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Scholar hits out at US Congress resolution

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By Anwar Elshamy

A DOHA-BASED Islamic scholar yesterday slammed a resolution recently passed by the US House of Representatives, which recognised those Jews who had fled the Arab countries after the creation of Israel as refugees.

It is a “ploy to give Israel a share in every Arab country” and force the Arabs to drop Palestinians’ “right to return” from their negotiations with the Israelis, Sheikh Hilal Mabrouq told the congregation during his sermon at the Najma mosque yesterday.

“It is very clear that the resolution is one step forward to strengthen Israel’s existence in the region,” he said. “Each Arab country had a Jewish community which lived in peace with the Arabs before the establishment of Israel. I think it is only meant for finding a share for Israel in each Arab country,” he said.

“The US Congress seeks to undermine the right to return for Palestinians who were terrorised and forced to flee their country by Israel.”

Mabrouq also did not rule out that the US House of Representatives would approve similar resolutions on the Jews who had left the Arab peninsula 1,400 years ago when Islam first appeared in the region.

“I will not be surprised if the US Congress came up with another resolution tomorrow, claiming the right of the Jews who had left the Arab peninsula after the appearance of Islam to return to both Makkah and Al Madina and establish a Jewish community there,” he said.

About the Arab summit held in the Syrian capital of Damascus on March 30, the scholar held Arab leaders responsible for what he called “the weak resolutions at the summit” saying that there was a lack of “transparency and credibility” among the Arab leaders.

“It is very clear that the Arab summit was just a meeting for exchanging compliments,” he said.

“There was a lack of transparency and credibility among the Arab leaders. I think the weakness of the Arab nation is due to the differences of our leaders. They should have been more transparent and credible.

“They should have briefed their people on their decisions and why they rejected some others. Out of 22 Arab leaders, 11 decided to boycott the summit, ignoring the interests of the Arab nation and they did not even give a clear justification for their absence.”

Comparing between the recently concluded Nato summit held in Bucharest and the Arab summit in Damascus, the scholar said there was a “glaring inaction” on the part of the Arab leaders which, he said, showed the deep split among them.

“Any comparison between the Nato summit and the Arab summit will show that there is a big difference. While all the leaders of member states attended the Nato summit, only 11 out of 22 leaders attended the Arab summit.

“While the Nato summit leaders took clear resolutions even about the disputed ones, the Arab leaders failed to approve any serious decision or deal effectively with the many crises in our region.”