

Islamic Human Rights Commission



Broadcasting live
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VOLUME 14 - RAMADAN 1434 / JULY 2013

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

THE AIMS OF THE ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- 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

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?



14 year old Faris Odeh, later martyred, throws a stone at an Israeli tank at the Karni crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip, on the outskirts of Gaza City (AP Photo /Laurent Rebours) October 29, 2000.

In 2013 the Islamic Human Rights Commission and Citizens International headed a delegation to Indonesia to investigate a sudden and unprecedented upsurge in sectarianism that had left two men dead, many more injured and 200 villagers displaced. In the scale of global injustices and death tolls, it may seem like a comparatively minor incident. So why concern ourselves with it here? Put simply, the Sampang incident is a microcosm of a trauma

and fitna that is killing the spirit and soul of the ummah and sabotages the future that Islam commands us to strive for - a just world for everyone. The cause is the curse of asabiyyah (chauvinism), and we bring it on ourselves. Just as these villagers were attacked for being apostates by virtue of following the Jafari fiqh of Islam, Muslims are buying into not just slaughter but wholesale political alliances with no less than the worst perpetrators of genocide in the name of countering the 'threat' of other Muslims. We have internalised

Islamophobia and given violent vent to it against each other. We no longer believe that the political, media and legal demonisation of Muslims is wrong, we believe it is just wrong about our own 'type' of Muslims. We don't believe that Muslims and Islam have a different version of the world, or the future to give, just that our group fits into the current narrative of how the world works, and that the 'other' Muslims and anyone else demonised by the powerful aggressors must be suppressed or even eliminated.

During the height of the US occupation of Iraq, IHRC received reports that hospitals across the country were classifying patients as they came in using different colour catheters to mark out whether a patient was Shia or Sunni. Depending on the sectarian affiliation of staff from hospital to hospital, those with the wrong colour catheter were not prioritised. In laymen's terms, they were left to die. Maybe a decade later or a little less, this type of hatred is so ingrained

Continued on page 11

Live on
IHRC TV
www.ihrc.tv

IHRC TV has progressed this year with regular live events on www.ihrc.tv being broadcast and later added to our Youtube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/IHRCtv> More information on the events can be found on page 4. Highlights from this year include the following:



Shadow Lives with Victoria Brittain



Decolonising France with Houria Bouteldja



In conversation with Mark Gonzales



MI5, Spies and Intelligence Services with Roshan M Salih

IHRC VICTORY ON 'STRIP-SEARCH' BODY SCANNERS

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) has welcomed the decision by the government not to install controversial airport 'strip-search' scanners in UK airports. The U-turn by the coalition came after planned legal action, supported by IHRC in the High Court, challenging the use of such invasive technology.

The scanners had faced a barrage of criticism from many different groups including IHRC who supported the legal action by a former IHRC employee. The ex-employee had won the right to take his case to a full judicial review.

Reservations about the scanners came from a number of faith and civil liberties groups from around the world. Their objections included the dissolution of civil liberties, health issues, the explicit nature of the body scanners and storage of images, as well as the fact that the scanners could not detect plastics and liquids which was cited as a reason for their introduction.

New scanning technology will now simply display an automated image of a person for all travellers who step through them. When nothing is detected, the screen will flash up an 'OK' and the passenger will be cleared; suspicious items



IHRC continued its campaign, including a legal challenge, against naked body scanners in the UK.

will be depicted as a yellow box on the automated image which corresponds with where the object is on the passenger's body. The passenger will then require additional screening. The image is not a naked image of the passenger.

The Chair of IHRC, Massoud Shadjareh said: "IHRC has campaigned and lobbied against airport scanners, which cost £100,000

each, since their introduction and contributed to government consultation on the issue as early as 2010. With continued campaigning and action by IHRC, this decision by the British government is a massive victory for the Muslim community and all who believe in civil liberties."

Yasir Khan

A CUT ABOVE THE REST

The recent cuts in funding across the legal aid sector have left many people without access to justice.

To add to the woe recent closures of many CAB offices across the country have left many low income families without recourse to legal advice. Citizen Advice Bureaus have been an important part of society assisting people who otherwise would not be able to afford basic legal advice.

IHRC have been offering an advocacy service for many years. Over this time we have had great success, whether it has been with helping people facing discrimination at work, racism in the street or abuse by the police. However, with the recent cuts and closures of advice centres, IHRC has added a weekly drop-in advice centre to its range of services. It was becoming apparent to us that most people needed quick impartial advice and some reassurance that they could access support as and when they needed it.

The drop-in centre offers personal one-to-one advice. In today's fast-paced world where much of our interaction is with machines we believe that the human touch, can go a long way in reassuring victims and making them feel that they are not alone.

We are here to serve the local

community as much as we are to help people overseas. If anyone is in need of advice then feel free to drop in every Wednesday between 5-7pm.

ADVOCACY SUCCESS

The Advocacy team has been working tirelessly over the years notching up many successes. However, a prominent victory for us and for the battle against Islamophobia came in the shape of a discrimination claim at work.

We were contacted by a client who had recently joined a global company and was working there as a manager. However, very soon into his role he noticed that his colleagues, in particular the head of his department, were not communicating with him in a manner acceptable for an office environment.

As time went on his manager made comments about his beard such as 'is that a toilet brush on your face?' and offered him food that was not permissible for him to eat only to laugh and say, 'Oh yes you're not allowed to eat it'.

The client emailed his manager and explained that he did not take kindly to the way he was being spoken to and felt discriminated against. His manager claimed it was only office banter. It is important to remember that complainants should always

record the incidents in which they feel they have been discriminated against or harassed. The more proof you have the better your chances of success in any later legal claim. Employment Law has seen some recent amendments, the biggest of which came in April 2012. The qualifying period in which an employee can bring a complaint for unfair dismissal is now two years. However instances of discrimination are covered by the Equality Act 2010 under which claims can be brought as soon as the discrimination takes place.

Our client contacted us as he did not know what he could do about the discrimination. We subsequently wrote to his employers explaining what they had done amounted to religious discrimination and that he was within his rights to make a claim at the Employment Tribunal. They realised that they had been wrong and after discussing the situation with their solicitors they decided to offer our client £30,000 as a settlement for his complaint.

Cases like this show that the law does work for victims of discrimination. So if you have any issues at work do not hesitate to get the advice you need so that we can help you get the rights you deserve.

Yasir Khan

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Islamic
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Commission

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear supporters,

Every year I write a message to you telling you of the work we have done and the challenges that we face but this year there is one thing that has occupied my time and mind. Sectarianism has been on an alarming increase. We have seen it spreading across the world, from Indonesia to Egypt. This year we saw a sectarian attack in London on Edgware road. It took place in broad daylight. The troubling thing was that the group that carried out the attack is well known to police and the protest that was being conducted only had two police officers present. This was on a Friday on one of the most multi-cultural streets in the UK. In the aftermath we wrote to the Metropolitan Police highlighting the issue and we issued a statement against sectarianism. This particular attack



Massoud Shadjareh Chair, Islamic Human Rights Commission

Challenging the negativity against Islam is at the heart of what we face.

took place in the form of a demonstration organised by Anjum Choudry's group, but sectarianism is also being promoted via Fadak TV and the scholar Yasir Habib being abusive towards the Sunni community. The language of sectarian takfiris serves the same purpose regardless of what background they come from; dividing the ummah and destroying the unity of Islam, which is essential if we are to address the challenges that we face.

Our work with the Universal Justice Network has continued. We sent an observer mission to Indonesia where internally displaced people were forced to live in a sports centre and then had to endure aid being cut off by the government. IHRC as part of UJN sent an observer mission to Sampang along with some aid for the displaced people. UJN also had meetings with religious scholars and government officials to highlight the dangers of sectarianism. I was a part of this observer mission and I can tell you that our support and aid was warmly welcomed by the people of Sampang. UJN also sent delegations to Turkey and Egypt to build networks of activists, relationships and discuss issues facing the unity of the Muslim ummah.

We have renewed calls for Muslim organisations to sign the unity pledge in the form of Charter 3:103. Charter 3:103 is a simple Quranic verse that calls for unity amongst Muslims. Derived from Chapter Three and verse 103 where Allah tells Muslims not to be divided and hold firmly to the rope of Allah. IHRC under Charter 3:103 will mobilise masses and the silent majority against takfiris and divisive individuals and groups. We will continue to do our best to act against incitement to hatred wherever it

takes place across the world.

The Woolwich attack brought with it an Islamophobic wave of attacks. Sisters were attacked, mosques burnt down and many more attacks, we believe, went unreported. Yet in the days and weeks following the attacks the police did not increase their vigilance nor did they reassure the community with an increased presence at religious sites. We wrote to the police but they replied with the general spiel about the work that they do. We persisted and have now managed to get an adequate response and will be meeting with the London Metropolitan police to raise our concerns with them.

We have campaigned against imprisonment and injustice that is so often taking place under the

tence of fighting terrorism and extremism.

Our briefing on Saudi political prisoners highlighted the fact that there are 30,000 political prisoners held in the Kingdom's jails who are mainly from Sunni-Salafi backgrounds. All this whilst Saudi Arabia is using sectarianism to hide its brutality and lack of popularity.

Schedule 7 is when you can be stopped and asked questions at a UK airport and be put in prison if you refuse to answer. IHRC has opposed and challenged Schedule 7 urging people to come forward to tell their stories. We've included a know your rights section to make people aware of their rights.

It is issues like this, where the rest of the world is silent, that we must take up.

Challenging the negativity against Islam is at the heart of what we face. We cannot just challenge the far-right but we have to challenge those that create the culture of Islamophobia which has become institutionalised throughout the police, media and politicians.

We are of course always tackling the issues that affect the Muslim community on a daily basis. Whether it is airport scanners, stop and search, Islamophobia to holding events and training sessions to help people deal with the challenges we face as an ummah.

Above are a variety of issues we deal with. Each year we want to strengthen our responses and this can only be done by your support; physical, financial and spiritual in the form of your duas.



VISIONARY AWAKENING

EXHIBITION LAUNCH

WEDNESDAY
18 SEPTEMBER 2013,
7PM - 9PM

IHRC is delighted to host young photographer and artist Nasreen Shaikh Jamal al-Lail's work at its gallery in Wembley, northwest London.

Jamal al-Lail's work has been exhibited in England and Saudi Arabia. Her main areas of interest lie in the connection between space and self-identity; attempting to weave alterity into a form which can be understood by those who find themselves amidst the confluence of ever changing, constantly evolving global artistic forms.

Jamal Al-Lail's focus has been on developing an understanding of how an interaction between different 'collective memories' has created a unique set of problems about who one is and what one can become. Some of her work is being exhibited at MAPS (www.maps-photo.com) over the summer 2013.

If you would like to attend the exhibition launch please contact events@ihrc.org.

