

Islamic Human Rights Commission



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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

STARVING AND POOR. SHORT OF JUSTICE. WHO WILL HELP HIM?



Photo by Abid Katib/Getty Images

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP - MARCH 2007: A poor Palestinian child collects grass and some remaining potatoes. According to UNICEF: One in 10 Palestinian children now suffer from stunted growth due to compromised health, poor diet and nutrition and 50% of Palestinian children are anaemic, and 75% of those under 5 suffer from vitamin A deficiency.

"I REALIZED that I simply enjoy the feeling of power, I am the Law! I am the Law here! ... The next car follows. You signal. It stops. You start playing with them, like a computer game. You come here; you go there, like this. You barely move; you make them obey the tip of your finger. It's a mighty feeling ... You know it's because you have a weapon; you know it's because you are a soldier. You know all this, but it's addictive."

These words are just a fragment from the testimonies of 450 Israeli soldiers published by a group called 'Breaking the Silence'. It is a non-governmental organization formed by ex-Israeli soldiers who dedicate themselves to educate the Israeli public about the reality of the occupation. Other documented incidents relate how Israeli soldiers, armed with the utmost feeling of

supremacy and US made M16 rifles, inhumanly and sadistically oppress the Palestinians including children, women and the elderly. The testimonies are disgusting and disturbing, however, none are new to the public. We have witnessed the cold blooded killing of Muhammad Jamal al-Durrah and his father from TV footage in the Gaza Strip, the merciless butchery of Rachel Corrie who tried to stand up against an IDF bulldozer for justice and freedom, and countless other aggressions against Palestinians as well as others who tried to defend the rights of Palestinians. These testimonies are hugely important in terms of confessing the arrogant, unlawful and aggressive nature of IDF soldiers and the Israeli occupation.

To tell the truth, is both liberating, and in this situation to do so is

part of the struggle for liberation in Palestine. To speak the truth – however unpalatable it may be to our audience - is an IHRC aim, and something we pray characterizes our work.

It is with great sadness that we note that this year, in addition to the ongoing occupation and crescendo in Israeli aggression, the recent internal conflict between Hamas and Fatah further exacerbated the situation for the Palestinian people in the occupied lands. Hamas won the Palestinian elections in 2006, however, despite their so called advocacy and patronage for democracy, the US and Europe ironically turned their backs on a democratically elected government and completely isolated it. This characteristic hypocrisy saw the cutting of aid, that was the only source for the Palestinian peo-

ple to survive. The whole Palestinian nation was punished for its choice and its aspirations for an end to corruption and a move towards welfare and freedom.

IHRC has condemned the bloodshed between the Palestinian groups since it is our principle to oppose such violence, however, it is also our principle to support the Palestinian people's right to exist, and their independence and dignity which can only be achieved by a truly representative government which represents the will of the Palestinian people. The crisis of self-determination or the lack of it is very relevant to Muslims today and much of our research work this year has focused on realizing how different groups in various situa-

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Careless Talk...

Anti-Muslim Rhetoric and anti-Muslim Hostility, Discrimination and Violence

Here at IHRC we are hoping for a quieter Ramadan this year. Last Ramadan was a turbulent time for the Muslim community in the UK. There was a spate of anti-Muslim attacks fuelled by inferior policing and Islamophobic statements by politicians and the media.

In a mosque in Newport (Wales) as worshippers stood in the tarawih prayers, a pig's head was thrown through the window, an attack clearly premeditated and calculated to cause deep offence. A Muslim shopkeeper's car in Croydon was firebombed; the attack took place in front of a police officer who was taking a witness statement following earlier death-threats made to the shopkeeper's family. Bricks and concrete blocks were thrown at cars parked in a mosque in Preston; a Muslim teenager was subsequently stabbed by the attackers. A Muslim family received a package by Royal Mail containing unpackaged pork sausages mixed with carefully cut clippings from the Qur'an and a note saying, "F***ing Pakis Go Home"

While the Jewish community is rightly afforded increased police protection in the run-up to their Holy Days, the Muslim Community was left exposed. If anything, leading politicians chose this time to expose their prejudices and belief that Muslims are backward, resist integration and therefore represent a threat to British society. Last Ramadan, Jack Straw chose to brag about a prior incident where a constituent, a Muslim woman in niqab, had come to see him as her MP for assistance. He proclaimed in his article that he not only asked her to remove her veil as it made him feel uncomfortable but also advised her to not wear her niqab at all.

Jack Straw's comments on women who wear the veil were not random musings. A former Foreign Secretary, well travelled, surely knew the consequences of his comments and still he instigated an unnecessary national campaign on the issue. Sure enough leading ministers such as Harriet Harman, Tessa Jowell, Peter Hain, Gordon Brown, Tony Blair and Ruth Kelly were clambering over themselves to congratulate Straw

for telling women what to wear and went on to blame a small number of Muslim women who chose to wear the niqab for the supposed failure of 1.7 million Muslims to integrate into British Society.

Jack Straw has been lauded for instigating a wider debate about Muslims and British society. He should then also be credited for the attacks on Muslim women which followed. Women verbally abused on the streets, niqabs torn off faces and hijabs from heads, and even women punched in the face.

The pattern continues. At IHRC we have an incident reporting system – as this type of incident increases we urge you to report incidents to us even if you do not want the police or authorities to be involved. It is imperative that we are able to convey the true state of affairs so that policy makers and law enforcement institutions cannot claim ignorance. This information is a vital tool which can be used to inform and pressurise the media, police, community leaders and government officials, so that the Muslims are treated justly and their grievances addressed. This information will



Just some of the newspaper headlines regarding Niqab

help promote understanding of the needs and problems facing us today.

Details of this service can be found below.

Muslims and other minorities are increasingly being told by policy makers and their uncritical supporters within Muslim and minori-

ty communities not to complain as this exhibits a 'victim mentality'. IHRC notes that it is a worrying development indeed, if victims of violence and discrimination are told to effectively 'shut up' and be grateful for their treatment.

Beena Faridi

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.ihr.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.

Fighting Discrimination

Discrimination and Islamophobia

IHRC receives numerous calls from members of the Muslim community who are in desperate need of assistance due to discrimination. Their concerns are wide ranging including, immigration, asylum, physical attacks, harassment, employment, education and many more.

Common problems include Islamophobic harassment from neighbours, as well as harassment at work, from denial of prayer facilities, to abuse and vilification for being Muslim.

We also assist in cases related to Anti-Terror legislation. Issues can include house raids, police harassment, confiscation of items and money.

In cases where IHRC has not been able to help directly it has endeavored to refer people to other agencies or support organisations that have expertise on the matter. All our services are offered to the community, free of charge.

Domestic Violence and Other Matters

IHRC also receives calls on many other issues, which increasingly include cases of domestic violence. We are also fielding calls from people other than Muslims and, as with the cases above, we either provide assistance or referral.

This type of work is part of much of IHRC's work that is done behind the scenes and with little



A car was rammed into a shop in Glasgow it is thought as revenge for the failed attack on Glasgow airport in July 2007.

public knowledge. It is massively under-resourced, with manpower and the amount of services we can offer limited by financial restraints. Please support us by donating to the Charity Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust (see page 9). The Trust is a registered charity and funds IHRC in this work. Any donations you make qualify for Gift Aid – so if you are a UK Taxpayer, IHRC can reclaim the tax money making your donation even more bountiful.

