

# Islamic Human Rights Commission



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VOLUME 9 - RAMADAN 1429 / SEPTEMBER 2008

In the name of Al-lah,  
The-Source-Of-Mercy,  
The-Especially-Merciful.

## THE AIMS OF THE ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ARE:

- To champion the rights and duties revealed for human beings.
- To promote a new social and international order, based on truth, justice, righteousness and generosity, rather than self-interest.
- To demand virtue and oppose wrongdoing in the exercise of power (from whatever base that power derives - e.g. political, judicial, media, economic, military, personal, etc.).
- To gather information about, and to publicise, atrocities, oppression, discrimination, and other abuses of divinely-granted rights.
- To campaign for redress, and to support the victims of such crimes.
- To campaign to bring the perpetrators and their accomplices to justice.
- To cooperate with other groups and individuals where such cooperation is likely to further the achievement of these aims.

**The Islamic Human Rights Commission is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations**

# MUSLIM AND ROMA IN EUROPE: WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THEM?



Photo © IHRC, 2008.

**Muslim Roma children in Bulgaria smiling for the camera despite not being able to participate in society because of immense discrimination.**

Looking back at the year 2007/2008, IHRC have worked on a number of important projects aimed at helping oppressed people around the world. At the beginning of the year we sent a research team to Bulgaria on a mission to assess the situation of the Muslims and ethnic minorities and submit a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

During preparation of this report our research team discovered how the Roma / Gypsies of Bulgaria, most of whom are Muslim, live in extremely inhumane and deprived conditions in an EU country. As Gypsy and Muslims they face double discrimination and their basic right to live is under threat. They have no decent housing, no food, no access to education, no medical assistance and literally live in squalor.

We are now launching a human rights and humanitarian campaign

with the cooperation of other organisations to assist these people and we are hoping that their Muslim brothers and sisters will not abandon them and support these projects.

Just as we do not expect poverty on this scale in Europe, many still do not understand the humanitarian crisis in Palestine. The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip that is an Israeli collective punishment of 1.5 million Palestinians in response to the Hamas takeover of the area, has resulted in the worst humanitarian crisis that the Palestinian people have faced during the history of the occupation. The figures show that there has been a dramatic increase in poverty levels with 80% of the Palestinians struggling to survive with UN aid. Further, 95% of industrial operations that take place in the Gaza Strip have collapsed due to restrictions that have been imposed by the Israelis, and unemployment has reached 40%. The blockade

has hit the energy supply of Gaza causing severe disruptions to hospitals, sewage works, water supply and other facilities. In addition, according to the figures, almost half of Palestinian patients were prevented from receiving crucial treatment outside of the Gaza strip and an astounding number of Palestinian children had to drop out of school.

The Israeli military have killed, on average, 650 Palestinians every year between 2001 and 2007 as a result of military operations. However this is only an estimate and the actual number of Palestinians killed during the occupation is unknown. Many have noted that Gaza has become the largest concentration camp in the world – where some of the children of survivors of Nazi camps are slowly exterminating another nation. And all the while, the ‘civilized world’ that has always boasted about how they have saved many people from imminent extinction

remains silent, watching the mass murder of the Palestinians.

While the political powers ignore the genocide of the Palestinians, assistance comes from the good conscience of the people around the world who are putting their utmost effort to assist the Palestinians. In this regard, the 60th anniversary of the nakba (catastrophe) was commemorated around the world in solidarity with the Palestinians. We at IHRC also partook in these efforts and organised an international conference in London to mark the significance of the occasion. Many intellectuals and activists (mainly invited from occupied Palestine) discussed the occupation from the perspective of human rights and assessed the gravity of the situation.

Another important issue was indeed the chaotic situation of Iraq this year. The five years of US

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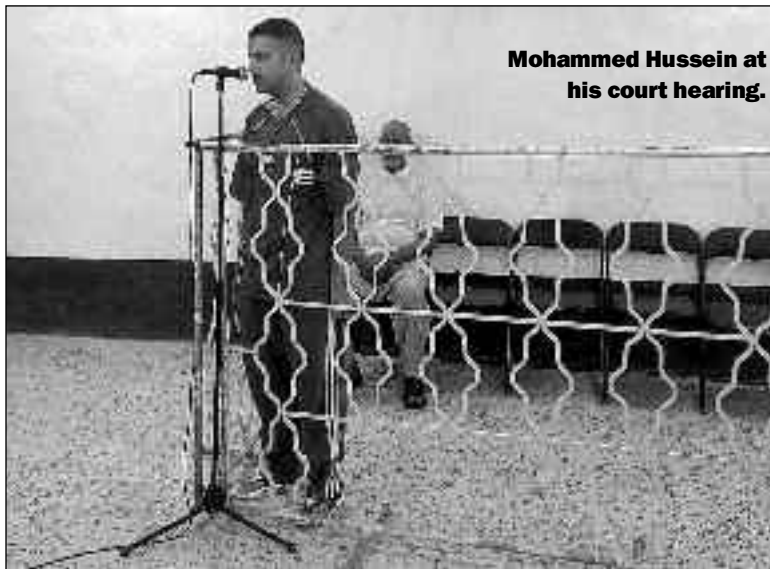
# Another Year of Fighting Discrimination & Islamophobia

Since IHRC's inception in 1997, the demand for case work assistance has grown year on year. In these last ten years we have witnessed amongst others 9/11, 7/7, ever increasingly draconian anti-terror legislation and main stream political parties unashamedly embrace policies of the far right. As we go to press the UK government has increased pre-charge detention for anti terror related offences from 28 days to 42 days.

All these events have had a devastating impact on the Muslim Community. It is against this backdrop that the caseworkers at IHRC do their work. This largely consist of matters relating to immigration, asylum, physical attacks, harassment from neighbours and discrimination in the workplace.

In one case we assisted a family whose racist neighbour had been tormenting them and had even torched their car. The effect this has had on this family was devastating. They lived in constant fear of the perpetrators, dreading abuse or further attacks. The wife was prescribed medication and their children suffered persistent nightmares. By the grace of Allah (swt) we were able to help re-house the family.

We have assisted individuals experiencing difficulty in employment related cases such as brothers who were not allowed to take time off for Friday prayers and Muslims who were asked strange and irrelevant questions in interviews such as



Mohammed Hussein at his court hearing.

their views on the conflict in Iraq and suicide bombings.

IHRC's case load mainly involves people who need assistance based in the UK but it can include cases abroad. Currently, we are trying to help Mohammed Hussein who is a British Citizen imprisoned in Iraq. He travelled to Najaf to visit his sick mother and was caught up in bomb attacks which killed 250 people including his mother and sister.

Mohammed was charged with vague terrorism offences relating to the bomb attacks. Mohammed was forced to confess to crimes he did not commit. He was hung from the ceiling for two hours which has left him with a permanent deformity in his arms. The soles of his feet were beaten with wood from a date palm tree.

In August 2007 following in a

ten minute hearing in which his lawyer was not allowed to make any representations on Mohammed's behalf he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for the crime of being in the area when the bombs went off.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been reluctant to offer Mohammed full consular support claiming that

Mohammed is a dual national. This is despite the fact that Mohammed is a British Citizen who does not have an Iraqi passport. The British Government has an obligation to assist its citizens, and rightly done so in cases such as Gillian Gibbons who was imprisoned in Sudan over the teddy bear row. British intervention would be invaluable in securing Mohammed's release. To find out more on Mohammed's case and how you can assist him, please go to: [www.ihrc.org.uk](http://www.ihrc.org.uk).

Often victims of abuse have turned to IHRC as a last resort to gain redress. However, often due to a lack of resources and financial constraints we are not always able to give each case the assistance it deserves. Therefore we humbly request your support with your duas and by donating to the charity, Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust. The trust is a registered charity and currently funds IHRC in this work. Any donations you make qualify for Gift Aid – so if you are a UK tax payer, IHRCT can reclaim the tax money increasing

your donation even more (please see page 14 for a notice from IHRCT and how to donate). By creating or strengthening existing organisations which address this type of discrimination you will, inshallah, be adhering to the Prophetic injunction to aid those in need:

"Whosoever relieves from a believer some grief pertaining to this world, Allah will relieve from him some grief pertaining to the Hereafter..." (Muslim)

If you want to report an incident in full confidence (and anonymously, if you wish) or have experienced any form of Islamophobia, then please contact the IHRC on 020 8904 4222 or via email at [info@ihrc.org](mailto:info@ihrc.org) You can also visit our online incident reporting form which accessed at: [www.ihrc.org.uk/incidents/](http://www.ihrc.org.uk/incidents/)

In cases where IHRC is not able to help directly we will endeavour to refer you to other agencies or support organizations which have relevant expertise.

Beena Faridi and Musthak Ahmed

## Still Fighting After 10 years...

It's actually eleven years at the time the newsletter goes to press that IHRC has been in existence. During this time, we've had many cases that have come and gone on issues ranging from domestic violence and housing, to discrimination at work, violent hate crimes and even helping a bereaved man try to get contact with his granddaughter, wrongly taken to the UK and adopted illegally.

Most of the cases have been in the UK. When IHRC started out, its main focus was on issues and campaigns outside the UK. It was with increasing horror over the first few years that its officers and directors found more and more UK based people (mostly, but not all, Muslim) bringing cases to the IHRC that were normally associated with oppressive regimes abroad. In one case, a distressed caller congratulated us on our work for prisoners and activists under Sani Abacha's erstwhile cruel regime in Nigeria, and then added with specific reference to a case of sexual harassment, "Did you know that happened to me here?"

Whilst the cases vary in their nature, some of the most disturbing facets of the work are the underlying strains of Islamophobia, anti-Muslim racism and other forms of xenophobia in institutions, be they police services, the court system, schools or even hospitals.



Yasir Abdel Moutallib after waking from a coma.

Particularly poignant cases include, that of Yasir Abdelmotalib, the PhD student beaten into a coma by assailants hurling anti-Muslim abuse at him. One assailant was given 18 months. Whilst still in a coma, the police investigated Yasir as a potential terrorist. To put this in an even bleaker context, all this happened before 7/7.

Whilst the rise in anti-Muslim prejudice is perceptible, we should not be despondent. Many people are now coming together to oppose this prejudice, despite the ravings of some media pundits and politicians. More importantly victims are now beginning to speak out and seek justice. By standing up for justice we make

this a better society not just for Muslims but for everyone. We hope, at this difficult time, you too will join this struggle. Of course you can donate towards casework support, but you can also report incidents and encourage others to do so. Even if a victim of discrimination or violence doesn't want to take the matter further, they should at least report it to an organisation like IHRC so that proper information and statistics can be given to policymakers and law enforcers. All these little things count. Let's turn the tide against Islamophobia and all forms of racism and xenophobia.

