

# Ecumenical Patriarchate of Orthodox Christianity *UNDER SIEGE*

## The Holy Theological School of Halki:

Demand that the Turkish Government  
*Unlock the Doors* of the Theological School of Halki.

Tear Down Your Walls of Religious Discrimination.



*By Christos Papoutsy*

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# Prophet Muhammad's Charter of Privileges to Christians

(Letter to the Monks of St. Catherine Monastery)

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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 the document presented on the back cover of this book):

**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 honoured and faithfully applied by Muslims throughout the centuries in all lands they ruled.