

# Islamic Human Rights Commission



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*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**



Protesters at the annual Al-Quds Day march and rally, 2013

**“If you don’t stand for something, you will fall for anything.” - Malcolm X**

**M**alcolm X’s quote highlights the problems of conceptual illiteracy. As Achmad Cassiem of South Africa often states the mission of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon Him) was not to teach the Arabs Arabic but to bring conceptual literacy.

It has been another difficult year, and yet despite the imperative on Muslims by dint of Divine command and obvious necessity, Muslims do not unite. The manifestations of such are everywhere – the internecine fighting and bloodshed in Syria and Libya, the continued disintegration of Iraq and Pakistan, the rise of sectarian hatred in Indonesia and Malaysia, the list goes on. It appears that the need to understand – another clear Divine command – is one that we have yet to internalise.

All these events and so many more - the coup in Egypt is yet another – serve agendas external and inimical to Muslims and all those who strive for justice. How is it that a community that claims to struggle for justice cannot develop the theoretical and practical understanding necessary to do so? Rather we extend the idea – a truly Enlightenment, not enlightened one – that the ends justifies the means, and that our own personal and sectarian causes define what Truth and Justice are. Where not so long ago there was some semblance of Unity – on Palestine for example – we have been lured into the trap of demeaning the momentous cruelty of 66 years of dispossession and all it entails, as insignificant in comparison to the crimes of whatever tyrant is de rigueur in western press and policy circles.

Our existence is split between our aspirations and a reality which not only is far from our aims but a reality that we obstinately worsen whilst claiming to hold onto Islamic values. We are trapped by ideas of the nation state, yet claim we are part of the Ummah. We accept the narratives of Western governments

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# Live on IHRC TV

www.ihrc.tv

IHRC TV has progressed this year with regular live events on [www.ihrc.tv](http://www.ihrc.tv) being broadcast and later added to our Youtube channel [www.youtube.com/user/IHRCtv](http://www.youtube.com/user/IHRCtv) Highlights from this year include the following:



Poets Ibrahim Sincere (I) and San'aa Sultan regaled audiences with their work to celebrate Mohammad Hamza's exhibition 'Intifada Street'



Mark Gonzales shared his 'Secrets to Surviving the Idiots' during an evening of Spoken Word



Veterans for Peace activist Joe Glenton joined us to discuss his book *Soldier Box*



Relive the Islamophobia Awards on the IHRC TV channel



Al-Quds Day, London, 2013

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that our lives and the systems we live in are much better than those of the countries so many of us may have hailed from. We do not see Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred as we should, as the by-product of wars against Muslims elsewhere and the precursor to such military interventions. Without anti-Muslim racism becoming the norm, military interventions against Muslims elsewhere would not be so readily accepted or formulated.

When movements arise to change those situations 'over there' they are crushed or socialised to neo-liberal norms, or as in the case of Egypt, both. Yet we continue to play the same game, to blame and fight each other while the world burns, in part at our own hands. Each party in this intra-Muslim melee seeks not reconciliation with the other but with the powers that be - particularly the US and its satraps. When David Cameron launched an enquiry into the Muslim Brotherhood in the UK with a view to criminalising the organisation, the failure to understand the enormity of enmity was staggering. Instead of exposing the British government for its support of a military coup at the behest of a ruthless dictatorship, activists limited their criticism to the meek request that a member of the Brotherhood should be on the inquiry panel.

## Western Machinations

The time to excuse such manoeuvring as naïve is long gone. As easily as Westernised governments promoted a full scale war in Syria, they now just as easily demonise those young men and women, who emboldened by a political and media narrative, went to fight. It is nothing new. When the USSR was defeated and expelled from Afghanistan, those hailed as brave mujahideen by the BBC no less, were then demonised as Islamic extremists. How did we make the same mistake again? Played time and again, Muslims must surely at some point learn and seek guidance from the time of our Prophet (peace and blessings be upon Him) of when and how to fight in the struggle to attain justice in the service of the most Just.

It is clear that we are losing

sight of the bigger picture because we are being attacked from all sides on a daily basis. One day it is the government implying that all Muslims have a propensity for extremist behaviour in the Tackling Extremism in the UK report, and on another it is a fabricated story of children being

**'Blair's support for the Egyptian military, as well as for the Syrian opposition, demonstrates this conflation of Western and Zionist interests in the region'**

indoctrinated in a Birmingham school, or that the food we eat is unethical, or that we are collectively responsible for the violent actions of Boko Haram. The attacks we are subjected to are endless.

One of our problems is that we are failing to understand the rhetoric of prominent figures such as Tony Blair, who in his latest speech on the Middle East, articulated that the world should be united in tackling the 'problem' of political Islam. China, Russia and the West should put aside their difference and unify against politically active Muslims. Part of the strategy, he said, should include supporting the military junta in Egypt, which has set up kangaroo courts and sentenced over one thousand people to death for the alleged murder of one police officer. Conversely, not even one member of the police has been held accountable for the murders of thousands of civilians. Blair's support for this atrocity, as well as for the Syrian opposition, demonstrates this conflation of both Western and Zionist interests in the region. Anyone who supports this atrocity and the junta while at the same time championing the Syrian opposition cannot claim to support justice, democracy or the people of the region, but instead simply exposes their vested interests in propping up the Western and Zionist agenda.

However, this sort of rhetoric should be expected from the likes of Tony Blair. What is more disturbing is the actions of Muslim states such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who have put into practice Blair's policy, and funded the military coup of the only democratically elected government in Egypt's history. They have also identified the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation. This is the same Muslim Brotherhood they are supporting against Bashar al-Assad in Syria.

## Arab Spring Disillusionment

What is also shocking is our inability to think outside arenas of nationalism and sectarianism, and look at the bigger picture in order to realise that no Muslim, be they Egyptian or Syrian, Bahraini or Libyan, is better off than before the 'Arab Spring'. If anything, there has been more death, destruction and displacement, and the only smiles are on the faces of our enemies. They are agent provocateurs who promote disunity on all sides and create the ugliest of images under the banner of Islam. Boko Haram, the so-called mujahideen who eat the hearts of fellow human beings with an audience shouting 'Allahu Akbar', and those sectarian agents who in reality represent neither Shia nor Sunni, are all the same. And they are all given platforms in the west to promote their poisonous messages and lies.

At the height of the conflict in Bosnia, when Muslims were systematically being slaughtered and raped, the consensus was that this could have been prevented if they were united, and it was the West which was 'stopping us from being unified'. Mustafa Cerić, Mufti of Bosni Herzegovina asked: 'then why do you let them?' One of the most effective ways of identifying the enemies of Islam and Muslims is on the basis of those who work hard to finance disunity. Why are we not more organised? Why do we not stand up for our rights and the rights of others with the compassion of the likes of the Prophet of Allah, sent as a mercy to all creation? Standing for justice for ourselves and all human beings is a commandment of Allah (the Glorified and Exalted). We are all His vicegerents and united we have the capacity to create a better and just society for all mankind.

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Media:

# Developing a Destination in-store and online



It has been another year of development for the IHRC Bookshop & Gallery. Our aim has been to build a comprehensive catalogue of material on Islam, social justice and human rights, as well as a wider catalogue on decolonial and critical thinking. In terms of the gallery, we are there to promote new artists on their journey. The profits of everything we sell go towards the work of IHRC and other good causes, so make sure you pop in or visit us on-line at [shop.ihrc.org](http://shop.ihrc.org). This year we have expanded our decolonising education section to include more work by critical and revolutionary scholars like Murtaza Muthahari and Naquib al-Attas. It is particularly hard to get hold of the publications of the latter in the Western hemisphere. Other thinkers and writers whose works (some of which are quite rare) that were added to the collection include Aimee Cesaire, Malcolm X, Imam Khomeini, Sayid Qutb, Angela Davis, Assata Shakur, and more. In an effort to highlight missing gaps in history as well as challenge dominant historiographies, we also added literature that dealt with Islamic contributions to the development of knowledge, science, technology and literature, as well as alternative histories of science. Claude Alvares' book, Jesus and Euclid, has been a bestseller.

This year we also started a section on alternative economics, with contributions from contemporary authors like Mohammed Ghanem, Roby Rajan and Ayatollah Mahmud Taleghani, as well as classic texts from the last fifty years including works by Mohammed Baqir al-Sadr, as well as current critique of development models from Kalpana Wilson and Kavaljit Singh.

Our poetry section grew, with contributions from Pat Winslow and Mike Marqusee who both came to IHRC to lend their support to the Free Talha campaign. We also added work by Mahmoud Darwish, Ghassan Zaqtan and Susan Abulhawa to our Palestinian poets section, and the much acclaimed work of Bosnian poet Mak Dizdar.