Arzu Merali and Massoud Shadjareh

**HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM OF ISLAMOPHOBIA? HAVE YOU BEEN ABUSED, DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, VILIFIED OR EVEN ATTACKED BECAUSE YOU ARE MUSLIM?**

Report it in confidence through IHRC's on-line reporting form at: [www.ihrc.org.uk/incidents](http://www.ihrc.org.uk/incidents)

It is important to report these incidents, even if you do not want your identity to be known and you don't want any further action taken. So long as a record is made, we can build up a true picture of the type of hostility that Muslims face today.

**THIS SERVICE IS ENTIRELY CONFIDENTIAL.**



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# Charter 3:103: Standing Against Disunity – Unite for Justice

Amirah Ali

In 1997, the following charter was launched to address the growing problem of sectarianism, nationalism, exclusivism and racism amongst Muslims. With violence at that time in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Charter's convenors, Massoud Shadjareh of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, Muhammad Al-Asi, elected Imam of Washington D.C. Mosque and Maulana Faiz Siddiqi, President of the International Muslim Organisation called for Muslims of conscience to unite according to Qura'nic injunction and stand

together in pursuit of truth and justice for all.

Sadly, 11 years later, the need for the Charter has increased. The convenors again call upon Muslims of conscience to sign the Charter. Names will be listed on the IHRC website. Please email your name and location to charter@ihrc.org. If you are representing an organisation please send the name and details of the organisation (we will not publish contact information, only names).

Alternatively, please post these details to Charter 3:103, PO Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH.

It is time to unite. Do it now!

Charter 3:103 - A Call for Muslim Unity

*In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*

*"And hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited and remember the favour of Allah on you when you were enemies, then He united your hearts, so by His favour you became brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire, then He saved you from it; thus does Allah make clear to you His communications that you follow the right way"*

(Holy Qur'an 3: 103).

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ISLAM,

ASSALAAM ALAIKUM  
WA RAHMATULLAH  
WA BARAKATUH,

We are writing to introduce to you CHARTER 3: 103, a document which outlines simply the Qur'anic verse which calls for unity amongst Muslims. As you must be well aware, there has been a violent and marked increase in disunity between Muslims, including sectarian strife between different 'sects' in recent times

The Charter, established in 1997, has been organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission, with the support of other organisations, as a means for concerned individuals and organisations to show their commitment to unity between the different schools of thought, and to condemn all forms of disunity, including sectarianism, racism and nationalism.

The matter is now so serious, this Charter is being circulated to Muslim groups, inviting them to support this initiative. Disunity is a scourge, which benefits no-

one except the enemies of Islam. This should be clear to all those Muslims who genuinely wish the plight of the Ummah to improve... All schools of Muslim thought believe in the Qur'an and the tradition of the Holy Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Both give clear injunctions for unity amongst the believers whatever their differences. They also call for the believers to have courage in the face of adversity to call for justice in the face of attacks by the hypocrites.

May Allah s.w.t. reward all your efforts. Amen.

Your brothers in Islam,

• **MUHAMMAD AL-ASI**  
**Elected Imam**  
**Washington Islamic Center**  
**USA**

• **MASSOUD SHADJAREH**  
**Chairman**  
**Islamic Human Rights**  
**Commission**

**FAIZ SIDDIQUI**  
**President**  
**International**  
**Muslim Organisation**

## 'Question of Justice' New Ways of Raising Awareness

Early 2008, saw the launch of a 13 part TV series entitled 'Question of Justice', produced by the IHRC. The series discussed topics ranging from the influence of media today to the situation of minorities in America. Raza Kazim hosted the show, mediating between and interrogating guests on their views. The show was initially aired on Press TV. Some of the shows can be viewed on the IHRC website, <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/qoj>.

Some of the shows featured include:

• **'Just Telling a Story? Islamophobia and English Literature'** Kazim was joined by Shirley Dent from Institute of Ideas, Angie Sandhu from Sheffield Hallam University and via telephone, Dr Syed Mohammed Marandi from the Institute of North American and European Studies in Tehran. The show focused on arguments around the prejudice that is present in majority cultures. Qoj specifically analysed the presence of Islamophobia in literature and questioned whether there was such a thing as demonisation and misrepresentation of Muslims in books as diverse as Bridget Jones Diary, Jane Eyre and Reading Lolita in Tehran.

• **'The Jena '6 and a New Civil Rights Movement'** Guest speakers included Anthony Thomas (CEO, Hip Hop Generation UK), Koku Adomdza (Director, The 1990



**Racial and Religious Profiling**

Trust) and from the US via satellite phone they were joined by David Zirin (Columnist and author) and Jordan Flaherty (Editor, Left Turn Magazine). The show looked at the controversial 'Jena 6' case regarding six black American boys being imprisoned unjustly. The programme questioned whether there is a need for a new civil rights movement in America.

• **'Forgotten Victims of Racism? Roma, Gypsies and Traveller Communities in the UK'** Qoj invited Brian Foster (Educationalist), Florina Zoltan (Roma community representative) and Fr. Joe Browne (Chair - Irish Travellers Movement). The show asks whether these groups are 'the forgotten victims of racism in the UK'. As always media plays an integral part in shaping societies' views, has biased reporting had an affect on marginalizing the communities?

• **'Deaths in Police and Prison Custody'** With Deborah Coles (Co-Director, Inquest), Janet Alder (Campaigner against deaths in custody) and the late Pauline Campbell (Trustee, Howard League). The programme also included an interview with Nick Hardwick, Chair of the IPCC. The levels of police brutality and neglect, and the state of penal institutions are some of the indicators that human rights organisations use when assessing the state of human rights in any country. To the UK's shame there have been many such deaths – from men and women who have been restrained by police officers and have died as a result of that restraint, to others who have been shot in the process of arrest. Others still have died in police cells and prisons.

• **'Racial and Religious Profiling'** had Charles Shoebridge (Security Analyst), Liz Fekete (Deputy

Director, Institute of Race Relations) and Iqbal Bhana (Home Office Race Incidents Team), including an interview with Lord Nazir Ahmed. The show looked at religious and racial profiling and asks whether in today's world such policies are still wrong. Racial and religious profiling in the post 9/11 world has been argued by many as

a 'necessary evil'.

Please keep a look out online for possible future programmes and documentaries on human rights work and campaigns, including a forthcoming documentary on the continuing hijab ban in Turkey.

Samira Quraishy

## ISLAMOPHOBIA Awards 2008

**Just when you thought it was safe...**

Yes, they're back. The Islamophobia Awards return with a vengeance. Comedy, hilarity, satire and all things funny, the 'Awards' acknowledge, with a reluctant smile, the severity of anti-Muslim prejudice in the world today. Nominate your regional Islamophobes by sending us their names and the reason you are nominating them. We'll add them to the nominations page on our website <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/islamophobia> and people can vote freely for their choice.

As regards the overall Islamophobe of the year award, previous winners have included George Bush, George Bush, Tony Blair and er... George Bush.

On a more serious note, the awards also showcase and recognise the work of people dedicated to challenging Islamophobia. If you know of someone you think should be recognised for their work, let us know also by email to [awards@ihrc.org](mailto:awards@ihrc.org).

**WINNERS WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED IN  
DECEMBER.**





# Prisoners of Faith

## Ten Years of Tireless Campaigning

**I**magine yourself languishing in a cold dark prison, being mercilessly tortured, separated from loved ones, forgotten and forsaken by the rest of the world?

Not because you committed a heinous crime, but because you stood up for what you believed in and challenged an oppressor. Most of us do not have the courage to speak against a wrong that we see in our society, we fear being criticized or being labelled as 'extremists'. Yet there are many who are brave enough to make a stance and stand up against injustice and are prepared to pay the ultimate price for their actions.

Campaigning for such prisoners forms the core part of the work at IHRC, because these prisoners empower the rest of us to have the strength to challenge the injustices prevalent in our society. We have labelled these outstanding individuals as Prisoners of Faith – those imprisoned for being outspoken about their faith and beliefs. Over the past ten years IHRC has tirelessly campaigned for many Prisoners of Faith – we have kept a special focus on Muslim prisoners because not only are they being increasingly demonised as 'terrorists' and 'suicide bombers' but at the same time they are also being victimized and subjected to the most brutal forms of torture.

Each one of the Prisoners of Faith has a harrowing account to relate with regards to what they have endured to uphold to their rights and beliefs. There are some that we have been campaigning for several years, yet their detention still continues till today.

The detainees that follow are a prime example of perseverance and firm resolve for the Muslims of today.

### • Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the elderly Egyptian sheikh, imprisoned in the US in 1995 under sedition laws last used during the American civil war is an exceptional individual who has patiently endured the injustices of the oppressors for speaking the truth. He lost his eyesight in infancy but nevertheless memorized the Qu'ran at a young age, completed his PhD and taught at Al-Azhar University for several years. He was very vocal against the injustices of Presidents Mubarak and Sadat and was arrested and physically abused several times as a result. In 1990 he left Egypt for USA to become an imam in a mosque in Brooklyn, but a few years later, after the bombing of the World Trade Centre in February 1993, he was found guilty in 1995 on five counts of seditious conspiracy against the US government, solicitation to murder Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, conspiracy to murder Mubarak, conspiracy to bomb and solicitation to bomb a US military installation.

His trial was blatantly unfair, and eventually culminated in a life sentence without chance of parole. He

was detained in solitary confinement and was made to suffer extremely for his beliefs. He was deprived of his religious rights, disrespected and humiliated by strip searches and internal examinations and subjected to deplorable prison conditions despite his illness. Till September 2003, he was detained in the federal Supermax prison in Colorado, meant for the most dangerous criminals.



**Gul Aslan in Bandirma prison in 1998**



**Huda Kaya in prison in 1999**



**Cehl Meeah being brought to court in 2000**



**Sheikh Abdelkareem Obeid upon his release in 2004.**



**Sheikh Zakzaky visiting the graves of Shuhadah upon his release**

He is now 70 years of age and is currently detained at Federal Medical Centre in North Carolina. He suffers from severe heart problems and diabetes and his overall diagnosis is really poor. But he is still in high spirits as is evident from his statement: "I am tried because of my beliefs in Islam...I am honored to join those in jail...for a just cause."