As Muslims, and now other, minorities feel the pressure of hostile governmental policy it is time that we all started creating and strengthening existing mechanisms to address the violence and discrimination we face.

For more information please contact us on 020 8904 4222 or info@ihr.org. If you want to report an incident in full confidence (and anonymously if you wish) please visit: www.ihr.org.uk/incidents/ or call us on the number above.

Beena Faridi

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UK Anti-Terror Laws: New Labour. New Leader: New Talk?

July 2007 heralded the beginning of a new premiership with Gordon Brown succeeding Tony Blair as UK Prime Minister. Although too early to yet indicate what impact this will have on civil liberties and human rights, and despite a change in rhetoric, there are signals that there has not been a significant shift in policy with Brown pushing for a new terror bill and stating that the world owes the US a great debt for its role in fighting the 'war on terror'.

Blair's final year was filled with many of the elements which his government became notorious for - hysteria, politics of fear and institutional Islamophobia. The Home Office released new statistics revealing that from 11 September 2001 until 31 March 2007, 1126 arrests were made under the Terrorism Act 2000 of which only 211 were charged with terrorism offences. Despite further convictions since then, there remains a less than 5% conviction rate of those arrested in 'intelligence-lead' operations. IHRC reminded people that these are not just empty statistics but innocent human beings whose lives have been shattered by such heavy-handed and discriminatory policies.

Abuse of police stop and search powers were relentless this year with an unofficial policy of Muslim profiling clearly in operation. The futility of such tactics were finally admitted in December 2006 by the Metropolitan Police's assistant commissioner responsible for anti-terrorism, Andy Hayman, who questioned the value of the powers, claiming they were counter-productive and alienated communities. The following month, Commander Richard Gargini of the Association of Chief Police Officers called for searches to be led more by intelligence than appearance as profiling was damaging community relations. IHRC's Chair continued to sit on the Stop and Search Action Team: Community Panel.

IHRC continued to fight the government's policy of punishment without charge currently being applied against Muslim terror suspects through a system of control orders and deportation. A total of 18 Muslims, half of whom are British nationals, are currently subjected to control orders with restrictions including curfews of up to 18 hours and bans on internet access and unauthorised visitors, based on secret evidence concealed from the suspects. This year both the High Court and Court of Appeal ruled that the control orders were too restrictive and breached their right to liberty and a fair trial. The House of Lords is currently hearing the government's appeal. Other suspects remain in prison without any

charge and face deportation to countries such as Algeria, Jordan and Libya where they are likely to face torture and ill-treatment.

There was also much public opprobrium at the manner in which police officers involved in the shootings of Jean Charles de Menezes and Mohammed Abdulkahar have been dealt with. In June 2006, Assistant Commissioner Andy Hayman was awarded a CBE weeks after the shooting of Abdulkahir. One of the senior officers involved in the de Menezes shooting, Cressida Dick, was promoted to Deputy Assistant Commissioner in September 2006. IHRC was also shocked but not surprised by the findings of the Independent Police Complaints Commission following its investigation into the de Menezes shooting, which cleared Commissioner Ian Blair and 14 other officers of all wrongdoing.

New Legislation

Although offences under last year's Terrorism Act 2006 such as 'glorification' of terrorism remain to be tried and tested, for the first time this year a successful prosecution was brought under the Terrorism Act 2000 for possessing material useful for terrorism. Five young students were sentenced for visiting "jihadi" websites and downloading "extremist" material from the internet. There was even some disgust in establishment circles at the nature of the convictions. David Livingstone, an associate fellow in international security at Chatham House, home of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, appeared as a witness for the defence at the trial. He stated that there was no evidence that the five had planned to instigate a terrorist attack and that the prosecution could "radicalise" young Muslims "through a perceived sense of injustice."

The double-standards being applied in the criminal justice system were clearly visible a week later at the trial of 2 former members of the BNP caught with the largest cache of explosives found in the country. The men also had notes about killing then Prime Minister Tony Blair, grenades, guns, a rocket launcher, a haul of chemicals, and bomb recipes downloaded from the internet. They claimed they were merely preparing for an inevitable civil war in Britain. One man, Denis Jackson, was acquitted whilst the other, Robert Cottage, was given a two year sentence. He was only found guilty of stockpiling explosive chemicals and cleared of conspiracy to cause explosions, the judge accepting his intention and finding that there was no clear plot or imminent threat to life.

In one of his first moves since his appointment as Prime

Minister, Gordon Brown pushed ahead with the Terror Bill drafted by former Home Secretary John Reid. The bill intends to provide the police with even greater powers of search and arrest and introduce even more draconian laws. One proposal is to extend the current period of pre-charge detention from 28 days to 56 days, effectively a 4 month prison sentence. Other proposals include post-charge questioning of suspects, the use of intercept evidence, the creation of a unified border patrol, and the further deportation of terror suspects without charge to countries where they will be at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

In a very worrying development, the court in the case of 'R v L' held that the definition of terrorism included providing support for armed groups aiming to overthrow despotic regimes and dictatorial rulers even if they restricted their attacks to military and politi-

cal targets. The court astonishingly ruled that the only option available to the people of those countries was to request the British government to intervene, using military force if necessary.

IHRC's Response

IHRC supported and participated in numerous public meetings to address these issues including the 'Terror Raids: Who's Next' meeting in Newham organised by the London Citizen's Forum, and the 'Detention without Trial' meeting in Whitechapel organised by the Centre for the Study of Terrorism (CFSOT) with the Campaign Against Criminalising Communities (CAMPACC) & Cage Prisoners. IHRC also organised a private seminar on the implications of the 'war on terror' for both Muslims and the wider society in Britain. Leading lawyers, academics, and activists

were invited to a roundtable discussion on the way forward to tackling the various problems which were highlighted. To this end, IHRC's report, 'British Anti-Terrorism: A Modern Day Witch-hunt' was distributed at the seminar and also sent to numerous academics, politicians and policy-makers in Britain and abroad.

One of the greatest difficulties facing Muslims approached by the police is a lack of awareness about their rights under the law. IHRC also continued to conduct its extremely popular 'Know your Rights' workshops in mosques, campuses and community centres throughout the UK. Events took place in London, Nottingham, Manchester, Leeds, Portsmouth, Glasgow and Aberdeen with the aim of educating participants about their rights under the anti-terrorism laws.

Fahad Ansari

A Decade of Fighting Injustice Islamic Human Rights Commission's 10 Year Anniversary

11th November 2007 at the London Muslim Centre,
Whitechapel, East London from 3:30pm – 9:30pm

Guest Speakers Include:

- Imam Al Asi
- Imam Casseim
- Dr Saeid Ameli
- Moazzem Begg
- Yvonne Ridley
- George Galloway
- Dr Abdul Wahid
- Ibrahim Hewitt
- Dr Abdul Bari

With Nasheeds from Performers
including Kamal Uddin

Islamic
Human Rights
Commission

Closest Tube: Aldgate East Station on the
Hammersmith and City and District Line.
To register a place please send your name
and contact information to events@ihrc.org

Entrance is FREE!

