In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

## **Prophet Muhammad's**

## **Character of Privileges to Christians**

## Letter to the Monks of St. Catherine Monastery

By Dr. A. Zahoor and Dr. Z. Haq http://www.cyberistan.org/islamic/charter1.html

In 628 C.E. Prophet Muhammad (s) granted a **Charter of Privileges** to the monks of St. Catherine Monastery in Mt. Sinai. It consisted of several clauses covering all aspects of human rights including such topics as the protection of Christians, freedom of worship and movement, freedom to appoint their own judges and to own and maintain their property, exemption from military service, and the right to protection in war.

## An English translation of that document is presented below:

**THIS** is a message from Muhammad ibn Abdullah, as a covenant to those who adopt Christianity, near and far, we are with them.

**VERILY** I, the servants, the helpers, and my followers defend them, because Christians are my citizens; and by Allah! I hold out against anything that displeases them.

NO compulsion is to be on them.

**NEITHER** are their judges to be removed from their jobs nor their monks from their monasteries.

**NO ONE** is to destroy a house of their religion, to damage it, or to carry anything from it to the Muslims' houses.

**SHOULD** anyone take any of these, he would spoil God's covenant and disobey His Prophet. Verily, they are my allies and have my secure charter against all that they hate.

**NO ONE** is to force them to travel or to oblige them to fight. The Muslims are to fight for them.

**IF** a female Christian is **married to a Muslim**, it is not to take place without her approval. She is not to be prevented from visiting her church to pray.

**THEIR** churches are to be respected. They are neither to be prevented from repairing them nor the sacredness of their covenants.

NO ONE of the nation (Muslims) is to disobey the covenant till the Last Day (end of the world).

This charter of privileges has been honored and faithfully applied by Muslims throughout the centuries in all lands they ruled. **Click here** for more information.