### • Imam Jamil Amin

Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin is yet another prisoner of faith who has been imprisoned for the past eight years merely because he spoke out against many injustices prevalent in his society. Before becoming Muslim he was one of the leading spokespersons against the Jim Crow laws of the 1960s which served to legally segregate whites from blacks in America. After reverting to Islam, he became an outstanding Islamic leader and served his neighbourhood community tirelessly. In March 2000 he was arrested for a crime he says he did not commit and was later sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. But he is still hopeful of his release, as he comments, "They ain't make me... so they can't break me."

### • The Moroccan 12

The 12 Moroccan students are members of the Justice and Spirituality Movement – JSM (Al Adl wa Al Ihsan), the biggest and most popular Islamic organization in Morocco. Their story brings to light the extraordinary suffering of twelve students who were falsely accused of the murder of a student in November 1991 and as a result, were imprisoned to serve for twenty years. In reality they have been imprisoned for their affiliation with JSM, which has always been a target of oppression and abusive arrests by the Moroccan authorities owing to its opposition to their non-Islamic policies. To date, they have completed 16 years in detention but regardless of their dire circumstances, these students have managed to complete their Masters and PhDs and memorization of the Qur'an in prison.

### • Khairat Al-Shater

Khairat Al-Shater, deputy to the supreme guide of Muslim Brotherhood – MB (Ikhwan Al Muslemeen), was arrested with many other influential MB leaders in December 2006 following a protest by student MB members against unfair government policies. MB was subsequently accused of forming a secret militia; however, MB completely denied this charge. Regardless, Mr Al-Shater and several other influential MB leaders, known in Egyptian society for their good standing and reputable position, were arrested and detained and subjected to trumped-up charges of terrorism, money-laundering and financing a banned organization with little or no evi-

dence to substantiate these claims. This is evident from the fact that a civilian court absolved them of all charges, declared them to be innocent and ordered their release. However, they were re-arrested to be tried in a military court for non-military related charges. Their financial assets were ordered to be frozen. Many injustices and breaches of international human rights standards were reported throughout this trial.

After spending over a year in prison, on 15 April 2008, Khairat Al-Shater was given a prison sentence of seven years – several other MB detainees were sentenced as well – for no apparent reason other than the fact that they used their right to freedom of speech and freedom of association to peacefully express their political views and interests.

The arrest and detention was a clever method employed by the authorities to stifle the immense popularity of MB in the country. However, support for the organization has nevertheless grown by epic proportions.

### • Standing for justice

We believe these detainees, in their exceptional persistence in the face of opposition, echo a message out to the rest of the Muslim Ummah threatened by the Islamophobia of today – do not be afraid – if you have belief in your faith and you are firm in it, then nothing can harm you, instead strength and tranquillity from God would envelop you in the hardest of trials.

However, standing up for justice does not necessarily mean that one will be destined to a life of suffering without any relief. The release of the following detainees not only offers hope to those imprisoned but also to those who are diligently working for their release.

### • Sami's Campaign Offers Hope for the Rest

The recent release of Sami Al Hajj is one of success stories of campaigning, which served to boost the morale for those working at IHRC and those supporting us in this cause. Sami, an Al Jazeera cameraman, detained at Guantanamo for the past six years, was tortured only because he was caught doing his job in Afghanistan – reporting the war as part of an Al Jazeera assignment. He was never charged or tried in court. He went on hunger strike in January 2007 with many other detainees to protest against the inhumane treatment at Guantanamo. During his hunger strike Sami was force fed via a tube through his nose which would often be inserted into his lungs on several occasions by inexperienced nurses, thus inflicting injuries. Sami lost almost a fifth of his body weight because of the hunger strike and his mental health deteriorated considerably. His condition became so critical that a team of British and American doctors issued statements in a medical report, warning that he could be the fifth detainee to take his own life

at Guantanamo.

However, when it seemed impossible that Sami would survive the Guantanamo ordeal, help came from. Sami was released from Guantanamo Bay on 1 May 2008, and was flown to Sudan to be reunited with his wife and son, whom he had not seen for six years. Even though he was in a critical health condition and appeared very weak, to the extent that Sami's brother commented that he looked like a man in his 80s, there were signs of clear delight on Sami's face. He is now back to where he had left off – at Al-Jazeera in Doha.

### MANY RELEASES OVER THE YEARS – YOUR EFFORTS DO PAY OFF

IHRC's uncompromising and sustained campaigns, together with your support have led to the release of many prisoners in the past years. In Nigeria, Mu'allum Ibrahim Al-Zakzay was released after 2 years of detention in 1998. In Israel, Sheikh Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, kidnapped from Lebanon and held for 15 and 10 years respectively by Israeli commandos were released in 2004 after vigorous campaigning. In Turkey, Gul Aslan, held for three years without charge in Bandirma prison was released in August 1999, the judge presiding over her trial stated that her case was an international embarrassment. Nureddin Sirirn, imprisoned for organizing an Al Quds Day rally was released after seven and a half years in 2004. Intisar Saatcioglu was released after being incarcerated for a year, for reciting a poem against the Hijaab ban in 2004. In Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim, arrested under the ISA (Internal Security Act), was finally released from solitary confinement 5 years later in 2004. In Mauritius, Cehl Meeah was released in 2003, after three years incarceration on trumped up murder charges. In Algeria, Ali Belhadj, deputy of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was initially released in 2003, along with Dr Abbassi Madani, the leader of the FIS. Belhadj was re-imprisoned in 2005 for voicing support for resistance in Iraq and was finally released in 2006 as part of a general amnesty offered by the Algerian government to almost 3000 Islamist prisoners. Further, thousands of prisoners of faith have also been released in Bahrain, India and Nigeria after similar campaigns.

All these releases reflect that your efforts do pay off. Hence never think that one letter of support from you for the sake of our imprisoned brethren will not make a difference – it is because of the sustained pressure from thousands of campaigners like you that we have been able to play a successful role in securing the release for so many. For those who are still detained, we should not lose hope and continue campaigning – at least on the Day of Judgment you can say to Allah s.w.t. that I did my part.

**Faiza Haq**



# Campaigns: Speaking for the silenced, defending the downtrodden

Over the past year, IHRC's campaigns section has become engaged with a significantly growing number of human rights abuse cases in need of campaign work. With some old campaigns but most new, cases have continued emerging from all corners of the globe, while 'Muslim countries' have notably been experiencing a reoccurring theme; namely, government suppression of freedom of speech and persecution of religious minorities. The following highlights just some of the campaigns.

## Key regions:

### • Bahrain

Bahrain witnessed numerous cases of religious persecution, restriction of freedom of speech and association and clampdown of government opposition. Ruler of Bahrain since 1971, Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, has been accused of changing the constitution to empower himself, changing the demographics of the country through political naturalisation in the interest of the regime, employing the judiciary as means of state repression, state control of media and press, targeting human rights activists and employing use of torture against the opposition.

One of the most significant cases that we are campaigning for is that of several human rights activists and protestors who were arrested and subsequently detained in the wake of a demonstration held on 17 December 2007 to commemorate the death of two protestors. The detainees, who include 15 well-known human rights activists, are suffering from severe illnesses and continue to be tortured.

Similarly another important case is that of four youths (aged 15-23yrs) who were recently arrested and tortured by officers of the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) until they confessed to charges of rioting, attacking officers and damaging security vehicles. When their families made an inquiry about their sons, security officers initially told them they had been involved in theft and other criminal acts. However, after a lawyer investigated into the matter, it appeared that the charges were different and politically motivated. IHRC has issued numerous alerts, encouraging campaigners to write to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and relevant Bahraini authorities, with regards to the above two campaigns and several other cases of human rights abuse in Bahrain.

### • Libya

Key developments happened this year in the case of refugees detained in Libya. After pressure from IHRC, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) visited the Misratah detention centre to observe conditions of refugees there. Some of the refugees have since found resettlement in Italy, and others are in the process of being resettled in Canada.

IHRC has recently received reports about alleged neglect of detainees at Misratah, one of them reportedly passed away when his illness was not treated in time. Further, reports also confirm that one female detainee had her kidney removed without consent. This campaign is one of the major projects we have focussed on in the past year and still continues.

### • Yemen

In Yemen religious persecution was seen to be on the rise, with IHRC

last summer's attack on a group of Shia pilgrims in Makkah's Holy Mosque.

Recently, IHRC has also campaigned for a Saudi woman, who was a victim of gang rape, but was nevertheless handed down a sentence of 200 lashes for being in the company of an unrelated man prior to the incident of rape. IHRC is heartened by the messages of campaigners world-wide who took up the case. The sentence was later revoked. We also wrote a letter to King Abdullah appealing in favour of a Saudi woman sentenced to

In Malaysia, the case of Mat Sah bin Mohommed Satray has continued to be a focal point of IHRC campaign work since the past one year. More recently IHRC campaigning led to his case being brought to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

### • Bosnia

IHRC has also campaigned for hundreds of naturalised citizens in Bosnia, who came from various

Kareem Ibrahiim and Guyanese nationals Abdul Kadir and Abdel Nur from Trinidad to the US on an alleged connection to a JFK Airport terror plot. The men's lawyers were in the midst of a second appeal against an extradition scheduled for August, however the US expedited the extradition and the men were sent to the USA in June. Ibrahiim's health continues deteriorating, after he was removed from his hospital bed and put on a plane for the USA.

In March 2008, Slovakia's Constitutional Court decided to suspend the extradition of Mustapha Labisi to Algeria to the risk possible torture. IHRC welcomed the decision, and thanks all supporters who campaigned on his behalf.

## Additional campaigns:

IHRC has further dealt with various sporadic campaign issues over the past year. For a case in Kuwait, IHRC produced alerts and wrote to several relevant government authorities regarding the arrest and forced-psychiatric detention of a Kuwaiti academic after his preparations for a peaceful demonstration. Further IHRC also campaigned for the case of several Shia activists and ex-MPs in Kuwait, when they were arrested and accused of working to overthrow the government.

The humanitarian crisis in Ogaden, Ethiopia has also become the object of a collaborative campaign effort with which IHRC has become involved, aimed at promoting awareness and education about the troubled region and lobbying for support. For conflicts in nearby countries like Somalia and Sudan, IHRC has written letters to the UN Security Council concerning the Mogadishu genocide and produced an alert on the bloody attack on Omdurman in May 2008 respectively. IHRC's research and campaigns team have been diligently working on the issue of Darfur with other relevant organisations. IHRC also issued a call to the Arab League, signed by various organisations, calling on them to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Darfur.