SPACE IS LIMITED
SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY



PROVIDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDS DEVASTATED BY THE ARREST OF A FAMILY MEMBER UNDER UK ANTI-TERROR LEGISLATION



THEIR FRIENDS
HAVE
DISOWNED
THEM



THEIR MOSQUES
HAVE ABANDONED
THEM



AND THEIR
COMMUNITIES
HAVE
SHUNGED THEM



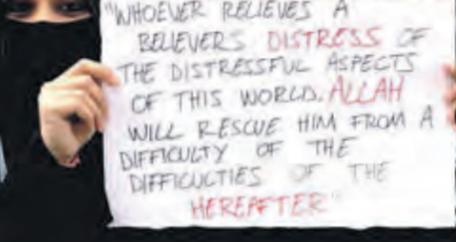
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LONELY



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AND
DESPERATELY
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WHOEVER RELIEVES A
BELIEVER'S DISTRESS OF
THE DISTRESSFUL ASPECTS
OF THIS WORLD, ALLAH
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THIS YEAR AT THE IHRC BOOKSHOP AND GALLERY

The Islamic Human Rights Commission Bookshop, Gallery and Information Centre; Another Fantastic Year with a brand new online shop

IHRC bookshop has had another great year with incredible new events and a brand new & revamped online shop featuring brilliant new products including specialised books for adults and children.

The Bookshop & Gallery itself has had a fantastic year hosting art exhibitions and fundraising events for IHRC Trust. Our very successful and new fundraising bake sales were introduced at the end of 2012 and helped raise funds for our organisation as well as promoting and benefiting local companies which wanted to support our cause.

IHRC also played a vital role in increasing awareness of Islamophobia, racism and human rights by conducting events which highlighted the history of racism and the colonies colonialism.

We welcomed Professor Ramon Grosfoguel in December 2012 to address the question, 'Is Islamophobia a form of Racism: From the History of Al-Andalus to Fanon's Zone of Being and Zone of Non Being'. He is one of the leading decolonial thinkers and academics in the world today and has been instrumental in setting up and working on decolonial projects including the Decolonial Translation group and the Center of Study and Investigation for Global Dialogues, of which the Critical Muslim Studies Summer School in Granada is a part.

Using the example of Al-Andalus, he argued that Islamophobia is an original form of racism. Grosfoguel explained Franz Fanon's theory of the zones of being and non-being and how colonialism defines the experiences of peoples in both zones to this day, creating privilege within one and oppression in the other.

Other great speakers we invited this year included Houria Bouteldja who is known to the French as the 'Malcolm X of France'. Houria is a spokesperson of the Party of the Indigenous of the Republic (PiR), which she helped found. She spoke about Decolonising France and gave a detailed account of the situation in France and the challenges faced by the anti-racist struggle there. Her topic, 'Decolonising France' pre-

sented the history of PiR, as France's first decolonial political party and the challenges it has faced in standing up to Eurocentricism, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism and Zionism. The event was streamed live on IHRChrc.tv TV (www.ihrc.tv). All IHRC events are later uploaded to our Youtube channel!

We were delighted to host the film screening of *MI5, Spies, Intelligence Gathering and the UK Muslim Community* by Roshan Muhammad Salih. Roshan, an independent documentary maker, showed the extent of the resources being brought to bear on the so-called

taking place at the bookshop.

We also welcomed Sayeda Habib to discuss her best seller: 'Discover the Best in You! Life Coaching for Muslims'. The book is the next best thing to having your own personal life coach. Examples from the Qur'an and the Hadith abound to provide great inspiration and remind readers that Islam is vital for Muslims to live the best life they possibly can.

In January 2013, Amina Inloes & Nazmina Virjee, the translators of *Spiritual Mysteries and Ethical Secrets*, were invited for an author evening. The evening centred around the 17th century Islamic scholar,

IHRC also has played a vital role in increasing the awareness of Islamophobia, racism and human rights by conducting events which highlighted the history of racism and colonialism

terrorism threat by the British government. It was an eye-opening exposition of how the Islamophobic assumptions of UK security services is having an increasingly detrimental effect on the civil liberties of Muslims.

Victoria Brittain was welcomed back to IHRC for an author evening on her latest book 'Shadow Lives'. *Shadow Lives* reveals the unseen side of the '9/11 wars', their impact on the wives and families of men incarcerated in Guantanamo, or in prison or under house arrest in Britain and the US. Victoria Brittain shows how these families have been made socially invisible and a convenient scapegoat by the state in order to exercise arbitrary powers under the cover of the 'War on Terror'. V V

We had an online conversation with Mark Gonzales, an inspirational poet, who was interviewed at the IHRC Bookshop. Again the event was streamed live to online viewers. If you would like to join our mailing list please send your request to shop@ihrc.org and receive updates about all promotions and activities

Fayd Kashani, and the source of his inspiration, Imam Hamid Al-Ghazali. Fayd entirely rewrote Ghazali's classic *Ihya Ulum ad-Din* from a Shi'i perspective, focussing on refining ones character to perfect the soul.

Many of our events also catered for the children in their school holidays. Our continued success with children's storytelling sessions was showcased in the annual 'Malcolm X goes to Hajj' as well as other storytelling events which gave children an opportunity to choose the books they wanted to be read.

We invited the spoken word poet Ibraheem Sincere the poet's stage name, for a poetry workshop for teens at the IHRC Bookshop to work alongside the children and help encourage them to broaden their knowledge about poetry. The 19 year-old is a young rapper/poet from London and member of the group 'OntheD'. He performed some of his poems in the form of poetry and rap, which conveyed the message of revolution, spirituality and activism and tackled everyday issues facing our communities and our youth.

Ibrahim was very encouraging and motivated the children to inspire themselves and others. However he impressed upon them that the key was to change oneself first.

For this year we have many great author evenings planned, so join our mailing list by visiting our website www.ihrc.org or emailing events@ihrc.org.

Do visit our online shop (www.shop.ihrc.org) as we have a great range of books ranging from factual material to cutting edge literature to DVD's and exclusive contemporary and traditional arts. Our selection of books includes radical pamphlets by Citizens International, covering issues of structural violence, books addressing issues of Palestine, terrorism, Islamophobia, as well as children's fiction and non-fiction books, and much more.

With a delicious range of hot drinks, a friendly and relaxed environment, you can enjoy your visit to IHRC bookshop as well as benefiting from our latest promotions and exhibitions.

Not only do we take orders for books and DVD's, we also promote the work of artists by conducting exhibitions here in our gallery as well as hosting many exclusive events.

Support us by shopping online at shop@ihrc.org as all profits go to the IHRC Trust (no. 116120). With your support we can continue our work to bring justice and harmony to those whose fundamental rights have been denied.

Orders can be placed over the phone: 020 8904 4222, via email: shop@ihrc.org or in-store. Larger orders will receive a concession, so make the most of our amazing offers.

Hajrah Arshad



Amina Inloes and Nazmina Virjee talk about their translation of Kashani's Spiritual Mysteries

IHRC Research & Publications Forge Ahead

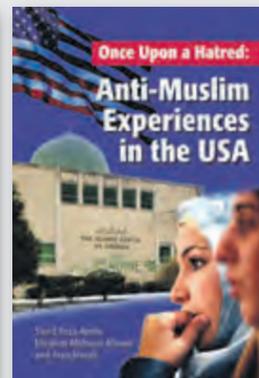
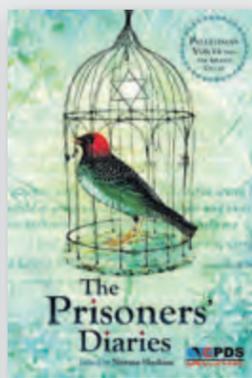
It has been an exciting and eventful year for the research and publishing section at IHRC. We have just published *The Prisoners' Diaries*, edited by Norma Hashim, which gives the verbatim accounts of Palestinian prisoners held by the Israelis, sometimes for decades. We have also published numerous other reports focusing on our traditional areas of work.

More work from the Hate Crime project

Once Upon a Hatred: Muslim Experiences in the USA, *Bibliographical Discourse Analysis*, *The Western Academic Perspective on Islam, Muslims and Islamic Countries (1949 – 2009)* Volumes 1 – 4, and *Hate Crimes in Canada* (working title) have met with positive reviews and been widely circulated.

Once Upon a Hatred and Hate Crime in Canada are both new reports from IHRC's Hate Crime project, which started in 2009. Both volumes follow on from the ground survey work done by IHRC, and like our UK and France reports, are groundbreaking in that for the first time they enable us to quantify the level of hatred and discrimination faced by Muslims.

The importance of the US, Canada, France and UK Hate Crime and Discrimination reports must not be underestimated. This is the first time that comprehensive and reliable statistics have been compiled about



the hate-crime experiences of Muslims.

In the USA some 1200 Muslims in California were questioned about their experiences. In Canada, over 500 people participated in the survey. A shocking 30% of Muslims in the USA said they had been the victim of a hate motivated physical attack. This compares with 11% in Canada, 19% in the UK and 20% in France.

This year, IHRC intends to repeat this project in the UK to help policy-makers understand the true scale of hatred and prejudice that Muslims face in the UK.

Sanctions as human rights violations

We have also been working as part of the Universal Justice Network in making the case that peacetime sanctions against any country are a gross violation of the human rights of the people of that country. Our three briefings with UJN cover the history of

peacetime sanctions, the legal arguments against them, and their impact on innocent people.

Islam & Human Rights – New Thinking

We are privileged to have procured the services of Imam Muhammad Al-Asi of Washington D.C. for this project. We hope and pray it will produce its first publication in 2014. A sample of Imam Al-Asi's thinking on this topic can be found on the IHRC and UJN websites in the video of his talk in Kuala Lumpur entitled *Islam and Human Rights*.

Bibliographical Discourse Analysis

This pioneering work by Professor Saied R. Ameli comes in four volumes, and looks at how Islam and Muslims are represented in academic literature. Ameli pioneers the use of new terms in categorising the type of

view taken from the established terms 'Islamophobic' and 'neutral' to the new terminology of Islamoveritic, Islamophilic and Islamoromic.

The value of IHRC Research

Much of IHRC's previous research work remains current and important. A number of publications are being used as teaching tools at universities or reference books for other NGOs and IGOs. Much of it is cited in other research work. Our reports and books always end with a focus on recommendations using the ideas of those interviewed and surveyed to propose ways for society to move towards greater harmony and justice. Whether it is the UK, USA, France or elsewhere, IHRC is committed to long term research of the highest standards to counter the violent policies and systems the world faces.

IHRC AT UNITED NATIONS

In 2012 IHRC hosted key UN representatives to educate and inform them about Bahrain, Kashmir and Burma. The role we play at the United Nations is pivotal in creating and maintaining a Muslim voice and presence on an international scale. Serious human rights abuses across the Muslim world have meant that IHRC's work has been the focal point for social justice. Although such trips require extensive resources the lasting effect and positive pressure that it applies to countries is paramount for improvements in human rights.

