

“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, (and of) those who say: ‘O 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’.”

Holy Qur’an: Chapter 4, Verse 75



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

Contents:

4	Chairman's Foreword	
5	Introduction: About the IHRC	
6	Advocacy and Casework	
	6 Casework	
	9 Legal Observation and Monitoring	
11	Research and Publications	
	11 Briefings	
	13 Other Reports and Publications	
	16 Current and Forthcoming Projects	
18	Campaigns	
	18 Prisoners of Faith	
	21 Alerts	
23	Press Relations	
25	Events	
31	The IHRC at the UN	
35	The Universal Justice Network	
37	Conclusion: Looking Ahead	

Chairman's Foreword

The last year of the IHRC's work has seen significant progress and expansion, despite various difficulties. In particular, the year has seen the strengthening of our campaigns department, with new and dynamic leadership; the consolidation of several years' work on the research side, with the launch of the hate crime monitoring project, and numerous successful cases undertaken by the advocacy team. In addition, IHRC has maintained its presence at the United Nations, as well as our continuing role in the convening and work of the Universal Justice Network.

As usual this report, like our revamped website, www.ihr.org.uk, can only reflect those aspects of our work that are public, and can provide only a sample of that. Much behind the scenes advocacy and campaigning must remain confidential. Nevertheless, despite the continued shortage of funds that faces all NGOs in this field, IHRC continues in the struggle for justice. Please join and support us in whatever way you can.



Massoud Shadjareh

Introduction: About the Islamic Human Rights Commission

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) is an independent, non-profit, campaign, research and advocacy organisation based in London, UK. Since its establishment in 1997, the IHRC has developed relations with a wide range of different organisations around the world, both Muslim and non-Muslim, in order to campaign for justice for all peoples, regardless of their racial, confessional or political background.

Our aims are manifold, but are in all cases are inspired by the Qur'anic injunctions that command believers to rise up in defence of the oppressed. IHRC volunteers and campaigners come from many different parts of the world and many different backgrounds, but share a common commitment to the struggle against injustice and oppression, wherever and in whatever forms they may be found.

The IHRC's work ranges from assisting individuals in need of support, to monitoring the media for incidents of bias, discrimination or incitement; highlighting abuses through briefings, press releases and publications; advising governments and international organisations; research into human rights issues; and highlighting issues and priorities to shape the future agendas of both the IHRC and wider Human Rights discourse.

Further, the IHRC plays an active role within communities by organising educational seminars, and providing advice and support to local groups wishing to establish their own projects in this field. We have a particular interest in encouraging the disenfranchised to participate within society as a whole.

Through intensive campaigning, innovative initiatives, and the dedicated hard work of our staff, interns, volunteers and supporters, the IHRC has earned a global reputation as a trusted and reliable partner in all sorts of human rights projects. Our research, alerts and publications have made us a trusted source of information and insights, guiding struggles for justice all over the world. Data and materials produced by the IHRC have been widely used by governmental and other organisations for their own work. The IHRC website, recently redesigned and expanded, covers many aspects of our work and provides general information and materials for the media, students, policy makers, lawyers and activists.

In the 13 years since the IHRC's establishment, we have built a network of committed supporters and campaigners across the world. The years 2009-2010 have been some of our busiest and most productive to date. With their help, we are determined to continue this good work in the years to come, *insha'Allah*.

Advocacy and Casework

Some of the most important work the IHRC does is personal advocacy on behalf of individual clients who have suffered abuse or discrimination on grounds of their race or religion. If the IHRC's campaigns team is the high-profile, public face of our work, casework is what we do in private and with minimal publicity, as confidentiality is key, and publicity would often get in the way of achieving the best possible results for our clients.

The advocacy team also observe, monitor and report on individual cases and wider conflicts in the UK and abroad, in order that the IHRC can guard against miscarriages of justice and abuses of human rights on the parts of governments and other institutions, and highlight incidents where they do occur.

The IHRC's work in this area is done by a team of legal advisers and caseworkers who aim to fulfil the following broad objectives:

- To provide a professional advocacy service for individuals facing discrimination, particularly those individuals unable to afford the services of a lawyer;
- To collect data on cases of discrimination so that the IHRC can study long term trends about the nature of discrimination faced by Muslims.

The following is a sample of the IHRC's work in these areas during 2009-10.

Casework

The IHRC casework team is unfortunately only able to accept cases which involve discrimination on the grounds of race and/or religion, as we simply do not have the resources to take on all the cases that come to us. The team deals mainly with cases in the following areas:

- Rights of prisoners (UK only);
- Education;
- Discrimination in the provision of goods and services;
- Discrimination in employment;
- Anti-terror/police discrimination;
- Discrimination by government and public bodies/organisations;
- General Islamophobia/racism, including physical/verbal attacks.

In such cases, the IHRC is able to provide the following services:

Advocacy Where appropriate, we help our clients to communicate with third parties (organizations or individuals), or we deal with them on our clients' behalf. We generally do this through letters, emails and telephone calls to the relevant people. The key object

of this work is to express the clients' views effectively and faithfully, and ensure that they are heard.

Advice We also aim to understand the nature of the issue as accurately as possible, and to ensure that both parties properly appreciate the others' points of view. Although we will not make contact with a third party unless the client wishes us to do so, we aim to provide our clients with independent advice to ensure that they can take informed decisions on how to proceed. We also provide a referral service, ensuring clients have details of solicitors or other professionals or organisations who may be able to help them.

Conflict resolution Where appropriate, and if clients wish, we may also represent them in trying to negotiate a fair and equitable resolution to their dispute.

A breakdown of our current cases is given in the table overleaf.



■ Mr Hassan Mushaima (left), general secretary of the Haq Movement for Civil Liberties and Democracy in Bahrain, visiting the IHRC office in January 2010 to express his gratitude for the support provided by the IHRC when he was imprisoned from January to April 2009, as well as the IHRC's other work for political activists and prisoners in Bahrain. With him are Massoud Shadjareh, Chair of IHRC, and Seyfeddin Kara, head of campaigns.

Cases handled

During 2009-2010, the IHRC has dealt with 490 cases of which 90 are on-going. The following is a breakdown of current cases.

