

RECEIVED  
-8 JUN 1931  
TO INDIA

His Excellency,  
Sir Alfred Glad Hollis, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.,  
Government House,  
Port-of-Spain.

Your Excellency,

We crave audience of you at the earliest date practicable for the purpose of stating to Your Excellency in person:

1. That we have read in the newspapers of the Colony with grave concern that the Honourable L.A.F.O'Reilly, K.C., a Rominated Member of the Legislative Council, will move the Council at its next meeting that in the opinion of Council it is desirable that jurisdiction should be conferred upon the Supreme Court of the Colony to decree the dissolution of marriage.
2. That we have been shown statements in relation to this matter signed by the Colonial Secretary that indicate that the Government were not aware of this threatened renewal of the attack upon the sanctity of marriage up to the 1st December last. (Copies of these statements are attached).
3. That we also have before us a copy of a letter written by Your Excellency to His Grace the Archbishop of Port-of-Spain on the 28th May last, in which Your Excellency assured His Grace that before you decided what attitude the Government would adopt in the view of the Pope and of the Catholic Church in this Colony.

4. That we have before us a copy of "Hansard" regarding the debate in Council of the 21st May 1926, in which the Colonial Secretary as spokesman for the Government is reported as having said:

"Until public opinion had had time to thoroughly discuss the subject, to formulate and settle, or clarify itself and arrive at considered conclusions as to the effects of such a change on all interests in the Community, the Government would not be willing to pledge itself in the matter. For this reason and without expressing any opinion on the merits or demerits of the proposal, the vote of the Government Bench on this occasion and at this stage would be against the motion".

5. That in the Year 1926 numerous signed petitions were presented to the Governor by Catholics and Members of the Church of England throughout the Colony protesting against the introduction of a Divorce Law in the Colony.

6. That there is no evidence that public opinion demands the introduction of Divorce here, but, rather, that the circumstance that the Heads in this Colony of the Roman Catholic Church and of the Church of England and of the Muslim Church and representatives of the Hindu Church in the Colony, stand united today in one common solemn protest against the introduction of Divorce Law ought to afford Your Excellency most striking proof that the vast majority of the people in this Colony wish that the Government should not proceed.

we have waited on Your Excellency in person to pray that

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It be brought to the notice of the Executive Council and of the Legislative Council and of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies forthwith that we pray that the Government do not give assentance to this profound change of the law of the land which is disapproved by the great majority of the people of the Colony.

Dated this  
20th February, 1901.

John Plus

Archbishop of Port of Spain

Arthur H. Trinidad.

Bishop of Trinidad & Tobago.

I HAJI BOOKMUDDIN NASH, Kazi of the Muslin Church in Trinidad, while protesting against the Introduction of a law conferring on the Judges of the Supreme Court jurisdiction to decree the dissolution of Marriage desire expressly to state that I want reserved to myself and the Muslins in this Colony all our rights under the Immigration Ordinance Cap. 245 in respect to Marriage and Divorce.

H. B. ... Hajji Bookmuddin Nash

J. ... Kazi

T. ...

S. ...

9. ...

10. ...

11. ...

12. ...

13. ...

14. ...

15. ...

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We, the undersigned, are Pundits among the Hindus in this Colony. There is no one Pundit in Trinidad who takes precedence over all others, and therefore the Hindu Community is unable to express itself through any one person.

The Hindu religion does not permit divorce, we have read the letter signed by representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England and the Muslim Church and we agree with the statements made in it, and we join in praying that the Government do not give countenance to the introduction of a Divorce Law in this Colony; and we also join in asking that our protest against the introduction of Divorce in Trinidad be brought to the notice of the Executive Council, the Legislative Council and the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

- |                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. CHANDAR BHADDOON KATHURA. | Pundit. |
| 2. GOBARDHAN.                | "       |
| 3. BHAGOUTRE                 | "       |
| 4. PATISSERIE.               | "       |
| 5. RAMPRISAD.                | "       |
| 6. SWAMI BHADGE.             | "       |
| 7. RAJRAUTH.                 | "       |
| 8. JEDU.                     | "       |
| 9. SAGAN KARAJ.              | "       |
| 10. BHADNO TINARY.           | "       |
| 11. RAMPRISAD SARMA.         | "       |
| 12. DADDYO SHARMA.           | "       |
| 13. CHANDRICKER PRISAD.      | "       |
| 14. RAMRAGHAN FUNDIT.        | "       |
| 15. RAMNARINE FUNDIT.        | "       |
| 16. JAIKAM CHASINE.          | "       |
| 17. SINGH.                   | "       |
| 18. SEENUSAM BHADGE.         | "       |

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THE TACKVIYATUL ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD

of Trinidad, St Joseph of the South  
the Colony (Trinidad, B.W.I.)  
from that Protest, 28th March, 1931.

