

**HUMAN RIGHTS
IN
ISLAM**

**Report of a seminar
held in Kuwait, December 1980**

organised by the

**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS
UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT and
UNION OF ARAB LAWYERS**

HUMAN RIGHTS
IN
ISLAM

Report of a working
group of experts, December 1980

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

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PREFACE

In recent years a number of conferences and seminars have been held in Europe and elsewhere with moslem and non-moslem participants in order to explain to non-moslems the concepts of human rights in Islam and, in particular, in Islamic law (Shari'a).

The Seminar on Human Rights in Islam organised by the International Commission of Jurists, together with the University of Kuwait and the Union of Arab Lawyers, in December 1980 was of a different character. As the title indicates, its purpose was to provide a forum for moslem lawyers and scholars from all parts of the Islamic world to discuss among themselves some of the subjects of critical importance to them both in Islamic states and in secular states. After many vigorous and learned debates the participants agreed upon a detailed statement of conclusions and recommendations.

A full report of the seminar is to be published in arabic by the University of Kuwait. The International Commission of Jurists is publishing this short report in english and french, in which the working papers are briefly summarised. The Conclusions and Recommendations, which are of particular interest and relevance to problems in Islamic countries and countries with Islamic minorities, are published in full.

The International Commission of Jurists hopes that this publication may be of value not only to moslems, but to a wider public interested in the problems facing the world of Islam. The western reader will find in the third part of Dr. Brohi's keynote speech, reproduced in Annex II, a clear statement by a distinguished moslem of the differences between Islamic and Christian concepts of morality and justice.

The International Commission of Jurists wishes to express its gratitude to the University of Kuwait and to the Union of Arab Lawyers for their generous cooperation which made possible the seminar and this resulting publication.

Niall MacDermot
Secretary-General

Geneva, February 1982

Reports of ICJ Conferences and Seminars

Reports of ICJ conferences and seminars containing the working papers, keynote speeches, summaries of discussions, the conclusions and recommendations, and a list of participants have been published as follows (in the language of the title):

Human Rights in a One-Party State

Search Press, London, January 1978, 130 pp. Swiss Francs 10, plus postage.

Report of an East and Central African seminar, in Dar-es-Salaam.

Human Rights and Development

Cedar Press, Barbados, May 1978, 208 pp. Swiss Francs 15, plus postage.

Report of a Caribbean seminar, in Barbados.

Le Développement et les Droits de l'Homme

Numéro spécial de la Revue Sénégalaise de Droit, 1978, 255 pp. Francs suisses 16, plus frais d'envoi.

Rapport d'un colloque africain francophone, à Dakar.

Derechos Humanos en las Zonas Rurales, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Perú, Venezuela

Ediciones Internacionales, Bogotá, 1980, 306 pp. Francos suizos 10, más franqueo postal.

Informe del seminario de la región andina, en Bogotá.

Development, Human Rights and the Rule of Law

Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1981, 244 pp. Swiss Francs 15 or US\$ 7.50.

Report of an international conference of human rights lawyers and development experts, at The Hague.

In preparation:

Rural Development and Human Rights in South East Asia

Report of a seminar in Penang in December 1981.

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