UK cases (by category):

Airport Harassment	4
Asylum	3
Benefits	1
Child Custody	2
Community	4
Compensation	1
Crime	1
Discrimination	6
Education	4
Employment	13
Family	1
Enquiry	2
Goods and Services	1
Hospital	2
Immigration	7
Mental Health	1
Mosque	1
Physical Assault	4
Political Complaints	8
Surveillance	1
Terrorism related	3
TOTAL:	76

Overseas cases (by country):

Egypt	2
Germany	1
Iraq	1
Italy	1
Japan	1
Romania	1
Pakistan	1
Saudi Arabia	2
Tanzania	1
UAE	1
USA	2
Total:	14

Examples of recent successes (UK)

The BAA Client A came to the IHRC after being mistreated during a search at an international airport. After the IHRC took up her case, she received an apology from the British Airport Authority (BAA), the organization in charge of most UK international airports. BAA also agreed to re-issue guidance on how its staff should deal with sensitive religious/cultural issues, and agreed to involve the IHRC in future training programs.

The IPCC The IHRC assisted Mr M and his wife who were assaulted in a train station by three men. Only one of the men was convicted of racially aggravated assault. Mr M felt that the other two were not convicted due to police negligence. The IHRC advised and

represented Mr M in taking his case to the IPCC. The IPCC upheld a large part of Mr M's complaints, and he now has the option of pursuing the matter in the civil courts.

Hijab in schools The IHRC represented a number of Muslim parents in negotiations with schools over uniform policies. In several cases the schools agreed to incorporate the Hijab into their uniform.

Hijab in employment The IHRC also supported several clients who wished to challenge their employers after being asked to remove their hijab or discriminated against because they wear the hijab.

Examples of recent successes (Overseas)

In a number of cases, the IHRC has been asked to ensure that the UK government and other organizations do everything possible to assist British citizens kidnapped or detained overseas. The following are examples of this work:

Yemen Mr K is a 15-year-old British youth detained and tortured by Yemeni security agencies. The IHRC helped his family to deal with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, calling on them to make every possible effort to persuade the Yemeni government to release him. He was subsequently released and is now back in the UK with his family.

Syria In a similar case, the IHRC represented the family of Mr A. after he had been arrested in Syria. After pressure from the IHRC and Mr A's family, Mr A's MP and several other organizations made representations to the Syrian government calling for his release. He is also now home with his family.

Legal Observation and Monitoring

The IHRC's advocacy team also monitors governmental institutions in the UK and other countries to assess their performance and guard against possible miscarriages of justice. Below are examples of its work in this area.

Bahrain, October 2009

In 2009, the IHRC was approached to observe the trial of a number of protestors arrested in Bahrain for demonstrating against the government. The IHRC worked with a number of local Bahraini NGOs in the run-up to the trial, and sent a legal observer to Bahrain to monitor the trial in October 2009. Partly as a result of the IHRC's work, all 19 of the protestors were acquitted, reversing a local precedent that courts trying political prisoners convicted and sentenced them before formally pardoning them.

For more on the IHRC's work on this case, see www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9105.

UK, September 2009

The IHRC were asked by members of the community in Harrow to monitor Islamophobic demonstrations outside an Islamic Centre during the holy month of Ramadan, and the police response to them. The IHRC also represented local people in dealing with the police to ensure that the demonstrations were properly policed. The IHRC made a recommendations on how the police they should deal with the issue, including:

- Requesting that the demonstrations should be held as silent vigils in order that the worshippers and local businesses are not disturbed;
- Ensuring that all slogans are in English, or that the police have translators to monitor slogans to ensure that they are not abusive or threatening;
- Limiting the times of the demonstrations to ensure that worshippers are not unduly inconvenienced, particularly during busy times when the Centre is attended by thousands of people in a short time;
- Generally remembering while the demonstrators have a right to protest and to free speech, the public using the Islamic Centre also have a right to free worship without being impeded or subjected to threats or intimidating behavior.

As a result, the police agreed that the demonstrations needed to be dealt with more effectively to ensure that worshippers attending the Centre were not subjected to physical or verbal abuse and intimidation.

Research and Publications

Research into various human rights issues, including the abuse of human rights in particular parts of the world, has been a major part of the IHRC's work ever since its establishment, and continued to be in 2009-10. In line with the IHRC's objectives, much of this research has focused on the mistreatment of Muslims, Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim sentiment.

Briefings

May – July 2009: Implications of CST's demonisation of Islam and Muslims

In May 2009 the IHRC published a briefing on the written work of the Community Security Trust (CST), based on an analysis of articles and other writings posted on the CST website. This briefing found that the CST writings, conducted with little academic rigour, were steeped in Islamophobic rhetoric demonising both the faith and its followers.

The following month the CST responded to the IHRC briefing in a document 'The Islamic Human Rights Commission and CST' by Dave Rich dated June 17th 2009.

Some weeks later, in July 2009, IHRC published a further briefing addressing the points raised by the CST. The first part sets out to refute the CST's claims to be hitherto disinterested in IHRC or without any contact or interest with this organisation. Secondly we present a brief response to their claims that the substance of IHRC's briefing is inaccurate or misleading, a matter that is simply unsubstantiated by the facts.

A pdf document containing both sides of the exchange, and the IHRC's reflections on them, can be downloaded from: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9183.

September 2009: Preventing Violent Extremism

This briefing was a response by the IHRC to the UK government consultation on its 'Prevent' strategy to prevent 'violent extremism' among Muslims.

After careful consideration of the government strategy, the IHRC reached the following conclusions:

- The Prevent strategy is doomed to fail in its objectives of preventing violent extremism unless and until it solves a number of inherent flaws.
- Firstly, its entire premise is that all Muslims are potential terrorists. Such an Islamophobic assumption serves to legitimise and validate the views of the Far Right and other Islamophobes.

- Secondly, the Prevent agenda unhelpfully conflates the issues of community cohesion and community services delivery with issues of intelligence gathering and counter-terrorism.
- Thirdly, the Prevent strategy fails to sufficiently engage with the primary motivations behind the actions of terrorists - an unjust and oppressive foreign policy.
- Fourthly, the Prevent strategy documents fail to define emotive and loaded terms such as “violent extremism”, “extremism”, and “radicalisation”.
- Fifthly, the terminology of “violent extremism” completely ignores the very real and dangerous threats and actions by Far Right groups and racist and Islamophobic individuals whose violent extremism is of rapidly growing concern to all communities.
- Finally, the Government’s efforts to create an alternative narrative to the Al-Qaeda brand have in essence been a cynical experiment in social engineering. Through its creation, promotion and financing of new organisations, who have no connection to the majority of Muslims and whose beliefs and practices contradict core teachings of Islam itself, the Government has further alienated the vast majority of Muslims in the UK.