The most challenging area as always was the Teens section, but with some perseverance this is now turning into an exciting selection of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Books on young adulthood by Humera Khan and many others, provide much needed, clear and non-judgmental advice for the young. Fictional works, like *Guantanamo Boy*, *The Wall* and *A Little Piece of Land*, bring contemporary issues like the so-called War on Terror or the struggle to Free Palestine to the minds of the young for critical analysis. Others like *Sufi Comics*, *Boxers and Saints*, *Fidel* and *Che Guevara: A Manga History* adopt contemporary comic book styles

to bring home more profound messages

The shop itself has become a hub for local activities too. With its meeting room and space for hire, local groups, NGOs and academic institutions have utilised the space for their meetings and film screenings. If you want to hire the premises, please contact [shop@ihrc.org](mailto:shop@ihrc.org) for further details.

We were delighted in May 2014 to find that we had won an award from the Sufra Food Bank project for the largest food collection in 2013. IHRC Bookshop has been collecting donations for the food bank which helps those in food poverty in North West London. We would like to thank all the locals who have been so generous with their contributions.

Our exclusive art and crafts range is now well established with original hand crafted items from notebooks to tiles selling at the lower end of our range to the incredibly popular limited edition prints of the Intifada Street exhibition, to more expensive original work. Original, challenging and with proceeds going to a good cause the shop and gallery now have something for everyone. Please make the IHRC Bookshop and Gallery a destination for your shopping.

Alisha Khan

Media:

# Stay abreast of all IHRC activities

We at IHRC are not insensitive to the information overload confronting media consumers today. With demands on our time constantly increasing, it is hard to keep up with everything, let alone give it the attention it deserves. Thankfully IHRC's range of social media channels give you the opportunity to devote as much or as little time to helping us with our work.

Our Friday digest helpfully summarises the past week's events so if you've been too busy, you can be assured that you'll still be able to keep abreast of what's happening. The digest brings reminders of IHRC's newest press releases and briefings as well as the latest offerings from the IHRC bookshop.

When you subscribe to our mailing list you're also ensuring that you don't miss out on anything! As a subscriber we hope to keep you updated with news of our latest campaigns. What better way to guarantee that you heed our call to help the struggle? Be it in Bahrain or Malaysia, you'll be immediately alerted if there's anything you can do to help. IHRC supporters write letters and distribute posters and when you subscribe to our list, helping in these small ways will become that much quicker. To subscribe visit: <http://eepurl.com/OnJE9>

IHRC can keep you updated in other ways too! While some may prefer the more relaxed approach of perusing our weekly digest, others will enjoy the immediacy of IHRC's Twitter updates. Tweeting allows you to be informed the minute anything is published on the website – whether it is a briefing on violence in the Central African Republic or a press release on the deleterious impact of draconian anti-terrorism legislation.

Many events take place every month at IHRC. The best way to make sure you don't miss a single one – be it a panel of esteemed speakers discussing controversial issues or a film screening followed by a Q&A – is to follow @IHRC on Twitter. While we'd certainly appreciate you attending in person, not being able to doesn't mean you have to miss out. We broadcast all our events live online so wherever you are and whatever you're doing, you can tune in. We encourage our

days, months and years later. Better still, make a playlist of your own! We have a selection of Q&As, poetry readings, trailers and highlight reels so there's plenty to pick from and a good chance for you to stay informed and entertained. Subscribe to our Youtube channel and you'll get to see recently released videos before anyone else does.

We also have an extremely active presence on Facebook – thankfully, perhaps, for those of you who would like meatier



IHRC's Photo, Video, Audio and Social Media Platforms are rich resources

audience to ask questions and offer comments so that your virtual experience is as fulfilling as if you were there in person.

If you find yourself in the extremely unfortunate position of not being able to attend our event or watch it online, you can always watch out for our live updates. Most events will be tweeted live as they happen so you'll still be able to follow exactly what is taking place and what is being said. If all else fails, you can rest assured that footage of the event will be uploaded to our Youtube channel: IHRCTV. Choose to 'like' and 'favourite' our videos and you'll get to watch the recording again

updates than Twitter's 140-character. Through Facebook you can let everyone know when you're attending one of our events, share our most recent stories and images and have conversations with other like-minded individuals.

IHRC's online presence means ensures that your interaction with the content we produce is engaging and you don't have to spend any time searching for it. Remember, whenever you share an IHRC story across a social network, you're actively helping to spread the word.

Nadia Rasheed



# UNIVERSAL JUSTICE NETWORK

The Universal Justice Network (UJN) was set up in 2008 to deal with international issues in cooperation with civil society organisations. It has two secretariats, one in London, UK headed by IHRC and the second one in Penang, Malaysia headed by Citizens International (CI). Currently UJN has a network of 50 different organisations in more than 20 countries. A key focus of UJN's work has been the issue of sectarianism.

UJN has identified Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan as key areas where sectarian strife has been rising. Last year we successfully managed to bring together various high profile religious and political leaders from Pakistan, associated with groups and tendencies at loggerheads with one another, to engage in conflict resolution. Over a period of a week in Bodrum, Turkey, UJN facilitated workshops, training and a safe space in which to have frank discussions about their differences. Despite heated disagreements, by the end of the week, the various leaders agreed an eleven-point unity declaration that they all signed on behalf of their organisations and sects.

The declaration denounced the killing of fellow human beings on the basis of colour, creed, ethnicity or religion as haram. The statements also declared excommunication or takfir against fellow Muslims and abusing the Prophet Muhammad's family and companions to be against the Shariah. The declaration is based on Charter 3:103, an IHRC project initiated in 1997 that is based on



Participants at the Muslim World Priority Meeting on Pakistan held in Bodrum, Turkey join hands to read Dua Wahdat

the verse 103, sura 3 of the Holy Qur'an calling for unity. The various leaders have committed to uphold these values, to be our ears on the ground and to report back on any issues. Our second meeting will be held with the same group and the participants have also invited UJN to go to Pakistan to step up the work of conflict resolution.

In May 2014 UJN made field trips to Malaysia and Indonesia to meet senior religious and political leaders. In Malaysia sectarianism has reached such ugly depths that

in Sampang whole communities were uprooted and one person even killed due to their beliefs. There was hardly any governmental intervention and the violence was allowed to take place. UJN facilitated humanitarian aid to those affected, after they were forced to live in a shelter with no access to food, water, basic necessities and schooling.

In Malaysia UJN observed that sectarianism was actually institutionalised; the orders came from very high up, influenced by external financial and political pres-

sure. Many people are losing their jobs due to their religious convictions, books are being banned and religious gatherings are being raided by the police resulting in imprisonment without trial. UJN met various Amman Message signatories who agreed this was getting out of hand and would be willing to speak out as a group to challenge this current trend. But many were hesitant to do so individually believing that to do so would adversely affect their positions and livelihoods.

In Indonesia sectarianism was

actually coming from the grassroots and did not appear to be institutionalised. Local scholars are banning Islamic books and gatherings, whilst all the time Christian missionary work is gaining ground (thousands have converted to Christianity and churches are springing up everywhere). Both the Indonesians and Malaysians have also requested UJN to assist with conflict resolution and we are currently in the planning stages of setting up a meeting with some key players in a similar way to what we did with the Pakistanis.

Extremists or takfiris thrive on portraying a world that is black and white. They justify their actions through innovations and selective readings of traditional texts. All of this has been addressed in the Amman Message ([www.ammanmessage.com](http://www.ammanmessage.com)) by leading scholars who agreed on three fundamental points:

1. They specifically recognised the validity of all 8 Madhahib (legal schools) of Sunni, Shi'a and Ibadi Islam; of traditional Islamic Theology (Ash'arism); of Islamic Mysticism (Sufism), and of true Salafi thought, and came to a precise definition of who is a Muslim.

2. Based upon this definition they forbade takfir (declarations of apostasy) between Muslims.

3. Based upon the Madhahib they set forth the subjective and objective preconditions for the issuing of fatwas, thereby exposing ignorant and illegitimate edicts.

## Bringing Injustice to Light:

# IHRC AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) is among the many social and economic Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) representing civil society to be given the privilege of consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social

Council (ECOSOC).

Consultative status gives IHRC a unique opportunity within the UN system to do advocacy and lobbying work and present its concerns and issues in the area of human rights to the key decision makers inside the UN, its member states and to other NGOs.

The main UN agency in the area of human rights is the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

IHRC has submitted statements on countries where there are gross human rights violations such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Israel. IHRC has also



Arzu Merali, barrister Mohammed Moola and barrister Toby Cadman discuss the ongoing crisis in Bangladesh.

submitted statements on countries which are considerable stable democracies, some of them part of the European Union.