Islamophobia is on the rise with Islam and Muslims being increasingly demonised across all forums. Because of this growing trend there is a great need for Islamic NGOs to clarify their position on political issues and establish themselves at the United Nations. On an international level the presence of Islamic NGOs is lacking because of insufficient resources. There is a need for the strengthening of Islamic civil society groups in developing countries so that the concerns of Muslims can be aired on an International platform.

The Burma event at the United Nations saw Johnny Miller, journalist for Press TV, highlighting scenes of ethnic cleansing against the minority Rohingya community. His presentation includ-

ed an exclusive viewing of footage from his latest trip to Burma. Most recently IHRC hosted a captivating panel of speakers from across the world on 'The administration of justice in conflict areas'. The topic covered minority rights, the need for authentic distribution of justice and was attended by Ambassador Ronald Barnes,

Serious human rights abuses... have meant that IHRC's work has been the focal point for social justice

a permanent representative of the UN for Indigenous Peoples & Nations Coalition.

Extensive research, report writing and networking with like-minded NGOs are some of the ways in which IHRC ensures its successes; these are great opportunities that require funding and support from IHRC's dedicated followers. The events IHRC holds in Geneva provide a platform in which NGO's can have dialogue, showcase their research and discuss potential ways forward. They also allow individuals and organ-

isations to network and build connections in the human rights sector. Without these resources, IHRC is not able to commission as many reports, attend human rights council sessions and be the voice for the Islamic ummah on a global stage.

Also in 2012 an IHRC-led delegation attended the Human Rights Council session on Bahrain to boldly address the dire human rights situation in the country. The delegation also met former Bahraini detainees as well as Bahraini exiles who welcomed IHRC's ongoing research and interest in the country's state of affairs.

Discriminatory practices in Nigeria including unlawful arrest, threats to kill, and administrative detention have led IHRC to commission further research into the regressive practices being employed in Nigeria. This extensive research resulted in a report being submitted to the United Nations for Nigeria's Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The advantage of being involved in the United Nations with consultative status is the ability to be engaged in the processes of the UPR. The UPR is an extensive review of the human rights practices of all states in the world, and takes place once every four and a half years.

Farah Mirza-Bukhari

MDUK
MEDIA

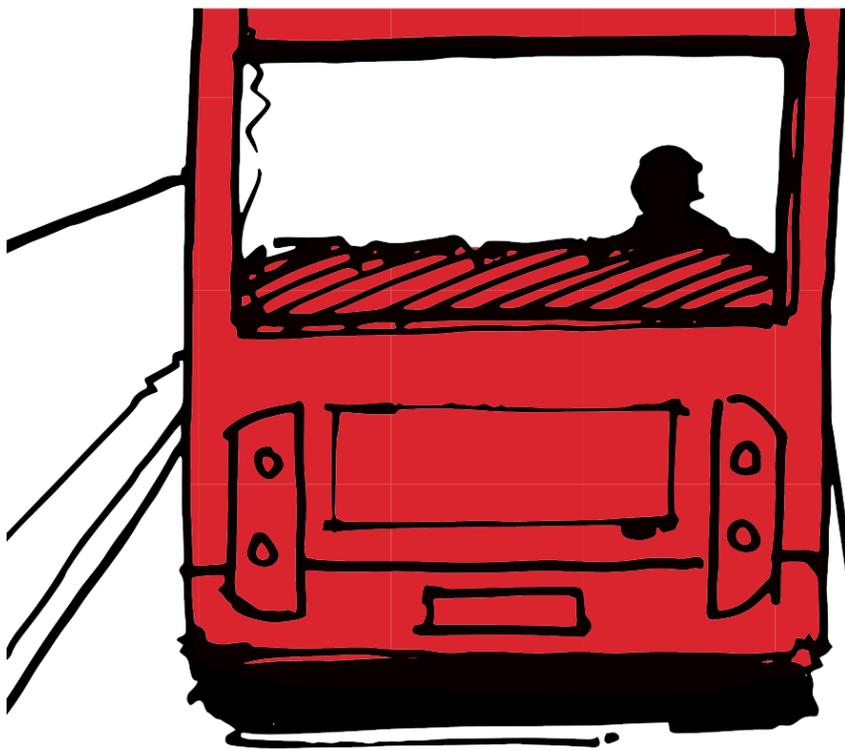
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CASE NO. 134

**HOMELESS & REJECTED
THIS IS WHERE BILAL
USED TO SLEEP AT NIGHT**

**NOW IT'S HOW
HE GOES TO WORK**

Bilal's Story: Homeless and Rejected

In 2001, Bilal came to the UK to study. He was orphaned as a baby and raised by his aunt, who funded his studies. However when she suddenly died, he could no longer afford the fees and dropped out of education.

Bilal wasn't entitled to any benefits and did odd jobs to help him survive. He sought refuge at a charity shop where he worked but it closed down leaving him homeless. With no other option, Bilal resorted to sleeping on the night bus, going from the first to the last stop... and back again... every night.

How NZF changed Bilal's story:

When Bilal found us, he was in a very poor state, both physically and emotionally. We helped him by providing him with accommodation, food vouchers and clothing. This enabled him to focus on finding more work and within three months he had a small but steady income to help sustain himself.

Bilal now uses the bus to travel to work and is no longer dependent on Zakat funds to sustain him.

Bilal's story has changed. But there are countless others right here in the UK who still need your help. The transformational power of the effective local distribution of Zakat must not be underestimated.

You can change more stories this Ramadan.

DONATE NOW | **100% ZAKAT DISTRIBUTION**

CHANGE THE STORY

020 8902 1180 | nzf.org.uk/bilal

Z National Zakat Foundation

Palestinian Prisoners Campaign

Al-Quds Day 2012 marked the launch of the Palestinian Prisoners Campaign led by the Islamic Human Rights Commission and Innovative Minds. The campaign has primarily targeted G4S and the BBC and will sustain pressure on these corporations until our demands are met.

With each volunteer committing to three vigils in the year, we are able to both ensure that the pressure is continuous and that volunteers are able to manageably incorporate campaigning into their busy schedules well in advance. If YOU would like to commit for just three 2-hour slots in the year, please check the forthcoming vigil dates on the IHRC website and sign up now! It

mane and degrading treatment which is prohibited in article 37(a) of the UNCRC, and its routine holding of children in solitary confinement for substantial periods of time amounts to torture.

IHRC is deeply concerned that the British FCO ignored the report and continued business with Israel as usual. We organised protests outside the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) to demand the FCO act on the findings of this report by the delegation of British lawyers on the treatment of Palestinian children under Israeli military law.

Mahmoud Sarsak

Professional Palestinian footballer, Mahmoud Sarsak, went on

We organised protests outside the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) to demand the FCO act on the findings of this report by the delegation of British lawyers on the treatment of Palestinian children under Israeli military law

promises to be the most rewarding decision you'll ever make.

The following are some of the Palestinian Prisoners Campaigns

British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

Israel currently holds 220 Palestinian children in its prisons. There is widespread evidence of routine sexual assaults by interrogators on children who are shackled. They are threatened with rape or sodomy with an object in order to coerce false confessions or pressurise them into becoming informers.

An FCO commissioned report published in June 2012 concluded that Israel is in breach of articles 2, 3, 37(b), 37(c), and 37(d) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The manner of arrest and detention of children amounts to cruel, inhu-

man hunger strike on 15 March 2012 following three years in an Israeli prison without charge. Sarsak, a member of the Palestinian national soccer team, was arrested on 22 July 2009 at the Erez crossing on his way to join the Balata soccer club team in Nablus. He decided to protest his maltreatment and violation of civil liberties and dignity by the Israeli prison system by means of a hunger strike which lasted 92 days.

IHRC brought global attention to Sarsak's hunger strike through encouraging people to write letters to then Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, Jeremy Hunt, asking for the British government to act to secure the release of Mahmoud Sarsak.

Mahmoud Sarsak is now free and actively involved in campaigns in solidarity with political prisoners. In a statement last year, he said that the support of people of conscience from all around the world was a major reason behind his eventual release.



'Administrative Detention'

Israel has been implementing its infamous law of 'administrative detention' which imprisons individuals, fails to bring charges against them, sets no trial and locks them up indefinitely on a rolling 6-month prison sentence. This is illegal.

Three men who have been subjected to this law are Samer Al-Barq, Hassan Safadi and Ayman Sharawna. Due to their mistreatment, they all went on hunger strike ending up critically ill and emaciated. IHRC led a protest outside the Israeli Embassy in London in solidarity with these prisoners and to protest Israel's atrocious policies and double standards.

G4S

British-Danish security firm, G4S, has made provisions to the Israeli security apparatus include a

headquarters in London; we have occupied the G4S building reception, we have handed in letters addressed to the Chairman, and we have distributed the most up to date information with the help of dedicated volunteers. With creative props from War on Want, IHRC staged a publicity stunt outside the G4S building in which volunteers held 6ft tall papier-mache guns and wore IDF uniforms replicating an Israeli checkpoint in which people are denied access to hospitals and schools. This was a highly effective campaign with many members of the public expressing interest in participating in future campaigns.

IHRC welcomes the partial victory it achieved when G4S announced it was planning to relinquish key contracts in Occupied Palestine after protests against its involvement in the oppression of Palestinians. However, the pressure needs to be continued until G4S withdraws from all its engagements in Israel.

blindfolded him before taking him to an Israeli dungeon. This is in fact the second time he has been kidnapped, the first time being in 2006 when he was imprisoned for four years.

This has been a hugely successful campaign to raise awareness on the illegal arrest of Palestinian MPs, partly due to its central location at the foot of Big Ben.

BBC

The BBC describes its mission as one to "inform" and "educate" and the news in particular is described as "providing trusted World and UK news." So you would think they would cover the story of an individual who has been on hunger strike for over 250 days, and follow it with updates as it developed over several months.

Samer Al-Issawi has spent more than 10 years in Israeli prisons. After his brief release in October 2011, as part of the exchange for the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, Issawi was rearrested for visiting the West Bank.

Samer Al-Issawi along with others are on hunger strike as part of a united effort to bring to international attention the Israeli prison system's use of torture, administrative detention and rape in clear violation of international human rights law. There is an evident reporting bias from the BBC in that Palestinian hunger strikers such as Samer Al-Issawi are not mentioned in a single news article whereas the Gilad Shalit story receives widespread coverage.

IHRC activists held placards, and distributed flyers honouring the Palestinian prisoners who have died in Israeli custody following the most inhumane treatment, and the hunger strikers, some of whom have spent more than 200 days without food. Many campaigners also used the model letters on the IHRC website as templates to write letters to the BBC Chairman and MPs to address this reporting bias.

We also delivered a letter to the BBC asking for an explanation and a change in policy. The letter included a message from Um Ra'fat, the mother of Palestinian hunger striker Samer Al-Issawi.