The full briefing can be read at www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9108.

October 2009: Briefings presented to the OSCE

In October 2009, the IHRC published a number of briefings for presentation at the Working Session 12 of the OSCE HDIM (Human Dimension Implementation Meeting) in Warsaw. These included:

Intervention on freedom of expression, free media and information

This highlighted our experience of campaigning for human rights around the world, particularly in member states of the OSCE and in countries allied to it, such as Israel. The briefing is available on the IHRC website: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9097.

Recommendations on the Implementation by States of OSCE commitments related to tolerance and non-discrimination, in particular those relating to hate crime

This briefing identified a number of key issues concerning anti-Muslim hatred, hostility and discrimination in various OSCE countries including France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway, based on the IHRC’s extensive research on discrimination and hate crime. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9096.

October 2009: UK / Anti-Terrorism - Whose Hearts and Minds?

This briefing provided an overview of and response to the updated version of the ‘Counter-

Terrorism Strategy of the United Kingdom', also known as 'CONTEST', published on 24th March 2009. It is available on the IHRC website: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9085.

February 2010: Genocide Memorial Day Essay 'The Philippines' by Omar Ahmed

www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9215

"The Spanish-American War of 1898, and the defeat of the Spaniards, effectively marked both the end of the Spanish empire and the emergence of the United States upon the stage of global affairs. On 10 December 1898 the Treaty of Paris was signed and officially ended hostilities between the major powers. After lengthy negotiations it was agreed that under the terms of the treaty Spain would cede Guam and Puerto Rico to America, whilst relinquishing all claim of sovereignty over the title to Cuba. The Philippine Islands were in their entirety sold to the US as part of the treaty...

"For the native and indigenous people of lands once colonised by the Spaniards, the new and menacing spectre of American colonialism presented itself on the horizon..."

March 2010: Genocide Memorial Day Essay 'Congo' by Fahad Ansari

www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9250b

"It is a sign of the regret and the remorse of a nation for it to apologise to its victims for past crimes committed and try to compensate them in some way. To attempt to rewrite history to conceal those crimes only compounds those injustices and functions as a continuation of that oppression..."

"Yet, this is precisely the situation in today's Belgium where King Leopold II's systematic genocide of the Congolese people in the late 19th and early 20th Century is barely mentioned, whilst the king, through statues and monuments, is commemorated as a hero, the civilizer and the benefactor of the Congo..."

Reports and other publications

EUROPE'S SHAME:

Anti-Muslim Hatred and the Roma of Bulgaria

By Seyfeddin Kara. Publication date: 17 February 2010. ISBN: 978-1-903718-36-8

POLICING, PROTEST AND CONFLICT:

A Report into the Policing of the London Gaza Demonstrations in 2008 – 2009

Adam Majeed



Photo: Nigel Howard Media ©

**Islamic
Human Rights
Commission**



2010
PUBLISHED BY
ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
www.ihrc.org.uk

This book, by Seyfeddin Kara, a campaigner at the IHRC, is based on the report submitted by the IHRC to UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the Seventy-fourth session in February-March 2009. It looks at the situation of Roma communities in Bulgaria and the discrimination they face. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-7905

Policing, Protest and Conflict: Report into the Policing of the London Gaza Demonstrations in 2008-2009

By Adam Majeed. Publication date: 3 February 2010. ISBN 978-1-903718-37-7

This report by Adam Majeed, an IHRC legal observer, is a response to the dozens of complaints against the police in London received by the IHRC from people demonstrating against Israel during the 22 Day war on Gaza.

The problems of partisan policing and harassment of activists is nothing new to the IHRC, and this report follows in the line of previous work spanning a decade. In some cases, the recommendations of IHRC have been adopted or at the very least, hotly debated. This report shows that there is still a long way to go. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9213.

Genocide Memorial Day Calendar 2010

Genocide Memorial Day (GMD) is a day given to remember man's inhumanity to man in the perpetration of genocides and genocidal acts. This wall hanging calendar has a month to view and highlights different episodes of genocide and genocidal acts. It is a useful tool for educators and activists, and is accompanied by a monthly essay and resource list on the IHRC website: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9208.

Report: Turkey's Failure To Implement Its Responsibilities Towards Headscarved Women

In this report, the IHRC examines the plight of Turkish women due to the ongoing headscarf ban, with reference to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Since 1997 a ban on wearing the headscarf at university has been enforced, denying thousands women their right to education. Further official and unofficial bans operate in other spheres of Turkish life, with women working in government institutions suffering similar problems. This report documents such restrictions, and the effects on both the women and wider society. A pdf version is available at: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9116.

Report of the Trial Monitor in the Karzakan and Ma'ameer Cases, Bahrain 2009.

In October 2009, Abed Choudhury travelled to Bahrain as a IHRC legal observer, to monitor the verdict hearing of 19 Bahraini men charged with killing a police officer. This is a report of his observations and conclusions, as well as his observations pertaining to a further case in Ma'ameer. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9137

Current research projects and forthcoming publications

Essential Needs of Muslims in Non-Muslim Countries: A Survey

In this project, launched in 2010, the IHRC is trying to assess the needs of Muslims living in 'minority' situations. This survey will focus on government policy towards 'minorities'. This questionnaire is available on-line in English, German, Arabic, French and Turkish. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9283

Muslim Experiences of Hostility and Discrimination, 2010, Pilot Project

This is a pilot project launched by the IHRC in March 2010, to assess the levels of hostility and discrimination faced by Muslims in Europe. The questionnaire is available on-line in English, French, Dutch and Turkish. There has also been hard copy distribution of this questionnaire in the following languages, French, Arabic, Turkish, Dutch and Flemish, in several countries. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9257

Muslim Civil Society Expectations in Germany

Various agencies have identified the growing trends in Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism in Europe. This project, based on information from Muslim civil society members and representatives of the community in Germany, seeks to identify the issues that German Muslims regard as being of prime importance to them in the German context, and make recommendations to both civil society and government as to best practices and possible ways forward to address the issues identified.