The OHCHR holds Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) of human rights over the course of the year. The most recent UPR statement to be submitted by IHRC's research team concerned Egypt. It highlighted IHRC concerns over the coup d'état in Egypt of 3 July 2013, the overthrow of President Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood-led government, and the subsequent massacre of political demonstrators at two protest sites at al-Nahda Square and Rabaa al-Adawiya Mosque in Cairo on 14 August 2013. IHRC recommended that there should be an international inquiry into the massacres and the military led government and that the international community should refuse to recognise the constitution introduced by the military regime.

During the Human Rights Council, IHRC also hosts side panel meetings to highlight human rights situations in particular countries. This is an opportunity to interact with other NGOs

and delegates to highlight issues which are not widely covered by the mainstream media or other NGOs.

During the 25th Session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014, IHRC held three side panel events on Bangladesh, Malaysia and Pakistan.

The side panel on Bangladesh consisted of legal experts including an international crimes lawyer raising their concerns about the irregularities in the judicial process during the recent ICT war crimes trials and the systematic victimisation of the political opposition by the ruling party.

In the side panel meeting on Malaysia, concerns were raised by the panellists on the country's anti-terrorism laws and rising sectarianism.

The third side panel that IHRC organised at the 25th Session of the Human Rights Council was on targeted killings against Barely Muslims, Shia Muslims, Christians and other minorities by Takfiri groups in Pakistan.

Jawad Hussain

**OUR SISTER**  
Kidnapped. Shot. Falsely Accused.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Supporters,

**T**his past year has been especially tumultuous in terms of the challenges faced by Muslims across the world. We are experiencing increasing levels of violence, in physical form and in rhetoric, both harmful in their own ways. We are also seeing sectarian divisions, fuelled by the same individuals and entities who inflict violence upon us, and who are aided and abetted by those within our own communities who seek financial gain from a divided ummah.

Now more than ever the Islamic Human Rights Commission's commitment to a pan-Islamic identity seems essential. We are committed to working towards a united global community that strives towards the example set by the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). This is essential when Muslims are experiencing a culture of hate and facing increasingly serious violence in Egypt, Bahrain, the Central African Republic, Indonesia, Iraq, Kashmir, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palestine, and Syria, as well as countries in the West such as the UK, France and the USA, to name just a few.

This year IHRC has worked on numerous issues around the world, but one of the key areas has been that of the sectarianism that appears to be flourishing in Malaysia and Indonesia. Following a recent fact-finding mission to these countries, it has become clear that Saudi Arabia is spending vast sums of money across the region in order to spread disunity and sectarian strife. There is no basis for trying to redefine what constitutes a Muslim following the signing of the Amman Declaration by ulema around the world, accepted by governments and registered with the United Nations. In collaboration with the Universal Justice Network, IHRC will be producing a report with the intention of working with Malaysian and Indonesian politicians and activists, as well as the United Nations, to encourage a more just and open society for their citizens.

## Conflict resolution

IHRC's ground-breaking conflict resolution programme culminated in the Bodrum Declaration signed last year, uniting the ulema in Pakistan in their commitment to overcoming the rising levels of sectarianism within the country and the subsequent violence that ensues from such rhetoric. IHRC has always and continues to address the needs and aspirations of the community and support all according to their need rather than nationality, creed, or indeed even religion.

Bahrain is also experiencing major internal struggles, with protests violently quelled by security forces, arrests, imprisonment and impositions of the

death penalty made without due process. IHRC has been working with Bahrain-based human rights groups to analyse the situation on the ground, which includes the induction of Pakistani nationals into the police force. We are working to highlight these issues with the

**Following the summer of 2013 there were more Muslims subjected to anti-Muslim acts of terror than those who fell victim to crimes committed in the name of their religion**

United Nations Human Rights Council, while at the same time calling out the hypocrisy of the British government on this issue. The UK has provided arms in the way of trade agreements to the ruling family which have been used against the Bahraini people. Additionally, Bahrain is home to the UK's largest naval base in the Middle East, making it all the more reluctant to criticise the Bahraini regime.

This hypocrisy is echoed in Britain's stance on Egypt, where despite the overthrow of the country's first democratically elected President, our government has expressed support for a new military regime which has sentenced hundreds of its own citizens to death.

Within Britain we are also seeing difficulties for Muslim communities. While attacks following the Woolwich murder of Drummer Lee Rigby continue, they are further fuelled by an irresponsible government and a hostile media. In recent weeks we have seen a recurrence of 'halal hysteria' and the falsified 'Trojan Horse' story. On top of that we have the government declaring that it is for the 'public good' to monitor the actions of Muslims in general, even to the point where it is encouraging teachers to spy on students and mothers to spy on their children in order to identify traits of extremism, as though it is an inherent feature of the Muslim character.

In addition the government has failed to

repeal Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which gives security officials the power to stop, question and detain individuals at ports around the country. IHRC has lobbied intensively against this law, particularly as it is used in a targeted way towards Muslims, and is also used as a means of recruiting informants, a clear breach of protocol. However, changes have been made to the legislation which provides for a less invasive experience when stopped under the power. This includes the requirement to have a solicitor present if you are detained under Schedule 7. IHRC has recently launched a Know Your Rights app on Schedule 7 for Android and Apple phones and tablets to allow for easy and immediate access to this information. It helps identify what to do if you get stopped under this law, what your rights are, and who to contact for help. Additionally, we are offering workshops to train groups and individuals on how to exercise their rights in such a situation.

## Fighting discrimination

IHRC has also actively lobbied against the proposed powers for the Home Secretary to remove British citizenship from naturalised individuals. Under the guise of national security, this places an inordinate amount of power in the hands of one individual, and indirectly discriminates against non-white citizens. The government has made minor concessions, agreeing that an Independent Reviewer will oversee the procedure. However, we should still be deeply concerned about a clear trend within government to ignore concerns that policies could result in serious human rights abuses, which in this case, would render individuals

stateless. Nonetheless, IHRC will continue to challenge the government and policymakers on such issues, as we did with the successful campaign to have body scanners removed from airports that were truly invasive in their capturing of nude images of travellers, again under the pretext of national security.

In order to better understand the detrimental impact these attacks are having on Muslims in the UK IHRC recently conducted a survey of experiences of hate crimes within our communities. This followed the pilot hate crime project in 2009. The latter will be compared to the former in order to give our supporters as well as those in power a more accurate picture of the situation as it stands. This is particularly important as the policy following Woolwich was to leave Muslim communities to fend for themselves against Islamophobic attacks, whilst extra security was provided for military bases. Following the summer of 2013 there were more Muslims

subjected to anti-Muslim acts of terror than those who fell victim to crimes committed in the name of their religion. These acts included those carried out against fourteen mosques across the country. These statistics need to be utilised to stress to the government the poisonous nature of its rhetoric and policies, and that they are detrimental to the Muslim population of Britain. Additionally, our figures from 2009 demonstrate that 13.9 percent of survey respondents had been victims of violent physical assault. With the aftermath of Woolwich this number will have no doubt increased, highlighting the inadequacies of government-sponsored organisations which dangerously downplay the actual suffering Muslim communities experience at the hands of Islamophobes.

As part of this project we have just launched our most recent report on hate crimes in Canada. It is part of a series that includes a focus on the USA, France and Germany, as well as the UK, in order to build up a clearer picture of anti-Muslim crimes in the West, something that is not taken seriously by these governments.

These projects represent just a small part of the work that IHRC conducts every day, a clear indicator of the fact that the experience of Muslims around the world is still worsening. That is why we rely on the support of our community and people like you. We ask that you increase your support to tackle the increasing problems we face by giving generously and keeping us in your prayers.



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



## Research:

# Research for Rights

The IHRC Research department has been busy this year, providing back-up to the campaign and advocacy departments and presenting work to the United Nations and other fora.

A number of our briefings have been translated into various languages, including Spanish, French, Italian and Farsi.

In addition to supporting work to the DHMIR project on hate crimes like the briefing 'Assessing Hate Crimes and Backlash for Policy Change', IHRC has put together briefings on increasing securitisation, and the continued framing of Muslims as a terrorism threat. 'British Muslims: The Suspect Community?' and the IHRC Response to Tackling Extremism in the UK, a government report, responded to new proposals and measures that target Muslims in the UK.

IHRC also put together a briefing based on its own experiences of complaining about misrepresenta-

tion. The briefing highlighted how media organisations can use and abuse the idea of free speech and investigative journalism and the limited effectiveness of existing complaint mechanisms.

'Is Islamophobia a Form of Racism?' and 'Decolonising France', in both English and Italian, presented the views of Ramon Grosfoguel and Houria Bouteldja respectively in the field of decolonial studies, looking at the continued impact of colonial systems on the world today.

The department also provided support to the Campaigns and UN sections of IHRC putting together briefings on Mumia Abu Jamal and Lynne Stewart, as well as highlighting their cases and those of Aafia Siddiqui, Imam Jamil and the Holy Land Five. Alhamdulillah the release of Lynne Stewart at the end of 2013 was a blessing that boosted morale amongst campaigners.