## Upcoming campaigns:

IHRC is currently investigating numerous cases which will likely receive campaign attention in months to come, and is additionally working to expand on several ongoing campaigns. The campaigns section is currently examining Muslim hate-speech on YouTube, the recent death of Riad Hamad in the USA, the Gujarat Massacre of 2002 in India as well as human rights abuses on the Rohingya community in Burma. Also, IHRC will be expanding on current campaign work for the Sahrawi community of Western Sahara, Muslim-only prisons in the US and UK and human rights violations of Maldivian detainees. Additionally, IHRC's Boycott Israel campaign is expanding to America, and an Israeli dates boycott will receive particular focus this Ramadan.

**Faiza Haq and Aaron Varicchio**

**IHRC has recently received reports about alleged neglect of detainees at Misratah, one of them reportedly passed away when his illness was not treated in time. Further, reports also confirm that one female detainee had her kidney removed without consent.**

receiving reports on several such cases.

Yemeni student Hashem Abdullah Yahya Hajar was arrested and detained in June 2007 on accusations of belonging to Zaidi Shia group, lead by Husain Badr Al Din al Houthi. He died in custody a few months later in September 2007 after the authorities deliberately failed to pay heed to his critical medical conditions.

In a similar case, 26 year-old Yemeni national, Ibrahim Ali Al-Nashery, was arrested by Yemeni police on 5 March 2008, at Sana'a International Airport. His family was informed that he would be released soon after questioning, however, he is still detained in an unknown place and his family has been unable to contact him. Mr Al-Nashery has likewise been accused of being a follower of al Houthi's Zaidi group, in spite of his family confirming that he has no connection with them. Previously IHRC had campaigned for two Yemeni individuals who went missing after being arrested by the Yemeni police, accused for being followers of Al-Houthi; one of them was eventually killed while trying to escape police custody. IHRC has issued several alerts and press releases regarding these cases and written to relevant Government authorities.

### • Saudi Arabia

In light of the state visit of King Abdullah to the UK in October 2007, IHRC issued a press release and wrote to the FCO expressing concern over the arrest and detention of British resident Abdi Hakim Mohamed Gellani, Saudi national Khaled Hussain Al Buluw, along with the death sentence of Sri Lankan migrant worker Rizana Nafeek. IHRC called on the FCO to request King Abdullah's intervention in these cases, in addition to raising the issues of hunger strikes and the alleged torture of detainees in Saudi prisons who were denied due process and access to their families and lawyers. A letter was written to the FCO regarding this, in addition to one to Lord Patel of the British Hajj Delegation, raising the issue of

death by execution for her alleged involvement in witchcraft.

### • Nigeria

After the killing of a popular Sunni cleric in July 2007, Shia members of the group known as the 'Islamic Movement' were collectively blamed for the killing by Sokoto's local authorities. Subsequently, the police arrested and detained more than 100 of the group's members. Since the assassination, approximately 68 homes have been destroyed and more than 50 women and children have gone missing and some 7 members have been brutally murdered. All this was reportedly carried out by a combined force of federal military, state police and mobs under police protection.

In May 2008, Judge Mustapha Balle awarded each of the 113 detained members 11 years in prison. The long awaited judgment came in a 'trial' with neither the lawyers of the accused present, nor any of the witnesses present, the testimony of whom served as incriminating evidence in the case. Throughout the past 10 months, IHRC has repeatedly written to the FCO, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Nigerian Ambassador amongst others, in addition to steadily providing alert updates and sample letters to campaigners.

## Terror legislation:

### • Iraq and Malaysia

In April 2008, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Bilal Hussein was released after a 2 years of detention. The 36-year-old Associated Press (AP) photographer was captured by the US military in Ramadi in April 2006 on accusations of supporting terrorism and collaborating with insurgents. This came after a successful campaign effort by many human rights groups and journalist rights groups such as Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders and Human Rights Watch, in addition to that of IHRC supporters.

countries in North Africa and the Middle East to fight in the Bosnian war, but have now been stripped of their nationalities and are being demonised as 'terrorists.' They face imminent deportation to their countries of origin where they have lost their nationalities and are likely to be ill-treated.

### • UK

IHRC has been following the case of Moroccan citizen Farid Hilali since 2006. Extradited to Spain in February 2008, he was the first person in the UK to be extradited on the 'fast-track' European Extradition Warrant. Originally seeking asylum in the UK after torture in Morocco, Farid Hilali is now being held in solitary confinement in Spain, without access to his legal papers required to prepare his defence, and is facing the significant risk of deportation to Morocco.

IHRC also supported the UK, human rights lawyer Aamer Anwar's campaign. Anwar is an exemplary lawyer who was charged with contempt of court but acquitted in July. The charges relate to Anwar voicing the comments of his client, Mohammed Atif Siddique, after Siddique's terror-conviction last November. Also, Algerian native and University of Nottingham employee Hicham Yezza was arrested after his colleague emailed him an al-Qaeda manual, available on Amazon.com, in order that he print the material for the research student. Yezza was to be deported to Algeria on Immigration grounds on 1 June 2008, after being cleared of all terror charges. Nevertheless, after widespread campaign support, Yezza's case is now up for review. IHRC also campaigned against the deportation of two other individuals, that of human rights activist Guy Njike to Cameroon, where he is likely to be detained and ill-treated and that of Yusuf Ahmed Ibrahim to Iraq.

## Trinidad & Tobago and Slovakia

In February 2008, IHRC expressed concern over an important court decision to extradite Trinidadian

## Awareness Raising on the issue of Uyghurs

Another collaborative project between the Campaign and Research sections at IHRC, was the promotion of awareness on the issue of equal rights and abuses of Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of China. IHRC helped to sponsor the visit of Uyghur World Congress leader Rebiya Kadeer to the UK and interviewed her for the IHRC website and the show 'Question of Justice' (see page 3). The research section also published a briefing on the transfer of Uyghur women that can be found at: <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/show.php?id=3227>. IHRC is focussing on this issue and that of the arrests of Muslims from the region returning from Hajj.

Amirah Ali

## Certificate in Islam and Human Rights

The year 2008 – 2009 sees an exciting new collaboration between IHRC and the Islamic College for Advanced Studies (ICAS) based in London, UK. IHRC will be facilitating a course at ICAS on Islam and Human Rights. The course will last two semesters and takes a multidisciplinary look at Islamic principles of justice, the genesis of modern understandings of human rights, as well as international law and politics as they relate to these concepts.

We hope this will see the start of continued collaboration between IHRC and ICAS on research and teaching on this vast and complex topic. Those interested in enrolling on the course need to contact ICAS at on telephone +44 (0) 20 8451 9993, fax: +44 (0) 20 8451 9994, or by email [info@islamic-college.ac.uk](mailto:info@islamic-college.ac.uk).

## Opening the discussion: Muslims and Darfur



Darfurian refugees

**T**his year saw IHRC redouble its efforts in campaigning against human rights abuses in Darfur. As one of the first organisations to flag up what was happening in Darfur and the warning signs leading up to the start of hostilities in 2003, IHRC has been saddened by the popular discourse on the conflict.

Easy and lazy analyses have equated Islam, Muslim and Arab against the idea that Darfurians subjected to some of the worst atrocities are Black, African and Christian. Whilst an ethnic dimension has become part of the conflict, the causes of the battle between Darfurian fighters and the Sudanese government stems from long term issues of underdevelopment and marginalisation of Darfur and its inhabitants, as well as scarcity of resources for nomadic tribes. The origins of the conflict were the subject of an IHRC briefing from the research section that can be found at: <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/show.php?id=3108>.

Additionally IHRC campaigns facilitated a letter with Crisis Action to the Arab League prior to their meeting in Damascus in March, urging them to help in humanitarian efforts in Darfur. The letter was signed by many Muslim organisations in the UK and abroad, including the Muslim Council of Britain, British Muslim Forum, Muslim Association of Britain, Friends of Al-Aqsa, Crescent International, Islamic Aid, Jamiat Ahle Sunnat, Muslim Aid, the Federation of Student Islamic Societies from the UK; and Woman's Rights Association Against Discrimination (Turkey), Organization of Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed People (Turkey), Bahrain Center for Human Rights, Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Citizens International (Malaysia), Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (Iran), Arakan Rohingya (Germany), Muslim Bar Association of New York, and Minhaj ul Quran International (Pakistan). For a full list of signatories

please see <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/show.php?id=3281>.

We believe that there is an urgent need to create a space where Muslims, Arabs and those from the developing world can have a space to talk about Darfur and how to bring about an end to the conflict, and how to do so without legitimising what has often become an anti-Muslim discourse equating the brutal atrocities as the result of Islam. As nothing could be further from the truth creating this type of space on this and other issues is an urgent project. If you would like to lend your support to this type of effort on Darfur, please contact us at [info@ihrc.org](mailto:info@ihrc.org) (putting Darfur in the subject line). We, all of us, can campaign on this issue, without legitimising or perpetuating the anti-Muslim rhetoric that exists out there. It is difficult but can and must be done.

Amirah Ali

## Justice after the genocide: Remembering Srebrenica



Burying the dead each year

July 11, 2009  
IHRC will be commemorating the 14th anniversary of the worst massacre on European soil since World War II. In 1995, 8000 Muslim men and boys, supposedly under the protection of the United Nations were massacred in Bosnia by Serbian forces led by General Ratko Mladic.

Make sure this crime against humanity is never forgotten. Each year on July 11, relatives of victims gather to bury those victims that have been identified in the previous year. Many bodies are yet to be identified and laid to rest for eternity.

Remember the date and watch out for news on the IHRC website of the commemoration.

Honour the Victims. Never forget.

Pictures © Assed Baig



Honouring the victims

# IHRC International Conference: Human Rights and Israel at 60

For sixty years, Palestinians have had their basic human right – the right to life – abused and desecrated. In the media, every so often, different aspects of human rights abuses have been documented, such as stop and searches at borders, house demolitions and further expansion of Zionist settlements.

IHRC, together with NEDA, decided to put all these aspects and others such as the right to water, and refugees and return under the spotlight in its annual Palestine conference entitled 'Israel and Human Rights at 60'. The Islamic Centre of England were hosts to this year's conference on Sunday 4 May 2008 which brought together a whole spectrum of academics and campaigners including Yehudit Keshet from Checkpoint Watch, Michel Warschawski from the Alternative Information Center and Meir Margalit from the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. Respected academic and campaigner Jennifer Loewenstein joined us from the USA, as well as Daud Abdullah of the Palestine Return Centre and John Prideaux-Brune from Oxfam.

Several of the guest speakers as well as the audience members scoffed at the title given to the conference, asking how could the words 'Israel' and 'Human Rights' be placed in the same sentence, however, rest-assured the irony was not lost on the organisers.