**JOIN THE STRUGGLE
FOR JUSTICE. JOIN IHRC.**



Prisoners of Faith

IHRC: campaigning for prisoners of faith since 1997

We Have Hope in Allah



Sheikh Omer Abderrahmane



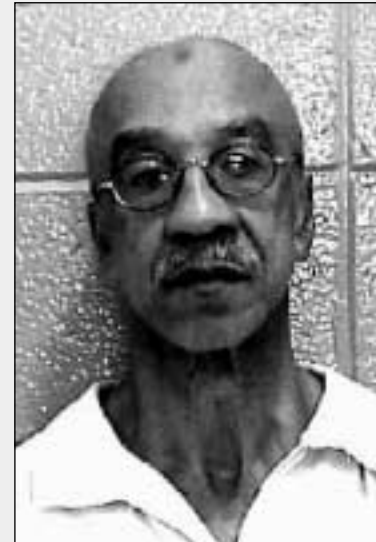
Khairat Shater



Sami Muhyideen Al-Hajj



Imam Jamil and son before arrest.



Imam Jamil in 2007.

All prisoners that IHRC has been campaigning for under the Prisoners of Faith Campaign have one thing in common: they have been physically abused and emotionally trodden upon for standing up for truth and justice. In recent years many Muslims have not only suffered this ill-treatment but have been increasingly demonised under the pretext of the war on terror.

Since the last newsletter was published in September 2006, we have worked on many prisoners of faith, and by the Grace of Allah, we have published four campaign packs, namely, The 12 Moroccan Students, Sami Al-Hajj, Imam Jamil and Khairat Al-Shater. Their stories are distressful accounts of continuous abuse and mistreatment – even though they are innocent of what they have been accused of – it seems the only reason they are being treated thus is simply because they say, ‘There is no God but Allah and Muhammad (pbuh) is the Messenger of Allah.’

The 12 Moroccan Students

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 policies.

Imam Jamil Al-Amin

Imam Jamil is yet another prisoner of faith who has been imprisoned for the past seven 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 continued his activism and served his neigh-

“They ain’t make me... so they can’t break me.”

IMAM JAMIL

bourhood community tirelessly. In March 2000 he was arrested for murdering a police officer, sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, despite contradictory evidence, and indeed latterly statements indicating a different perpetrator including one from the man actually thought to have committed the crime.

Jamil is still hopeful of his release, as he comments, “They ain’t make me...so they can’t break me.”

Khairat Al-Shater

Khairat Al-Shater, deputy to the supreme guide of Muslim Brotherhood – MB (Ikhwan Al Muslimeen), 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. This incident marked the latest in a series of clashes between the government and MB. The arrest 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.

Sami Muhyideen Al-Hajj

The story of Sami Al-Hajj, the Al Jazeera cameraman detained at Guantanamo for the past five

the US in 1995 under sedition laws last used during the American civil war. He is now 68 years of age and his health has deteriorated significantly. We

“...The Prophet Jonah lived inside a whale - and Moses lived in a coffin. So, I have to force myself to think that these Guantanamo cells are only for those who are strong, and those who have the will to adopt the path of the prophets.”

SAMI AL HAJJ

years, is another tale of blatant injustice which speaks for itself. He was tortured and treated worse than an animal only because he was caught doing his job in Afghanistan – reporting the war as part of an Al Jazeera assignment. He has never been charged or tried in court. As a protest against the inhumane treatment at Guantanamo, Sami and many other detainees went on hunger strike in January 2007.

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman

As part of IHRC’s campaigns for this year, we plan to revive the campaign for Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the elderly Egyptian sheikh, imprisoned in

request all campaigners to support our campaign for the Sheikh and make dua for him.

IHRC is also in the process of producing campaign packs for many other prisoners of faith, including some in Yemen, Uzbekistan, Tunisia and USA.

All these prisoners of faith have harrowing accounts to relate for what they have been through. However, no matter how physically and emotionally battered and bruised they may be, they are all in high spirits and their hearts are at peace; for they believe they have not wronged anyone and they support the truth.

Faiza Haq

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tions can live together with justice and peace using this idea. Contrary to popular notions, IHRC believes that Muslims and others, be they in minority or majority situations can achieve recognition in diverse societies and that we must strive for such solutions, be it in the Palestinian-Israeli situation, Sri Lanka or Kashmir.

The presidential election in Turkey was another important development this year that deserves discussion in this context. A well respected politician,

Abdullah Gul, was not allowed to run for the presidential election despite the fact that his party had the overwhelming majority in parliament and fully supported his nomination. The hard-line secular elites of Turkey, who have often forcefully dominated the political arena of the country since the establishment of modern Turkey, explicitly opposed a pro-Islamist person whose wife wears a headscarf to hold the highest political position. The Turkish public were not intimidated by this and re-elected the government which pursued the Gul nomination in July 2007.

IHRC has always believed that manipulation of politics by the powerful is another form of oppression, and that in its worst form leads to massacres. At IHRC we have always stood up against any forms of oppression on the Qur’anic injunction (4: 75) that encourages fighting for those who are oppressed. Fighting against oppression must be our priority but many of us fail to do so. Even the former IDF soldiers are able to see the agony that the Palestinians are undergoing and take action against it. This should be a strong motivation for Muslims and all those who claim

to be dedicated to justice, to struggle for their own brothers and sisters who are being oppressed and step up their struggle for those who are already struggling. The former IDF soldiers are defending Palestinians because of their conscience and humanity; this year we remind Muslims that it is Islamically prescribed upon them to defend the right of the oppressed.

At IHRC in the past we have carried out many projects to defend the rights of the oppressed, who are overwhelmingly Muslim all around the world and have planned many other

projects and campaigns to launch this year: from the Charter 3: 103 project for ending sectarian violence, to a report on the hijab ban in Turkey for the CEDAW hearing in 2008, a report on China and the injustice and discrimination perpetrated against Muslims there, as well as campaigns on India, Iraq and research on hate crimes and Muslim experiences in Europe.

This is IHRC’s tenth year of existence. Please do not leave us alone in this arduous task - join the struggle against injustice and oppression, join IHRC and support us.

Campaigns:

Standing up for the Weak and Oppressed

The Campaigns section at IHRC received numerous appeals about cases of human rights abuse from both home and abroad. IHRC observed an alarmingly rising trend of mistreatment and harassment against the weak and powerless people in various countries. Muslims, especially, were increasingly demonised and targeted under the pretext of the 'war on terror.'

CAMPAIGNS AT HOME

Passenger Profiling and Bomb Plots

As the 'terror' threat continued to be glamorized, many Muslims found themselves targets of persecution. In June 2006, after the Heathrow hijack plot surfaced, several cases of passenger profiling were reported. Out of these the most prominent was that of the two Asian passengers who were removed from Monarch Airlines when other passengers complained that they looked 'suspicious.'