Bahrain has been the focus of much research this year. Aside from highlighting the cases of long-

## Professor Tariq Ramadan:

"Operating to the highest standards over the years, The Islamic Human Rights Commission continues to remain active and serious in its work. Through its activities, the IHRC has evolved to become an important voice which brings to our attention key

facts and figures in serious and informative research, ensuring that we, the public, are kept accurately informed in a consistent and academic way. I am very supportive of their work and their truly valuable contribution."

TARIQ RAMADAN, Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies, University of Oxford; Executive Director, research Center for Islamic Studies and Ethics (CILE).



term prisoners like Abdul-Jalil Alsingace and Hassan Mushaima, a briefing on the use of foreign mercenaries in the country has been published and will be turned into a documentary.

A more detailed theoretical discussion on constitutional change in Bahrain called Shuracracy has set the research agenda for the coming year as we aim to look at how representative government and Islamic discourses converge in meaningful ways and need room for expression.

An eyewitness account and analysis of recent events in Central African Republic provided much needed context to the crisis unfolding there.

A resource page on the Operation Trojan Horse crisis providing links and commentary and

context to events in the UK was also set up and is regularly updated. The comment and blogs section of the website has seen a proliferation of articles on current affairs relating to human rights abuses and also human rights theories. Subjects covered include the military coup in Egypt, Remembrance Day, Structural Racism, the Mark Duggan inquest finding, Muslim schooling in the UK and the unravelling of the Arab Spring.

Two reports were written in support of the Muslim World Priority Project run by Universal Justice Network. Investigating Claims of Sectarianism (Indonesia) overviewed the findings on the delegation to Indonesia in 2013. 'Attitudes toward Conflicts and Resolutions' surveyed participants in a closed door session on

Pakistan looking at strategies for social reconciliation and creating a safer and cohesive society. The report presented their views on how difference can be managed to avoid conflict and escalation into violence.

Whether offering contributions to academic debates or providing easily accessible information to campaigners, policymakers and journalists, IHRC research fills a much needed gap in a world full of dubious information and claims. Your support helps us increase the amount of reports and briefings we can commission. Please consider supporting us with a small donation that will enable us to provide this much needed service to marginalised communities.

Amirah Ali

## IHRC Bookshop & Gallery report

It's been another eventful year at the IHRC Bookshop & Gallery. In September 2013, October 2013 and May 2014 we were delighted to hold more Decolonising the Mind courses led by Sandew Hira from the International Institute for Scientific Research in Holland. Hira is a leading critic of the new colonial discourse and legacy of colonialism.

In October 2013, in conjunction with SOAS-2 (the School of Occidental and Aryan Studies)

and the Assat-Tupac Liberation School, we started a year long course conducted by Dr Syed Mustafa Ali, a lecturer in the Computing Department of The Open University (UK) whose academic research focuses on investigating issues at the intersection of critical race theory/ decolonial studies and computing/ ICT.

In December 2013, we were delighted to welcome back Professor Ramón Grosfoguel from the University of

California, Berkeley. Following on from last year's event 'Is Islamophobia a form of Racism?', Ramon elaborated on his thesis that race was the organising principle through which hierarchies operated to colonise and continue to control peoples around the world.

In February 2014 Pat Winslow and Mark Marqusee to talk about a new poem by Talha Ahsan, the Asperger's sufferer who was deported from the UK to the US in 2012 to be tried under so-called terrorism charges.

Our regular author evenings included Soldier Box, held in August 2013, by ex-soldier Joe J. Glenton. Glenton reveals why he left the army, and the personal war he faced fighting for his convictions. What he saw overseas in

different countries left him disillusioned and he returned suffering from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

In March 2014 we welcomed back Arun Kundani who talked about his new book "The Muslims Are Coming" that deals with the so-called domestic war on terror in various countries.

Our most recent author evening in June 2014 was with Dan Glazebrook (June 2014) in which he talked about his new book 'Divide and Ruin' dealing with the development and refinement of 'western' strategy in relation to the Global South.

Our upcoming author evening will be our second one with Salman Sayyid who will discuss his new book "Recalling the Caliphate" in which he analyses the displacements and invasions

by which the decolonisation of the Muslim world continues to be deflected and deferred.

This year we also screened various documentaries. In January 2014 we screened Turab Shah's film, Zone Of The Non-Being: Guantanamo, made for IHRC about Guantanamo Bay and how it represented a physical manifestation of Fanon's Zone of Non-Being. The film was based on the thesis that the war on terror is a continuation of colonial policy that Fanon so comprehensively exposed.

In March 2014 Sheena and Sonum Sumaria's film "Even the Crows: A Divided Gujarat" traced their journey from London to the USA and Gujarat in North-West India, as they uncovered the grisly and depressing backdrop and aftermath of the anti-Muslim riots in 2002.

This year the gallery also screened documentary-maker Roshan Salih's film "Travelling by Muslim", which looked at the workings of the notorious British anti-terrorism measure, Schedule 7.

We also had more storytelling sessions with Zainab Zahra, including a reading of Ilyas & the Duck and other stories, and her own work, The Kind Traveller about the travels of the young Che Guevara.

The IHRC Gallery hosted a diverse array of art exhibitions including 'Visionary Awakening' by Nasreen Sheikh Jamal Al-Layl (September 2013 to early March), a mixed media installation that reflected the artist's experiences as a product of Saudi and British culture.

Our current exhibition is Another Day by Sara Russell which will conclude in September 2014. The photo exhibition is based on the young photographer's visit to Palestine. For more information about Sara's exhibition visit <http://ihrc.org.uk/events/11006-sara-russell-another-day-exhibition>

We are looking forward to hosting many more events in the coming year. If you are an author or artist or filmmaker and would like to organise an event at the shop, please contact us [shop@ihrc.org](mailto:shop@ihrc.org) or call 020 8904 4222.

Ali Akbar

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SUPERNOVA STUDIOS



# Documenting the effects and causes of anti-Muslim hatred: Focus on Canada and the UK

**I**HRC's groundbreaking work into Islamophobia continued this year. Saied R. Ameli and Arzu Merali's book 'Only Canadian: The Experience of Hate Moderated Differential Citizenship for Muslims' provided a stark overview of the situation in Canada, based on field-work including two surveys undertaken in 2012. Published in May 2014, the book has received some great reviews. Among its findings was that only 2% of Muslims surveyed said they had never had a hate experience. Overall, some 10% said they had experienced a physical attack, but other types of experiences included verbal abuse, seeing negative stereotypes about Muslims on TV, and being denied services.

The ubiquity of hatred across Muslim communities in Canada was alarming given the perception of Canada as a tolerant, multicultural country. A review of existing literature showed that discrimination against Muslims in the field of employment had been well documented from the 1980s until the present day, with Muslims likely to earn up to one third less than their counterparts in the majority community in the same job / with the same qualifications. The authors of the book argued that Muslims were suffering from ingrained prejudices that are foundational to the idea of Canada, and which can be seen to affect many other communities in Canada, not least the First Nations.

The underlying theory of the project developed by Ameli – the Domination Hate Model of Intercultural Relations – argues that hate attacks, crimes and acts of discrimination are not random acts of deranged individuals. Rather, it maintains that those people who commit such acts are provoked to do so by an environment of hatred caused by policy, media and law that targets a hated society. In the studies undertaken by IHRC so far in the UK, France, the USA and Canada, the hated society whose experiences are analysed are Muslim communities. DHMIR also argues that individuals who commit hate acts as a result of a hate environment are also victims in that they are incited by those they trust.

This year, IHRC is re-running this project in the UK. At the time of publication collection of questionnaires from the UK will be drawing to an end, with a small window of opportunity for anyone still wanting to do so. Questionnaires are available at: <http://ihrc.org.uk/activities/projects/10972-survey-muslim-experiences-of-hostility-a-discrimination-uk-2014>

**IHRC is the only organisation to have carried out academically rigorous studies on this subject**

IHRC is the only organisation to have carried out academically rigorous studies on this subject in order to be able to present reliable statistics about the levels of anti-Muslim hatred experienced by communities. IHRC is hoping to extend this project to Australia next year, and re-run it in France in 2015.

Additional work on France based on the findings of IHRC's pilot project there in 2009 – 2010 was presented to the First Annual Paris' Islamophobia Conference in December 2013. An outline of why DHMIR methodology is such an important concept was published in Ceasefire magazine and can be found here: <http://ceasefire-magazine.co.uk/race-organising-principle-functionality-islamophobia-today/>

As with so many of our projects, this one was developed on a small budget. Part of the aim was to be able to provide grassroots community groups (whether documenting hatred against Muslims or other out-groups) with a methodology for collecting data. The reviews of the DHMIR publications have indicated that the project fills a void left by governmental failures to record anti-Muslim hatred.