Attacks on Pro-Palestinian Activists by Zionists

In this report, due to be published in 2010, the IHRC presents case studies of how pro-Palestinian activists — often from Jewish backgrounds — have been targeted by Zionist activists. The report identifies everything from physical harassment and abuse, verbal threats and even institutional facilitation of this type of behaviour, including anti-Semitism. The report presents recommendations to authorities including the police and lawmakers in how to practically deal with these crimes. The report also highlights the lacuna in theoretical work on hate crime, which does not recognise such politically motivated acts of hate.

Serious concerns regarding the move to constitutional monarchy in Bahrain (working title)

The report, due to be published in 2010, examines political developments in Bahrain, and aims to elucidate on key issues including: the failure of constitutionalisation and the resurgence of monarchical cronyism; the failure of Bahrain's economic growth to trickle down to all sectors of society as a result; the operation of sectarian trends in policy; political and economic disenfranchisement as a result of deliberate policy, rather than simply institutional or other factors; politicised law enforcement; the use of mercenaries; and the denial of the right to protest and freedom of association.

Free Speech, Muslims and Human Rights in UK, Holland and Denmark

This report, due to be published in 2010/11, examines the parameters of the free speech debate, using the case studies of Rushdie, Wilders and the 'Cartoons'. It examines the history of human rights norms regarding free speech and hate speech since the Second World War and asks why there are so many anomalies.

Muslim Women and Religious Discrimination in the UK

The UK is regarded as one of the better countries in facilitating the rights to religious expression for Muslim women. This report exposes four years of cases where this is has proved not to be the case, and concludes that the UK is actually regressing in this area. (Forthcoming 2010)

The Universal Theology of Liberation: Views from Muslim History

This book, due to be published in 2010, will bring together the papers submitted to the IHRC for its seminar on the same subject held in London in June 2009. The seminar looked in particular at the situations in Palestine and Algeria.

Campaigns and Alerts

In contrast to our advocacy and casework, and research to a lesser extent, campaigning is perhaps the highest profile part of the IHRC's work. While the advocacy team assists individuals with their particular issues, the campaigns section concentrates on identifying wider issues and categories of human rights abuses which can benefit from having their profile raised generally, as well as some of the individual cases within these categories. The campaigns team also identifies cases of human rights abuses worldwide and issues alerts designed to bring these cases to the attention of people and organizations, particularly in the media, who might not otherwise be aware of them.

Unfortunately this is a growth area of our work, as our team has engaged with a significantly growing number of cases. In particular, we have had to take up increasing numbers of cases involving authoritarian regimes in 'Muslim countries,' usually involving the suppression of freedom of speech, persecution of religious minorities or political repression.

IHRC is currently investigating numerous cases which will likely receive campaign attention in months to come. 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, and the treatment of the Rohingya community in Burma. The IHRC is also planning to expanding its 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.

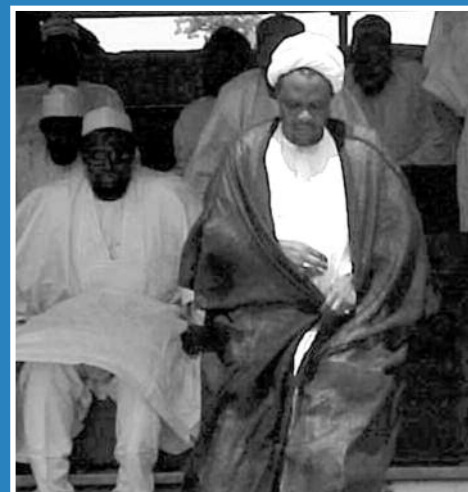
This section summarises some of the work done by the campaigns team during 2009-10.

Prisoners of Faith

The 'Prisoners of Faith' campaign, highlighting the plight of Muslim political prisoners incarcerated because of the public activism, has been the IHRC's main campaign since 1997. Among the cases highlighted during 2009-10 were the following:



■ Seyed Mousavi, freed in May 2010 after two-and-a-half years in jail in America.



■ Shaikh Ibrahim Zakzaky, leader of the Islamic movement in Nigeria, who was home was attacked by security forces in September 2009 (see p. 21).



■ Mat Sah Satray was released from prison in Malaysia in September 2009, after seven years in jail under the notorious ISA regulations, but remains under severe restrictions because of a government control order.



■ Imam Jamil Al-Amin, prisoner of faith in the USA.

Imam Jamil Al-Amin, USA

In March 2000, Imam Jamil al-Amin was jailed for life in the USA after being convicted of 13 counts related to the shootings of two police deputies, one of whom died. His conviction has been described as politically influenced and hugely unsafe. Imam Al-Amin has been subjected to appalling treatment in the US penitentiary system.

The IHRC continued campaigning in support of Imam Al-Amin's rights in prison with a number of alerts during 2009-10, including the following: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4319 and www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9087.

Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, USA

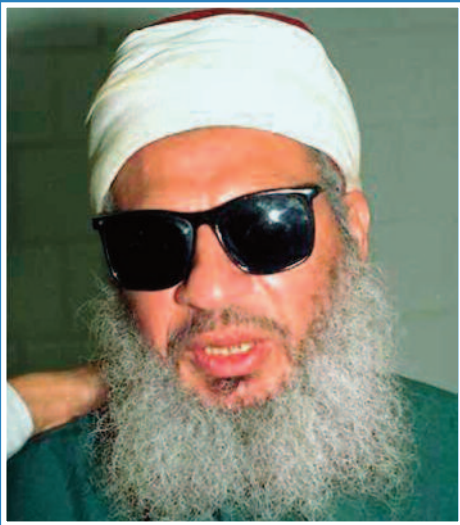
The Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman is another political prisoner that the IHRC has been supporting for many years. During his 14 years of imprisonment he has been subjected to physical, mental and emotional abuse, as well as being kept in solitary confinement for long periods – particularly harsh for a blind man – and being denied adequate treatment for his medical conditions.

The IHRC has also supported his family in their appeals to have him transferred to Egypt so they may be close to him in what they expect to be the final days of his life.

For more information, see www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4269 and www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9044

Seyed Mahmood Mousavi, USA

Seyed Mousavi, an Iranian active in the Muslim community in southern California, was arrested in July 2007 and charged with illegal dealings with bodies in Iran and tax and immigration offenses. Despite widespread outrage at his arrest – one non-Muslim commentator said he was “guilty of being Muslim” – he was convicted in April 2008 and imprisoned for 33 months. In December 2008, he was transferred to the “Communication Management Unit” in Indiana, a controversial Muslim-only facility designed to house terrorism suspects, despite the fact that his case had no connection with terrorism.