Further, the recent-most case of the failed UK car bombings and the Glasgow airport attack in July 2007 truly proved that Muslim suspects are being readily sought and accused of being 'terrorists' without any evidence. Dr Haneef, a reputable doctor in Australia, was detained for several days and had his visa cancelled after it was discovered that he had left his SIM card with one of his cousins allegedly involved in the bomb plot.

IHRC wrote letters of appeal to relevant government authorities for the above-mentioned individuals and several others like them, appealing against the injustice and discrimination that they faced.

Mirza Tahir Hussein

By the grace of the Almighty Allah, Mirza Tahir Hussein, a young British Muslim on death row in Pakistan for 18 years in a clear miscarriage of justice, finally had his sentence commuted and was released back to his family in the UK on 17 November 2006. This followed 6 months of intense campaigning by a coalition of human rights groups and politicians led by IHRC and Mirza's family. A series of actions were planned throughout this time including demonstrations, petitions, action alerts, letters, meetings with the Foreign Office, the Pakistani High Commissioner and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, as well as a high-level media and publicity campaign. IHRC congratulates all its campaigners for their relentless efforts in bringing Mirza home.

Farid Hilali

Farid Hilali, a Moroccan citizen, became the first person in the UK facing extradition on the new and

allegedly quicker European Extradition Warrant. He is currently wanted in Spain on suspicion of involvement in the 9-11 attacks, despite being cleared of the crimes by the 9-11 commission of inquiry. If deported, he is likely to be tortured in Morocco. IHRC wrote to the Moroccan ambassador appealing against the extradition and encouraged campaigners to do the same.

Babar Ahmad

IHRC continued to support the campaign fighting the extradition

profess to be Muslim or possess a Muslim majority population. Islam is a religion of peace and discourages persecution but sadly the attitude of many Muslim governments is otherwise.

Mat Sah – Malaysian ISA Detainee

In Malaysia, many Muslims who are considered a threat to the authorities are detained and ill-treated under the draconian Internal Security Act. Under this law, a person can be held for up to 60 days without charge or trial, merely on

a number of individuals and groups including IHRC, Cage Prisoners, CAMPACC, South Asia Solidarity Group and the 1857 Committee. Following many representations by the campaign to European politicians, in April 2007 the President of the European Parliament and numerous MEPs raised their concerns with then Indian president Abdul Kalam during his visit to Strasbourg. An Early Day Motion calling for the release of Afzal Guru was also tabled in the House of Commons and signed by 33 MPs.

IHRC remains deeply concerned about the general situation

an violence. The former was reportedly murdered by the Yemeni authorities and the latter was arrested and has now gone missing. Sheikh Yahya Al-Dailami, an Ithna Asheri scholar, was arrested on terrorism charges and was due to be hanged but was later pardoned and release in May 2006. Similarly, Salafi scholar, Imam Anwar Al-Awlaki was arrested over charges of terrorism even though there is no evidence against him. He is currently detained in Sana'a.

IHRC has also campaigned on sectarian and political violence by authorities in Nigeria in Sokoto, as well as campaigning for discriminated groups in Bahrain.

VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS

In Egypt, journalists have been increasingly coming under government repression for reporting anything which goes against the government's interest. Huwaeda Taha is one such journalist who was arrested for publishing a controversial video about torture in Egyptian police stations. In Morocco, nasheed artist Rachid Ghoulam was charged and convicted of encouraging moral corruption and prostitution and sentenced to one month imprisonment with a fine, despite the fact that there was no evidence against

him. In Kuwait, many residents, commonly known as Bidoon, have been rendered 'stateless' by the government authorities and are being refused several facilities and rights available to other Kuwaitis. In Bosnia, the government adopted new laws to strip naturalized citizens of their nationalities; most

of these people were volunteers who offered to fight with the Bosnians during the war. Pakistan and India saw several incidents of increased repression, especially minorities and the opposition.

In response to these cases, IHRC wrote letters of appeal to relevant government authorities strongly urging them to exercise justice and to treat people in accordance with international human rights standards. Additionally IHRC was involved in various cases e.g. the use of terrorism charges against a protestor who spoke out against an Adhaan ban in Mauritius, and other cases.

FUTURE CAMPAIGNS

In the near future, IHRC plans to undertake several intensive projects which include a detailed briefing on the human rights abuse in Bahrain and a long-term campaign on the Lal Masjid attack in Pakistan. Keep a look out for our campaign packs at: www.ihrc.org.uk/section.php?section=7&page=1 and remember usin your duas.

Fahad Ansari and Faiza Haq



Mirza Hussain (centre) with Massoud Shadjareh, IHRC Chair (right).

of Babar Ahmad to the US arguing that if there was evidence against him, he should be tried in a British court. The House of Lords refused to hear his appeal against the extradition and the case is currently before the European Court which will rule soon on whether or not it will hear the full appeal. There are currently four other Muslim men facing extradition to the US under the Extradition Treaty 2003 which allows British citizens to be extradited to the US without making a prima facie case.

Samar & Jawad

Yet another case of blatant injustice is that of Samar and Jawad, the duo wrongly convicted of conspiracy to bomb an embassy in London. Their case suffered a set back this year as they lost their appeal in the European Court. Hence, they still continue their 20 year long sentence in Britain. IHRC continues to support their campaign and to work for their release.

CAMPAIGNS ABROAD

Judging by the overseas campaigns this year, IHRC shockingly noted that the 'war against terror' pretext is being progressively employed in many countries to throttle opposition and expression of all kinds. It was very disturbing to note that many complaints of human rights abuse surfaced in countries which

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Muhammad Afzal Guru

Afzal Guru is a Kashmiri, facing a death sentence, currently detained in India's notorious Tihar jail. He is accused of involvement in the attack on the Indian Parliament five years ago. He faces hanging although there is no direct evidence against him and he is known not to have injured or harmed anyone, the Courts have found that the investigating agencies deliberately fabricated evidence and forged documents against him and others accused, and he was denied an opportunity to defend himself – he did not even have a lawyer. On 26 January 2007, IHRC attended a demonstration organised by the South Asia Solidarity Group in front of the Indian High Commission in support of Afzal Guru. A subsequent public meeting led to the setting up the Save Afzal Guru Campaign committee in the UK by

of Babar Ahmad to the US arguing that if there was evidence against him, he should be tried in a British court. The House of Lords refused to hear his appeal against the extradition and the case is currently before the European Court which will rule soon on whether or not it will hear the full appeal. There are currently four other Muslim men facing extradition to the US under the Extradition Treaty 2003 which allows British citizens to be extradited to the US without making a prima facie case.

Eritrean Refugees in Libya

In Libya, several hundred Eritrean refugees are detained facing impending deportation to their homeland where they are likely to be subjected to ill-treatment and torture. IHRC produced a detailed briefing describing the deplorable prison conditions of Eritrean refugees in Misratah. Many of them are suffering from illnesses and are enduring unhygienic conditions. They are regularly abused and harassed by the Libyan prison officials. Many Somali and Ethiopian refugees have already been deported.