Amirah Ali



## How Can We Learn and Teach a Better World? Decolonising Education



Ramon Grosfoguel (centre) explaining European hegemony of knowledge

**I**n March 2014, IHRC in association with the ALICE Project at the University of Coimbra held a panel event entitled 'Decolonising Education: How Can We Learn and Teach a Better World?' Broadcast world-wide via IHRC.tv and soon to be uploaded to our Video channel, this event brought together leading decolonial thinkers and activists and Islamic scholars to address this critical question.

The panel consisted of Ramon Grosfoguel, University of California – Berkeley, Julia Suárez-Krabbe, Roskilde University, Houria Bouteldja, a founder of the Party of the Indigenous of the Republic, Sandew Hira, Director of International Institute for Scientific Research (IISR), Dr. Mohamad Nasir, Malaysian academic and writer and Mohideen Abdelkader of Citizens International. The event was chaired by IHRC's

Raza Kazim.

The participants decoded how colonial narratives dominate what is understood to be knowledge today and set out the need for a pluriversal project of knowledge production. Dr. Nasir in particular highlighted the lacuna that exists between a decolonial narrative and the existing concepts of knowledge outside a Western hegemonic framework, alluding to writers and philosophers like Naquib al-Attas. Professor Grosfoguel spoke of the hegemonic control of terms like religion which inadequately describe all belief systems, yet really only describe a post-Enlightenment narrative about Christianity in a European(ised) state. The full event can be viewed on-line. Visit the VIDEO section on our website for further details.

Amirah Ali



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Original art by Siddiq Juma being auctioned



IHRC wishes to thank this year's sponsors for the Islamophobia Awards - may Allah swt bless their good work. Ameen.



# ISLAMOPHOBIA AWARDS 2014

The Islamophobia Awards returned in 2014 after a well-earned break. Sadly the reasons for its existence haven't diminished during its absence.



Nasheed artist Khaleel Muhammad



Aki Nawaz presented an award that evening



Hassen Rasool was one of the Qaris on the night



Actor and Director Danny John-Jules joined us on the night

Dr. Salman Sayyid speaking on Islamophobia

**I**HRC's social highlight of the year, the Islamophobia Awards, returned in 2014 with its usual fare of fine food, exciting entertainment and ironic recognition of the rogues who have done most to hurt Muslims and their faith over the preceding 12 months.

The Awards were inaugurated in 2003 as a light-hearted swipe at public figures whose actions have generated or perpetuated hatred and/or violence against Muslims or their religion. Although they may give the impression of trivialising Islamophobia they are a fantastic way of drawing attention to its worst manifestations.

Throughout the year the IHRC is tirelessly engaged in the serious business of tackling Islamophobes and helping their victims, so it is a refreshing change to be able to recognise this work by poking fun at the perpetrators. The Awards also give our supporters the opportunity to meet us in an informal social setting and get a more personal insight into our staff and our work.

This year's event took place on February 8 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Wembley, London and featured a host of well-known performers including nasheed artist Khaleel Muhammad who performed a characteristically soulful performance, and the poet Melissa Melodee who gave a moving rendition of her "Israeli Commemoration" about Zionist dehumanisation of the occupied Palestinians.

The IHRC defines

Islamophobia as "stereotypes, bias or acts of hostility towards individual Muslims or followers of Islam in general. In addition to individual acts of intolerance and racial profiling, Islamophobia leads to viewing Muslims as a greater security threat on an institutional, systemic and societal level and perceiving their views to be intrinsically problematic, violent or unethical."

Islamophobia remains a serious problem around the world and has been massively exacerbated in recent years by the mainly western protagonists of the so-called War on Terror who have torn up the rule book on human rights, not to counter terrorism as is claimed, but to neutralise threats to their interests around the globe.

### Testing year

2013 proved a particularly testing time for many Muslim communities. At home public and media discourse reached new heights of xenophobia with attacks on Islamic education, hijab and niqab, and segregation of the sexes. The British government published yet another series of "deradicalisation" proposals in its continuing programme of engineering a more compliant Muslim community, while on the streets Muslims and mosques continued to be attacked by individuals incited to violence by the incessant drip feed of Islamophobia from the mass media.

Abroad, in Muslim countries the counter revolutions against the Arab Spring spawned a new wave of terror against Islamist groups, particularly in Egypt. In Bahrain the crackdown on reform protestors continued despite pledges by the ruling monarchy to institute human rights and political reforms, and the authorities there were nominated for allow-



Some of the IHRC team that brought you the Islamophobia Awards together on the night

America's first president of colour and "great black hope" had been nominated for "just about everything" - a charge that covers his policy of drone strikes in the Muslim world as well as his continuing failure to close the notorious Guantanamo Bay detention centre.

Obama came in well ahead of a gallery of fellow rogues which included other prominent politicians including French President Francois Hollande - cited for his country's invasion of Mali - and the British Home Secretary Theresa May for a host of sins including extra-diting

Asperger's sufferer Talha Ahsan to the United States, stripping Muslims of their citizenship, and most recently thinking about applying "anti-terrorism" ASBO-style punishments for British Muslims who are merely "suspected" of so-called terrorist activities.

As well as a chief Islamophobe award, an award was given to the worst Islamophobe in each of five geographical areas in line with the votes received from the participating public.

The regional winners included Burmese freedom and democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi. The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner was nominated in the Asia and Australasia category for her continuing refusal to back citizenship calls by the country's oppressed Rohingya Muslim minority.

The clear winner in the UK was a relative newcomer to the Islamophobia industry, Raheem Kassam. Kassam is a Zionist neocoon who has quickly made him-

self the darling of the British right by attacking Muslim organisations and figures as extremists for defending Muslims' rights.

First prize in the Europe and Central Asia category went to the Dutch far-right politician Geert Wilders. Wilders is the leader of

**"I love the tone of this event as it takes an issue that has at its heart darkness and seeks to make it lighter on our community. After all so much of the nonsense written about Islam and Muslims goes beyond sad and into parody. Well done IHRC for sterling work. My vote goes to Bibi Netanyahu for his Outstanding Effort to demonise Islam."**

**Lauren Booth**

the Netherlands' Freedom Party which continued to campaign on its virulently anti-Muslim platform and propagate fears of an impending Muslim takeover of Europe.

The clear winner in The Middle East and Africa was Egypt's General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the army general who oversaw a bloody coup to remove and then ban Egypt's first democratically elected civilian government and drag the Arab world's most populous nation back to military rule.

In addition to the spoof awards, the event also recognised and sent a message of support and encouragement to those who have worked to combat Islamophobia. IHRC presented five awards to individuals and groups who have toiled to undo the injustices and expose the poisonous propaganda of the Islamophobes.

### Deserving winners

They included Veterans for Peace UK, a group of ex-Army veterans of the western invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, who oppose the military campaigns there. The organisation seeks to increase public awareness of the costs of the war and in doing so restrain the government from interfering in the internal affairs of foreign nations. Amongst the activities it has instituted is Fast on Fridays, where members fast in solidarity with the remaining inmates at Guantanamo Bay and engage with the general public about western military interventions in majority Muslim countries.

The Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project (IRDP) at the University of California, Berkeley, also won an award. IRDP focuses on a systematic and empirical approach to the study of Islamophobia and its impact on the American Muslim community. Headed by Prof

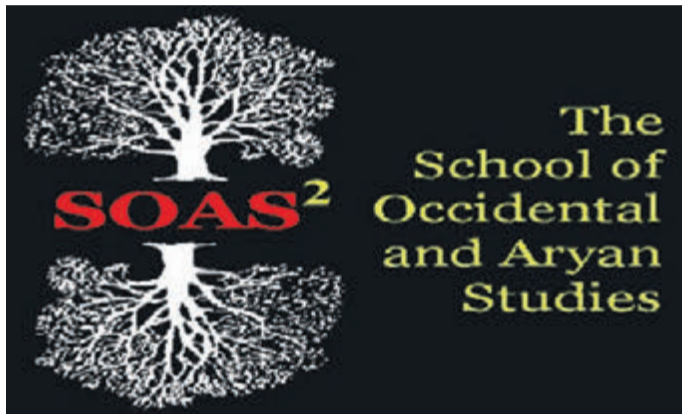


Umar Yaseen

Actor and Director Danny John-Jules joined us on the night



# IHRC partnership delivers Liberation School



**T**he Assata-Tupac Liberation School (an initiative of the budding Malcolm X Movement which is launching in the summer of 2015) approached IHRC to suggest that they and Soas2 partner up to deliver the only free liberation school in the country. The organisations agreed and have been in delivering a six-month course that started in October 2013. The course is delivered by Soas2's Dr Mustafa Ali who is using Dr Neely Fuller's seminal work on white supremacy to teach students about the manifestations of white supremacy and the other areas in which this oppression manifests in areas of activity including economics, education, entertainment, labour, law, politics, religion, sex, and war.