■ Shaikh Omar Abdul Rahman: held in solitary confinement despite being elderly, sick and blind.



■ Khairat al-Shater, deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, has been held without trial since December 2006.

The IHRC supported the public campaign against his imprisonment, and the legal appeals process, by helping his defense team obtain evidence from Iran. He was released in January 2010 after one appeal was successful. In May 2010, a crucial part of his conviction was overturned, and government attempts to repeal his American citizenship were rejected. He is now back home with his family.

For more information, see www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4393 and www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9331.

Malaysia ISA Campaign Pack: Mat Sah bin Mohammed Satray

The IHRC has also been supporting Malaysian prisoners held under the repressive Internal Security Act (ISA) legislation. This allows the government to order people to be detained for 60 days without trial, renewable indefinitely.

Among the ISA prisoners supported by IHRC is Mat Sah bin Mohammad Satray, who was jailed under ISA in 2004. In September 2009, he was released from prison but placed under harsh control orders instead, which have restricted his movements to such an extent that he is unable to carry out daily errands or even visit the grave of his mother.

Campaign Update, August 2009: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9220

October 2009: Video interviews with Nor Laila Othman, wife of ISA detainee Mat Sah Bin Mohammed Satray, speaking out about her experiences since her husband's arrest: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9090.

Khairat Al-Shater, Egypt

Khairat Al-Shater, the deputy to the Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) in Egypt, has been in prison since December 2006. The chief strategist and financier of the opposition movement, he was arrested after MB supporters protested against government interference with student elections. The movement was then accused of forming a secret militia and equipping students with combat training and weapons. Shater remains in prison despite not being charged with any offence, and was not given access to medical treatment and family visits until recently. The IHRC has been monitoring his case as part of the Prisoners of Faith Campaign and providing support to his family and legal team since January 2007.

Campaign update: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4272

ALERT, December 2009: Military Court of Appeal rejects Al-Shater's appeal and WGAD condemns the decision: www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9176

Alerts

The following are some of the alerts issued by the IHRC Campaigns team during 2009-10.

Bahrain

November 2009

URGENT ALERT: Bahrain – Director of Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights charged under controversial 1989 Law on Societies. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9133

April 2009

URGENT ALERT: Bahrain – Opposition spokesman Dr Abdul Jalil Al Singace prevented from leaving the country:
www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4397

Nigeria

September 2009

URGENT ALERT: Nigeria – Threat of state-instigated violence against the al-Quds Day procession. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9065

URGENT ALERT: Nigeria – Leader of Islamic Movement under immediate threat from security services; at least five people shot and killed, and several injured at pro-Palestine demonstration in Zaria. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9077

Gujarat, India

November 2009

ALERT: Campaigners urged to protest against Indonesia's invitation to Narendra Modi, orchestrator of the Gujarat massacres. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9128

UK

March 2009

ALERT: The IHRC calls for an independent public inquiry into the full extent of British involvement in extraordinary rendition. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4419



■ A Muslim woman at the photo exhibition on 'Uighurs: forgotten Muslims of China,' in London, March 2009.

September 2009

URGENT ALERT: IHRC supporters urged to join counter-demonstrations against far-right groups English Defence League (EDL) and Stop the Islamisation of Europe (SIOE) protesting outside a Mosque in Harrow. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9059

February 2010

UPDATE ALERT: Launch of Boycott Marks & Spencer leaflet. Supporters and campaigners urged to support the weekly picket held outside Marks & Spencer in Oxford Street (Marble Arch end) every Thursday evening since 2002. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9233

Press Relations

Since the establishment of the IHRC, the building of relations with the media has been a major part of our work. During 2009-2010, the IHRC issued nearly 100 press releases designed to draw the attention of the media to issues concerning the violation of human rights and repression of civil liberties in this country and around the world.

As a result of this work, the IHRC has become a trusted source for media outlets around the world and IHRC representatives have been quoted in, or have appeared in programs by the BBC, Sky TV, the Daily Mail, the Guardian, the Daily Telegraph, the Independent, Press TV, Al Jazeera, Croatia TV, Turkish TV, ethnic minority media and many other media organizations around the world.

Selected Press Releases 2009-10

March 2009

Government's social engineering project doomed to fail

"IHRC condemns the latest government anti-terror proposals, entitled Contest 2, as a dangerous experiment in social engineering." www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4412

March 2009

Anti-terror police in court over abuse of British terror suspect

"Officers allegedly punched, kicked and choked Mr Ahmad during the course of the assault, bringing him to the point of unconsciousness". www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4425

April 2009

IHRC welcomes not guilty verdict for three 7/7 suspects

"The Islamic Human Rights Commission welcomes today's not guilty verdict of the three accused of conspiring with the bombers carrying out the London 7/7 atrocities." www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4399

May 2009

IHRC expresses concern over time limit on innocent people's DNA data

"IHRC is deeply concerned at police plans to keep the DNA data of people cleared of offences and those never charged." www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4383

May 2009

IHRC Chair commenting on newly released terror arrest conviction rate

"A 13% success rate is an indication of heavy-handed policing instrumental to the alienation and criminalization of the Muslim community." www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-4371

July 2009

IHRC welcomes the decision to downgrade the terror alert level

“IHRC welcomes this decision and calls for a full review of anti-terror laws that would revive the civil liberties for all and cease creating suspect communities under the pretext of security.” www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-7904

August 2009

Government legislation denying immigrants right to freedom of expression

“The British government’s proposals to curtail freedom of expression and dissent go against the very essence of the British values that the government seeks to promote.” www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9027

September 2009

On the English Defence League and “Stop the Islamisation of Europe” protests outside Harrow Central Mosque

“EDL is a racist group out to attack Asians. It is trying to provoke and intimidate Muslim people by organizing its ‘protest’ on a Friday in the holy month of Ramadan. ‘Islamophobia’ - bigotry against Muslims - is as unacceptable as any other form of racism.” www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9059

December 2009

IHRC welcomes ECHR verdict declaring Section 44 Stop and Search powers illegal

“While we are pleased with the decision by the ECHR, we urge the government to refrain from misusing anti-terror laws.... We remind all that a secure and just society cannot be built on unjust laws.” www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9202

January 2010

On the proscription of the group Islam4uk

“IHRC is extremely concerned with the extent of abuse of the anti-terror laws in the proscribing of the group Islam4uk. It remains to be seen whether groups like the English Defence League will be proscribed too.” www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9203

Events

In order to support and promote its work and its projects the IHRC regularly organizes events ranging from public lectures and seminars to book launches and photo exhibitions.