Religious Persecution in Yemen, Nigeria and Bahrain

In Yemen, religious persecution has significantly increased and many followers of various religious traditions have been abused and tortured. IHRC has been diligently campaigning for several such individuals in Yemen, such as Ali Amen Nader and Mohamed Al Yaremi, followers of the Zaidi Muslim group, who were subjected to brutal sectari-



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What is the boycott?
The boycott of Israeli products and companies supporting the Israeli entity is about ordinary people around the world using their right to choose what they buy in order to help bring about an end to oppression in Palestine. It is a peaceful means of putting international pressure on the racist state of Israel and follows in the footsteps of the successful boycott against South African apartheid.

Where is the evidence?
On our website we have a page of research on each company - will the site and item exactly how each company is supporting Israel. www.inminds.co.uk

Who supports the boycott?
The boycott has been supported by 1.4m members, including trade unions like Unison, 3,000 largest world, and Christian Aid who have demanded an end to EU-Israel trade agreement. Jewish groups like B'nai B'rith and Gush Shalom have endorsed their own boycott of Israeli goods. Among Muslims, Ulama from every school of thought has given clear fatwas supporting the boycott.

Isn't the boycott going to harm us?
While Muslims will lose jobs if these companies pulled out of Muslim lands, it must be seen as an opportunity for something better. Coca-Cola, for example, has its sales in Israel 40% in the red. This has created an opportunity for a Muslim alternative, Zam Zam Cola of Iran, to take Coca-Cola market share. In its first week it exceeded all expectations by selling 4ml cans. To meet demand it's building factories in the Gulf states, helping create local jobs. It's even exploring to export for the first time to the UK. Israel's main gas supplier, Gazprom, has also been targeted. M&S and Debenhams, among others, has factories in Jordan & Egypt in addition to Palestine. Their treatment of Arab workers is such that Sweatshop Watch has denounced them as a 'Sweatshop' and given a kiss to its to such such companies get?

Does the boycott work?
Yes! One of the companies hardest hit - McDonald's - is a 'major corporate partner' of the Jewish United Fund which 'works to maintain American military, economic and diplomatic support for Israel'. McDonald's chair & CEO Jack Greenberg is a honorary director of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce. Since the launch of the boycott, 2 of Jordan's & McDonald's have had to close. In Egypt, McDonald's in a failed attempt to dodge the boycott changed its brand name to 'Men Kebab'. In Oct 10 McDonald's announced global and closed all its 175 stores in the red and lost a loss of \$350m. It also replaced Greenberg. With guests like McDonald's crumbling under pressure of boycott, smaller companies are wary of supporting Israel. The Jerusalem Post was downing its size of profits deriving from a partnership with the internet boutique Amazon.com to launch online retailing from the occupied territories. Their advert read 'Buy Amazon.com & Support Israel' - inundated with calls for boycott, Amazon severed ties with the paper (Nov 2007), demanding all ads be removed and vowed not to hand over any profits. Other companies, disgusted by Israel's actions have themselves joined the boycott. In May 07 a US auto part company refused to do business with Israel. In a reply to a purchase order from Israel, Texas Automotive Export wrote: "We must inform you that Texas Export will not do business with Israel customers at this time. We urge you to rein in your military and stop your oppression of the Palestinian people. Your country has lost the respect of the civilized world". Ahead that Israel will be abandoned, the US Department of Commerce has listed US companies \$2bn to \$3bn in Israeli revenues, in partnership for boycotting Israel. Right to choose who to do business with is great!

Can the boycott hurt Israel's economy?
Israel's economy is on the verge of total collapse. In Jan '05 Sharon begged Bush for \$15bn in emergency aid plus in addition to the annual \$3bn Israeli revenue, inflation is sky rocketing - even official figures are over 4% there target. All basic living costs from food, rent, fuel bills and VAT have been raised. Unemployment is soaring, resulting in a series of crippling general strikes - the last one bringing the country to a standstill - airports shutdown, radio & tv broadcasts stopped, hospitals only dealing with emergencies, and streets piled up with rotting garbage. Foreign investment, a lifeline for Israel, has also dried up. Investors have lost \$5bn of the \$6.5bn invested in Israel between 1999-2001. Israel is short of money that is so critical time, the importance of the global boycott of Israel and of the collaborating companies that give it a lifeline cannot be overemphasized. Israel is counting every penny - every penny matters - ensure yours don't go to Israel.

From The War on Terror to Islamophobia: A YEAR OF PUBLIC EVENTS



Karen Chouhan accepting her award.



The Islamophobia Awards 2007.



Protesting against Israeli aggression 2006.

IHRC has organized or has participated in many events over the last year. IHRC staff were part of the Justice for Palestine Committee involved in organizing the annual Al-Quds day march last October. This followed on from a summer of demonstrations that focused on Israeli atrocities in Lebanon and Gaza. The now famous placard carried by protestors of various faiths and none, showing some of those atrocities with the slogan 'We are all Hizbullah: Boycott Israel' proved welcome and were well supported by activists.

Many events reflecting a tumultuous year in the UK saw IHRC members participate. Arzu Merali IHRC's head of research spoke at an event called 'The Veil: A Mark of Separation or Statement of Identity' in response to the statements made by Jack Straw regarding his constituent who wore niqab to his surgery. The panel was organized by Dialogue with Islam and chaired by BBC Radio 4's Libby Purves. Merali also spoke at the event 'The Emerging pan-European Islamophobic hysteria: How Should Muslims Respond' last December organized by the European Muslim Network, the 1990 Trust and Greater London Authority, as well as the Muslim Teachers and Educators committee (MTEC) National Conference 'Educating Muslims in Britain' in May 2007; a panel 'Are Women Liberated in the 21st Century?' organised by the Women's Association of Professionals. Other panellists included former MP Edwina Currie, Chair of think-tank Demos, Rachel Briggs and Dr. Nazreen Nawaz of Hizbu Tahrir.

IHRC's Fahad Ansari has also been involved in co-ordinating with the Free Mirza and Save Afzal Guru Campaigns over the last year, which has involved participation in events such as a picket outside the Indian High Commission 'Torture, Lies and a Fabricated Confession: No Death Penalty For Afzal Guru' in January and another seminar 'India's War on Terror' and Human Rights' where he also spoke.

IHRC Launched its 6th British Muslims Expectations of the Government Report entitled 'The British Media and Muslim Representation: The Ideology of Demonisation'. The Launch included presentations by report authors, Dr Saied Reza Ameli, Arzu Merali and Seyfeddin Kara. The report saw various media pieces and debates ensue (see page 8). Additionally, in May 2007, IHRC held a seminar on Institutional Bias against Minorities and Islamophobia in Britain with the title 'Discriminating against the Discriminated: Institutional Bias against Minorities in the UK', based around issues raised in its two reports on Social Discrimination and Law. Additionally Arzu Merali spoke in Norway on issues pertaining to Law and Minorities at the invitation of Norwegian NGO IHSG. Karin Lindahl, a co-author of the same report also spoke at the Unlock Democracy / Charter 88 event on a 'Human Rights Response to Social Justice', in London.