COPY SENT  
- 9 JUN 1931  
TO INDIA

That the Hon. Sir Alfred Hollis, K.C.M.G., C.M.G., C.B.E.  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and  
over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago  
and its Dependencies,  
Vice Admiral thereof, etc., etc.,

May it please Your Excellency,

At a meeting of the Tackviyatul Islamic  
Association of Trinidad, held on Tuesday 28th March,  
1931, I was directed to bring to Your Excellency's  
notice the following:

1. That the Tackviyatul Islamic Association of  
Trinidad represents the entire Muslim Community  
numbering over Seventeen thousand (17,000).
2. That their attention has been drawn to a  
Protest made against the introduction of a Divorce  
Law in the Colony, at a Mass Meeting held at the  
Queen's Park Savannah on Sunday 22nd March, 1931.
3. That the said Protest is to be submitted to  
the Secretary of States for the Colonies.
4. That it is alleged, that the Muslims, among  
other denominations also took part in that  
Protest.
5. That the Tackviyatul Islamic Association of  
Trinidad which represents the entire Muslim  
Community, declare that no Muslim took any  
active or official part in that Protest, and  
that the only person who presented to the  
Secretary of States for the Colonies, and this  
fact can be verified by the speeches made at

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the said Mass Meeting.

6. That the said Tasvkiyatul Islamic Association of Trinidad on behalf of the Muslim Community of the Colony beg to entirely disassociate themselves from that Protest.
7. That the Kazi, Haji Mukhammadin Wesh also take the opportunity, herewith, to officially withdraw his name from a Divorce Protest which he was misled to sign on 26th February, 1931.
8. I am further directed to ask Your Excellency whether the Divorce Bill, if passed into law in this Colony, will in any way interfere or deprive Muslims from the Privileges which they possess under the Immigration Ordinance Cap. 245.
9. That may it please Your Excellency, the said Tasvkiyatul Islamic Association of Trinidad beg Your Excellency to submit a copy of this letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Whereas in duty bound, will ever pray,

I beg to remain,

Your Excellency's most humble  
and obedient servant,

(Sgd) Mohammed Rafeeq.

Asst. Secretary.  
Tasvkiyatul Islamic Ass'n of Trinidad.

Asst. Secretary's address.

Mohammed Rafeeq  
Tall Village  
St. Joseph.

I Haji Mukhammadin Wesh beg to withdraw my name from the Divorce Protest which I was misled to sign on 26th February 1931, and which has been sent to the Secretary of States.

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I herewith submit for Your Excellency's information a list of the names of the Officials of the Tasbviyatal Islamic Association of Trinidad.

Haji Hockmuddin Meah (Easi)	President	Tunapuna
Mr. Aziz Mohammed	1st Vice President	Tunapuna
Mr. Mohammed Hossin	2nd Vice President	San Fernando
Mr. Gool Mohammed	3rd Vice President	Princes Town
Mr. Rahamat	Treasurer & Trustee	San Fernando
Mr. Gooool Meah	Trustee	Diego Martin
Mr. H.Y.Khan	Hon. Secretary.	Princes Town
Mohammed Rafeeq	Asst. Hon. Secretary.	St. Joseph.

Members of Committee.

Messrs. Abdul Rahman	...	...	Fossil
Jafar Meah	...	...	Charlie Village
Habi Eaad	...	...	Arima
Subratee Meah	...	...	"
Rasnan Ali	...	...	"
Abdul Rahman	...	...	Sangre Grande
John Mohammed	...	...	Tunapuna
H.E.Khan	...	...	St. Joseph
Shah H.Khan	...	...	"
Mohammed Swaleh	...	...	"
Ein Mohammed	...	...	"
Ayoub Khan	...	...	"
H.Abdul Ghany	...	...	"
Mohammed Shaffee	...	...	San Fernando
Imran Mustapha	...	...	San Juan.
Mohammed Ibrahim	...	...	Port of Spain
Mohammed	...	...	St. James.
Jurban Ali	...	...	"

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