The course takes place every fortnight on Tuesday evenings and is hosted at the IHRC's offices. It has opened

up a space in which the participants, who are overwhelmingly from African and Asian backgrounds, can learn about and discuss these issues, as there are few places where this can be done and no free spaces where this issue is addressed methodically by a dedicated course.

While attendance fluctuates, with some students leaving and newer students entering the course, the initiative in general has been a success and has allowed participants to build a working and learning relationship with other allies in our common struggle.

Next year's course will be starting in early October 2014 and might be held in a more central London location so as to enable greater participation. Those interested in the Liberation School should contact Sukant Chandan on [sukant@ihrc.org](mailto:sukant@ihrc.org)



Sukant Chandan (l) chaired the launch of Intifada Street by Muhammed Hamza (centre). Ibrahim Sincere (r) joined them.

## INTIFADA STREETS COMES TO IHRC

**I**ntifada Street is a political art project launched a few years ago by Bradford-based political artist Mohammad Hamza. Intifada Street is some of the most striking and inspiring agitational political art that draws upon themes and struggles of Palestine, Black Liberation Struggle, Che Guevara, Kashmir and many issues. So it was a real honour for IHRC to host the project's first exhibition.

The exhibition was

### Al-Quds Day 2013

## Standing up against oppression

"The Quds Day is a universal day. It is not an exclusive day for Quds itself. It is a day for the oppressed to rise and stand up against the arrogant." - Imam Khomeini

Thousands of people once again attended the annual Al-Quds Day march on 2 August which ended with a rally outside the U.S Embassy, where prominent speakers and personalities condemned U.S-led support for the Zionist regime which has enabled Israel to commit numerous acts of terror in violation of international law.

Speakers included Sheikh Bahmanpour from the Islamic Centre of England, Rabbi Weiss representing Neturei Karta, Les Levidow representing Jews for Boycotting Israeli Goods, John Rees representing Stop the War Coalition, and the spoken word artist and poet Ibrahim Sincere.

Palestinian national football team player and hunger striker, Mahmoud Sarsak, who was imprisoned in Israel without trial or charge, joined the demonstration and later spoke at the rally, giving a first-hand account of the torture he suffered



The rabbis of Neturei Karta joined the demonstrators

at the hands of the Israeli authorities.

Khader Adnan, a member of the Palestinian Reconciliation Committee, sent a video message in support of Al-Quds Day explaining how he was arrested by Israeli authorities without charge, only being released after a hunger strike lasting 66 days.

Video messages from over 40 Palestinian detainees on hunger strike that have been the focus of IHRC's Palestinian Prisoners Campaign (launched on Al-

Quds Day 2012) were played on a big screen outside the U.S Embassy.

Al Quds Day 2013 in London approached the issue of standing for the oppressed through the prism of the Palestinian struggle and successfully united all demonstrators around the issue of Palestine. The principles of Al-Quds Day remain as relevant as ever and Al-Quds Day 2014 is shaping up to be just as high impact as previous years.

Sukant Chandan

**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](mailto: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.**





launched on Saturday 15 March with the artist Brother Hamza presenting his work with IHRC staff member Sukant Chandan chairing. The conversation between the two ranged from Hamza's political and art inspiration, with some of the style and approach being inspired by Brazilian-based artist Carlos Latuff, whose work starting from the early 2000s will be familiar to many if not most.

Also cited as an inspiration by Hamza was

Black Arts Movement and former Black Panther leader Emory Douglas, whose artwork especially for the Black Panther newspaper in the late 1960s and 1970s helped to educate a whole new generation of revolutionary minded young people.

The event saw spoken word artist sister Sanaa Sultan reciting some of Hamza's poetry as well as her own. And the event climaxed with brother Ibrahim Sincere reciting

his now well-known spoken word piece: by any means necessary; white supremacy.

The launch was a real celebration of struggles represented through the artwork of Intifada Street, and the artwork on display as well as the people at the launch and the discussions that took place served as an example of unity between different trends, streams of the Global and ideological struggle against oppressors.



# Decoloniality Europe – Two years of moving forward

The Decoloniality Europe Network developed further this year with the introduction at its 3rd annual meeting of a model on working practice. The Network brings together organisations from across the continent that work within a similar framework of tackling the legacy of colonialism in various forms. Organisations involved range from grassroots local advocacy initiatives, to academic organisations.

Meeting for the first time outside of Spain, this year in Amsterdam through the facilitation of the International Institute of Scientific Research, the key organisations of the network including the organisers of the meeting, Parti des Indigenes de la Republique and Dialogo Global, outlined some modalities of working and future projects.

Existing and new organisations within the network also put forward ideas for co-operation based on existing work across the



Arzu Merali, Houria Bouteldja and Ramon Grosfoguel (pictured) opened the event with Sandew Hira.

coming year, including on collaborating in campaigns in Portugal and the Netherlands.

Examples of existing collaboration include the rolling out of Genocide Memorial Day events in Europe. Started in London by IHRC in 2010, it is held on the third Sunday of every January. In 2014, there were sister events held by organisations in the network in Paris (PIR), Lisbon (Plataforma Gueta) and Amsterdam (IISR). Using this model, based on the PIR's highly successful community conference against Islamophobia in

December 2013, there will be similar events across Europe in 2015 too.

The Decolonising the Mind workshops by Sandew Hira of IISR have been increasingly popular over the year, particularly in London. Members of organisations within the network speak and teach at various events across the network with a view to sharing but also producing knowledge. Decoloniality Europe has continued its collaboration with the ALICE project at the University of Coimbra.

Irma Khan

# AL QUDS DAY

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

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## United for Palestine

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For more information please contact [events@ihrc.org](mailto:events@ihrc.org) or 020 8904 4222



Thousands flocked to London once more to protest for Palestine



# Genocide Memorial Day 2014 expands to new European cities



Nazim Ali, Massoud Shadjareh and Professor Ramon Grosfoguel

IHRC's annual Genocide Memorial Day saw a few exciting developments this year, especially as it was held in four cities: London, Amsterdam, Lisbon and Paris, reflecting the development of this important event internationally and how it has captured the imagination of wider sections of people.

As IHRC's Raza Kazim stated during the introduction of GMD, the event is about opposing and looking into 'man's inhumanity to man' irrespective of who is the perpetrator of the genocide or genocidal act(s) and irrespective of the victim. IHRC rejects the notion that there is a hierarchy of victimhood depending on people's background.

GMD is commemorated on the third Sunday of every January to coincide with Israel's genocidal act of 'Operation Cast Lead' during Dec/Jan 2008/2009 against the Palestinian people of Gaza.

It was wonderful to be able to have speakers from across the world including Tjanara Goreng Goreng who participated via internet from Australia. Goreng is a leading rights advocate for the indigenous people of Australia. Mrs Goreng's contribution focused on "how our struggle will overcome apartheid and forced assimilation since 1788 until now".

Political activist and rapper Marcel Cartier recited one of his pieces written at the time of Operation Cast Lead, which included the lyrics: "Is it a horrible end, or an end to the horror? All out war, or a stop to the slaughter? People in Palestine being oppressed, little kids being bombed and maimed to death. Yet they bulldoze houses with families in them, that's straight state sanctioned terrorism. Where your land's been stolen and identity crushed."

Michel Warschawski of The Alternative Information Centre, an anti-Zionist organisation in Jerusalem, Warschawski

spoke on the relative sophistication of genocides in our times compared to the more brutal and direct ones of the colonial era.

Dr Sibtain Panjwani spoke of the fact that genocides don't develop overnight, they have innocuous beginnings. Tyrants do not hide their steps towards genocide; however a more sophisticated despot is aware that steps towards genocide cannot take place with the support of many people hence they

**"IHRC rejects the notion that there is a hierarchy of genocides and therefore a hierarchy of victims"**

create a mindset that facilitates people to conduct atrocities without feeling pain or empathy.

A now frequent visiting friend of IHRC, Professor Ramon Grosfoguel, quoted from Aime Cesaire's work 'Discourse on Colonialism' written in 1950: "A civilisation that proves incapable of solving the problems it creates is a decadent civilisation. A civilisation that chooses to close its eyes to its most crucial problems is a stricken civilisation. A civilisation that uses its principles for trickery and deceit is a dying civilisation." To highlight the profound hypocrisy of the 'colonial matrix of power' Prof Grosfoguel explained that those who seemed to celebrate the life and struggles of Nelson Mandela are the same people who have gone on to salute the Zionist war criminal, Ariel Sharon.

Sukant Chandan

## Advocacy and legal:

# Another busy year defending Muslim rights

IHRC Advocacy has had an exciting and busy year. We have expanded the range of services we offer and we are looking to expand further in the coming years.

We continue to provide support to individuals who have faced discrimination and hate crime. Our work is vital in helping Muslims challenge Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate crime. Our advocacy team has also been busy writing briefings and contacting MPs seeking to influence legislation.

