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State And Religion Relations in The Republic of Uzbekistan

Murodov Shuhrat Komil ugli

Termiz State University Shuhratmurodov14@gmail.com

Annotation. In the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "Religious organizations and associations are separated from the state and work is carried out on the basis of the principle of equality before the law. In our study, it is permissible to admit that the scope of the reforms implemented in the religious sphere as a democratic country is extremely high.

Key words. State, religion, Quran, confession, society, belief, Secularization, resolution, seminary.

From the first days when Uzbekistan gained independence, special attention was paid to the religious sphere as an integral part of the national spirituality of the Uzbek people. On July 2, 1992, at the 10th session of the Supreme Council, the first President I.A. Karimov expressed the following important points: "Religion does not always lead people to a bad path." Religion reminds us that this world is transitory, the hereafter, and urges our children to be vigilant, to stay away from evil ways, to be good, to leave a good mark. We will continue to create all conditions for religion. In our country, serious attention is always paid to religious paintings, holidays, religious upbringing and education. From this point of view, relations between the state and religion in Uzbekistan are conducted according to the following principles:

- Respecting the religious feelings of believers;
- Recognizing religious beliefs as a private matter of citizens or their associations;
- Equally guaranteeing the rights of citizens who adhere to religious views and those who do not adhere to them and not allowing them to be persecuted;
- The need to use the opportunities of various religious associations in the process of spiritual revival, determination of universal moral values, and to find ways to communicate with them;
- Admitting not to allow religion to be used for destructive purposes.[1.448]

During the years of independence, the place and status of the religious legal state and civil society were clearly defined, and a strong legislative foundation was created in this area. For example, the democratic principle that "Religious organizations and associations are separated from the state and are equal before the law" is firmly established in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is established that people have equal rights regardless of their nationality, race and religion, and their freedom of conscience, customs, and national traditions are guaranteed to be respected. [2.6-8] It is confirmed in Article 1998 of the Law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations". The law defines the relationship between the state and religious organizations, taking into account historical, cultural and social factors. According to this, religion is separated from the state in the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is absolutely not allowed to assign any preference or preference to one religion or religious belief over others.

The government supports the establishment of mutual understanding and respect between representatives of different religions, including persons belonging to or not belonging to any



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religion, or religious organizations belonging to different faiths, to intensifying religious relations based on bigotry and extremism, different confessions does not allow actions aimed at aggravating enmity between them. Proselytizing missionary activity aimed at converting believers of a particular religion to another is prohibited by law.

Based on the principles of secularization, the state does not charge religious organizations to perform their duties, does not interfere with their activities that do not conflict with the law, and does not fund the activities of any religious organization or activities related to the promotion of spirituality. On the other hand, religious organizations cannot perform any state duties. State authorities and administrative bodies are not allowed to repress on the basis of religious factor. Secret religious activities are not allowed.

The laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan prohibit the activities of religious organizations, currents, sects, etc., with other malicious goals, which support political movements of a religious nature, as well as the creation of branches and departments of paros established outside the republic, terrorism, drug business, and organized crime. Also, religion should not be used in propaganda against the state and society, inciting inter-religious and ethnic enmity, destabilizing social stability, inciting panic among the population, and in other actions directed against the state, society, and individuals. It is an important principle in this field that citizens should not harm the legal interests, rights and freedoms of other persons, the state and society in the exercise of their religious rights and freedoms.

Relations between religious organizations and the state are controlled by the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers.



1.1 - picture. Work with denominations.



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As of July 6, 2020, there are 2,281 religious organizations belonging to 16 denominations in the republic, including the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan, Muslims of Karakalpakstan, representative offices of the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan in the regions and the city of Tashkent, the Tashkent Islamic Institute, the School of Hadith Science, 10 madrasahs, 2037 mosques, Russian Orthodox churches, Diocese of Tashkent and Uzbekistan, Orthodox seminaries, Roman Catholic center, Union of Evangelical Christian-Baptist churches, Full Bible Christian churches, Protestant seminary, Bible society, 151 Christian churches, 8 Or, there are 6 Baha'i communities, 1 Krishna community and 1 Buddhist temple. More than 94% of the population belonging to more than 130 nationalities are Muslim, about 3.5% belong to the Orthodox religion, and the rest are representatives of other confessions. Currently, the Tashkent Islamic Institute, 10 secondary special Islamic educational institutions, as well as Orthodox Protestant seminaries are operating in the field of religious education

