaranteed a non – acceptance of discrimination of any citizens in any form on religious grounds.

For the purpose of maintaining freedom of worship of all citizens of the country, and also mutual understanding and tolerance among the representatives of various faiths, Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Justice Committee on affairs of religions was intentionally created in 2005.

The Government of Kazakhstan builds relations with the heads of all religious faiths on the basis of mutual respect. The number of mosques, churches, temples and other cult constructions grows from year to year. The largest faiths are Islam and Orthodoxy. By the way, 70 percent of Kazakhstan’s population adhere to Islam. Adhering to the same principles that are characteristic for the Kazakh people always distinguished by good nature, and sincere generosity, the Government of Kazakhstan from the first day of gaining independence not only provided a freedom of worship, but also put into practice various initiatives of constructive character.

The president of Kazakhstan in his speech made in 1993 at the Assembly of the United Nations, called the world community for common efforts on resolving shared problems of the developing nations which are in crisis, and on allocating for this purpose 1 percent from the annual budget of armed forces. However, this proposal of the President of Kazakhstan has not found support. And only after the terrorist events of September, 11th, 2001 in America the world community has come to understanding the necessity of common efforts for struggling against terrorism[1, p 212].

When after these events the world’s most developed countries accused Islam, the President of Kazakhstan called everyone to a weighed approach. In the atmosphere of general anti-Islamism the President of Kazakhstan expressed following opinion: “Myths about the threat of Islamic terror have put on an irreversible character, and it has come the time to speak not about the threat of Islamic terror, but about the protection of Islam from all attacks and charges”. Having proved that the concerts of Islam and terrorism are absolutely hostile, and that all world religions impregnated with the ideas of humanism at their hearts, out President invited the Pope John Paul II to Kazakhstan that same year who accepted the invitation and made

an official visit to our country. Thereby the President of Kazakhstan showed once again the true nature of the Kazakh people and in every possible way protected Islam from slander.

The Head of state, meeting the Secretary general of the World league of Islam Abdolla at-Turks, the main rabbi of Israel Jona Mettsgerom and other leaders of world religions, exchanged opinions on the most essential religious problems of the modern world. At these meetings he always underlined a thought that religions are inherently hostile to terrorism.

The Kazakh people were always distinguished by good nature, sincere generosity, never had any propensities towards extreme religiousness, and, avoided it where they could. Knowing about it, the Head of state N.Nazarbaev in his annual Message to the people of Kazakhstan said so: “Through the Kazakh steppe many world religions marched, therefore it is not inherent to us to be openly hostile to any religions or to favor religious extremism. This a spiritual heritage, an openness of soul of the Kazakh people – a natural platform for inter – religious consent in Kazakhstan. We will be recognized all over the world for our openness. The potential of consent growing in the country day by day, will develop and intensify henceforth”.

Really, in the Kazakh steppe all world religions easily got their places. For example, near the ancient city of Taraz was discovered a Manichean temple, a Christian church, and an Islamic mosque. And in the city of Koilyk in the XIIIth centy a pagoda, a Christian church, a Buddhist temple and a mosque were located together. In his book “Critical decade”, translated into many world language, and marked with the appreciation of well – know scientists, and experts, warmly met by once again has confirmed the thought that religions are not a destroying force, but a creating, uniting force, and the deep roots of international terrorism can be found in inequality, in different rates of economic development. The president of Kazakhstan has expressed the following opinion on the Islamic religion: “Islam for all of us is a chance for self – cognizance. The Kazakh people have always shown tolerance and are a natural barrier to those who will just think of talking about religious extremism”.

On all occasions the Government of Kazakhstan has always underlined some features of the Kazakh people’s character, its peaceful nature and has always urged to keep unity amongst the people of Kazakhstan.

In February, 2003 a conference on Peace and spiritual concord was held in Kazakhstan. The outstanding representatives of many world religious faiths participated in its work. On the final day the Declaration named “A step towards peace and spiritual concord” was adopted, and the forum of peace and stable development created.

In September, 2003 at the initiative of the Head of state there was another congress of traditional and world religions’ leaders in Astana. The head of state in noted in his speech that his initiative was directed towards increasing the role of religions in the world for maintaining peace and spiritual concord[1, p 213].

In the final speech at congress the President of Kazakhstan said as follows: “We have come to a common opinion that any form of display of extremism, separatism, terrorism has not anything in common with religious concepts and they create a real threat to the existence of the mankind”. And this common opinion found its reflection in the congress’s declaration.

In 2006 there was the II congress of leaders of traditional world religious faiths in Astana at the initiative of Kazakhstan. It was held in the Palace of the peace and concord constructed on the instructions of the President of Kazakhstan. Having paid special attention to consolidating the influence of religion, its delegates in their declaration condemned all forms of terrorism.