The public response has been great with many members of the public stopping to learn more.

How you can get involved!

Send an email to events@ihrc.org now with your contact number and the Campaigns team will try and get back to you within 48 hours. Also, visit the IHRC website regularly.

Arham Raza Haidri



perimeter defence system and command control centre for Ofer prison in occupied Palestine, and security systems for the Al-Jalame interrogation centre in Israel. Ofer and Al-Jalame are notorious for having housed Palestinian children in solitary confinement. The internment of children in solitary confinement, as well as their interrogation and torture, is made possible by the technological and logistical support provided by G4S.

Recently, Arafat Jaradat, 30, died on Saturday 23 February 2013 following interrogation and torture by Israel's internal security service Shin Bet in G4S-supplied Megiddo Prison and Al-Jalame interrogation centre. A post-mortem and autopsy of Jaradat's body revealed clear signs of torture and two broken ribs.

IHRC has campaigned tirelessly, alongside Innovative Minds and others, against G4S. We have held regular protests outside the G4S

Houses of Parliament

IHRC and Innovative Minds have joined hands outside Parliament demanding that the British government puts pressure on their Israeli counterparts to release all Palestinian MPs and other prisoners who have been illegally held in Israeli detention.

Numerous cases of torture have been documented by Human Rights groups, which have taken place both during interrogation and away from interrogation. A father of four, MP Mohammad Al-Natsheh, was beaten up by prison guards on his way to the court.

After the 2006 elections, Israel has continued to arrest and imprison Palestinian parliamentarians. One such account is that of the arrest of Palestinian MP Ahmad Abdul-Aziz from his home in Ramallah on 15 July 2012. Without any charge against Ahmad, Israeli police ransacked his home and

Know Your Rights Schedule 7: YOUR RIGHTS AT AIRPORTS AND OTHER PORTS

What to do if you are stopped, detained or questioned by security services while travelling or at any UK port under Schedules 7 and 8 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Where can you be stopped?

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 allows the interrogation, search and potential detention of individuals by police and immigration officers at ports and borders, without reasonable cause or suspicion.

This means that you can be stopped:

- At a seaport, an airport or hoverport;
- At an international train station (i.e. London-St Pancras International, Ashford International and Ebbsfleet International);
- On an airplane, ship, hovercraft, or on an international train (including in a vehicle);
- At the Eurostar or Channel Tunnel terminals and stations in France and Belgium; and
- Within one mile of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland or at the first train station in Northern Ireland for trains crossing the border.

You can also be stopped in any place where an officer

believes that you have gone there in order to embark or after having disembarked from any of these means of transport. This is likely to affect the surrounding areas of airports, hoverports, seaports and international train stations.

Who can stop you?

You can be stopped by any of the following:

- a police constable;
- an immigration officer; or
- a customs officer.

There is no requirement for these officers to be in uniform, and they will often be in civilian clothes. An officer may also authorise another person to carry out an examination or search on his or her behalf.

When can you be stopped?

Section 40(1)(b) of the Terrorism Act 2000 applies to a person who has been concerned with the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

An officer has the power to stop, question and detain a person in order to determine whether they fall within Section 40(1)(b). This is whether or not an officer has reasonable grounds for suspecting that you fall in that category.

You cannot be stopped if the officer is aware that you

are at a port for a purpose other than travel, such as if you are an employee at an airport or meeting a passenger.

What to do if you are stopped or searched:

Your rights under Schedule 7:

- You do not have to answer any questions about other people's behaviour as this would be beyond the powers of questioning under Schedule 7;
- If you are searched, you have a right to be searched by a person of the same gender.

The police cannot:

- Ask you to spy on/inform on members of your community - the Act exists to stop terrorism not as a recruitment tool for the police;
 - Use force when questioning you;
 - Take your DNA, fingerprints or intimate samples without your permission;
- However:**
- You can be removed from a ship, aircraft or vehicle;
 - Your person, belongings or the ship, aircraft, train or vehicle on which you were travelling can be searched;
 - Any of your items or goods can be searched to

ascertain whether they can be used in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism;

- Your property can be confiscated for up to 7 days;
- You have to answer questions relating to potential involvement in the commission, preparation or instigation of any acts of terrorism;
- You could be found guilty of an offence if you wilfully fail to comply with the duty of cooperation imposed under the Schedule or if you obstruct or seek to frustrate a search or examination;
- If convicted, you can be liable to imprisonment not exceeding 3 months and/or a fine or both.

Detention

Schedules 7 and 8 of the Terrorism Act 2000 allow the police to detain individuals who have been stopped under Schedule 7.

What to do if you are detained after being stopped under Schedule 7:

Your rights under Schedule 8

- You have a right to have a relative or a friend notified of your detention. If you are transferred to or between police stations, you can only ask for this notification at the last place you are detained.
- You have a right to request a solicitor to represent you. You are entitled to consult with that solicitor as soon as is reasonably practical, in private and at any time. A senior officer can require you to be within the sight and hearing of a uniformed inspector.
- You have a right to be told of any delays in either of these processes.

The police cannot generally:

- Take your fingerprints or intimate samples without your permission;
- Arrest you solely on the basis that you refuse to consent to your DNA being taken.

However:

- You can be transferred to

any place which the officer considers appropriate for examining you under Schedule 7, establishing your nationality or arranging your admission into the UK;

- You can be detained for up to 9 hours beginning with the time when you were first stopped under Schedule 7;

• A Superintendent can authorise your fingerprints or non-intimate samples (such as your hair, nails, saliva or skin) to be taken without your consent at a police station if he or she is satisfied that this is necessary to determine whether you fall within s.40(1)(b). You must be informed of:

- this authorisation,
- the reasons why it was granted; and
- the offence you are suspected of having committed before the sample can be taken.

If you would like support and advice to make a complaint against the Police please contact us:

Islamic Human Rights Commission, PO Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH, United Kingdom

**Tel: (+44) 208 9044 222
E: info@ihrc.org
W: www.ihrc.org**

FREE ADVICE SURGERIES

Islamic Human Rights Commission offers free weekly Information and Advice surgeries every Wednesdays. Our professional caseworkers can provide people with information and advice on a whole range of issues.

Our service is confidential, independent and free.

When are the surgeries?

Every Wednesdays 5pm-7pm

Appointments can be made and will be available in 20 minute sessions.

What issues will the surgeries cover?

The advice surgeries will provide advice on:

- Employment
- Benefits
- Discrimination
- Complaints against the Police

If our caseworkers are unable to provide advice on any issue you will be signposted as appropriate.

Where are the surgeries?

The surgeries will be held at Islamic Human Rights Commissions office in Wembley: 202 Preston Road,

Wembley HA9 8PA. Closest tube station is Preston Road station on the metropolitan line.

How much will it cost?

All advice given at the advice surgery is free of charge.

If you are interested and would like to book an appointment, then please call Islamic Human Rights Commission on 0208 904 4222.

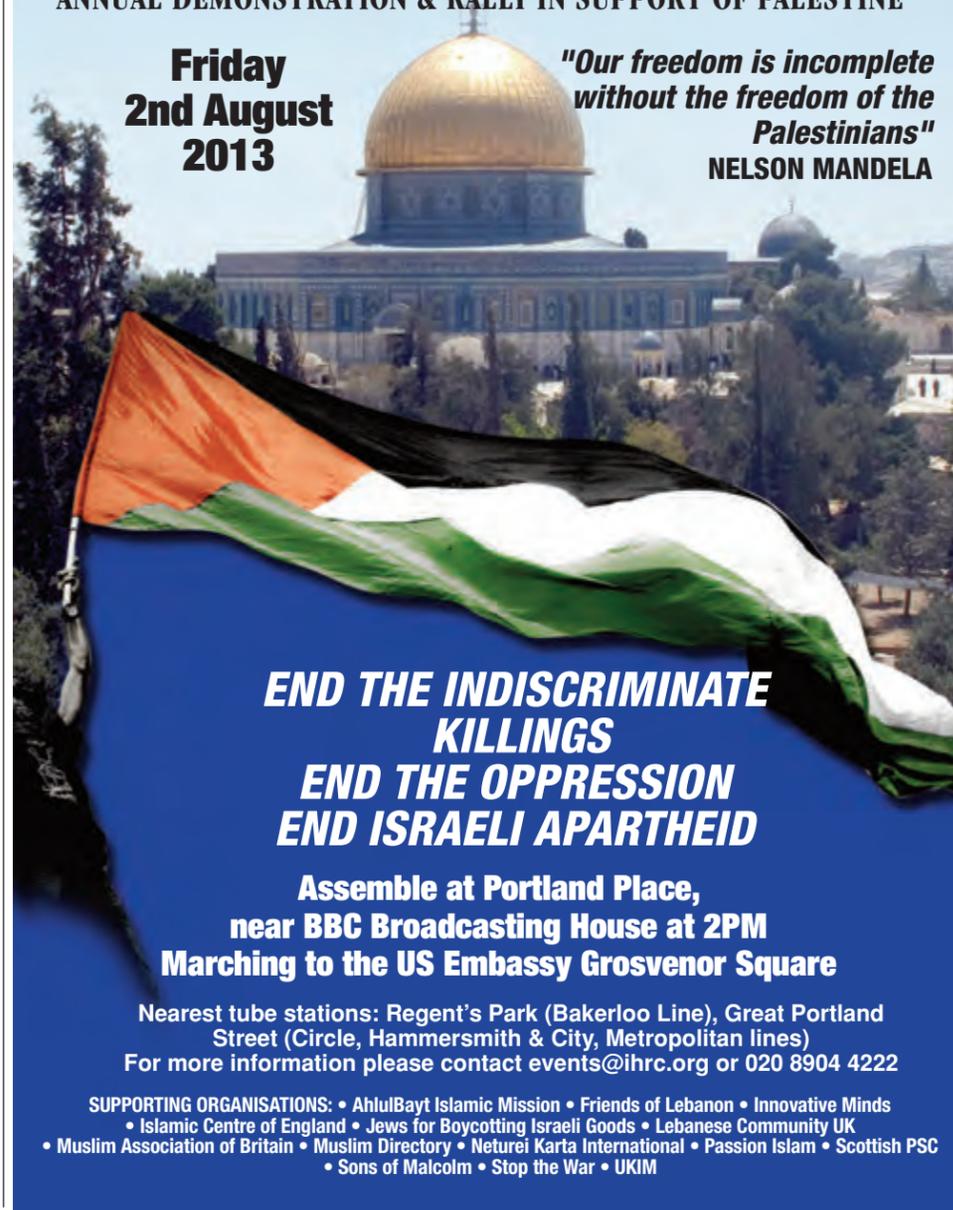
Please note, as there are limited sessions on offer, they will be available on a first come, first served basis but we will try and offer you the next available date if they are fully booked.