During the years of independence, the government of Uzbekistan adopted and implemented many government decisions aimed at ensuring freedom of conscience, providing convenient opportunities for believers, restoring and carefully preserving religious values. Ramadan and Kurban Eid are widely celebrated as public holidays. During the years of independence, many churches, synagogues and houses of worship were rebuilt and repaired, in particular, Orthodox temples in Tashkent, Samarkand, Navoi, Catholic church in Tashkent, Armanapostol church in Samarkand, Buddhist temple in Tashkent. Hazrat Imam, Imam Bukhari, Bahauddin Naqshband Hakim Termizi, Imam Moturidi, Shahi Zinda, Qasim Sheikh. Ancient monuments such as Zangi Ota were improved and new ones were built.

During the years of independence, the Holy Quran, collections of hadiths, parts of the New Testament and the Old Testament contained in the Bible, such as "The Wisdom of Solomon", "The History of the Prophets Rut, Ester and Yunus" were translated into Uzbek and made available to the public. was published in the article. Uzbekistan was recognized as the first country to publish the Koran in special Braille for the blind. In 1999, Tashkent Islamic University started its activities. The students of this dargah are given extensive education in secular and religious subjects. There are "National idea, foundations of spirituality and jurisprudence", "History (Islamic history and source studies)", "Religious studies", "Psychology ("World economy and international economic relations", "Informatics and information technologies" Bachelor specialists are studying in such fields as "Islamic studies", "Religious studies", "Economy of foreign countries and country studies", and masters are studying in the fields of "Information and multimedia technologies".

For example, Resolution 364 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted on August 22, 2003, "On the provision of social assistance and benefits for the further improvement of spiritual and educational work and activities in the field of religion" was accepted, according to which:

Diplomas awarded to graduates of Islamic educational institutions under the jurisdiction of the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan are recognized as state educational documents; a number of shrines registered as objects of cultural heritage in the republic were handed over to the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan.

- the fees charged to religious organizations for communal services were set at the amount charged to individuals.



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These concessions provide great opportunities for the graduates of Islamic educational institutions to continue their studies in any educational institution, to strengthen the material and technical base of mosques and madrasas in exchange for the benefits that remain due to the benefits created in utility payments and donations from pilgrimage centers.

The government is paying attention to organizing Hajj and Umrah trips for citizens of Islam, to which the majority of the people of Uzbekistan belong. After all, by August 2006, according to the Decree of the first President I.A. Karimov, the Public Council on the Organization and Conduct of Hajj and Umrah events was formed. On the basis of the decision of the Head of State on May 20, 2008, in order to provide the necessary assistance from the state to the citizens who perform Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages, the position of "Hajj and Umrah Attaché" was established in the Consulate General of Uzbekistan in Jeddah.

As a confirmation of our word, in 2008, the Imam Bukhari International Center started its activity in Samarkand region. The center aims to conduct an in-depth study of the heritage of great scholars from our country, to promote it widely, to conduct fundamental and applied scientific research in the direction of enlightened Islam, and to establish international cooperation in the field of studying the heritage of Imam Bukhari and the science of hadith. It is working in such areas as laying down, improving the knowledge and experience of religious workers, and improving their professional skills.

Also, on February 14, 2017, the head of our state Sh. Mirziyoyev's decision to establish the Imam Termizi International Research Center was adopted.

Based on this decision, Imam Termizi International Research Center was established in Termiz city. In it, the religion of Islam, including the science of hadith, Iso Termiziy and the heritage of termiziy scholars is deeply studied. Textbooks and training manuals, popular publications, scientific and practical recommendations are prepared for use in religious education, spiritual and moral education.

The head of state visited the center and got acquainted with the conditions created here. The great muhaddis gave recommendations on deeply studying the life and works of Imam Termiziy, conveying them to the younger generation, and buying books in an understandable language for our people. It was emphasized here that it is necessary to create appropriate conditions for conducting scientific research, and to expand the participation of scientists in international scientific conferences.