It was with this irony that the tone



**Daud Abdullah on the Right to Return of refugees**

of the conference was set. The conference was split into six panels and began with Michael Warschawski questioning 'What's wrong with self-determination?' on the problem of the right of self-determination and its realisation as a chauvinistic nationalism in state form.

The second panel entitled 'Residency, Discrimination and House Demolitions' had Dr Meir Margalit from the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, analysing the everyday discrimination Palestinians faced stating that the fact Palestinians' had an already established 'inferior status' would always mean that they are hard-done by. He went on further highlighting Israel's shocking planning and building laws and unequal division of resources. He was joined on the panel by Sarah Sadek, Andrew Sanger (both co-Directors of the Human Rights Unit at BPP Law School) as well as their colleague

Vijaiya Poopalasingam who discussed the illegalities behind the house demolitions.

The third panel looked at 'Refugees and Return' where Dr Daud Abdullah gave an extensive analysis of Palestinians refugee status and their right to return to Palestine. He was joined by IHRC's Beena Faridi, who read out a paper written by former IHRC campaigns co-ordinator, Fahad Ansari.

The fourth panel had Yehudit Keshet from Checkpoint Watch discuss 'Freedom of Movement' where she highlighted the operation of checkpoints and the paralysis effect it had on the movement of the Palestinians. She was joined on the panel by Tehmina Kazi, an IHRC volunteer, who spoke about the violation of Article 13 of UDHR (The



Right to Freedom of Movement).

The fifth panel discussed 'Extrajudicial Killings' which had Jennifer Loewenstein vividly describe her experiences in Gaza in the aftermath of extrajudicial killings. Taris Ahmed was also on the panel giving examples of assassinations perpetrated by the Israeli 'targeted killing' policy.

The final panel highlighted the desperate situation for those engaged within their lands with regards to access to water. The 'Right to Water' panel had Oxfam's John Prideaux-Brune discuss the charity's work in Palestine and the impossible working conditions they are faced with due to Israel's bizarre policies on the use of certain essential equipment needed e.g for: building wells and organising sanitary drainage. Also present on the panel was Ridwaan Craayenstein, who gave an inspirational speech on how continuous du'a and raising

awareness on the Palestinian occupation together with campaigning and the continuous boycott of Zionist goods will insh'Allah bring success and victory to the Palestinian people.

The conference was 'wrapped up' with final words coming from IHRC's chair, Massoud Shadjareh on 'What's Wrong with Self-Determination?'. The conference went out live online which enabled our online viewers to have their say with questions coming from as far as Australia and Malaysia. The whole conference can be accessed online, alongside speakers' papers and pictures. IHRC would like to say thank you and JazakAllah Khairun to all our guest speakers and to all those who attended (in person and online) and gave our Palestinian brothers' and sisters' plight the importance it deserves.

**Samira Quraishy**




**Rabbis watching the proceedings**



**Panel on Checkpoints**


STAND 4 JUSTICE



## The Annual Al Quds Demonstration in support of Palestine

### Sunday 28th September 2008

**Assembly is at Marble Arch (under the arch) at 1.00pm, marching towards Trafalgar Square for rally. (nearest tube station Marble Arch)**



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info@ihrc.org or 020 8 904 4222**





IHRC Chair meets father of Muahammed Al Durrah, 12 year old killed by Israeli army, 2001



Protesting the hijab ban in France, 2004



1999 and IHRC takes on the case of the Maltia 75 in Turkey

## Some of IHRC in Pictures

Here is an overview of IHRC – it cannot do justice to all the work undertaken by so many people. Many thanks to all of you who have been involved in whatever way. May Allah s.w.t. reward your work and guide us all. Ameen.



Also that year, the seminar, 'The Forgotten Victims of 9/11'



Four members of the IHRC team at the World Conference Against Racism, 2001



Two members of the IHRC team at the World Conference Against Racism, 2001



IHRC banner: Celebrating a decade of IHRC, 2007



eventposter 2003, and it's the first Islamophobia Awards!



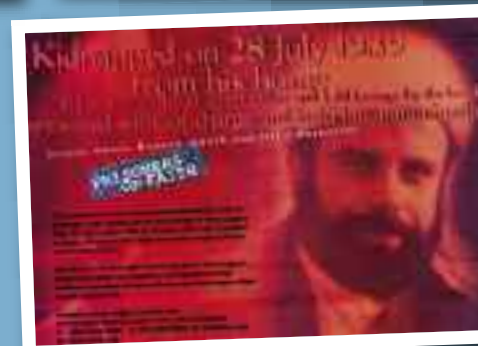
'Towards a New Liberation Theology', 2005



Against Zionism: Jewish Perspectives, 2006



Talking about case-work and research over 10 years, 2007



1998 sees the launch of our Prisoners of Faith cards...



The now iconic protest against the Summer war 2006



Launch of the British Muslims' Expectations project at the House of Lords, 2004

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## BOYCOTT ISRAELI DATES



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Please visit [www.palint.org](http://www.palint.org)

## Imam Muhammad al-Asi's tafseer for the contemporary Muslim situation

Imam Muhammad al-Asi, one of today's foremost Islamic intellectuals, is now writing a radical new *tafseer* of the Qur'an, highlighting aspects that have traditionally been ignored. The first volume, covering the first *juz* of the Qur'an, is now available, published by the Institute of Contemporary Islamic Thought (ICIT).

To order your own copy, send cheque for £25.00 (inc. postage) payable to 'Crescent International' to:

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For more information, see:  
[www.islamicthought.org/icit-tafseer.html](http://www.islamicthought.org/icit-tafseer.html)





**Pigs roam around the rubbish dumps that circle the homes.**



**Anti-Muslim and anti-Gypsy hatred prevents many from getting jobs or decent homes.**

# A global focus: Research for Rights

**T**he most important project that IHRC's research section embarked upon was undoubtedly the report on the Muslim Bulgarian Roma community. When the issue was brought to IHRC's attention we decided to send a research team to carry out field work in Bulgaria. The research team arrived in Varna in January 2008. The initial aim of the field work was to investigate the situation of the Muslim minorities in Bulgaria. However, IHRC research team's initial investigation in Varna, the second biggest city of Bulgaria, revealed the extent of deprivation and oppression of the Roma, who are overwhelmingly Muslim (known locally as Millet). Therefore, the field work focused on their condition.

At IHRC we have seen so many inhumane conditions that people have to live in, however, nothing was similar to the images that we witnessed in Varna. We had never seen such an overwhelming manifestation of oppression, poverty, hunger, and desperation in a place. We have now preparing a detailed report to submit the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) that is a UN body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by its State parties. We are also drafting a humanitarian project to help the people on the ground.

In addition the research department of IHRC worked hard in this year to prepare various reports to be submitted different UN bodies. Our focus in these reports was the headscarf ban that profoundly discriminates against Muslim

women in terms of enjoying their basic rights. The most significant of these reports was indeed the report on the French headscarf ban that was submitted to the Committee Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). An extensive report on the issue discussed the legal inconsistency of the ban and the inconsistency of the French government's discourse of equality of women and the ongoing headscarf ban. A similar report on the French headscarf ban also submitted to Universal Periodic Review (UPR) a recently formed UN body that aims to give more voice to NGOs. The research department also took on the issue of the headscarf ban in Belgium and discussed it from a legal perspective, as well as submitting a report to CEDAW.

IHRC's research department is pleased to announce that another headscarf ban report about Turkey has been prepared to be submitted to the CEDAW 2009 country review on Turkey. The report assesses the extent of the ban and its aggravating effects on Turkish women.

The report on Sri Lanka that was submitted to UPR raised concerns about the attacks on Muslims and Christians and mentioned the lack of infrastructure to deal with internally displaced people. IHRC strongly criticized the pre-trial detention period of 42 days on the ground that it is unnecessary and lead to further discrimination of the Muslim community. An oral intervention at the UN followed the written submission to urge the British government to refrain from this unnecessary and damaging policy. IHRC research



**Children collect items from the dumps to sell, instead of going to school.**



**Rubbish from nearby Bulgarian towns is dumped near the Roma homes.**



department also submitted reports to the UPR on Bahrain, India, Pakistan, Morocco, Tunisia and the Philippines.

In another of its briefings, the Multi-Award winning documentary *Shanghai Vice* (UK, Channel 4, 1999) for its negative portrayal of Uighur Muslims in China. The documentary was intended to study the social and criminal life of Shanghai as a city that symbolizes the sharp transformation of Chinese social and economic life into a capitalist system that brought dramatic changes into the daily lives of people as well as increase in the criminal activities. The documentary occasionally comes across China's Muslim minority presenting Islamophobic images and comments. The briefing focuses on the Chinese repression of the Muslim community in light of this documen-

tary as well as the documentary itself as a manifestation of Islamophobia in the western media when they present Muslims.

It has been a busy year for this department with the upcoming publication of 'Towards a New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine', as well as the last volume in the British Muslims' Expectations of the Government project. Next year sees further work on France, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark in the pipeline, as well as another of its reports on the impact on Anti-terror laws in the UK. All briefings and many of the reports can be found on-line. Some reports can be ordered from our website <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/catalog> or by contacting the office on (+44) 20 8904 4222.

**Seyfeddin Kara**



**The homes are too small and without basic amenities.**

**Continued from page 1**

invasion has caused devastation to the life of the Iraqi people and infrastructure of the country. In 2003 the neo-con dominated American administration invaded Iraq on the pretext of bringing democracy to the country. However, since then none of the promises have been delivered. The entire country has been dragged into a mess that the Bush administration seems to be helpless to solve.

Despite the overwhelming power of oppressive administrations, 2008 has seen the collective conscience of citizens thwart aggressive outside intervention, namely in Lebanon. Despite US led attempts to (still) try and create a New Middle East, the citizens of a very heterogeneous country retained control of their country and their destiny. At IHRC we are extremely pleased to see that determination and conviction of oppressed people can overcome the oppressors and their supporters and we hope that Lebanon will be a role model for all the oppressed people all around the world.

This year we have submitted several reports to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in particular focusing on the issue of headscarf bans in France, Belgium

and Turkey. After the verdict of the Constitutional Court that unlawfully obstructed the change that the overwhelming majority of the Turkish National Assembly voted on to allow the headscarf in Higher Education it has become more important to support the religious freedom and will of the Turkish public.

We also organised a panel discussion at the UN on the issue of religious discrimination with the participation of Doudou Diène, special rapporteur on racism of the UN and Mojtaba Amiri Vahidi, from the Organization of the Islamic Conference mission to UN.