Our briefings on the Immigration Bill 2013-14 as well as the amendments to Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 were sent to MPs and Lords. We had a very positive response and we hope to continue seeking to influence change on policies that have a negative impact on the

Muslim community.

Our 'Know Your Rights' project now includes workshops covering Stop and Search, Schedule 7 stops at airports, your rights at demonstrations and immigration stops. We are working on new workshops covering other important topics. The workshops are a fun, interactive way of learning about your rights and how to protect them. The IHRC team presents them to community groups across the UK. Look out for a workshop near you, or alternatively contact us to arrange an event in your area.

We are also producing a number of new Know Your Rights leaflets, which will all be available as mobile phone apps.

Our biggest project this year has been setting up IHRC Legal. For many years now we have had people approaching us to

ask for legal advice and support. Due to the availability of legal aid we have always directed them to appropriate law firms. However with cuts in legal aid there is less and less affordable quality legal advice available.

IHRC Legal will provide high quality legal advice in immigration and employment matters. Our employment team will specialise in cases of racial and religious discrimination. The service will aim to support and empower people and will give priority to securing peoples' rights.

We have high hopes of expanding this project in the near future. This time next year I hope to be writing about expanding our legal work to include other areas of law, all with a view to supporting Muslims get greater access to the legal system.

## Empowering the community:

# Know Your Rights

Last summer I went for a job interview at IHRC for the position of Caseworker and PA to the Chair.

During the interview I was asked why I wanted to work at IHRC? I responded by expressing my long-standing admiration of the work IHRC had done against the implementation of the Terrorism Act 2000 that served to criminalise the Muslim community and by extension wider society, as well as other so-called counter-terrorism law/policy.

In particular I talked about the pioneering work IHRC had done in producing leaflets detailing people's rights if stopped at ports/borders under Schedule 7 of the Act.

Since non-white Muslims first arrived in Britain they have been criminalised and subjected to targeted questioning – including about their immigration status - as well as stop and search. Despite this fact most people do not know what the law permits officers to do and what they are permitted to do in response. For example thousands of young Muslim men were racially profiled and selected for stop and search under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The police used it as an opportunity to harass Muslim communities as well as gather intelligence. One of the key ways this was done was by gathering people's names, addresses and other personal information.

Many of you reading this will have experienced stop and search under the power. Yet few will know that although police are entitled to ask for someone's name and address, there is no requirement upon anyone who is stopped and searched to provide their details under the power! And even they are aware of their rights many don't know how they can be effectively invoked without aggravating the situation.

Consider this. Most women prepare for the possibility that

they may be sexually harassed walking home late at night. For example they carry rape alarms and take precautions like walking in groups with friends and crossing the road when they see men. Similarly most non-white men in London know that there is a very real possibility that they may be targeted for harassment by a police force previously called institutionally racist. Yet – apart from knowledge of one's rights – there is a lack of advice about practical precautions that can be taken

**'If you challenge police abuse the reality is they may abuse you further'**

to reduce the likelihood of prolonged harassment. If you challenge police abuse the reality is they may abuse you further. This is one of the many issues that I am passionate about resolving.

Following the interview, it was a great honour to be invited to become a Know Your Rights Advocate – to develop a set of workshops ensuring people are prepared for the following:

1. Stop and search and other powers commonly used by police
2. Schedule 7 Terrorism Act 2000: stops at airports, seaports and borders
3. Immigration checks and raids: demands for immigration status
4. Demonstrations

Since starting my post last Autumn we have run workshops

for a number of groups from a broad cross section of society, both Muslim and non-Muslim, including attendants at the Decolonising the Mind workshops at IHRC, the International Community Project at the University of Westminster Students' Union, Refugee Youth, the London Campaign against Police and State Violence (LCAPSV), Birmingham Ethnic Minority Association (BEMA), Shipman Youth Centre, the National Union of Students (NUS) Black Students Campaign (BSC) amongst others.

At the same time we have launched a smartphone app detailing our rights when stopped under Schedule 7 which is available for both android and i-phone devices. This makes accessing our rights both easier and more accessible.

We have also been able to use our training on demonstrations to successfully train a set of volunteers to steward the annual United Friends and Families Campaign March to End Deaths in Custody. Our role prevented any amplification of the pain of families/friends that have lost loved ones at the hands of the police.

Recently, due to the popularity of our workshops we were asked to collaborate with other groups in developing workshops and other training materials. We are pleased to announce that we are working with Stopwatch and other groups as part of a project entitled 'YSTOP' aimed at getting young people to know their rights if stopped and searched.

In the future, we are expanding the range of Know Your Rights leaflets we offer and the content of our app. In addition with legal aid cuts starting to bite there is a need for more voluntary organisations to do the work that lawyers previously did. As a result we are developing training workshops on how to make complaints to police and other statutory bodies.

Taher Gulamhussein



# Cases we took on

Over the last few months the Advocacy team has dealt with a variety of cases ranging from housing problems, benefits complaints and family disputes, to experiences of Islamophobia in schools, prisons, and local authorities, as well as serious hate crime incidents.

## Discrimination in schools

The Advocacy department recently helped a family successfully challenge a Manchester primary school's decision not to permit their children to pray. Over the summer holidays the parents had actively encouraged their two primary-aged children to maintain their daily prayers, so much so that they expressed the wish to continue to pray once the new term had started. Their respective form tutors made unofficial arrangements to accommodate this need. However, once the headteacher caught wind of the situation she put a stop to it, claiming that staff were not available to supervise. She compromised by allowing the children to be removed from school premises during their lunch break. This meant the parents had to collect their children and drop them back within 45 minutes. Pointing out these difficulties to the school, as well as the discriminatory aspect of this provision was key. It was clear that the policy of allowing the children to pray at home put Muslims at a disadvantage. That prayers are obligatory meant that the children had no choice but to leave the school, missing out on their playtime with their classmates, a key part of their education and development. We successfully argued, on the parents' behalf, that this amounted to religious discrimination. Following this, the school conceded and has since made provisions to enable the children to pray in an allocated room while being supervised by teachers.

## Difficulties while travelling

We have dealt with several cases where British Muslims have experienced harassment and humiliation while travelling abroad. In one such case we have seen one man deported from a Middle Eastern country. The questioning he was subjected to at the

airport focussed exclusively on his south Asian ethnic origin. It is clear from this incident that his British passport was inconsequential if the traveller happened to be visibly Muslim. It is of concern to IHRC that there appears to be an inequality in the way in which British citizens are treated abroad, and that those who are not white may experience challenges to free movement.

**'It is clear from the number of calls the department receives that the need for advocacy for Muslims' rights in the UK is in huge demand'**

Muslim passengers have also experienced difficulties in British airports, with Schedule 7 stops still prevalent. IHRC has campaigned extensively against this piece of legislation, and has lobbied Parliament to restrict the powers if not overturn them entirely. One case suggests a systematic targeting of an individual, who has been stopped seven times over a period of six years. He has been subjected to humiliating stops and invasive questioning relating to his religious practices.

Both cases are currently under review by the relevant agencies.

## Hate crimes

We have received several cases of reported Islamophobic physical attacks. One such incident was targeted at a Muslim woman in Birmingham in a shopping centre frequented by many who visibly appeared to be Muslims. She was punched in the head from behind by another woman who shouted racist abuse at her before proceeding to walk out of the shop. Despite the viciousness of this attack, the police were slow to respond, and to locate the necessary CCTV footage to identify the perpetrator. Unfortunately the rise in Islamophobic attacks across

the country since Lee Rigby's murder in Woolwich has been dealt with ineptly and inefficiently by police forces, which has led to the victims feeling helpless. IHRC hopes to continue to put pressure on these agencies to implement strategies that deter potential assailants, and can also ensure when incidents occur that they are dealt with swiftly and in the best interests of the victims and society at large.

## Discrimination in social services

In recent months the Advocacy department has noted with concern the number of cases where Muslim parents have had their children taken away from them by social services. Whilst we note local authorities' duty to ensure the safety of children, it is disturbing to hear some of the racist comments made by social workers to these families, and the subsequent insensitivity towards parents who have requested that their children are placed with family members, or at the very least, a Muslim family.

One case involves the removal of a three-month old baby from her distraught parents, and when they requested she was placed with a Muslim family they were accused of discriminating against 'white British' foster parents. It is unfortunate that agencies which exist to serve the needs of the family, cannot appreciate the desire of Muslim families to ensure their children are always placed in an environment where their faith is practised, and instead equate such a desire with racial prejudice. This case is currently being contested and a complaint has been lodged against the offending local authority.