Massoud Shadjareh was a panellist on an open community meeting following the large and violent terror raids carried out by the Metropolitan police on 28 March 2007. The public meeting, 'Terror Raid! Who is next?' dealt with all the major issues attaining to the policing of the Muslim community, and police-Muslim relations. Massoud Shadjareh was also a panellist at the recent event held at the London Muslim Centre 'Detention without Trial' where he spoke alongside Gareth Pierce, Muddassar Arani, Moazzam Begg, and Dr Kamal Helbawy.

Beena Faridi and Fahad Ansari both spoke at the Institute of Race Relations conference, 'Racism, Liberty and the War on Terror'.

IHRC also organised a meeting with other faith groups to discuss the implications of the new Single Equalities Body for faith communities, and IHRC members have spoken at and participate in a number of events expressing concern over the service provision that will be given to ethnic minorities, the disabled and faith communities.

Finally, the year would be incomplete without the Annual Islamophobia Awards. The evening was another riotous evening of comedy and satire, combined with a delicious meal and all important fundraising. This year we were joined by Yvonne Ridley on stage for the auction, and nashed performances from Khaleel Muhammad, Blak-Stone and of course Nurul Mustafa. This year's spoof winners, nominated and voted for by world-wide public, were:

- Africa and the Middle East : Ehud Olmert**
- Americas: Daniel Pipes**
- Asia and Australasia : John Howard**
- Europe and Russia : Ayan Hirsi**
- UK: Jack Straw**
- Special Award, Islamophobe of the Year: Condoleezza Rice**

Awards were given to those who have sincerely struggled against Islamophobia. This year the winners were:

- Shabina Begum (UK)**. Shabina Begum's case, where she was refused to attend school unless she remove her jilbab, brought to light a number of issues of Islamophobia, notably differences in the way religious orthodoxy are treated under the law, as well as exposing the level of societal prejudice against Muslims through adverse media comment and targeting by political figures. Her struggles,

despite being vilified and at such a young age, are exemplary.

- Karen Chouhan (UK)**. Karen Chouhan has consistently fought against Islamophobia in her civil society work. She is the chief executive of The 1990 Trust and has ensured that it builds good relationships with many Muslim organisations.
- George Galloway (UK)**. Amongst his many achievements in campaigning against inequality and violent prejudice, this year Galloway spoke out in support of Lebanon and the actions of Hizbullah citing international law. He lambasted prejudicial media coverage of the war, in particular that of Sky News which, he asserted was biased towards Israel. He has also further consistently spoken out against Islamophobia which he described as the 'last acceptable form of racism'.
- Clive Stafford Smith OBE (UK)**. Clive Stafford Smith is a British lawyer who has practiced in the field of civil rights in the USA. He is the Legal Director of the UK branch of Reprive, a human rights not-for-profit organisation. Since the beginning of 2002, Smith has volunteered his services to security detainees at Guantanamo Bay and has assisted in filing lawsuits on behalf of over 128 detainees.
- Madeleine Bunting (UK)**. Has consistently written articles opposing the demonisation of Muslims. Her staunch defence of Muslim women opting to wear the niqab came at a time when most media outlets and indeed government ministers were castigating them for their choice of religious dress.

This year, the awards are taking a break for IHRC's Tenth Anniversary Conference to be held in London. Please see page 3 for more details.

Humza Qureshi and Raza Kazim



Palestine Internationalist

The Palestine Internationalist is an on-line journal for activists looking for accessible and detailed information on key issues relating to the Palestinian struggle for liberation.

Each issue has contributions from scholars and activists of different faiths and none, discussing the often overlooked issues of importance.

Volume 2, Issue 4 looks at Israeli Human Rights Abuses as Policy and the latest issue Volume 3, Issue 1 revisits the debate surrounding a One or Two State Solution.

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Virtually every major news story today concerns Muslims - but most of the news we read is written from a western perspective. Crescent International is a monthly newsmagazine that discusses current affairs from the perspective of Muslims generally, and the Islamic movement in particular. From the West's war on Islam, to the internal politics of Muslim countries, to the struggles of Islamic movements... we cover them all...

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British Muslims' Expectations of the Government:

British Muslims: Discrimination, Law and Media

Media and Demonisation

This year saw the publication of the sixth volume in the British Muslims' Expectations of the Government series. 'The British Media and Muslim Representation: The Ideology of Demonisation' by Saied Raza Ameli, Syed Mohammed Marandi, Sameera Ahmed, Seyfeddin Kara and Arzu Merali was launched in January at the Foreign Press Association and received much media attention. The interest in the report has extended over the months with the report authors asked to make specialist presentations and appear in discussions including at the Edinburgh TV Festival.

The report argues that media institutions are systemically biased and that many of the issues raised by anti-racist campaigners are still

to be addressed, with media bias against Muslims highlighting that these problems are still very real and exist at every level. The report has provoked much discussion and some soul searching, and was widely welcomed by civil society groups

and their partners in international organisations. Next year insha Allah, will see some more focussed and practical work being developed with media partners to look at practical ways of addressing the concerns raised.



Workshop on Complaints Systems



Launch of BMEG 6 on the Media

Social Discrimination and Law

IHRC organised a seminar with workshops in London in May to look at issues raised by volumes 2 and 5 in the BMEG series dealing with Social Discrimination and Minorities and Law respectively. The four workshops focussed on different areas of concern that IHRC's experience led us to identify as key areas where activists, academics, lawyers and practitioners could work together in progressing ways to achieve social justice. The workshops were on Family Law and minorities (led by Beena Faridi); Policing (led by Raza Kazim); Complaints Systems (led by Fahad Ansari) and the Criminal Justice System (led by Karin Lindahl). The opening presentation by Saied Reza Ameli looked at the concept of minoritization and how majority society's norms and values are

imbued in its laws and institutions in a way that excludes minorities.

The workshops produced fruitful discussions, recommendations and plans to tackle the ill-treatment of minorities including Muslims, and IHRC hopes that this process will accelerate in the coming year.

Summaries of all six BMEG reports can be found on our homepage www.ihrc.org.uk. Volumes 2 (Social Discrimination) and 6 (Media) can be downloaded in full in PDF Format from our Reports page: <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/section.php?section=4&page=1>.

Hard copies of all volumes can be ordered from our website shop www.ihrc.org.uk/catalog, over the phone (call +44 20 8904 4222) or by filling in the form on page 11.

A further volume on the experiences of university students is scheduled for the coming year.

Amirah Ali

From Hijab to Refugees:: Research and Awareness Raising

IHRC has continued the task of informing people about the issues that concern the oppressed all around the world. Thus IHRC's research section launched various projects, reports and briefings to address these issues. This year the issue of self-determination has been a theme in the Research section's work. The right for national, religious or ethnic groups to have their culture and identity recognised can take many forms from the creation of new states to the recognition within existing or transformed national structures of those rights. Overviewing these distinct examples our work looked at how self-determination could be achieved in diverse communities. Additionally, we also provided information for other activists and organisations e.g. our work on Libya, or on domestic violence in Southern Asian countries.

BRIEFINGS

Sri Lanka

As the Sri Lanka civil war raged between the government forces and the Tamil Tigers, Sri Lankan Muslims were caught in the cross-

fire between the two forces and sustained many casualties. In addition, currently thousands of Sri Lanka Muslims have been displaced and struggling to live in the refugee camps, as a result of forced expulsion 16 years ago by Tamil Tiger forces. These refugees are undergoing immense difficulties to provide for their basic needs i.e. food, education and health.

