



Ahluṣ Sunnah Foundation of Canada

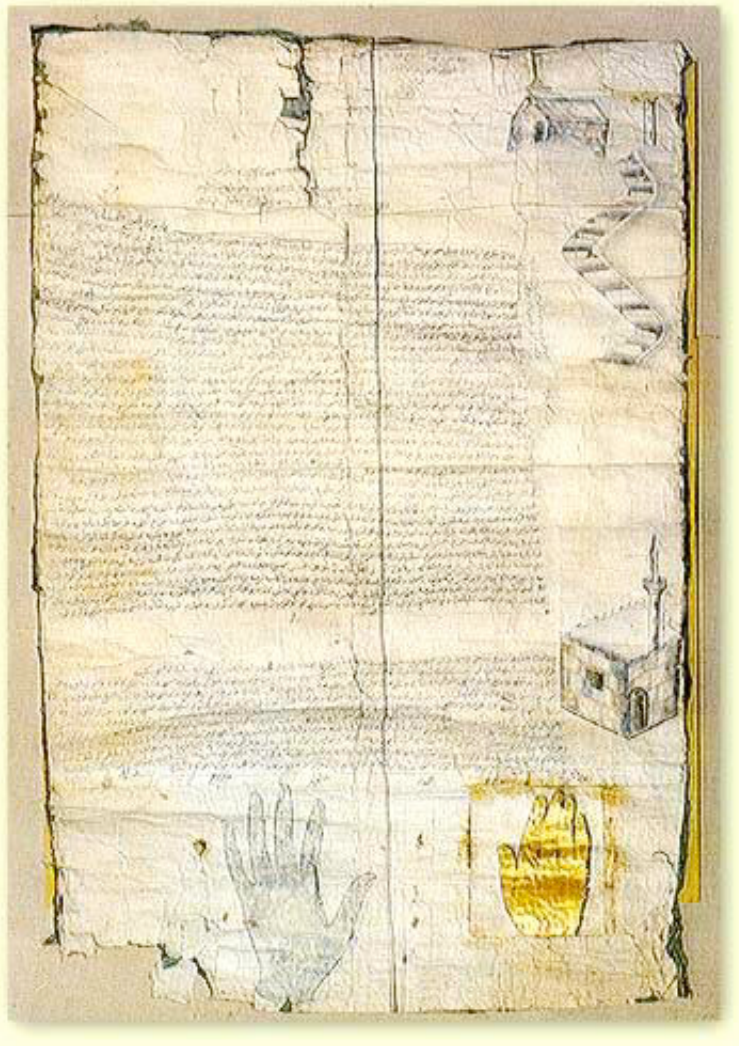
The Holy Prophet's Charter Of Privileges To Christians: Letter To The Monks Of St. Catherine Monastery



Bahira the Monk from the Monastery of St. Catherine greets a special caravan in search of the Seal of Prophets whom he believed was already born
From *Jami' al-tavarikh* ("Compendium of Chronicles"). Tabriz, Persia, c. 1315. In the Library of the University of Edinburgh.

In 628 C.E. the Holy 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.

What follows is a scan of the original Charter from the *Gallery of Artifacts in the Monastery of St. Catherine* Collection, sealed with a trace of the blessed hand of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him and his family:



Scan Source: <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/catherines5-14.htm>

An English translation of this document by Dr. A. Zahoor and Dr. Z. Haq 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)."