The initiative of the President of Kazakhstan has found complete support from the world community. The ex-secretary general of the United Nations Kofi Annan, having congratulated on the congress’s opening, sent a special message. In it, he stated concerns on the absence of unity in the ranks of leaders of religious faiths, and marked the main task before the mankind – “the achievement of unity for all the inhabitants of a planet for the sake of preserving peace and concord between the people”.

Gathered in the Peace and Concord Palace in Astana the leaders of traditional and world religions, as well as the leaders of the largest states have highly appreciated the Kazakhstan model of inter – ethnical and inter – ethnical and inter- religious concord, based on the national policy of the Head of state, and Kazakhstan has been declared the territory of peace and concord.

The 3rd Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions with the participation of 77 delegations from 35 countries of Europe, Asia, Middle East and America was held on July 1-2, 2009 in Astana. The main agenda of the event was the increased role of spiritual leaders in positive resolution of issues in terms of their contribution to ensuring tolerance and peace based on mutual respect and cooperation[1, p 213].

The new thing in holding of the Congress was organization of sectional sittings focused on relevant problems related to ensuring peace, accord and dialogue in the modern world. The 3rd Congress had the following themes for the sectional sittings: moral and spiritual values; justice, peace and security; environment and harmony; dialogue and cooperation; unity and consolidation especially during crises.

As a result of the third forum, the participants of the event adopted the Declaration calling the society for supporting and helping religious leaders and organizations to establish true interreligious dialogue aimed at improvement of mutual understanding and respect. The fourth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was held on May 30-31, 2012 in Astana. The agenda of the event was “Peace and accord as a choice of humanity”. 85 delegations from 40 world countries took part in the forum[1, p 214]. The first sitting of the Religious Leaders Council was held within the 4th Congress. The purpose of establishment of the council was to determine priorities and mechanisms ensuring a dialogue and cooperation with the other forums and international organizations that aim their work at the dialogue of cultures and economic cooperation. Upon completion of the Congress, the participants adopted a statement. In the document, the religious leaders addressed people and asked them to strive for cooperation, accord and peace, justice and creation for the love of future of our planet.

The 5th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was held on June 10-11, 2015 in Astana. There were more than 80 delegations from 42 countries of the world, among whom the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and the Head of the Finnish Republic Sauli Niinistö[2, p 129]. The anniversary 5th Congress was of particular importance because of the increasing global geopolitical tensions, as well as ethnic and religious conflicts in different parts of the world.

That is why the central theme of the event was “Dialogue for Peace and Development,” as it is the willingness to compromise which serves as the starting point in strengthening stability and harmony on the planet. Over the years of its existence, the congress vividly demonstrated that all religions globally have the same goals. These are overcoming of spiritual vacuum and threats of crisis of moral and spiritual values of the society. It is the necessity of strengthening the foundation of any society – values, diligence, honesty and justice. Besides, the power of religions is their ability to prevent conflicts, intolerance and radicalism in any society[3, p 245].

Kazakhstan shows the world an example of the nationwide consensus and consolidation of the society through holding the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. Our country has great experience in preserving interethnic and interconfessional accord and is ready to effectively cooperate in this sphere.

The initiative of the Head of State on bringing together the world religious leaders in Astana has an important meaning for development of the global process of the dialogue of cultures and civilizations.

References

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1940-1950 ЖЫЛДАРДАҒЫ ОРТАЛЫҚ ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ СТЕПЛАГ ЛАГЕРІНІҢ ТАРИХЫ

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1930-1950 жылдары кеңестік қоғамда орнаған саяси режим кезінде мемлекеттің жеке адам үстінен абсолюттік билігі орнады. Халықтың сана-сезімін Коммунистік партия белгілеген идеологиялық ұстанымдармен сәйкестендіру әрекеті үздіксіз жүргізілді. Тоталитарлық жүйе халықтың қоғамдық, экономикалық және саяси жағдайын уысында ұстады. Қазақстанда қоғамдық құрылыстың тоталитарлық моделін бекіте түсу 20-30-жылдары үзіліссіз жүргізілген саяси қуғын-сүргін шараларына ұласты. Еңбекпен түзету лагерьлері мен колониялары Бас басқармасы (ГУЛАГ) сол кездегі мемлекеттік жүйенің ажырағысыз бөлігіне айналды. 1930 жылғы 25 сәуірде лагерьлерді басқаратын ОГПУ құрылып, бір жылдан кейін ГУЛАГ ОГПУ атала бастады. 1930 жылы мамыр айында КСРО ХКК «Қазақстанда еңбекпен түзету лагерін құру туралы» қаулы қабылдады. 1931 жылы 19 желтоқсанда «Гигант» кеңшары ОГПУ-дің Қарағанды жеке еңбекпен түзету лагері болып қайта құрылып, қысқаша «Қарлаг ОГПУ» аталды. Қарлагта 1 млн-дай тұтқын тіркелген. Тұтқындар