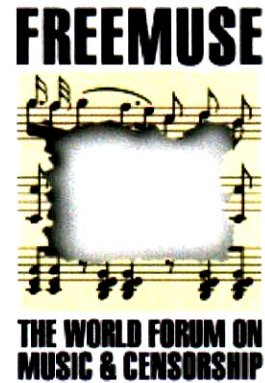


The Organization of The Islamic Conference  
Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General  
PO Box: 178, Jeddah-21411  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Copenhagen 20.4.2009

Sir,

Artists from the Muslim World have for centuries contributed greatly to the world's cultural heritage. In addition, musicians of Muslim background are widely respected in the world and represent a wide diversity of expressions.

Freemuse - the only international organisation advocating freedom of expression for musicians and composers - is deeply concerned of reports that in several member states of the OIC musicians and music retailers are being attacked, banned and even killed in 'the name of religion'.

During the past years several musicians, composers and music retailers have been subject to violence, harassment and, in some cases, even murder, simply because of their musical activities.

We urge the OIC to strongly dissociate itself from these attacks in the name of extremist interpretations of Islam and remind OIC member states to respect and protect the ancient and strong traditions of musical heritage as well as the present musical creativity in the World of Islam.

The OIC members should respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which include the rights to participate in cultural activities, to perform and to publish music.

Freemuse welcomes a dialogue with IOC regarding violations of freedom of musical expression in member states of IOC and looks forward to hearing from the IOC what it considers the best way to take this dialogue forward.

Yours sincerely

Marie Korpe, Executive Director  
Martin Cloonan, Chairperson

**FREEMUSE**

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