IHRC's briefing focuses on the great human rights breaches to the Muslim minorities in Sri Lanka and urges policymakers in the region to incorporate measures to deal with these issues as part of the peace negotiations.

Libya

Another IHRC briefing detailed the plight of 430 refugees from various countries including Eritrea and Somalia currently detained in Libya under inhuman conditions. Without being charged or tried in court they are facing impending deportation to Eritrea, a renowned country for ill-treatment and torture.

Kashmir

The conflict in and around Kashmir has a long history, yet has been increasingly understood only

in a post-9-11 context. An IHRC briefing from historical and legal perspective delved into the human rights abuses that inhabitants of Kashmir are facing both in the India and Pakistani sides of Kashmir, and discussed how a separate and diverse Kashmir could in fact be an idea that international mediators bring to the negotiating table.

Morocco

This briefing investigated the cultural and political factors involved, and the nature of the sensitive issues that are restricted within the country, leading to a severe curtailment of free speech.

Domestic Violence: India, Pakistan and Nepal

Using three distinct examples of states in the South Asian region, this briefing looks at the prevalence of domestic violence in states with very different legal codes and majority cultures. The briefing examines claims that religion in the region are solely or even in part to blame for this violence.

A further briefing on Honour Killings in Pakistan, Jordan, India and Turkey is, at the time of writ-



Meeting with Turkish NGO Ak-der regarding hijab ban.

ing, in production.

These briefings are the public face of research work that IHRC has been providing to support victims of such violence from the region, over the last ten years.

Other Research

A separate project on domestic violence in the UK by IHRC will involve the research section. The project should be underway in early 2008.

In the next year IHRC is planning to look at Muslims in Europe. A project looking at Muslim expectations in Germany is underway and one on France should follow shortly. Additionally a report on hate crimes in Germany will be produced in 2008, insha Allah.

Realizing the significance of the issue of Hijab IHRC has decided to work on the hijab problem in Turkey. Co-operating with several NGOs from Turkey IHRC will produce a shadow report for CEDAW (a UN body for elimination of the

discrimination against women) in order to submit it to the UN hearing in 2008.

IHRC also will be dealing with violence and harassment of political activists in the UK from different backgrounds.

A further report on the effects of anti-terrorism laws, entitled 'The Most Potent Weapon' by Fahad Ansari, will be launched in November 2007. As global trends to oppression increase IHRC has been putting utmost effort to tackle these problems and tries to help to those oppressed all over the world despite limited resources and manpower. Other work to be published this year includes, a follow-up briefing to our 2005 report on Myanmar, more briefings on Islamophobia in the media, including a report on China, and analysis of the Darfur crisis amongst others. Insha Allah our work will continue with the help of Allah.

Seyfeddin Kara

IHRC at the UN, EU and OSCE levels

In July 2007, IHRC was granted special consultative status with the United Nations. Such status allows NGOs to attend the sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. The Human Rights Council is the new UN body which deals directly with human rights violations and whose primary purpose it is to protect and promote human rights. Obtaining consultative status was a significant milestone in IHRC's international work. Previously the IHRC had been monitoring the work of the Human Rights Council as part of its UN programme. The UN is a major player in the shaping of human rights law and policy. Therefore it is essential for NGOs to follow, monitor and scrutinize the UN and its organs.

Having consultative status is instrumental for the IHRC's ability to advocate, campaign for and raise awareness about human rights issues in the international arena. It is an important opportunity for the IHRC to disseminate its extensive research on various human rights issues. Attending the Council's sessions presents a rare opportunity to speak with state representatives and it provides a platform for dialogue.

The IHRC is currently planning its first visit to the Human Rights Council, which sits in Geneva. The Council holds at least three regular sessions per year. The IHRC will submit statements, hold seminars on issues such as Islamophobia and publicize the research project 'British Muslims' Expectations of the Government'.

On the 7th June 2007 representatives of IHRC met with Asma Jahangir, UN Special Rapporteur on the freedom of religion and belief. She was on a visit to the United Kingdom in the course of writing her report on the level of respect of the right to freedom of religion in the UK. During the course of her visit she had an opportunity to listen to other IHRC members at various events organised for her.

Representatives also attended the UN International Conference of Civil Society in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace in Brussels in August 2007.

Council of Europe

The IHRC participated in a meeting organized by the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (AC) on its visit to the UK.

The AC (the body of 18 independent experts in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Convention) visited the United Kingdom between 19 and 23 March 2007, as part of the regular information-gathering process which takes place before the AC adopts its Opinions on the implementation of the Convention by each State Party.

IHRC at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

A representative attended the High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding in Bucharest, Romania in June 2007 and the following month the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria.

Thanks to the dedicated support of campaigners world-wide, IHRC has been able to work at these levels and with your continued support can insha Allah continue to be a force for good at these levels.

Karin Lindahl and Arzu Merali

DECLARATION OF UNITY: CHARTER 3: 103

On 22 January 2007 two cars, loaded with bombs ripped through the Bab al-Sharqi market in central Baghdad; the attack killed 88 people and wounded 160 others. And killed at least 135 people and injured 339 others. On 3 February 2007 a large truck detonated in Baghdad, the impact of the bomb destroyed 10 buildings and killed at least 135 people and wounded 339 others. These two devastating attacks were the alarm bells of the growing sectarian violence in this year.

It is the same scenario played out in recent years in Pakistan, Afghanistan and even places like Nigeria. Many thoughtful Muslims all around the world have been putting in efforts, in order to tackle this cancer. One of the efforts was initiated in 1997 by Massoud Shadjareh, chairman of IHRC, Maulana Faiz ul-Aqtab Siddiqi, head of the International Muslims Organization and principal of the Hijaz University and Imam Mohammed Al-Asi of Washington DC, one of the most Islamic movement foremost English-speaking intellectuals. Called 'Charter 3:103', the aim of this charter was to condemn all forms of disunity, including sectarianism, racism and nationalism.

The charter was inspired by the Quranic verse 3: 103 which strongly emphasizes unity among Muslims: *'And hold fast by the covenant of Allah 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 become 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 communication that you may follow'.

Massoud Shadjareh remarked "Muslims must learn that there is no one way to be Muslim, part of the strength of Islam has always been that it accommodates a wide range of cultures and styles of behaviour provided by they are not inconsistent with the broad principles of Islam. But this sort of unity comes from the heart, not from ideology. We must change the way we feel and act, not just what we say".

A recent wave of sectarian violence in

Iraq has proved to us how urgently and desperately the *ummah* need this kind of efforts. Therefore, IHRC has stepped up its struggle against sectarian violence and focused on the Charter 3: 103 with wider attendance and contribution from the other Islamic groups and individuals. Also IHRC will be shortly launching a new project to empower its struggle against sectarian violence in Iraq, as well as initiatives to combat the rise of prejudice on a more international scale.

If you would like to sign the Charter, please email us at charter@ihrc.org and take a stand for unity.

