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SLAVE TRADE. No. 6 (1883).

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CONVENTION

BETWEEN

H E R M A J E S T Y

AND

THE SULTAN OF JOHANNA

FOR THE

SUPPRESSION OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

*Signed at Bambao, October 10, 1882.*

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.*  
1883.

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LONDON

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## CONVENTION between Her Majesty and the Sultan of Johanna for the Suppression of Slavery and the Slave Trade.

*Signed at Bambao, October 10, 1882.*

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[Ratified by Her Majesty, February 28, 1883.]

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HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and His Highness Abdullah bin Selim, the Sultan of Johanna, being desirous to co-operate for the extinction of all Traffic in Slaves and the eventual abolition of slavery, have resolved to conclude a Convention for the purpose of attaining these objects, and with this view have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Frederic Holmwood, Esquire, Her Majesty's Consul for the dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar, and Acting Consul for the Comoro Islands;

And His Highness the Sultan of Johanna, Abdallah bin Mohamed;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective powers and full authority to negotiate, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

### ARTICLE I.

The Sultan of Johanna engages to forbid the bringing or importing of slaves into Johanna, and undertakes to uphold this prohibition by law with the strictest vigilance. All persons coming or being brought into His Highness' dominions from henceforward are and shall be absolutely free.

### ARTICLE II.

The Sultan of Johanna authorizes British cruisers to seize all vessels belonging to his subjects, wherever found, with any slave or with slave fittings on board, or in event of there being reason to suspect that any vessel has recently carried slaves; all such seizures, including vessel, slaves, cargo, and any persons implicated in the violation of this Treaty, may be dealt with by the nearest or most convenient British authority having Admiralty jurisdiction, in accordance with the rules and instructions of his Government.

### ARTICLE III.

The Sultan of Johanna engages to prohibit from henceforward the sale, purchase, or transfer of slaves in his dominions (the transfer of slaves of deceased persons to their *bonâ fide* inheritors alone excepted).

### ARTICLE IV.

The Sultan of Johanna undertakes to appoint a Registrar, who shall keep a register of all slaves in his dominions, with the names of their masters, and of such transfers as may take place in accordance with Article III of this Convention. All slaves not so registered within six months from the date of this Convention shall be entitled to freedom.

### ARTICLE V.

The Sultan of Johanna engages to appoint special times for hearing any complaints which slaves may desire to bring before him, and to allow any slave who may suffer injustice or ill-treatment from, or with the connivance of, his master, to appeal personally to him, and, in event of any complaint of ill-treatment or gross injustice being proved, such slave shall be freed forthwith.

## ARTICLE VI.

The Sultan of Johanna accords to the British Consul or any Consular officer who may be authorized by him to visit His Highness' dominions, the right to visit all places in the country, and to inspect all plantations therein; also to have free access to the register of slaves, with liberty to hear all complaints of slaves, and to call before him the complainants or any other slaves he may desire to examine, together with their masters and such witnesses as he may require, His Highness deputing a disinterested and competent person, with authority, to assist him in such inquiries. And in event of such Consul or Consular officer finding sufficient proof that any slave is by the terms of this Convention entitled to manumission he may free him forthwith.

## ARTICLE VII.

And, furthermore, the Sultan of Johanna engages, after a fixed period, namely, from the 4th day of August, 1889, totally to abolish slavery within his dominions, and he undertakes to promulgate a Law, the text of which shall be annexed to this Treaty, ordaining that the institution of slavery shall cease to exist within his dominions on the said 4th day of August, 1889, from which date all persons in the country shall be absolutely free.

## ARTICLE VIII.

And Abdullah bin Seim, the Sultan of Johannah, hereby engages and declares that this Convention is and shall be binding upon himself and upon his heirs and successors.

## ARTICLE IX.

The present Treaty shall be ratified and shall come into operation after its ratification by Her Majesty the Queen of England is received by the Sultan of Johanna, or notice thereof is given to him.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done at Bambao, Johanna Island, this tenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two.

(L.S.)  
(L.S.)

FRED<sup>c</sup>. HOLMWOOD.  
ABDALLAH BIN MOHAMED.

This Treaty is ratified.  
(L.S.) S. ABDULLAH.

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 Annex (A).

(Translation.)

We, Abdullah bin Selim, Sultan of Johanna, in accordance with the terms of a Treaty entered into this day between Her Majesty the Queen of England and ourself, do ordain as follows:—

1. That the importation or bringing of slaves into our dominions is henceforward prohibited, and any person violating this Law shall be liable to penal servitude and forfeiture of property.

2. That the sale, purchase, or transfer of slaves within our dominions is from this day wholly forbidden (except only the transfer of the slaves of deceased persons to their legal inheritors). Henceforward any slave sold or transferred, with the above exception, shall thereby become entitled to freedom.

3. Every owner of slaves shall, without delay, come to our Registrar, and shall register every slave he may possess. Any slaves not so registered by their owners within six months from the date of this Decree shall be entitled to freedom. And every slave transferred by virtue of the 2nd clause of this Decree shall be registered within one month of such transfer. In Patsy and any place in quarantine on account of sickness the time for registration may be extended until six months after removal of quarantine.

Dated 10th October, 1882.

(L.S.) S. ABDULLAH.

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## Annex (B).

(Translation.)

We, Abdullah bin Selim, Sultan of Johanna, in confirmation of a Convention we have entered into with Her Majesty the Queen of England, have ordained and do order as follows :—

1. That after a period of seven years from this time, namely, on the (English date) 4th day of August, 1889—the corresponding Mahommedan date will be hereafter promulgated—slavery shall cease to exist within our dominions, and all persons, old and young, of every degree, age, and nationality, shall become and be absolutely free therein.

This Decree to become law, and to be published throughout our country, so soon as we receive the note of ratification.

(L.S.) S. ABDULLAH.

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