AL QUDS DAY

ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION & RALLY IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE

**Friday
2nd August
2013**

*"Our freedom is incomplete
without the freedom of the
Palestinians"*
NELSON MANDELA

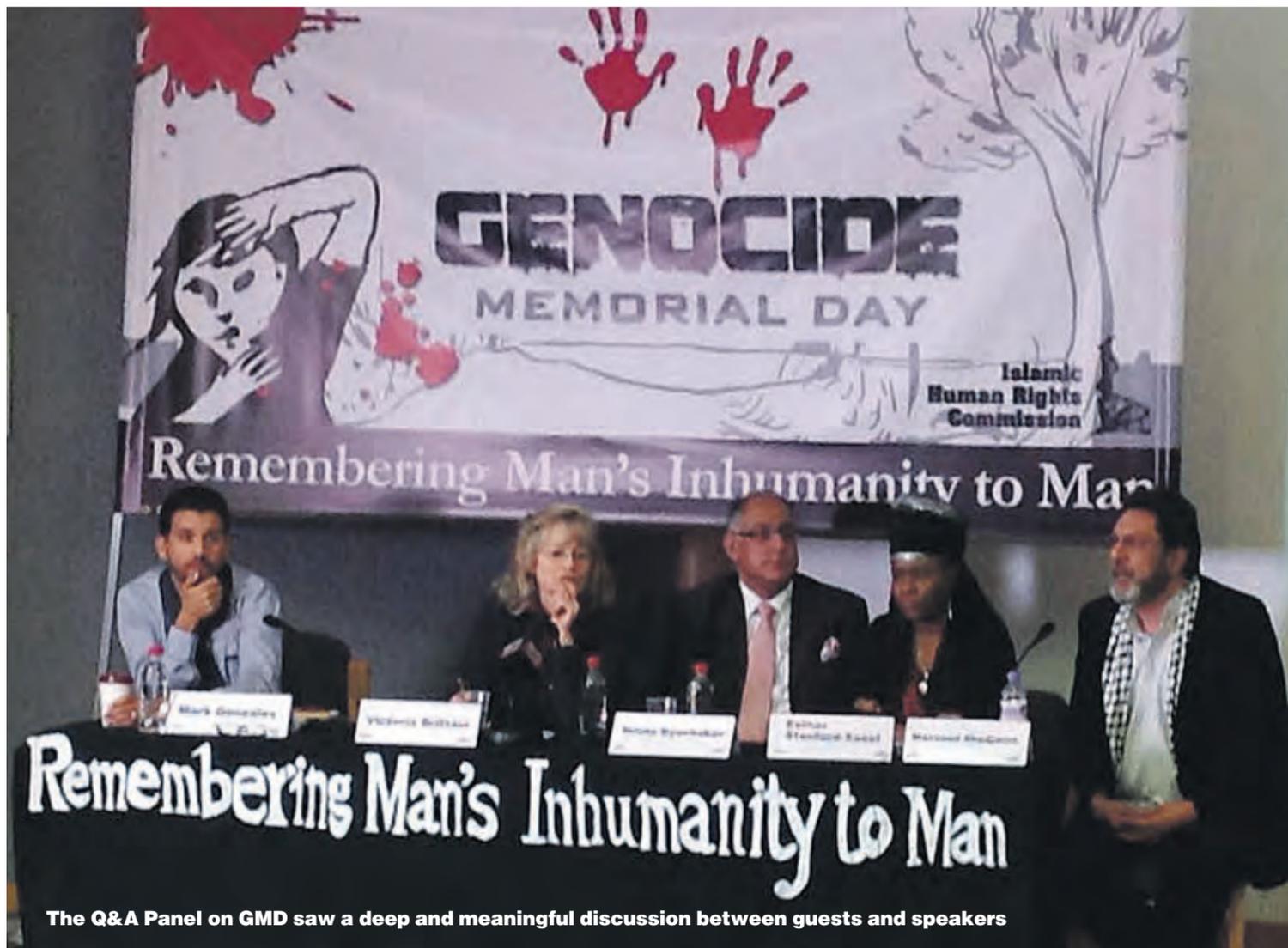


**END THE INDISCRIMINATE
KILLINGS
END THE OPPRESSION
END ISRAELI APARTHEID**

**Assemble at Portland Place,
near BBC Broadcasting House at 2PM
Marching to the US Embassy Grosvenor Square**

Nearest tube stations: Regent's Park (Bakerloo Line), Great Portland Street (Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan lines)
For more information please contact events@ihrc.org or 020 8904 4222

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS: • AhlulBayt Islamic Mission • Friends of Lebanon • Innovative Minds • Islamic Centre of England • Jews for Boycotting Israeli Goods • Lebanese Community UK • Muslim Association of Britain • Muslim Directory • Neteurei Karta International • Passion Islam • Scottish PSC • Sons of Malcolm • Stop the War • UKIM



The Q&A Panel on GMD saw a deep and meaningful discussion between guests and speakers



Hristo Kyuchukov



Mark Gonzales



Esther Stanford-Xose and Massoud Shadjareh

GENOCIDE MEMORIAL DAY 2013 – CULTURAL GENOCIDE

Cultural Genocide was the focus of this year's Genocide Memorial Day. IHRC TV figures revealed that we had the highest online audience to date, with unprecedented numbers tuning in from outside the UK.

The GMD cartoon animation enjoyed coverage across Europe, North America, the Middle East, Africa and Australia in the weeks building up to Genocide Memorial Day. The animation was designed by top graphics artist, Siddiqa Juma, who designed it exclusively for IHRC.

Issues such as colonialism, racism and discrimination and

how these ideologies systematically stripped away at the identities, cultures and traditions of African slaves, indigenous peoples of the Americas, the Roma community of Bulgaria, as well as the Palestinians under Israeli occupation, were examined at this year's event.

The philosophy behind GMD is one that rejects the notion of a hierarchy of victims depending on their background. Senior human rights activist and head of GMD Raza Kazim explained that GMD was established as a framework in which the perpetrators of genocides and genocidal acts are held accountable.

"It is important for us to not just commemorate the past but

also to recognise the genocides and genocidal acts taking place in the modern era with a view to stopping these from happening in the present or the future", he said.

Dr. Mohammad Bahmanpour provided ideological religious frame of reference for the commemoration, examining the topic of genocide from the Holy Quran in "Genocide and Hypocrisy: A Warning from the Quran". Dr. Bahmanpour explained that we should be striving towards a culture where the burden of responsibility of the verse, "whoever kills a soul... it is as if he had slain mankind entirely" (Quran 5:32) becomes a norm for all humanity to internalise rather than just an ideal for theoretical discussion.

The philosophy behind GMD is one that rejects the notion of a hierarchy of victims depending on their background

Xosei and has since built new connections with organisations including African Holocaust which are carrying out important work to raise awareness on the legacy of slavery and colonialism in the African continent through multi-award winning documentaries, some of which are also available for purchase in the IHRC bookstore (<http://www.shop.ihrc.org>).

Hristo Kyuchukov delivered a very honest and moving personal account detailing the genocide of the Muslim Roma in the Balkan countries. The leading specialist in the field of Romani psycholinguistics and education of Roma children in Europe talked about his experiences as a Muslim Roma and the discrimination he has personally suffered from the authorities. In his talk, he also discussed the Roma diaspora in Europe, a phenomenon prompted by the search for religious freedom and equal rights.

The world famous storyteller, Mark Gonzales, one of the only living poets to trend worldwide on Twitter, delivered a captivating presentation on the Americas' indigenous population entitled 'Tears, Love & Sovereignty - A Recipe For Surviving An Invasion', which mesmerised the audience.

The Chair of IHRC, Massoud Shadjareh, reaffirmed the need for a "united front to stop the genocide of today and tomorrow and recognise the people that are being demonised". The next Genocide Memorial Day 2014 falls on Sunday 19 January 2014 and will look at strategies for overcoming genocide and genocidal acts. To book your place now and avoid disappointment, email gmd@ihrc.org

Arham Raza Haidri



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www.justiceforaafia.org
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Campaigning for the Oppressed



Destroyed buildings from Meiktila, Myanmar, March 2013



Muslims who fled massacres in Meiktila, Myanmar, March 2013

Arham Raza Haidri

The Islamic Human Rights Commission's multi-faceted Campaign approach in 2012/13 has engaged the public and those in authority in a variety of ways. Whether it was Action Alerts, Press Releases, occupations, vigils, protests, stunts, advertising on London buses and on numerous television channels, or hosting panel events at the UN, the Campaigns department has used innovative approaches to highlight its campaign objectives and speak to multiple audiences. Overall, this has been a hugely successful year for IHRC Campaigns. Some of our projects this year included:

■ Azerbaijan

IHRC has supported campaigners in the past who have actively campaigned against the ban of Hijab in their countries. Most recently, we have been demanding an investigation into the reported kidnapping of Sheikh Taleh Bagirov, who has been reportedly kidnapped.

■ Bahrain

IHRC is often relied upon by voiceless individuals in countries infamous for torture and increased crackdown on freedom of speech. Some of the individuals IHRC has tirelessly campaigned for include Hassan Mushaima and Human Rights defenders Nabeel Rajab and Yousif Al-Muhafdhah. IHRC exposed leaked documents obtained by IHRC showing that Bahrain seeks seat at UN Human Rights Council. IHRC hosted Lord Ahmed, ex-Al Wafaq member Ali Al-Aswad, spokesperson for the Bahrain Freedom Movement Saeed Shehabi and the legal advisor for Human Rights Watch Clive Baldwin, in a press conference to analyse the lack of implementation of the BICI (Bahrain Independent Commission Inquiry).

■ Bangladesh

IHRC led a hugely successful letter writing campaign, propagated by numerous campaign groups and social media users, calling for the fair trial of Bangladeshi pro-democracy campaigner Professor Ghulam Azam. Professor Azam was indicted on 13 May 2012 by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal for alleged war crimes during the 1971 war with West Pakistan. IHRC continues efforts pressuring the UN and the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to

ensure that the Professor receives a fair trial in an international court.

■ Burma

IHRC part sponsored an activist-journalist campaign on attacks on Rohingyas and other Muslims. The project generated articles, first-hand accounts and photographic and video material exposing the barbaric crimes being committed. Short videos from survivors will be uploaded to our Youtube channel shortly. IHRC has been at the forefront in campaigning for the Burmese minority groups. We held a vigil international day of solidarity with the Rohingyas and continue to demand an end to the massacre of Burmese Muslims by Buddhist supremacists.

■ India

IHRC led the letter-writing campaign encouraging people to write to the Indian High Commissioner and the National Union of Journalists to ensure that the arrest and detention of journalist Syed Mohammad Kazmi received the necessary international publicity and that he is immediately released. Resultantly, Syed Kazmi was released and continues his great work as editor of popular and well-received Urdu newspaper, Qaumi Salamati.