The following are some of the events organized by the IHRC during 2009-10.

March 2009

Photo-exhibition: 'Uighurs: Forgotten Muslims of China'

This 4-day exhibition of photographs by the Swedish photographer Per Engstrom, from 14-18 March, 2009, aimed to highlight the racial and religious persecution and discrimination faced by Muslim Uighurs in Central Asia under Chinese rule. The event was organized by IHRC and supported by the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) and the UK Uighur Association (UUA).

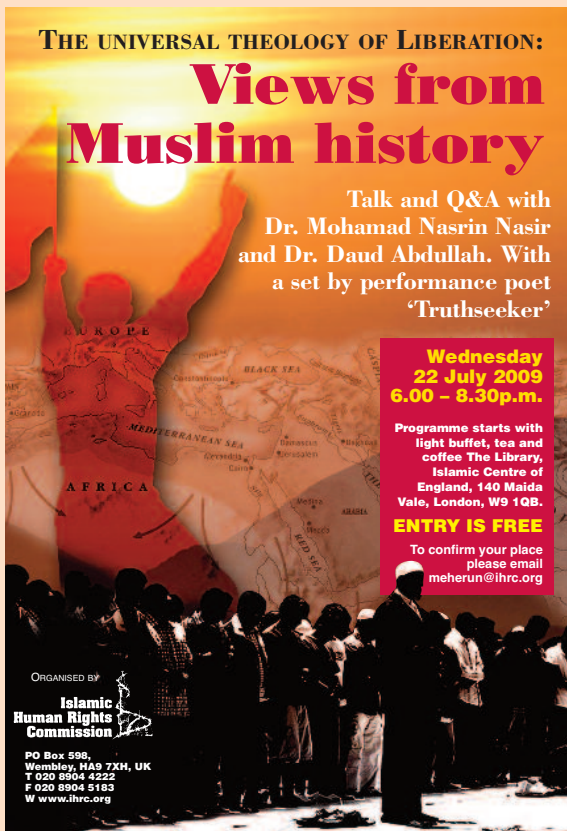
The exhibition opened with a launch event addressed by Engstrom and Uighur activists based in London, who highlighted the cultural and political oppression of the Uighur people. The London exhibition was followed by a number of smaller exhibitions in other parts of the UK. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9382

Belfast, June 2009

Comparing Irish and Muslim Experiences of Counter-insurgency Laws and Policies in Britain and Northern Ireland: A Symposium

This event aimed to explore comparative perspectives on Irish and Muslim experiences of counterinsurgency laws and policies by bringing together practitioners, community representatives and activist-academics. The symposium examined the social impact of counterinsurgency measures (for example, surveillance, stop and search policing, arrest, interrogation and imprisonment) on people within Muslim and Irish communities.

Panel topics included: 'Counter-insurgency Law and Policy', convened by Mike Ritchie, Director, Committee on the Administration of Justice; 'Counter insurgency, Campaigning and Communities', convened by Mark Thompson, Director, Relatives for Justice; 'Experiencing Counter-insurgency Policies: Prisoners and Families', convened by Moazzam Begg, Cage Prisoners; and 'The Impact of Counter-insurgency Policies: Young People and Communities', convened by Massoud Shadjareh, Chair of Islamic Human Rights Commission. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9384



London, July 2009

Event: The universal theology of liberation – Views from Muslim history

On 20 July, 2009, the IHRC held an event on 'The universal theology of liberation' at the Islamic Centre of England, London. Speakers included Dr Mohammad Nasrin Nasir, of Malaysia, and Dr Daud Abdullah of the Palestinian Return Centre, London. They explored the universalistic aspects of liberation theology and how those ideas connect with past Muslim movements against imperialism. They also looked into the liberation movement in Palestine and its relationship with Islam and Muslims.

www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-7903

August 2009

Launch of the new IHRC website

In August 2009, the IHRC announced the launch of its new, updated website design, incorporating the IHRC's latest multimedia material and aiming to provide a more user friendly experience for people seeking information on human rights and the work of the IHRC. www.ihrc.org / www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9034

South Africa, September 2009

Lecture Tour by IHRC Chair Massoud Shadjareh

In late September 2009 Massoud Shadjareh, the Chair of the IHRC, was invited for a short visit to South Africa where he participated in a number of talks and media engagements. These included:

Friday 25 September

- Talk on Islamophobia on South Africa FM and Cape Talk Radio.

- Jumuah khutbah on Martyrdom.
- Appearance on Radio 786 'Straight Talk' program. Topic: 'Imam Khomeini's Concept of Martyrdom'.

Saturday 26 September

- Talk at Stegman Road Masjid, Cape Town, on 'Brotherhood and Unity'.

Sunday 27 September

- Talk at College of Cape Town Crawford Campus, on 'The Role of Martyrs in Implementing and Defending Human Rights'.

Monday 28 September

- Talk at Maitland Mosque on 'Torture and Detention'.

Tuesday 29 September

- Talk with Masjidul Quds Ladies Group, on the topic of 'The role of Mothers in raising conscious adults'.
- Talk at University of Cape Town on 'The true concept of Human Rights'.
- Appearance on Radio 786 'Prime Talk' program. Topic: 'Prisoners of Faith'



■ Orthodox Jewish Rabbis taking a stand against Israel at the Al-Quds Day March, London, September 2009.

London, September 2009 Al-Quds Day March

Every year, Muslims around the world mark the last Friday of Ramadan as Al-Quds Day, with demonstrations in support of the Palestinians suffering under Israeli occupation and oppression. The event is also an occasion to remember the millions of other people suffering oppression all over the world. The IHRC has assisted in the organization of the Al-Quds Day march in London for many years. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9053

Sweden, October 2009

MMRK/ASR conference on 'The Media's War on Terror'

On October 3 2009 Massoud Shadjareh, the Chair of the IHRC, spoke at a conference on the 'Media's War on Terror' organised by the Muslim Human Rights Committee, Stockholm (MMRK) and the Association of Afro-Swedes (ASR) He also took part in a panel discussion with Moazzem Beg, former prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, Asim Qureshi, of Cage Prisoners, and other panelists. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9084/ [www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9092.](http://www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9092)

Bristol, October 2009

Lecture: Imam Achmad Cassiem on Liberation, Struggle and the future of Islam.