Further, on the issue of Darfur, IHRC mobilised many NGOs around the world to submit a letter to the Arab League in order to urge them to be more assertive to work on a peaceful solution in the region in order to bring an end to the sufferings of the Darfurian people.

At IHRC we have challenged the worsening situations of the Muslims in Britain. We have sternly fought against the legislation that was eventually passed extending pre-charge detention periods to 42 days – a measure that clearly targets Muslims, and serves to alienate them further. The recent case of Rizwaan Sabir who was arrested (and eventually released) for downloading an al-Qaida handbook

from a US government website to be prepared for a PhD on radical Islamic groups, vindicates these concerns.

In this regard, as our previous reports had demonstrated, a recent report published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that it is discrimination that diminishes the sense of belonging in Britain. However, the government has continuously been disregarding these warnings, resorting instead to futile, artificial programmes of "deradicalisation" to tackle the problem that they have been creating with their own hands.

At IHRC our priority has always been to stand up against oppression on the Qur'anic injunction (4:75). Considering the amount of the oppression that has been perpetuated around the world our achievements may have counted little. However, we are optimistic that with increasing number of supporters our achievements become more significant each day. Ultimately all of us are commanded in Islam to stand up against oppression in the right way and in whichever way we can. We hope that in future with the support of more people we will achieve much more for all the oppressed people of the world. It becomes more urgent every day for all of us to act. Help us in the struggle for justice and join IHRC.

## The Politics of Radicalisation: Reframing the debate and reclaiming the language

This was a joint seminar, held in October 2007 organised by the Centre for the Study of Political Violence at Aberystwyth University and IHRC. It was held at the London Muslim Centre and was a closed session featuring invited academics, activists and community members from Muslim and Southern and Northern Irish communities. The seminar looked at the way the language and discourse of radicalisation was employed and suggested ways of moving the debate forward and reclaiming the language. IHRC's Raza Kazim and Arzu Merali took part on the day, with Massoud Shadjareh and Fahad Ansari contributing to the organisation.

## Sunday Times apologises to IHRC Chair Massoud Shadjareh

The Sunday Times newspaper has apologised to the Chair of the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) Massoud Shadjareh.

In an article by Shiraz Maher [1] entitled 'A failure to confront radical Islam' (December 2, 2007), it was stated that Shadjareh has made moral equivalents between the situation of Muslims in Guantanamo Bay and Gillian Gibbons, when he appeared on the Today programme on Radio 4. Whilst later, on the advice of Maher, The Sunday Times had tried to argue (based on the further advice of Maher, who stated he had sought clarification from Ed Hussain) that Shadjareh had made comparisons not to Guantanamo Bay but to Muslim prisoners in America, a review of the transcript of the programme revealed that no such comparison has been made.

The Sunday Times now acknowledges that not only were no such comparisons made, but that Shadjareh clearly condemned Gillian Gibbons treatment (see full text below).

**From The Sunday Times**

**July 13, 2008**

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article4322547.ece>

**CORRECTION: MASSOUD SHADJAREH**

*An article last year (A failure to confront radical Islam, News, December 2, 2007) stated that Massoud Shadjareh, the chairman of the influential Islamic Human Rights Commission, "began drawing moral equivalents between Muslims in Guantanamo Bay and the fate of Gillian Gibbons [the teacher jailed in Sudan after her class named a teddy bear Mohammed] when he appeared on the Today programme". In fact, Mr Shadjareh did not make any such comparisons. Furthermore, he condemned outright Mrs Gibbons's treatment by the Sudanese government. Accordingly, the suggestions in the article that Mr Shadjareh had failed to condemn such human rights violations and condoned the radical actions of the Sudanese government were totally untrue. We apologise for any embarrassment caused.*

## Read All About It!

**Whether you are a journalist or a concerned citizen, find out more about new stories or the human rights view on current events by joining the IHRC Press Release list.**

**Email [info@ihrc.org](mailto:info@ihrc.org) now.**







**IHRC Event at UN Human Rights Council**

IHRC has been able to attend the United Nations Human Rights Council meetings in Geneva in the last year.

IHRC representatives attended the September and December 2007 and February and June 2008 sessions. IHRC's Karin Lindahl, Seyfeddin Kara, Arzu Merali, Massoud Shadjareh and Aneesa Sattar attended at different times and participated in many events.

IHRC was able to submit written statements to the HRC which can be found on the Briefings page of our website, as well as make statements in the main meeting. Amongst the topics we raised were the 42 day detention issue in the UK, the independence of Pakistan's proposed Human Rights Commission, and discrimination

## Working world-wide:

# IHRC and the United Nations and other international work

against ethnic minorities and Muslims in France.

In February 2008, IHRC organised a parallel event at the session, entitled 'New Forms of Racism: The Case of Islamophobia'. IHRC was privileged to have the UN Special

Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia address the meeting of country delegates, NGO representatives and press. He was joined by IHRC's Arzu Merali. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Amiri Vahidy of the OIC.

IHRC has been active in submitting reports to various UN bodies including CEDAW and CERD (see page 10).

IHRC has continued participating in OSCE High Level meetings. This year representatives of IHRC were invited to the

High Level conference on the issue of Islamophobia, held in Cordoba, Spain, as well as one on the role of National Institutions against Discrimination, held in Vienna, Austria. An IHRC representative also attended the conference on discrimination against Roma to advocate for this community in Bulgaria (see page 10 and front cover). IHRC was able to submit its recommendations to the NGO forums which were in turn submitted to the OSCE governmental meetings.

An IHRC representative attended the UN / DPA meeting on Palestine in Brussels.

Details of the statements and reports submitted can be found on IHRC's website, in the Reports and Briefings sections.

**Amirah Ali**

# IHRC in other Conferences, Committees and Consultations



**Shadjareh at International Conference on Islamophobia**

As usual IHRC has been involved in a variety of activities with other organisations.

Massoud Shadjareh continued to sit on the Stop and Search Community Panel at the Home Office. He also took part in the seminar at IslamExpo 2008 organised by the Conflicts Forum. Additionally Shadjareh and Arzu Merali co-wrote an article for the Conflicts Forum Magazine 'Cultures of Resistance' entitled 'Berkley, Brixton and other roads to radicalisation.'

Shadjareh was also invited to the International Conference on Islamophobia held in Turkey in December 2007. Shadjareh was also invited to Germany for the IGMG International Symposium, as well as a conference organised by CSIS on counterterrorism policies. He also attended the International conference on 60 Years of Palestinian Struggle, held in Jakarta Indonesia.

An IHRC representative was invited to address the



**Cover of Conflicts Forum magazine**

committee on faith schools at the National Union of Teachers and present their findings from the BMEG project (see the Reports section of the IHRC website).

Seyfeddin Kara spoke at numerous venues, including at Sussex University where he took part in a panel on the demonisation of Muslims, and on various TV discussions regarding Turkey.

IHRC supported the

National Campaign Against 'Anti-Terror' Powers and numerous IHRC speakers including Fahad Ansari, Raza Kazim and Massoud Shadjareh spoke at meetings relating to the 'war on terror' including the Peace and Progress party's meeting THE 'WAR ON TERROR': Targeting Muslim communities? with Moazzam Begg, Abu Bakr, and Clare Short.

Beena Faridi appeared on various media outlining the horrors of anti-Muslim discrimination and violence, and continued to attend community meetings with the IPPC.

Arzu Merali spoke at various events, including 'Lost: Unwrapping Muslim Identity' in Southampton and '60 Years of Despair: Creation of Israel and Occupation of Palestine' at the Gulf Cultural Club in London.

IHRC provided advice and consultations in confidential capacities to courts and other clients and organisations based on its specialisations.



# VOLUNTEER FOR IHRC



*"Volunteering for the IHRC has always proved rewarding on a number of levels. The range of activities undertaken by the IHRC and the vast array of topics the commission covers serve not only to provide an incentive to act against the many injustices we witness today, but provide an intellectual foundation for that struggle. The sense of unity and brotherhood amongst the volunteers serves to also induce a spiritual reward for Volunteering at the IHRC."*

Oussama

### Give us 5 minutes of your time

IHRC has been blessed with the support of many volunteers, based in the UK and abroad. From

those who write letters of support to prisoners and detainees (see pages 4 and 5), to those who research reports (see page 10) and help out at events (see page 3 as an example), and distribute material and raise awareness in their local areas (see article below), IHRC's work has been carried on by the blessings of Allah swt through the dedication of so many people.

This year please take at least a few minutes of time to join these volunteers. If you join our mailing list you will receive alerts from our campaigns section. You can write a letter of protest or write to a prisoner or detainee. It takes a few minutes of your time whenever you like. Just send an email to [subscribe@ihrc.org](mailto:subscribe@ihrc.org). If you are

interested in a particular campaign, prisoner, country or field, this may be an opportunity for you to work in that area.

### If you have more than five minutes...

There are many other ways you can help. You could be helping in admin (if you are based near the IHRC offices), research, demonstrations, campaigning, distributing IHRC materials, manning stalls and helping out at events.

Volunteering is helpful to us but also helps you to develop your own personal skills and broadens your mind. It is an excellent way to become familiar with what practical action you can take to pursue justice and preserve human rights. If you want to volunteer in this way please send in your C.V. and cover letter to IHRC, PO BOX 598, Wembley, London, UK, HA9 7XH. Alternatively you can email [huda@ihrc.org](mailto:huda@ihrc.org).

Finally if you are unable to donate your time we would greatly appreciate your financial support. This could be in the form of a regular donation by standing order, a one off donation or purchasing or selling various products that we produce such as Eid cards and t-shirts.

## Help in the struggle for justice as an IHRC Regional Coordinator!

*"After having been a Coordinator for the Ihrc Campaign Group in Peterborough for a year i then moved to Leicester and formed a new Campaign group in Leicester. The activities we get involved in is usually work that the IHRC are currently working on such as Prisoners of faith campaign, as well as organising events to create more awareness of issues such as Palestine, British Muslims rights etc*

*"Being a Coordinator has given me many opportunities and it is a great feeling knowing that we are able to support our Muslim and Non muslim brothers and sisters all over the world facing difficulties."*

Fatima Zahra

If you are living outside London and wish to volunteer you should consider becoming an IHRC local coordinator or get in touch with us to find out if there is an existing coordinator in your area.

A local coordinator is a point of contact in your area and would be responsible for encouraging likeminded people to build a core group of volunteers to campaign on IHRC campaigns. The campaigns undertaken will reflect IHRC projects and may involve letter writing, events and much more or even issues in your local community.

Coordinators get training at least twice a year at the IHRC office in London, and the amount of work you take on depends entirely on you. There is a liaison officer based at the IHRC office to work with you.