■ Indonesia

IHRC strives to curb sectarianism and find solutions to help initiate unity amongst Muslims in Indonesia. More specifically, IHRC delivered aid to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and simultaneously worked towards the our Action Alerts a immediate and unconditional release of community leader Tajul Muluk and that the Indonesian government must immediately repatriate and provide protection for Indonesian refugees from sectarian violence. IHRC led delegation visits refugees in Sampang sports complex in successful efforts to reinstate food and water

■ Kashmir

IHRC has challenged the Indian occupation of Kashmir through its continual campaigns against the siege of Kashmir and numerous human rights violations there.

Working closely with the Kashmir Centre for Human Rights, IHRC has used up-to-date information in writing alerts opposing abductions of students including 22-year old Ahmed

Wani and speaking out against arbitrary detention of political figures including Muslim League leader Mushtaq-ul-Islam who was re-arrested by Indian authorities after being released from years of detention.

In March 2013, IHRC hosted many influential speakers including human rights experts, ambassadors and Tribal Court Judges to address minority rights and human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

■ Nigeria

IHRC encouraged its campaigners to write to the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Justice demanding an end to the harassment of Al-Mizan newspaper staff Malam Musa Muhammad Awwal and Malam Aliyu Saleh. IHRC also submitted a report to the UN denouncing the atrocities being committed by Nigeria's State Security Service, which are in clear violation of human rights and civil liberties.

■ Palestine

IHRC has from the start campaigned against the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and its continual indiscriminate attacks on innocent Palestinians. IHRC led a hugely successful London-wide Bus Campaign in support of Palestinian and Bahraini struggles to coincide with the London 2012 Olympics. As a result, the Al-Quds Day 2012 Demonstration welcomed unprecedented numbers and was also the launch of the Palestinian Political Prisoners Campaign. With the help of volunteers, we staged a Mock checkpoint outside G4S to highlight the difficulties, physical abuse and restrictions that Palestinians face on a daily basis in trying to get to a school or hospital.

■ Saudi Arabia

IHRC's research of Saudi Arabia's Political Prisoners situation found that some 30,000 people are currently in detention as a result of their political views or activities. Many are imprisoned without trial or access to lawyers and torture is routine. Most recently, IHRC has been campaigning to oppose the death sentence against Sheikh Nimr. Although IHRC has actively campaigned for Sheikh Nimr, in the grand scheme of things, IHRC is committed to speaking out against the unlawful arrests and detentions of the thousands of political prisoners who are in prison for expressing their dissent.

■ Sri Lanka

IHRC encouraged people to write to the Sri Lankan government demanding that it fulfill its commitment to "promote and protect the human rights[sic] all its citizens" by ensuring that the rights of Sri Lanka's Muslim and Christians are safeguarded and that groups spreading religious hatred such as Bodu Bala Sena are stopped.

Whilst the Bodu Bala Sena continues to call for a total ban on halal products, IHRC is closely working with its partners in Sri Lanka to ensure that public is kept regularly informed on the situation in Sri Lanka and what actions can be taken.

Whilst people may think that the success of a campaign is realised when the victim is served justice, this is not always the case. In raising awareness on a particular matter, we are not only discharging our religious and social responsibility but are also amounting an immense amount of pressure on the perpetrators of

injustice into thinking twice before they carry out further oppression.

IHRC differs from other campaign organisations in that our objective is sustained continuous pressure until our demands are met. To this end, when we set out to campaign for an individual or organisation, this is the IHRC mindset.

We have established connections with human rights advocates worldwide and so strive to provide the latest information from eyewitness sources on the global issues we cover.

This is only a select few of our campaigns in 2012/13. To learn more about our other campaigns, success stories or to find out how you can get involved, visit the IHRC website, drop us an email on gmd@ihrc.org or call on weekdays 9am - 5pm on +44 (0) 208 904 4222.

Join the struggle.
Join IHRC.

If he were
your brother
your father
your husband
...what would
you do?

Imprisoned
for 11 years
without charge
or trial

Suffered abuse,
beatings, lengthy
interrogations,
exposure
to extreme
cold, sensory
deprivation,
stress positions,
white noise, sleep
deprivation,
long-term solitary
confinement and
forced feeding

Twice
approved for
transfer from
Guantanamo
Bay

His children
growing up
without him



Get Involved with the Campaign to
Free the Last Londoner in Guantanamo

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SAVE
SHAKER
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Voices from Palestine

The Prisoners' Diaries: Palestinian Voices from the Israeli Gulag, edited by **Norma Hashim**, in close collaboration with the Centre for Political & Development Studies, Gaza, 2013.

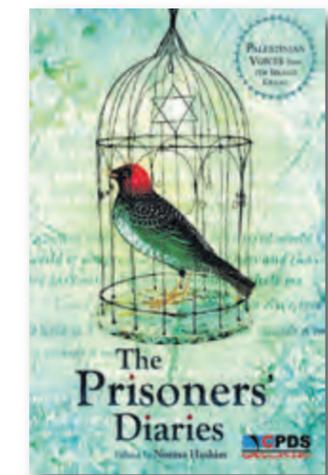
New edition published by Islamic Human Rights Commission
ISBN 978-190371892-6 / Paperback / 125 pages
£5 at IHRC Bookshop & Gallery
Contact shop@ihrc.org for trade and bulk discounts
<http://shop.ihrc.org/the-prisoners-diaries-palestinian-voices-from-the-israeli-gulag-norma-hashim>

Proceeds from the sale of this book go to help develop citizen journalism amongst youth in Gaza, and other charitable causes.

This book is a compilation of first hand experiences of 22 Palestinian prisoners released from prison by Israel as part of the prisoner exchange for the release of Gilad Shalit. The prisoners were interviewed by journalists and their accounts, their diaries, were compiled into a book by Norma Hashim. These autobiographical texts offer a rare opportunity to comprehend the inhumane indignities endured by tens of thousands of Palestinians prisoners throughout the decades of this long painful conflict.

Reviews of The Prisoners' Diaries:

"What I found most valuable about this publication was its success in turning the abstraction of Palestinian prisoners into a series of human stories most of which exhibit agonized feelings of regret resulting from prolonged estrangement from those they most love in the world."



Particularly moving were the sorrows expressed by men missing their mothers and daughters. These are the written words of prisoners who have been convicted of various major crimes by Israeli military courts, some of whom face cruel confinement for the remainder of their life on earth, and who have been further punished by being deprived of ever seeing those they love not at all, or on rare occasions, for brief tantalizing visits under dehumanizing conditions, through fogged up separation walls."

• **Richard Falk**, Honorary Fellow at The International State Crime Initiative, professor emeritus of international law and practice at Princeton University, and United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Palestinian Territories.

"I defy you to read these stories and not weep for Jews and Palestinians. Now dry your eyes and work for justice, peace and reconciliation."

• **Stephen Robert Sizer**, Anglican vicar of Christ Church, Virginia Water, Surrey, England, writer, peace activist and freelance photographer

"A humane, beautiful, valuable yet painful book. I ask all people of conscience to read it to learn more about the suffering of the Palestinian detainees in Israeli Occupation prisons."

• **Hana Shalabi**, former hunger striker, Hasharon prison, Tel Aviv

You can also call the office between 9am – 5pm
Mon – Fri and 10am – 6pm Sat (UK time) on
+44 20 8904 4222 to order or email shop@ihrc.org

Have you been verbally abused, harassed, discriminated against or even violently attacked because you are a Muslim?

Have you been mistreated by the police or security services or are you a victim of anti-terror laws?

Please contact us by emailing advocacy@ihrc.org or telephone 020 8904 4222

All information given by you will be held in the strictest confidence and in accordance with data protection laws.

IHRC ONLINE

This year has seen the introduction of a new communications team at IHRC who have been busy implementing a number of new communication strategies aimed at allowing us to broaden IHRC's reach online to a wider audience.

With the growing popularity of new media technologies, we have been harnessing the power of social media to supercharge our efforts to spread IHRC's message globally.

Our highly talked about web channel, IHRC TV, has seen a significant rise in the number of views of all new videos. A lot of new content is updated regularly onto the channel, including author evenings, as well as press events and film screenings. The majority of the shows are also streamed live online at www.ihrc.tv. The channel is accessible by visiting www.youtube.com/ihrc (Please be sure to LIKE the videos, and subscribe).

Our Facebook page has seen an immense amount of traffic with numbers of supporters rising into the thousands. Followers have joined us from all over the world as we publish alerts and press releases covering issues from Bahrain to



Burma and Palestine to Indonesia.

Our Twitter channel, where we have been covering a lot of key topics affecting the Muslim community, has seen a large increase in the number of followers over the course of the year. Take part in the ongoing conversations by visiting www.twitter.com/ihrc. We also send live-tweet updates from events as well as conferences in which we are involved.

With the explosion of social media, we have also doubled our efforts to compile gripping imagery from our events and campaigns work. This can be viewed on our Flickr channel at www.flickr.com/people/90553457@N07

This year we also had a major overhaul of the old IHRC online shop and have replaced it with a much sleeker and streamlined version of the store. The new store has a number of new features that include extra payment options, discount codes, and the ability to share items on social media.

In order for us to carry on defending the rights of the oppressed we need YOUR support. Every 'like', 'share' and 'retweet' allows our stories to spread virally through the multitude of networks.

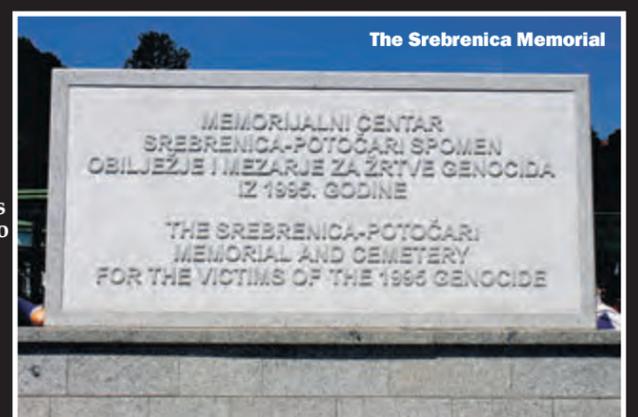
LIKE us on Facebook, TWEET us @IHRC and keep an eye on www.ihrc.org.uk for new updates from IHRC.



Bodies still waiting to be buried 17 years after their murder in Srebrenica

IHRC Documentaries

After last year's success of the Extradition documentary IHRC has commissioned a further two documentaries due to be released in the coming year. These projects are supported by IHRC to allow for films to be produced that would not otherwise be commissioned by the mainstream media. It is also an opportunity for IHRC to support home grown Muslim talent. Our two new documentaries will be on the subject of the Bosnian Genocide and Guantanamo Bay. Keep an eye on our website for the new releases.