On 9th October 2009, South African Imam Achmad Cassiem spoke at the Wills Memorial Council Chamber in Bristol on the topic of 'Liberation, Struggle and the Future of Islam', relating his own experiences in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa with the wider struggle against oppression in the current global socio-political climate. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9127

Edinburgh, November 2009

Lecture: Achmad Cassiem on 'Awakening the Ummah: The Sleeping Giant'

On 17 November 2009 Imam Achmad Cassiem spoke at Edinburgh University on the parallels between the apartheid regime of South Africa, which imprisoned him on Robben Island for 11 years, and the Zionist regime in Israel. He also highlighted the commitment of Muslims to the creation of a just society. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9132

London, January 2010

Genocide Memorial Day 2010

The IHRC marked Genocide Memorial Day with an event at Abrar House, London, on Saturday 17 January 2010. Speakers included: Imam Achmad Cassiem from South Africa, a former prisoner at Robben Island, who spoke about modern genocides; Lee Jasper, a human rights activist, who spoke of the slave trade; Rabbi Ahron Cohen of Naturei Karta, who spoke on the Holocaust; and journalist Assed Baig, who spoke on Srebrenica. There were also messages from Ward Churchill on the genocide of indigenous Americans; and Hasan Nuhanovic.

The event was organized by the IHRC with the support of the Stop the War Coalition,

Muslim Association of Britain, CAMPACC, Neturei Karta, British Muslim Initiative, Palestinian Return Centre, Ahlul Bayt Islamic Mission, Innovative Minds, Ahlul Bayt Societies and Islamic Forum Europe. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9206

London, March 2010

Report Launch: When Will Europe Acknowledge? Anti-Muslim Hatred and the Roma of Bulgaria

The launch of the IHRC's report on the situation of the Roma in Bulgaria took place at the Islamic College in Willesden, London, on 3 March 2010. It was addressed by Assen Asenov, a former member of parliament in Bulgaria, and Seyfeddin Kara, the author of the report and head of campaigns at the IHRC. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9248

■ The Genocide Memorial Day event in London, 17 January 2010.



■ A page from the IHRC Genocide Memorial Calendar.



Al-Khalil, West Bank

Al-Khalil also known as Hebron is a Palestinian town in the West Bank. Like the rest of Palestine its population suffers ongoing brutality by Israeli forces. Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Richard Falk, has described Israeli actions as "slouching towards a Palestinian holocaust". This picture shows pro-genocide graffiti on the door to the Abu Heikel home in Al-Khalil in 2006. In 1994, 29 worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque were gunned down by a Jewish supremacist, whilst they were performing their morning prayers.
Photo © Christian Peacemakers Team -Hebron, Tel Rumedia, July 2006

October 2010

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Islamic Human Rights Commission
 PO Box 598 • Wembley • HA9 7XH • UK
 Tel (44) 20 8904 4222 • Fax (44) 20 8904 5183
 Email info@ihrc.org • Web www.ihrc.org



The IHRC at the UN

The IHRC has a long history of involvement with the work of the UN. It has been accredited with the UN Department of Political Affairs since 2002, and in 2007 achieved Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN. In both capacities, it has contributed written and oral statements to UN proceedings, aiming to ensure that delegates and officials are informed of human rights issues and violations, with particular focus on the mistreatment and violations of Muslims in both Muslim and non-Muslim states.

Below are some of our written and oral statements given at the UN during 2009-10.

March 2009

Oral Intervention statement on Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

“Islamic Human Rights Commission condemns systematic and grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by Israel in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories...” www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9244

May 2009

Submitted written statement on Nigeria

“The Islamic Human Rights Commission remains saddened about the right to fair trial and due process in Nigeria. The Government of Nigeria is not only in breach of its international human rights obligations but the policies of the government are also not compatible with the standards of fairness and due process defined by Sharia law and the Nigerian constitution.” www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9178

Submitted written statement on Germany

This statement outlines Islamic Human Rights Commission’s concerns with the laws related to racism and racial discrimination against certain religious minorities especially against Muslims in Germany...

Recommendations The IHRC urges the German government to:

- Fully respect the provisions of international human rights instruments including ICCPR and guarantee non-discrimination for all;
- Ensure that the religious minorities, especially the Muslims, do not become the

subject of racism and racial discrimination;

- Review laws regarding headscarf and citizenship with a view to its obligation under international human rights law in relation to equality and non-discrimination and freedom of religion.

Submitted written statement on Malaysia

This submission outlines Islamic Human Rights Commission's concerns with the legislation related to arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention, right to fair trial and freedom of expression in Malaysia.

Recommendations The Government of Malaysia should:

- Ratify the core international human rights instruments including ICCPR by abolishing the ISA;
- All person arrested should be informed of the charges against them and they should be tried according to the standard of international fair trial;
- Release all individuals held under ISA.

Submitted written statement on China

Islamic Human Rights Commission is particularly concerned with the freedom of religion and freedom of expression in China.

Recommendations:

- The Republic of China should ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang should be allowed to practice Islam according to their religious beliefs without government interference or approval;
- Uighur Muslim children should be allowed to practice their religion and the rights of parents to educate their child according to their own religious belief should be respected;
- The Republic of China should repeal all laws limiting freedom of expression / religion and bring its laws in conformity with international human rights standards.

www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9253

June 2009:

Submitted oral intervention on China

Members of the UN should be aware that research by the IHRC confirms that Uyghur Muslims in China are forbidden from performing a number of things that they consider obligatory under their religion. These include celebrating Islamic festivals and studying religious texts.