For further information please call us on (44) 208 904 4222. If you are interested in becoming a regional coordinator for IHRC please send in your C.V. and cover letter to IHRC, PO BOX 598, Wembley, London, UK, HA9 7XH. Alternatively you can email [huda@ihrc.org](mailto:huda@ihrc.org).

Selina Akhter



Speaking out against injustice.

*"My experience at IHRC has been a great learning curve for me. Through my time at IHRC I developed skills in research, advocacy and campaigning. I also became well versed in the human rights issues around the world that I was vastly ignorant about. The team nurtured and taught me with great support and without the experience at IHRC I would not have landed with jobs and be able to pursue a new academic path in the social sciences..."*

Ahmed

Amirah Ali and Selina Akhter



Join in at demonstrations.



# Student opportunities: Internships for Undergraduate and Graduate Students London, UK

Islamic Human Rights Commission has rapidly expanded since its inception in 1997 and is now an internationally recognised research, campaign and advocacy organisation. It works in a number of fields including reporting and monitoring human rights abuses by country as well as thematically. It also takes on casework and lobbies for policy change at the local, national, regional and international level.

IHRC offers summer and winter internships for undergraduate and graduate students in our office in London, UK, starting June and December each year.

**DESCRIPTION:**  
Graduate interns will mainly research and monitor human rights developments in various countries, draft and / or assist in

drafting reports on human rights conditions, and engage in lobbying and advocacy efforts aimed at stopping abuse and changing policy. A degree of administrative and clerical work is involved. Undergraduate internships are primarily administrative and clerical in nature, but project-work can be assigned in accordance with the student's interests and abilities e.g. research, drafting documents, translating, and helping researchers. Internships are unpaid. Internships can last between 1 - 3 months for June internships, and the duration is negotiable. The December internship lasts for one month.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**  
Applicants should be highly motivated, organized and reliable, with a strong interest in the fields of IHRC's work,

and commitment to the ethos of finding Islamic solutions for injustice. Computer literacy is required.

**TO APPLY:**  
Interested students should submit their CV, writing sample, the name and contacts of two referees and cover letter directly to the Internship Coordinator, at:

Islamic Human Rights Commission, PO Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH, United Kingdom, or email [dawud@ihrc.org](mailto:dawud@ihrc.org).

Applicants may be asked to attend for interview. All applications must be submitted by February 28 each year for June internships and August 28 for December internships.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*"And what reason have you that you should not fight in the way of Allah and of the weak among the men and the women and the children, (of) those who say: Our Lord! cause us to go forth from this town, whose people are oppressors, and give us from Thee a guardian and give us from Thee a helper."*

Qur'an 4:75

It has been another difficult year for everyone concerned with human rights and justice. As well as the worsening situation in many countries and conflicts, there has also been a sustained attack on human rights as an idea, particularly when it relates to the rights of Muslims as individuals and as communities. There has also been an attack on Islam – from various quarters – which states that Islam is the cause of many of the world's problems and that it and its followers (of whatever background or school of thought) are inherently violent, chauvinistic and harbour a false sense of grievance.

Whilst there are violent chauvinists who are Muslim, as there are in any faith or within any strain of political ideology, this type of characterisation is not just defamation of religion, but actually feeds the processes of demonisation and has many precedents including the lead up to the

genocide of the Second World War, the genocide in Rwanda and in the Bosnian conflict.

This is more pressure on beleaguered Muslim activists, who now have to justify their existence. At IHRC we have faced barrages of this sort every year and this year was no exception. However, the message from IHRC is not to lose hope and not to internalise the negative discourse that surrounds both human rights and Islam. We have been really heartened this year by the support of so many people who see through the hype and realise that this type of attack, be it on IHRC, or other Muslim organisations, individuals or communities, is pernicious and insincere.

IHRC's principles are derived from Islamic norms of justice – a justice that is universal and has meaning for everyone. We do not hide from this. The support of so many people of different backgrounds in Islam, and of other faiths and none, we feel is a testament to this universality.

We urge all those who care about justice of whatever faith or belief, not to give in to these pressures. The struggle for truth and justice is always difficult, but it is a dignified path. We may not see immediate results, but the most important thing is that we tried our best, the rest is in the hands of Allah s.w.t.



**Massoud Shadjareh**  
Chairman, Islamic  
Human Rights  
Commission

# Are you a UK Taxpayer?

## If so please help Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust

The Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust is a charity registered in the UK (number 1106120 ) that raises money to fund purely charitable work. This includes e.g. work to raise awareness about human rights or to ensure that existing human rights laws are being properly enforced. It could also provide relief to victims of human rights abuses and their families.

If you wish to donate money that will be used for purely charitable purposes as defined by the Charities Commission you can send donations to the Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust. Please make cheques payable to the Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust or pay by credit or debit card by filling in your details below and send it with the completed form below. UK tax payers are able to utilise Gift Aid when donating to Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust, by ticking the relevant box(es) below. This means for every £1 you donate IHRCT will be able to reclaim a further 28p.

You can also call the office and donate with your credit or debit card on 020 8904 4222. Please make sure you state that you want it to be a GIFT AID donation.

May Allah s.w.t. reward all your efforts. Ameen.

### Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust

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Title .....  
Forename(s): .....  
Surname: .....  
Address: .....  
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Post Code : .....  
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E-Mail : .....

I want the charity to treat  
☐ the enclosed donation of £ .....  
☐ all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise

☐ as Gift Aid donations.

**I wish to donate by:**  
☐ Visa Electron  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ Switch  
☐ Solo  
☐ Maestro

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Switch issue number: .....  
Valid from date: .....  
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Date: .....

☐ I would like a receipt

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#### NOTES:

You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the charity.

If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.

If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return.

If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief ask your local tax office for leaflet IR 65.

Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.

Please note the charity cannot fund any political work or lobbying for a change in existing law (please see page 16 if you are interested in donating to all of IHRC's work including its non-charitable work).



# KEEP IN THE LOOP!

*Do you want to keep up to date with IHRC campaigns?*

Join our mailing listing by emailing [subscribe@ihrc.org](mailto:subscribe@ihrc.org). You will receive campaign alerts and notices about IHRC's work a couple of times a week. We won't overload you with emails, and you can unsubscribe at any time, so why not join?

IHRC's work is diverse, and you will be getting news about issues that are often overlooked in the mainstream.

**Sign up today.**



You can also donate online by visiting [www.ihrc.org.uk](http://www.ihrc.org.uk)



# IHRC Reports, Campaign Packs & Miscellaneous Items Order Form

Please tick the box next to the items you want and fill in your name, address and contact details on the form overleaf and send your **payment to: IHRC, P O Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH, United Kingdom**. If you are based outside the UK please contact IHRC before purchasing items as there may be additional postage costs involved. Please make cheques payable to **'Islamic Human Rights Commission'**. Please allow 28 days for delivery for items other than Eid cards. If you require any of the following before Eid 2008 please specify when you send us the order.

## REPORTS

Please find below a list of our most recent reports. A comprehensive list of our reports since 1997 can be found on our website at [www.ihr.org](http://www.ihr.org). Most IHRC reports are available to download from our website without charge, or can be e-mailed to you. If you require a hard copy of any report listed below please send the appropriate payment for each report that you require. To purchase hard copies of any reports not listed below please contact us for a price list. Prices quoted include postage and packing.

☐ **British Anti-Terrorism: A Modern Day Witch-hunt (Revised July 2006)** (July 2006) A must read for all those concerned with the British government's war on terror and its implications for its Muslim community. Cost £6

☐ **British Muslim's Expectations of the Government: Dual Citizenship: British, Islamic or Both? — Obligation, Recognition, Respect and Belonging** (November 2004) The first in the British Muslims Expectations of the Government Series, looking at the crunch issues of citizenship and belonging for Muslims in the UK. Cost £8.50

☐ **British Muslim's Expectations of the Government: Social Discrimination: Across the Muslim Divide** (December 2004) The second instalment in the BMEG series dealing with anti muslim prejudice in the current political climate. Cost £8.50

☐ **British Muslim's Expectations of the Government: Secular or Islamic? What Schools do British Muslims want for their Children?** (July 2005) Volume 3 of the BMEG series deals with an important question dealt with by every parent. It analyses the problem facing under achieving muslim children. Cost £8.50

☐ **British Muslim's Expectations of the Government: Hijab, Meaning, Identity, Otherization and Politics: British Muslim Women.** (January 2006) Volume 4 of the BMEG series takes a look at the Hijab — commonly understood as a head-covering for women. Cost £8.50

☐ **British Muslim's Expectations of the Government: Law and British Muslims: Domination of the Majority or Process of the Balance** (May 2006) The fifth report in the BMEG series has been commissioned to highlight how certain laws and the experience of Muslim communities of these laws is discriminatory and Islamophobic. Cost £8.50

☐ **British Muslim's Expectations of the Government: Representing Muslims and Islam: The Ideology of Demonisation and the Media** (Feb 2007) The sixth report in the British Muslims' Expectations of Government series explores the relationship between perceptions by and of Muslims and the role of domination and demonisation in the cultural language of the media. Cost £8.50

☐ **British Muslim's Expectations of the Government: University and Power: Challenges for Muslim Students in the UK.** The seventh report in the series will be available approx. Sep 2008 at a cost of £8.50

☐ **Monitoring the UN Human Rights Council: Racism — Second session of the Human Rights Council.** (Jan 2007) A summary of the activity of the Human Rights Council during its second session, (18 September — 6 October and 27 — 29 November 2006.) Cost £1.50

☐ **Monitoring the UN Human Rights Council: Defamation of Religion - Second session of the Human Rights Council.** (Jan 2007) A summary of the activity of the Human Rights Council during its second session, (18 September — 6 October and 27 — 29 November 2006.) Cost £1.50

☐ **Monitoring the UN Human Rights Council: Minorities - Second session of the Human Rights Council.** (Jan 2007) A summary of the activity of the Human Rights Council during its second session, (18 September — 6 October and 27 — 29 November 2006.) Cost £1.50

☐ **Against Zionism: Jewish Perspectives.** (2008). The papers published herein were presented at the conference 'Against Zionism: Jewish Perspectives' at the Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, London on 2 July 2006 organized by the Islamic Human Rights Commission and NEDA. Cost £5.00



☐ Look out for forthcoming titles on the hijab bans in France, Belgium and Turkey, as well as 'Towards a New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine'.

### IHRC LEAFLETS

Please send £1 per item as below to help with postage and packing. If you only require a few copies of any of our leaflets please call the office on 020 8904 4222.