Seyfeddin Kara



Iraqi mourners after sectarian fighting in Balad and Duluiyah in October 2006

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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.

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Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust

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You can also donate online by visiting www.ihrc.org.uk

WHY SHOULD YOU VOLUNTEER FOR US?

Islamic Human Rights Commission



"All the time I was in prison, I saw others become depressed, but I knew, I was never alone."

Nureddin Sirin was a prisoner of faith detained for eight years in Turkey as a result of his beliefs. When he was released he met with IHRC members who had instigated a campaign for his release, and this is what he said regarding the support he received.

Whilst IHRC initiated legal and other campaign support, the feeling of security and support that Sirin and so many others like him received came through the tireless support of volunteers, some who wrote to him and others who campaigned tirelessly writing letters to authorities in an effort

to get him released. From the person who wrote one letter, and another who told another about Nureddin who then prayed for him, down to those who regularly campaigned – all these volunteers made a huge difference to this oppressed man.

As a volunteer for IHRC you will be able to participate in many such activities, the smallest of which can have huge significance.

From sending a small donation or writing and sending a campaign letter to selling our merchandise or writing a briefing, or manning a stall there are a multitude of ways you can help IHRC as a volunteer. Among the options available:

- Help out with admin at the office
- Assist with research work
- Become an events volunteer
- Raise funds for IHRC
- Become a voluntary undergraduate or postgraduate intern
- Become a local co-ordinator (please see the article below)
- Distribute our literature

Please see if you can find a way of volunteering with IHRC.

If you are restricted for time you can be added to our campaigners' database whereby you will be sent regular alerts. This way you will receive regular updates on our campaigns which will give you the flexibility to get involved when it is convenient to you.

If you are interested in volunteering please send an email with your CV attached to info@ihrc.org or to PO Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7QG, UK.

Thank you for your support.

Amirah Ali



Become an IHRC Co-ordinator

Help in the struggle for justice as an IHRC Local Coordinator!

Volunteering for IHRC is both rewarding and varied. The work is extensive and alhamdulillah as our office and manpower has expanded over the year, so has the amount of work we are able to take on.

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 our point of contact in your area and would be responsible for encouraging likeminded people to build a core group of volunteers to campaign, raise awareness and funds and generally support

IHRC's work in various ways.

IHRC provided six monthly training workshops for groups, giving insight into new campaigns, setting targets for the following six months: from selling T-Shirts in your locality, to getting letters of support sent to a prisoner to a prisoner of faith.

For further information please call us on 0208 904 4222. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for IHRC please send in your C.V. and cover letter to PO BOX 598, Wembley, London, UK, HA9 7XH. Alternatively you can email selina@ihrc.org

Selina Akhter

Consultations

In addition to its other work, IHRC has been involved in giving advice and responding to consultations e.g in September 2006, IHRC made a submission to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the relationship between young black people and the criminal justice system.

In June 2007, IHRC made a sub-

mission to the Department for Education and Skills regarding Guidance to Schools on School Uniform Related Policies in which issues relating to hijab, niqab and beard were addressed.

Massoud Shadjareh, chair of the IHRC, also gave oral evidence in June to the All Party Parliamentary Group into Tackling terrorism.

The Annual

Al Quds Day March London, UK

Sunday 7th October 2007

Assembly is at 12.30pm at Marble Arch.

We will be marching to Trafalgar Square for a rally. (Nearest Tube Station Marble Arch)

Organized by The Justice for Palestine Committee.

END CHILD KILLING!!!
END OPPRESSION!!!
END ISRAELI APARTHEID!!!

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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 2007 please specify when you send us the order. All items below can be purchased via our website at: www.ihr.org.uk/catalog

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. 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.

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

British Muslims' 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 Muslims' 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 Muslims' 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 Muslims' 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 Muslims' 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

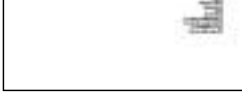
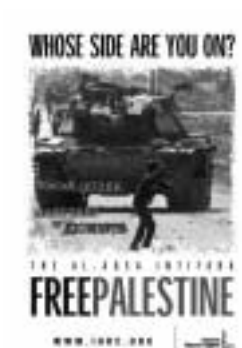
British Muslims' Expectations of the Government: Representing Muslims and Islam: The Ideology of Demonisation and the Media (Feb 2007) The sixth report in the British Muslims' Expectations of Government series explores the relationship between perceptions by and of Muslims and the role of domination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

British Muslims' Expectations of the Government: University and Power: Challenges for Muslim Students in the UK. The seventh report in the series will be available approx. Nov 2007 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



IHRC LEAFLETS

Please send £1 per item as below to help with postage and packing.

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. (If you require only a few please call the office: 020 8904 4222)

Boycott Marks & Spencer/Boycott Zionism Leaflet. (Sep 2005) Per batch of 50. (If you require only a few copies please call the office: 020 8904 4222)

Charter 3:103. (Sep 2005) Per batch of 10. (If you require only a few copies please call the office: 020 8904 4222). Charter 3:103 is a document which outlines simply the Qur'anic verse which calls for unity amongst Muslims.

'Know Your Rights' Leaflet. A brief guide on your rights under anti-terrorist laws and policies. Folds down to handy credit card size. Per batch of 50. (If you require only a few copies please call the office: 020 8904 4222)

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 Tayyep Erdogan, Turkish Prime Minister
 Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner for external relations.
 Sheikh Omar Abderrahmane, Prisoner of Faith Cards. Per batch of 25. These compliment the Prisoner of Faith Campaign (See details for pack below).

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. 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.

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.

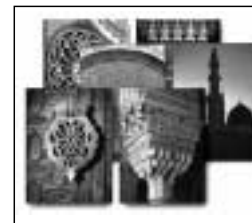
Prisoners of Faith: The Morocco 12: This campaign pack brings to light the extraordinary suffering of twelve students in Morocco who have been imprisoned for the past fifteen years. These students were put behind bars solely because of their affiliation to The Justice and Spirituality (Al Adl Wa Al Ahsan)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

Prisoner of Faith: Sami Muhyideen Al Hajj: Sami was captured for the US on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in December 2001 on the charge that he had filmed an interview with Osama bin Laden. This campaign pack gives a detailed account of the ordeal Sami has endured at the hands of the US military police ever since his seizure.

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, CDs & DVDs

CD: 'I believe I can't fly (comedy), Ahmed Ahmed. £15. Price includes postage and packing.

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. PG. £19.95

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 £7 which includes postage and packing. All copies signed by author.

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.

BASEBALL CAP

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

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). Size (L) (labelled as 3XL) and (XL) (labelled as 5XL) 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 2 6 beautiful calligraphic cards (A6 size) with envelopes. Cost £4

Eid Card Art and Architecture set. 6 A6 cards with various vistas from Palestine to Spain, with envelopes. Cost £4

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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.

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.



Muslim Hands

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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 or email us at 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. In one sitting of several hours. I have learned new things and reconsider many others. This is simply the most effective site I have yet found regarding the Palestinian (and Globalisation) struggle... God bless all people who struggle for INHUM, perhaps the greatest attribute of God."

Reverend John Baker

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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 9. 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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