The activity of the Center of Islamic Civilization established in Tashkent also serves this purpose. The head of our state Sh. Mirziyoyev gave a speech at the 72nd session of the UN. I would like to appeal to the participants of today's session with the proposal to adopt the special resolution of the UN General Assembly called "Enlightenment and religious tolerance". The main goal of this document is to help ensure everyone's right to education, and to help eliminate illiteracy and ignorance. This resolution is aimed at establishing tolerance and mutual respect, ensuring religious freedom, protecting the rights of believers, and preventing their discrimination.

On April 21, 2017, the head of state Shavkat Mirziyoyev, during his visit to the Almazor district of Tashkent city, commissioned the reconstruction of the Imam Termizi mosque and proposed the establishment of an Islamic culture center in the Hazrat Imam (Hastimom) complex. Within the framework of the implementation of the decision of the head of our state dated June 23,



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2017 "On measures to establish the center of Islamic culture in Uzbekistan under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan" [3.], large-scale works are being carried out.

On September 1, 2017, Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited Hazrat Imam (Hastimom) complex and familiarized himself with project the In our country, special attention is paid to the study of our holy religion, the rich heritage of our scholars, and the preservation of historical monuments. Such good deeds are widely supported by our compatriots and the international community. Taking this into account, the head of our state proposed to change the name of the Center of Islamic Culture to the Center of Islamic Civilization. Until 2017, there were three higher (one Islamic, two non-Islamic) and nine secondary special religious educational institutions, today there are five higher (three Islamic and two non-Islamic) and 10 secondary religious educational institutions in Uzbekistan. They started large-scale scientific and research work on the wide promotion of Islamic enlightenment and the deeper study of the rich spiritual heritage of our ancestors. It is also of historical significance that the public foundation "Vaqf" was established under the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan. Its main tasks are financing the reconstruction of mosques and holy shrines, organizing pilgrimages to them and similar objects in all regions of the country, as well as providing the material and technical base and providing financial support to industry workers. Starting from 2018, the quotas for Umrah pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia for citizens of our country have been canceled. Starting from December 2019, the Tashkent-Jeddah-Tashkent route was introduced twice a day. Since February 2020, the Tashkent-Madina Tashkent route has been running. As a result of the consistent policy of ensuring human rights and freedom in our country over the last 4 years, special attention was paid not only to the citizens of Uzbekistan who live in our country, but also to those who have fallen into a difficult situation in other countries. interests, honor, dignity are being protected. In particular, 318 women and children were brought home from the war zones of the Middle East as part of the "Mehr" operation organized in 2019-2020. [4] Systematic work related to the reintegration of compatriots who have joined the ranks of forbidden religious movements into society is being carried out regularly. On the other hand, the government is conducting activities aimed at preserving the purity of the Islamic religion and instilling in the young generation that it is free from the ideas of various destructive currents. In this regard, the historic speech delivered by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly was a special event. In his speech, our president condemned those who associate Islam with violence and bloodshed and emphasized that it is impossible to compromise with them. As a practical expression of this opinion, the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2396 of December 21, 2017 stated: "Terrorism and violent extremism are not related to any religion, nation and civilization and should not be interpreted as such." At the same time, the resolution "Enlightenment and religious tolerance" developed at the initiative of Uzbekistan was supported and unanimously adopted at the plenary session of the UN General Assembly on December 12, 2018.[5] In turn, these changes created the ground for further improvement of the international image of our republic. In particular, in December 2020, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) removed Uzbekistan from the list of countries under special surveillance. USA Secretary of State Michael Pompeo will announce this on December 7, 2020. In particular, Pompeo emphasized in his statement that religious freedom is an inalienable human right and mentioned that there were changes in the "List of countries under special surveillance". "I am pleased to announce that Uzbekistan has been removed from the special



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watch list based on the significant and concrete achievements of the government of Uzbekistan in the past year. The courageous reforms of Uzbekistan's laws and practice are an example for others," said Michael Pompeo, acknowledging the achievements of our republic. It should be noted that Uzbekistan was on the "list of countries of particular concern" from 2006 to 2018. As a result of the reforms in the field of religious freedom, our country was removed from this list after 12 years and transferred to the "List of countries under special surveillance". Two years later, Uzbekistan will be completely removed from this list.

It is safe to say that the great practical results achieved in the religious sphere mentioned above are the result of the rational and consistent policy of the state in the religious sphere under the leadership of our honorable President.

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