☐ **Boycott Zionism Pocket Sized Card.** This latest card gives details of pro-Israeli companies on the boycott list in a handy pocket size for you to take wherever you go. Per batch of 50.

☐ **Boycott Israeli Dates A5 Leaflet.** Growing dates is one of the major agricultural activities carried out by nearly half of the illegal Israeli settlements located in the Jordan Valley, and contributes significantly to their economic viability. Per batch of 50.

☐ **Boycott Marks & Spencer/Boycott Zionism Leaflet.** (Sep 2005) Per batch of 50.

☐ **Charter 3:103.** (Sep 2005) Charter 3:103 is a document which outlines simply the Qur'anic verse which calls for unity amongst Muslims. Per batch of 10.

☐ **'Know Your Rights' Leaflet.** A brief guide produced in conjunction with 'Arani & Co. Solicitors' for people affected by anti-terrorist laws and policies. It deals with your rights if contacted by MI5, Special Branch or other parts of the security apparatus in the UK or if you are arrested or your premises are searched. Folds down to handy credit card size. Per batch of 50.

☐ **Oppressed in the Name of Freedom postcards.** (Oct 2003) Per batch of 25. Specially printed cards regarding the plight of women discriminated against for wearing hijab. Currently being used to campaign for hijab rights in Turkey. Please specify which cards you require.

☐ Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkish Prime Minister  
☐ Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner for external relations.

You may wish to visit our website for current updates relating to this campaign.

## IHRC CAMPAIGN PACKS

IHRC campaign packs are also available to download from the website: [www.ihr.org](http://www.ihr.org). If you require us to send you hard copies, please send us £1 per item as below to help with postage and packing. The best way to keep abreast of IHRC campaigns is to join our e-mail list. Please e-mail [subscribe@ihr.org](mailto:subscribe@ihr.org).

☐ **Prisoner of Faith: Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, USA.** More details on how to campaign for the blind Sheikh imprisoned under laws not used since the American Civil war. With Muslims being arrested daily, there is a danger of Sheikh Omar being forgotten — do not let this happen.

☐ **Prisoners of Faith: The Morocco 12:** This campaign pack brings to light the extraordinary suffering of twelve students in Morocco who have been imprisoned for the past fifteen years. These students were put behind bars solely because of their affiliation to The Justice and Spirituality (Al Adl Wa Al Ahsan) Movement, a peaceful Islamic movement in Morocco.

☐ **Prisoner of Faith: Imam Jamil Al-Amin:** Before becoming Muslim Imam Jamil was one of the leading spokespersons against the Jim Crow laws of the 1960s which served to legally segregate whites from blacks in America. After reverting to Islam, he became an outstanding Islamic leader and served his neighborhood community tirelessly. On 16 March 2000 he was arrested for a crime he never committed and was later sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

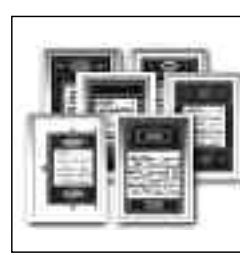
☐ **Prisoner of Faith: Khairat Al-Shater: Egypt:** Khairat is the deputy to the supreme guide of Muslim Brotherhood (MB). He is seen as the chief strategist and financier of the organization. He was captured along with many other influential MB leaders and student members in December 2006 following a protest held by MB student members against government policies.

☐ **Malaysia ISA Campaign Pack: Mat Sah bin Mohammed Satray:** Mat Sah bin Mohammed Satray has been held in Malaysia under the Internal Security Act (ISA) since April 2002. His case is representative of the plight of many other innocent Malaysians who have been detained under the ISA. Many have been physically abused during the course of their detention.

## VIDEOS, CD's & DVD's

☐ **VIDEO: The Hidden Victims of September 11.** Conference video featuring Yvonne Ridley, the late Sulayman Abedin and Mudassar Arani, with papers from Sultana Tafadar and Natalie Garcia. £8. Price includes postage and packing.

☐ **VIDEO: Human Rights, Justice and Muslims in the wake of September 11, 2001.** Seminar from October 2001. £8. Price includes postage and packing.



☐ **DVD Set: Absent Justice. Seven DVDs in the set, recording the Israeli operation 'Defensive Shield'.** A Vision for Art Production. £19.95. PG. Price includes postage and packing.

☐ **DVD: 'Zaynab's Story'** — A call to boycott Israel. What is the connection between an ordinary person living in Britain and what is happening in Palestine? How does our actions as consumers in this country effect what happens to the Palestinians? DVD produced by Innovative Minds. Cost £2.95. Price includes postage and packing.

## BOOKS

☐ **Among the Divine Evidences of the 3rd Millennium** by Cehl Fakeemeeah. 109 pages. A&Z Design Consultancy, 2003. Cehl Fakeemeeah was a prisoner of faith. This book looks at some of the issues surrounding Fakeemeeah's imprisonment as well as discourses on the nature of Allah. This book costs £6.50 which includes postage and packing.

☐ **Globalization, Americanization and British Muslim Identity** by Dr Saied Raza Ameli. 340 pages, (1 Aug 2002), Islamic College for Advanced Studies (ICAS); ISBN: 19040630020. This book by one of IHRC's founders, looks at the development of British Muslim identity and the challenges to it from the globalization of Hollywood culture. This book costs £17.00 which includes postage and packing.

☐ **Towards a New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine** Edited by Arzu Merali and Javad Sharbaf. This book is a compilation of papers presented at the conference Towards a New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine held in June 2005 which was organized by IHRC and NEDA. Pre order now, available approx Dec 2008. Cost £12.00 which includes postage and packing.

## BASEBALL CAP

☐ IHRC baseball cap. (White with green logo) £6. Price includes postage and packing.

## UMBRELLA

☐ Large size, black umbrella with IHRC logo in white and the slogan 'Join the Struggle for Justice Join IHRC [www.ihr.org](http://www.ihr.org)'. Cost £10 which includes postage and packing. Please note, if ordering more than one item, umbrella will be dispatched separately from rest of order.

## T-SHIRTS

☐ IHRC Short Sleeve Demonstration T-Shirt with the wording 'Whose Side Are You On' (Front), 'The World Stopped Nazism, The World Stopped Apartheid, The World Must Stop Zionism' (Reverse). Sizes available: (XXXL) and (XXXXXL) whilst stocks last. Cost £5 which includes postage and packing.

☐ A long sleeve version of the iconic IHRC T-Shirt with the wording 'Whose Side Are You On' (Front), 'The World Stopped Nazism, The World Stopped Apartheid, The World Must Stop Zionism' (Reverse). Sizes (S), (M), (L) & (XL) Cost £10 which includes postage and packing.

## BANNER

☐ This banner can be displayed as a poster or used at demonstrations and vigils. Printed in colour on canvass with the wording 'The World Stopped Nazism, The World Stopped Apartheid, The World Must Stop Zionism' with a small Zionist flag crossed through. 32" x 47". It costs £7 which includes postage and packing.

☐ This banner reads 'Whose Side Are You On' and pictures boy throwing stone at tank 32" x 47". It costs £7 which includes postage and packing.

## EID CARDS

☐ Eid Card, Quran Set 1  
6 Beautiful calligraphic cards\* (A6 size) with envelopes. The original IHRC Eid cards. Cost £4

☐ Eid Card, Quran Set 1  
6 Beautiful calligraphic cards\* (A6 size) with envelopes. The original IHRC Eid cards. Cost £4

☐ Eid card Art and Architecture Set.  
6 A6 cards\* with various vistas from Palestine to Spain, with envelopes. Cost £4

• Set will include 6 different designs if possible. If 6 different designs are not available a seventh card will be included free of charge.

## RAMADAN SPECIAL OFFERS

The following special offers are available on orders placed during Ramadan 2008.  
☐ Free baseball cap with any T-shirt order  
☐ Free set of Eid cards with any order over £10  
☐ Free set of Eid cards, free cap and free umbrella with any order over £20. Please note, umbrella will be dispatched separately from rest of order.



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**THINK Orphans!**  
**Think Sponsorship**

Driven by the fast pace of modern life, at times we all need to remind ourselves to stop and look at where we are heading and see if we are focused on the things that really matter. Moreover, we need to remind ourselves of the abundance of Allah's (s.w.t.) gifts and also remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

This is an appeal and indeed an invitation for you to share some of your gifts with needy orphans in the developing world through the MH Orphan Sponsorship Scheme.

As a charity MH aims to reach the neediest people all over the world and we hope you will agree that impoverished orphans are certainly most deserving of our help.

**Muslim Hands**

**The Muslim Hands Orphan Sponsorship Scheme runs in 22 of the worlds poorest countries.**

**This Ramadan, we have many orphans awaiting sponsors. Please sponsor an orphan today.**

**muslimhands.org/orphans** +44 (0)115 9117222

**HHUGS – Helping Households Under Great Stress**  
– is a registered charity (no. 1117924) that provides practical, emotional and financial support to over 100 families affected by the UK anti-terror laws.

Imagine if your husband, your brother, your son, your father, was arrested and locked up. Who will you turn to for help? Who will support your family?

Help HHUGS today. For more information, please visit our website [www.hhugs.org.uk](http://www.hhugs.org.uk) or email us at [info@hhugs.org.uk](mailto:info@hhugs.org.uk).



**A website that makes a difference...**

"I found your site just this evening. I have read the ENTIRE issue and every section. On one sitting of several hours. I have learned new things and reconsidered my stance. This is simply the most effective site I have yet found regarding the Palestinian and Israeli situation. God bless all people who struggle for JUSTICE, perhaps the greatest attribute of God."

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**www.inminds.co.uk/boycott-israel.php**

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# Support Justice, Help IHRC



IHRC has grown and developed through the generous donations of its supporters without whom, we could not have survived. Please remember us this year with your du'a and your financial assistance.

Please help us in whatever way you can – a small monthly contribution is as valuable as a generous one-off donation. If you wish to donate solely to IHRC's charitable work, please complete the form on page 14. Otherwise please fill in the appropriate form on this page.

There are many worthy causes, and we request that you remember IHRC's work when donating, in the best way that you can.

**May Allah s.w.t. reward all your efforts in this world and the next. Ameen.**

**Islamic Human Rights Commission**

Supporters of IHRC get free copies of IHRC reports (those paying concessionary rates get a selection) and reduced rates on other items. Concessionary supporters are encouraged to donate £5 a month. Without this type of regular support – however small, IHRC would not be able to operate.

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Contacting you by e-mail or fax may save IHRC money. If you would prefer not to be contacted this way please tick here ☐

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Name(s) of the account holder(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

To: The Manager (name and address of your bank) \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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