The Srebrenica Memorial



The cemetery in Sarajevo

Continued from page 1

some leaders are even reinventing recent history. A recent tweet from a touring sheikh claimed to his five million plus followers that the Sabra and Chatilla massacres of Palestinians by Israeli-allied Christian Phalangists were in fact undertaken by Shias from Lebanon. Amongst his other offerings were a fatwa preventing the waging of jihad in any country at peace with Muslims including Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Israel. It doesn't take a genius to work out what is going on, and yet we live in denial.

This year may be the last year IHRC produces its newsletter in this format. It depends on you, our supporters old and new and the feedback you give us (please attached letter for more details). As usual, this year's newsletter outlines some of the work we have undertaken in the past few months and the issues we feel define the struggle for justice and the movement against it. On the cover of our first issue in 2000, IHRC used the same image as it does today. At that time, to stand for Palestine was a taboo many Muslims found too hard to overcome. As the situation changed and young and old stood firm against Zionism as a symbol of the type of racism and chauvinism (asabiyyah) that the world needs to overcome, a counter-narrative of Muslim chauvinism was promoted within the ummah that is now coming to bloody fruition. Instead of opposing racism, Islamophobia and all forms of prejudice,

we simply perpetuate it: at (literal) peace with its embodiment in Israel and actual war with each other. There are many reports such as that of the Pentagon related think tank, the RAND corporation, that have openly advocated using sectarianism to derail opposition to US foreign policy, but it matters little now that so much of this provocation was external. Muslim leaders have taken the baton and run with it, whether it is by twitter sermons or fatwas on 'heresy' or PR stunts promoting hatred against wives and companions of our beloved Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). All these sectarian turns ultimately result in violence. The flooding of the tunnels under Gaza with sewage by a supposedly revolutionary government this year, is just another sorry example of how our leadership fails to stand at whatever cost against ideological and structural violence and hatred, instead replicating and perpetuating it, whilst blaming the 'other' Muslims for the problems of the ummah.

Over the sixteen years since its founding, IHRC has tried to build alliances across sectarian, ethnic, religious and political divides. This is a project that is needed urgently now than ever before. The pictures we have used each year on the cover of our annual newsletters have been important in emphasising this. Most have focused on Palestine. All make the link implicitly or explicitly that without a free Palestine, none of us can pretend to be free and that sacrificing their

struggle devalues every cause.

This image of 15 year-old Faris Odeh throwing a stone at a tank became the symbol of hope for a generation. To hear Muslims now say that Palestine is not as important as we thought it was is a betrayal of every Faris who has died at the hands of horizontal violence i.e. the structural violence that begets all others, including that which we inflict upon each other. Instead of targeting the cause of the violence and working by whatever means necessary to overcome that, we pick on the symptoms and the easiest targets, reinventing our past to recast the bogeymen as 'other' Muslims and declaring war on our own futures in the process.

A million people take to the streets every year in Kashmir – the most highly militarised place on earth with one soldier for every civilian – to protest not (just) their oppression, their lives lived in extremis for over 60 years at the hands of brutal Indian occupation – but also for Palestine. Facing curfews, rape, beatings and death, they understand. How is it that so many of the rest of us don't? The battles - physical, emotional and spiritual - that we fight, cannot be in isolation of each other. Our problems need to be sorted out by ourselves for the sake of truth and justice for all.

Allah swt promises that there will always be believers, and the struggle for justice will continue regardless of the plots and plans of His enemies. The question we have to ask ourselves is simply this. Whose side are we on?

IHRC and Decoloniality Europe

IHRC is proud to be involved in Decoloniality Europe – a new and exciting initiative bringing together like-minded activists and academics across Europe to find ways of working together to bring about a decolonial future. IHRC representatives attended the 2012 and 2013 annual meetings and this year the network has committed to broadening the reach of Genocide Memorial Day as well as holding conferences on racism and Islamophobia in Paris and Amsterdam.

The key concepts of Decoloniality Europe are evolving, but already the following are presented by members of the network with IHRC: Colonial Europe; Coloniality; Decolonising Europe; Social races; White political field; Whites; Indigènes de la République; Enslaved person (instead of slave); Driver of enslaved persons (instead of planter, master); Labour camp (instead of plantation); Invasion of America (instead of Discovery of America); Scientific colonialism; Social Being and Jihad. The latter

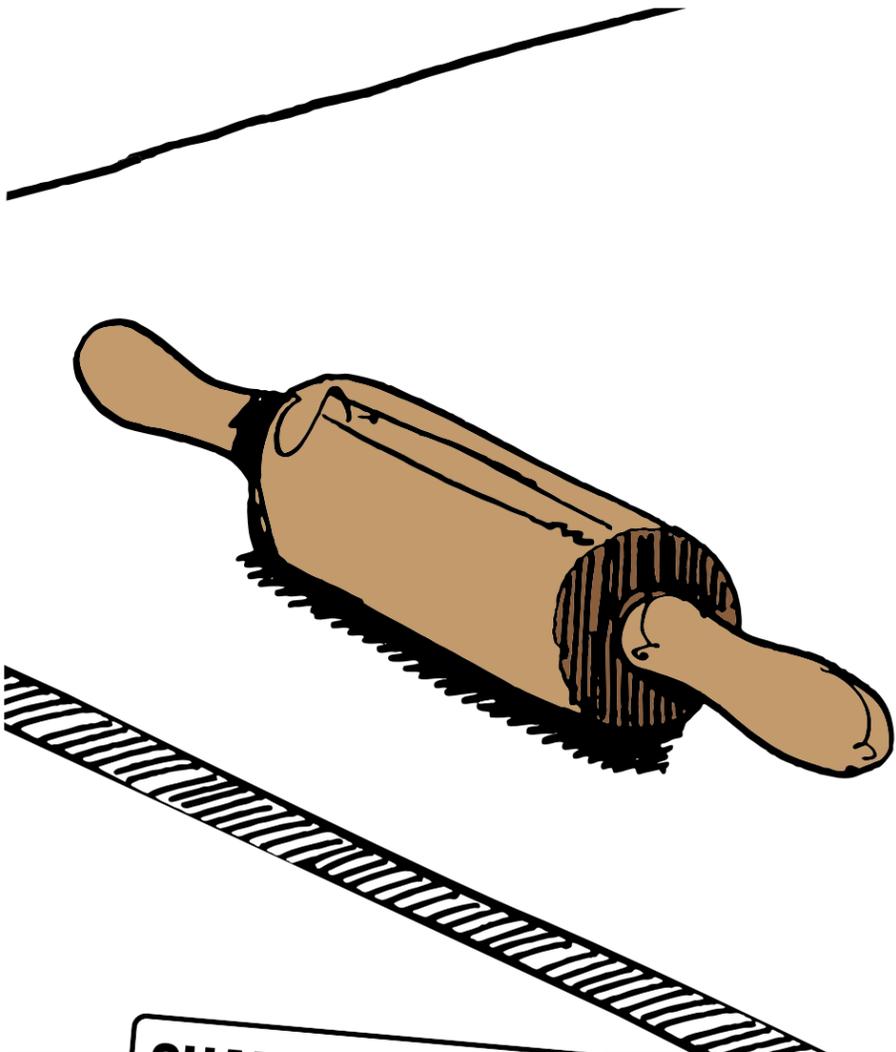
two concepts have been submitted by IHRC, and social being in particular is an important departure when it comes to conceptual literacy.

Using Imam Muhammad Al-Asi's explanations of Quranic terminology (videos of his presentation on Islam and Human Rights and the associated semantic problems, can be found on the IHRC website here <http://ihrc.org.uk/multimedia/video>), we submit that the term social being should be used in preference to man or human in order to challenge epistemic control of the nature of being that allows subalternation. Social being is a translation of 'annaas', a Quranic concept usually mistranslated as 'man', 'human' in modern translations, that internalise gendered, otherising discourses within European discourses. 'Social being' comes from the roots of 'annaas' and undermines the idea that otherisation of fellow social beings is possible. All are socially interconnected by their state of being – no 'man' or 'human' can deny another's 'humanity' or worth within a

universal understanding of being.

The following groups are also members of the network with IHRC: Indigènes de la République from France, Decoloniality Berlin from Germany, the Black Dutch Movement, TOLERACE, Grupo de Estudios del Sindicato de Andaluz Trabajadores/as in Andalucía, Decolonialidad - Península Ibérica and Instituto de Estudios Políticos para América Latina y África based in Spain. The Semantics of Tolerance and (Anti)Racism in Europe is a research project carried out in collaboration between several academic institutions in Europe and is based at the Centre for Social Studies, Coimbra University in Portugal.

IHRC looks forward to participating in the upcoming events and projects of the network. A new website of the network will be launched this year, as well as an e-newsletter (available in English, French and Spanish). Please look out for details, which will be posted on the IHRC website when they become available.



CASE NO. 556

ABUSED & AFRAID THIS IS WHAT SARA USED TO BE THREATENED WITH NOW IT'S HOW SHE MAKES A LIVING

Sara's story: abused and afraid

For five years, Sara endured horrific physical and psychological abuse from her husband. He made it near impossible for her to see her family or even venture outside.

One day, she was beaten severely and decided enough was enough. But her husband made sure the divorce process was long and painful, during which time he withheld all forms of financial support from her.

How NZF changed Sara's story:

The divorce proceedings left Sara penniless and homeless. With nowhere to go, Sara turned to NZF for support with housing and basic living costs.

We helped Sara with her own accommodation and provided food vouchers whilst her new benefit claims were being processed. We also funded counselling sessions to help her overcome her trauma. At Sara's request, we helped her start her own cooking business from home so she could become financially independent.

Sara's story has changed. But there are countless others right here in the UK who desperately need your help.

You can change more stories this Ramadan.

DONATE NOW | **100% ZAKAT DISTRIBUTION**

CHANGE THE STORY

020 8902 1180 | nzf.org.uk/sara



National Zakat Foundation

Boycott Israeli Dates Campaign

For the past 6 years the Islamic Human Rights Commission and Innovative Minds (inminds) have campaigned during the run up to Ramadan for a boycott of Israeli dates. Last years we had a really successful campaign with over a quarter of a million boycott Israeli dates leaflets being distributed. For the first time the whole supply chain, from the consumer to the shopkeeper to the wholesaler, was targeted with letters being sent to 370 key wholesalers who supply the shops in London and the South of England, and letters made available on the website for people to give to their local shops.

Our leaflet was the only one that

highlighted the complicity of Israeli Date Growers Cooperative (Hadiklaim)'s South African partner Karsten Farms and called for a boycott of dates from Karsten Farms, with brand names including Kalahari and Karsten Farms. With those brands being advertised as 'produce of South Africa' they were easily the most popular Israeli supplied dates being sold to the Muslim community. Our leaflet pointed out that irrespective of where the dates were grown the profits still went to Israel and hence they must be boycotted. With thousands of leaflets being distributed in South Africa, backed by a strong online campaign and pressure from local South African groups, Karsten Farms finally relented and announced that

they will sever all links with Israel's Hadiklaim and promised to never in the future partner any Israeli entity complicit in the illegal occupation of Palestinian land.