It is clear from the number of calls the department receives every day that the need for advocacy for Muslims' rights in the UK is in huge demand. The diversity of cases that come our way, and the multitude of ways in which Muslims experience discrimination is something we see increasing dramatically. Over the coming year the Advocacy department will work closely with the newly-founded IHRC Legal to ensure the best advice and service can be provided to the Muslim community at large.

# IHRC launches new legal department

In the wake of devastating cuts to the civil legal aid budget, with more to follow for criminal legal aid, the last year also saw the launch of IHRC's latest initiative, IHRC Legal.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, which came into force in April 2013 amid fierce opposition, has limited the scope of public funding for: most private family cases (except those involving evidenced domestic violence, child abuse or abduction); welfare benefits; clinical negligence; employment; housing disputes (other than serious disrepair, homelessness or anti-social behaviour); debt; immigration; and education (except special needs cases).

## IHRC Legal



Recognising that this has created the urgent need for high quality and affordable legal advice services we have launched IHRC Legal.

IHRC legal is a legal consultancy project focusing on Employment and Discrimination law, with plans to offer immigration advice in the near future. We specialise in discrimination, unfair dis-

missal, breach of contract and wrongful dismissal claims, unlawful deduction of wages, grievances, support during disciplinary and investigatory proceedings and representation at the Employment Tribunal.

We also work with small to medium businesses and charities seeking to develop their organisation through formalising their contracts of employment and workplace policies, as well as advising on ongoing HR issues including anticipating or defending Employment Tribunal claims.

If you or someone you know would like to discuss any employment or immigration matter please contact us on 0208 904 4222.

# 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.



**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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# Campaigns: Campaigns report



Motiur Nizami after sentencing in Bangladesh

## Bangladesh

The past year saw civic values in Bangladesh being assaulted under the authoritarian rule of the Awami League. Under the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), set up in 2010, the ruling Awami League convicted many Jamaat-e-Islami leaders charged with war crimes committed during the 1971 war.

The ICT has been condemned by human rights organisations and opposition groups for failing to meet international standards of justice and for allegedly being used as a tool to weaken political rivals.

Many top leaders of the Jamaat, including Ghulam Azam, Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami and Delwaar Hussein Sayadee have been sentenced to death or prison. One former leader, Abdul Kader Mullah, was hanged in December 2013. Their only 'crime' was their open opposition of the separation of East and West Pakistan into independent states.

Not surprisingly the campaign

to neutralise Bangladesh's opposition has provoked massive political disquiet and social unrest in the country. 5th May 2013 will go down in Bangladeshi history as one of the country's bloodiest days as scores of protesters supporting the Jamaat were killed by police forces.

IHRC wrote several alerts protesting against the blatantly unjust ICT and unfair detention of apparently innocent civilians. IHRC will keep a close eye on the political situation in Bangladesh and report to campaigners in the future.

## Bulgaria

IHRC pressurised the Bulgarian government to take action against the Islamophobic attack on the historic mosque of Plovdiv by around 3000 protesters on 14th of February 2014. IHRC urged campaigners to write letters to the Bulgarian government requesting that it protects the rights of Bulgarian Muslims and their religious symbols.

## United Kingdom

IHRC campaigned against the British PM David Cameron's decision to order an investigation into the Muslim Brotherhood with the intention of discovering the group's alleged links to terrorism. Following violent incidents in Egypt, on 1 April 2014, the British PM ordered an investigation into the Muslim Brotherhood to determine whether or not the group was responsible for terrorist activities and whether it is using Britain as a base from which to plan them. Many of the group's leaders fled to Britain after a brutal crackdown was launched against them by Egyptian authorities in the summer of 2013. IHRC believes that the PM's decision represents direct support for the military coup. Hence we urged campaigners to write letters to the PM asking him to cancel the review and instead take diplomatic action against the current rulers for their part in overthrowing a democratically elected government and bringing back military rule.

Faiza Haq

## ARE YOU A UK TAXPAYER?

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

of human rights abuses and their families.

If you wish to donate money that will be used for purely charitable purposes as defined by the Charities Commission you can send donations to the Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust. Please make cheques payable to the Islamic Human Rights

## If so please help ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TRUST

Commission Trust or pay by credit or debit card by filling in your details below and send it with the completed form below. UK taxpayers are able to utilise Gift Aid when donating to Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust, by ticking the relevant box(es) below. This means that every £10 given using gift aid is worth £12.50 to IHRCT.

You can also call the office and donate with your credit or debit card on 020 8904 4222 (if you are outside the UK please call +44 20 8904 4222. Please make sure you state that you want it to be a GIFT AID donation.

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

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a receipt

Please return this form to us at:

**Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust  
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**You can donate online by visiting <http://shop.ihrc.org/donations>**

NOTES: You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the charity. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief ask your local tax office for leaflet IR 65. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address. Please note the charity cannot fund any political work or lobbying for a change in existing law (please see page 16 if you are interested in donating to all of IHRC's work including its noncharitable work).



# PALESTINIAN PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

The Palestinian Prisoners Campaign was launched on Al Quds-Day 2012 by IHRC and Innovative Minds. Since then we have held fortnightly vigils for Palestinians imprisoned by the state of Israel. More often than not these prisoners are detained on spurious charges and without trial.

Inmates are held in infamous prisons such as the children's unit at Al-Jalame, where solitary confinement is the norm, and the children are held in tiny windowless cells without mattresses to sleep on. Many prisoners are also subjected to torture and their families harassed and intimidated.

HaSharon prison is another notorious centre where female prisoners face beatings, verbal abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual violence at the hands of the Israeli guards. The cells are overcrowded and infested with rodents and cockroaches. Basic hygiene is non-existent in the facility, with the women denied access to toilet facilities and sanitary pads when menstruating.

These prisons are just two of many run by G4S, the private security firm

with headquarters in London Victoria. It is here that we have been gathering for the past two years to protest the company's role in the torture and imprisonment of innocent civilians, and by extension its complicity in propping up an illegitimate regime. G4S is contracted to run the jails by the Israeli state. However, the company also receives an income generated by forcing inmates to pay for their own imprisonment. Food, clothing and hygiene products must all be purchased from the prison's shop, which, at Al Jalame, costs 125 Euros per month.

IHRC and Innovative Minds continue to demand the immediate release of all Palestinian political prisoners and that G4S end all contracts with Israel as a matter of urgency. The fortnightly vigils demonstrate to G4S and Israel that their actions will not be overlooked. At the same time they help to build networks of solidarity with the prisoners and the Palestinian people. Please visit [www.inminds.co.uk](http://www.inminds.co.uk) /caged for more information on how to get involved.

Lena Mohamed

# BOYCOTT ISRAELI DATES

## Key Facts

- Over 50% of the worlds Medjoul 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 and exports were up by 20% in 2012.
- If you buy a Medjoul 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 5am, left perched on palms that soar to heights of 12 metres - equivalent to a four 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

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 now cut ties and vowed never to partner with any Israeli entity complicit in the occupation.

Mehadrin, Israel's largest fresh produce exporter, last year boasted of doubling its Medjoul date sales citing strong demand in Ramadan! Their dates have the brand names Premium Medjoul, Fancy Medjoul,

Royal Treasure, Red Sea, and Bonbonierra. Sometimes their packaging states "Grown by Palestinian Farmers" - this refers to Palestinian 'slave' labourers found on Israeli plantations.

## Boycott, Divest, Sanctions Call

In 2005 Palestinian civil society organisations 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 work left open to them is to on Israeli settlements. The Palestinians whose land had been stolen and were forced to work for Agrexco (including two children under the age of 12), in order to feed their families 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?

• Further Information: [www.inminds.com/boycott-israeli-dates.php](http://www.inminds.com/boycott-israeli-dates.php)

# BOYCOTT ISRAELI DATES

[WWW.INMINDS.COM/BOYCOTT-ISRAELI-DATES.PHP](http://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 Medjoul Fancy Medjoul Royal Treasure Red Sea Bonbonierra Carmel Agrexco



Supermarkets labelling Israeli dates under their own brand names:

J Sainsbury plc



# VISIT THE IHRC BOOKSHOP & GALLERY IN-STORE AND ON-LINE

IHRC is delighted to announce its new on-line store is now up and running

## SHOP.IHRC.ORG



We have a wide range of gifts including artwork – from prints, limited edition canvases to original artwork by up and coming artists and photographers, as well as a variety of objet d'art from around the world. These pieces range in price from the extremely reasonable like our block printed prayer mats, or Swedish wood with mother of pearl decorative plates and boxes to our original design, hand painted enamel on copper plates and original paintings.

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.



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

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# Support Justice, Help IHRC

**Islamic Human Rights Commission**



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

your financial assistance.

Please help us in whatever way you can – a small monthly contribution is as valuable as a generous one-off donation.

If you wish to donate solely to IHRC's charitable work, please complete the IHRC Trust form (green form). Otherwise please fill in this form (red form).

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.



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

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

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Please pay (tick choice):  
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