The Chinese government also vets who can be an imam; what version of the Qur'an is acceptable; where religious gatherings may be held; and what may be said at such gatherings. They recently introduced regulations forbidding local government employees and young men under the age of eighteen from praying in the mosque.

www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9050

Submitted oral intervention on Saudi Arabia

IHRC draws the attention of the UN Human Rights Council to the position of religious minorities, particularly the Shia, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9237

Submitted oral intervention on Malaysia

"IHRC strongly recommends the government of Malaysia to immediately abolish ISA and release all individuals held under ISA." www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9164

Submitted oral intervention on follow up of Durban Review conference

"IHRC's chief concern about the recent Durban Review Conference (DRC) was that it failed effectively to address serious, contemporary manifestations of racism, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance that have emerged or intensified since 9/11. These include Islamophobia, racial or religious supremacism, and discriminatory 'anti-terrorism' measures such as the 'stop and search' policy recently introduced in the UK."

www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9239

September 2009

Submitted written statement on Iraq

"The human right framework in Iraq is undermined not only by weak adherence to international human rights obligations but also Iraq's criminal justice process which fails to meet the most basic standards of fairness and prisoners' rights."

www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9145

Submitted written statement on Egypt

IHRC highlights concerns about human rights violations in the Arab Republic of Egypt, including the right to a fair trial in terms of arbitrary detention and torture and freedom of expression and association.

www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9151 / www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9151b



■ Roma children living in squalor in Bulgaria. From IHRC Report on Europe's Shame: Anti-Muslim hatred and the Roma of Bulgaria.

Submitted oral intervention on Afghanistan

Approximately 630 Afghans and other foreign nationals, including 9 juveniles, are imprisoned without charge by the US government at the Baghram prison, which clearly shows that US military airbases in Afghanistan are outside the protection of international human rights law. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9091

Oral Intervention on Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

"Israel and its leadership have a kind of super impunity that they enjoy which allows them to violate all international standards and laws which they wish to violate..."

"Islamic Human Rights Commission congratulates the Council for the establishment of the fact finding mission on the Gaza conflict. Many of the recommendations made by the fact finding mission indeed reflects many of our concerns." www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9093

November 2009

Submitted written statement on Turkey

The IHRC is concerned about the restrictions in relation to choice of Muslim women's dress in Turkey. The IHRC's overall recommendation is the implementation of CEDAW's request to the Turkish government "to monitor and assess the impact of the ban on wearing headscarves and to compile information on the number of women who have been excluded from schools and universities because of the ban" and take every necessary measure towards the immediate abolishment of the ban. www.tinyurl.com/ihrc-9116

The Universal Justice Network (UJN)

In October 2008 the IHRC was instrumental (along with the Citizens International organization) in establishing the Universal Justice Network (UJN) as a network of NGO's and grassroots organisations from around the world committed to sharing knowledge and campaigning on issues of justice. The UJN is based in Penang, Malaysia.

The international work of the UJN can be regarded as an extension of the work done by the IHRC in London. Some of the work done by the UJN during 2009-10 is summarised below.

Gaza Campaign

In November 2008 the UJN launched concurrent campaigns in Turkey, UK, Malaysia, Indonesia and India regarding the siege of Gaza, with a letter to Hosni Mubarak signed by various local and international organisations and public figures, calling for the opening of the Refah crossing. This campaign has continued ever since.

Soon after the Israeli assault on Gaza in 2008-9, the UJN sent delegates to Gaza to investigate the situation there. This resulted in a campaign calling for a UN war crimes tribunal to be established to investigate Israel's conduct during the war.

June 2009: London Secretariat Meeting

The IHRC hosted the second meeting of the London Secretariat of the UJN in London from 8-10 June 2009. Topics discussed included the demonisation of Muslims and minorities, economic and social rights, and justice and human rights issues for oppressed peoples around the world.

UJN delegates from around the world also reported on the situations in their own regions. These included Imam Achmad Cassiem, from South Africa, who highlighted the xenophobia against immigrants from other parts of Africa and issues concerning local Muslims; Imam Ibrahim Zakzaky from Nigeria; Br Madani from Indonesia; and Br Jawahiulah from India.

November 2009: European Regional Meeting, London.

The IHRC also organised the European regional meeting of the UJN which was held in London between 2nd-4th November 2009. This focused on providing individuals and groups with the understanding and skills required to effectively promote the work of the UJN in their own parts of Europe.



■ Delegates at the UJN meeting in Depok, Indonesia, February 2010.

February 2010: Third International Meeting, Depok, Indonesia

The IHRC also played a major role at the third International meeting of the UJN in Depok City, Indonesia. Delegates from over 15 countries attended the meeting to discuss human rights issues and violations from all over the world.

Among issues discussed were the ongoing wars and occupations in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Somalia, Kashmir, Iraq and Afghanistan; the Israeli strangulation of Gaza, which is resulting in a humanitarian crisis; the Israeli targeting of Islamic sites in Jerusalem, particularly the undermining of the Al-Aqsa complex; and Israel's extrajudicial assassination of political opponents in Palestine and abroad. Delegates supported the boycotting of Israeli products and brands which aid Israel, such as Coca Cola, Starbucks and M&S, and agreed that the UJN would launch a campaign for the boycott all Israeli goods.

The meeting also discussed was the situation of Muslim minorities in Europe and countries such as Thailand, Burma, the Philippines and China. The fear was voiced that the increasing demonization and humanization of Muslims generally on the pre-text of the 'war on terror' mirrors the experience of Jews in Nazi Germany and the Tutsis in Rwanda, with obvious implications for communities in several countries.

Conclusion: Looking ahead

The year 2009-10 has been a year of considerable changes for the IHRC. We have expanded several of our projects, and made changes to our management structures in order to accommodate the growing demand for our services. We have also up-graded our on-line presence, launching a new website with multimedia capabilities. This provides a good basis for raising our global profile, promoting our projects, and opening new opportunities for networking and cooperation with activists working in similar areas all over the world.

All this has been achieved despite the usual problem of resources, common to so many groups working in this area, and the obstacles put in our path by groups who resent the fact that we are working on an Islamic basis and seeking to serve oppressed people worldwide, the majority of whom (as acknowledged by UN sources) are Muslim. *Alhumdulillah*, the commitment and hard work of our dedicated team of workers, volunteers and supporters has been unwavering. It is they, above all, who deserve credit for the progress that the IHRC has made over the years.

As a result, the IHRC is, we humbly believe, well-positioned to continue its work and its progress as an organization in years to come, provided that the constant struggle for resources can be managed. Every project we have is in a stronger position than it was a year ago, and better able to cope with the demands on it. The opening of a new building in London, including an information hub, gallery and bookshop specialising in human rights, scheduled for late 2010, should also enable us to establish better links with the local community, Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

With the help of Allah *subhanahu wa ta'ala*, and the support of so many of his committed believers, we firmly believe that the IHRC can go from strength to strength in the years to come *insha'Allah*, enabling us to fulfil as best we can the Qur'anic command to serve all those in need of help and support, whoever and wherever they may be.