Key Facts

- Over 50% of the worlds Medjool dates are produced in Israel.
- 60% of Israeli dates are grown on illegal settlement plantations in the Jordan Valley.
- Israeli profits from dates in 2011=\$265 million, export up by 20% in 2012.
- If you buy a Medjool date, there's a strong possibility that it is from an

illegal settlement - grown on stolen land.

Settlements

Israeli settlements built on stolen Palestinian land have been ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice. Nearly half of the settlements in the Jordan Valley grow dates, its their most profitable crop, and contributes significantly to their economic viability. If you oppose the settlements target their dates.

Exploitation

Picking of the dates is hard work, Israeli settlers bring in low payed Palestinian labourers to do this back breaking work. During the pruning season, workers are dropped on the date palm trees by a hoisting crane at 5 in the morning, left perched on palms that soar to heights of 12 metres - a 4 storey building, left there swaying in the wind for up to 8 hours without even a toilet break, with no means to come down until the crane returns at the end of the day, the workers cling to the tree with one arm and work with the other to meet their quota. If they fall behind they will lose their jobs.

Child Labour

The Israelis prefer to employ children - even issuing them official work permits, as they can climb trees faster, work for less and it's easier to cheat and humiliate them. Out of desperate poverty Palestinian families are forced to take their children out of school and hand them over to the settlers to work for a pittance.

Guilty Companies

After a sustained global boycott campaign Israels largest agricultural exporter Agrexco went in to liquidation in 2011.

Hadiklaim, the Israeli Date Growers Cooperative, which includes illegal settler plantations in the Jordan Valley, sells 70% of all Israeli dates. Its brand names include Jordan River, King Solomon, Tamara Barhi Dates, Desert Diamond, Rapunzel,

Bomaja, Shams and Delilah. They also supply Israeli dates to supermarkets who market them under their own brand. These include Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda and Waitrose. Sometimes they are labelled "produced in the West Bank", remember these are not Palestinian dates. Hadiklaim have also sold South African dates with profits going to Israel, but due to the boycott their South African partner Karsten Farms have cut ties and vowed never to partner any Israeli entity complicit in the occupation.

Mehadrin, Israel's largest fresh produce exporter, last year boasted of doubling their Medjool date sales sighting strong demand in Ramadan! Their dates have brand names Premium Medjool, Fancy Medjool, Royal Treasure, Red Sea, and Bonbonierra. Sometimes their packaging states "Grown by Palestinian Farmers", this refers to Palestinian 'slave' labourers found on Israeli plantations.

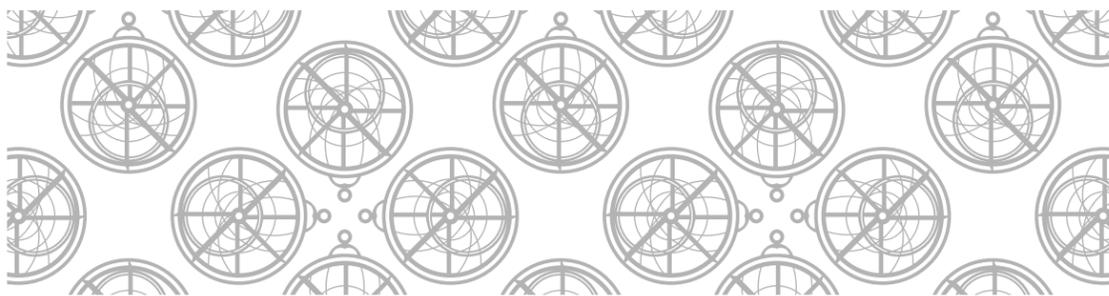
BDS Call

In 2005 Palestinian civil society initiated a call for people of conscience around the world to Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. The call was endorsed by over 170 Palestinian organisations representing all aspects of society including farmers.

Plea From Palestine

Activists visiting the Palestinian village of Fasayl in the Jordan Valley discovered that villagers are slowly being forced off their land by the Israeli army for settlement expansion. The only livelihood left open to them is to work for Israeli settlements. The Palestinians whose land had been stolen and were forced to work for Agrexco (including 2 children under the age of 12), in order to feed their families - they had a message for the activists, a plea for anyone who would listen - take action against the companies that support Israeli apartheid. What excuse is left for us not to boycott Israel?

Campaign home page: www.inminds.com/boycott-israeli-dates.php



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International publishing house and purveyors of
antiquarian books



BOYCOTT ISRAELI DATES

WWW.INMINDS.COM/BOYCOTT-ISRAELI-DATES.PHP

On 19th Jan 2013 Palestinian mother Reema and her baby girl Qumar were attacked by Israeli soldiers as she farmed her land in Um El-Arayes.

They locked her up in their prison, infamous for torture and abuse of women, whilst the military declared her farm a 'closed military zone'.

Its a standard practice Israel uses to steal Palestinian land before handing it over to Israeli settlers who then harvest & export the stolen produce - dates and other fruits & veg. to the UK and elsewhere.

They stole from her, don't be part of the crime - Boycott Israel

Check the label, avoid dates labelled Israel, West Bank, Jordan Valley, Red Sea or 'produce of more than one country'. Israeli Dates are sold under these brands:

Hadiklaim Mehadrin MTEX Jordan River King Solomon Tamara Barhi Desert Diamond Rapunzel Bomaja Shams Delilah Jordan Plains Premium Medjool Fancy Medjool Royal Treasure Red Sea Bonbonierra Carmel Agrexco



Supermarkets labelling Israeli dates under their own brand names:



For more information of our publications and access to reports and briefings, please log on to our website

**WWW.
ihrc.org**

or contact us on

**+44 (0) 20
8904 4222**

Islamic
Human Rights
Commission





Photos: Farah Mirza Bukhari / IHRC

UJN hands over aid to the IDPs

IHRC TACKLES SECTARIAN VIOLENCE IN INDONESIA



The IDPs had their food and water supplies cut off by the government

Universal Justice Network sent an observer mission to Indonesia after one man was killed and 275 of Indonesia's citizens became internally displaced in Sampang, East Java, after sectarian attacks targeted a minority Shia community. The delegation also delivered food and water to the group, which had been forced to live in a sports centre after the government cut off aid. In response to the sectarian attack, a fact-finding delegation from the Universal Justice Network flew out to research the possible factors for the recent spread of sectarianism across Indonesia. The Universal Justice Network is an umbrella organisation of 72 NGO's campaigning for justice. UJN met with members of the Indonesian government as well as NGO's, activists, religious leaders and policy-makers in an effort to combat any further divisions within the Indonesian community. The delegation was successful in lobbying the Indonesian government to reinstate food and water and is in the process of writing a report updating the government about the plight of the internally displaced people. Despite this success, at the time of writing a mob of almost 1000 surrounded the sports complex and forced the local government to relocate the IDPs over 100 miles away. The delegation met with Albert Hasibuan, the



The IDPs had to make the sports stadium their home

President's principal legal advisor, who stressed the need for education to prevent the possibility of further sectarian violence recurring in Indonesia. The meeting also discussed migrant workers' rights and the need for civil society growth in Indonesia. On arrival, IHRC and UJN provided aid for the 274 Sampang villagers residing in the sports hall. They also had the opportunity to interview Omar, the brother of Shaheed Hamama, who was killed in the attack on 26 August 2011. Omar, who was also attacked by a mob of angry Sunni villagers, showed the delegation marks on his stomach which he sustained after being repeatedly stoned and a scar on his back where a machete had struck his spine.

teachings and blasphemy. This was followed shortly by the arrest of a Sufi teacher in January 2013 for allegedly preaching Shia teachings.

Indonesia's culturally rich and ethnically diverse population should be an example to the South Asian regions where previously Christians, Muslims and Buddhists lived in peaceful co-existence. Countries suffering from similar sectarian divisions such as Pakistan, Iraq and Syria are in turmoil because of the absence of legally enforced preventative measures. A hard-line mob mentality appears to be increasing across Indonesia, affecting policing and the judicial system. The delegation advised the Indonesian government on how to avoid any further sectarian or anti-minority violence and restoring Indonesia's international image as a tolerant society.

Farah Mirza-Bukhari

The Universal Justice Network Initiative goes from Strength to Strength



UJN Delegation meeting with Numan Kurtmulus of AKP in Ankara

IN ADDITION to the UJN delegation to Sampang (see page 13), the Network sent a follow up delegation to Egypt in September 2012, and a visit to Turkey in order to help the process of networking between members, and facilitate capacity building. Massoud Shadjareh of IHRC, Mohideen Abdulkader and Imam Muhammad Al-Asi had meetings on behalf of UJN in Egypt with Doctors' Syndicate of

Freedoms Committee, Dr Abdallah and Asadullah Omar Abdulrahman from the campaign for Sheikh Omar Abdulrahman, the Binaa Party, the Basita Youth Group, Al-Nour Party, Strong Egypt Party, Freedom and Justice Party, The National Council for Human Rights and the Labour Party. Meetings in Turkey included meeting with the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), the

Saadet Party, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Sahin and the Justice and Development Party (AKP). In a bid to address the rising sectarianism of the past year, UJN also committed to promoting Charter 3:103 which is now a UJN initiative. For more information on UJN's work, including how to sign up to the Charter go to www.ujnweb.com. **Arzu Merali**

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Without this type of regular support – however small, IHRCT would not be able to operate.

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Islamic Human Rights Commission



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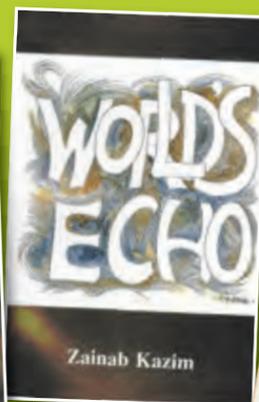
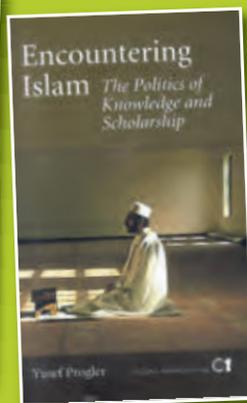
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Use this code for 20% off books when you go the checkout: 20PERCENTOFFBOOKS.

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There is something for everyone, from books on Islam, human rights and justice, books for children and teenagers, to handicrafts and artwork.

Best of all, all profits from the sales go to IHRCT and help fund the work that we do.

If you live in or near London, UK you can always pop in to our store. We are open from 9am – 5 pm Monday to Friday and 10am – 6 pm on Saturdays. Our address is 202 Preston Road, Wembley, HA9 8PA (nearest tube Preston Road, Metropolitan Line). See you soon in-store or on-line, insha Allah.



To donate to **IHRCT** text **IHRC11** with either £1, £5, £10, £20 to 70070



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Islamic Human Rights Commission



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

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

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

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