

# Islamic Human Rights Commission



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VOLUME 10 - RAMADAN 1430 / AUGUST 2009

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

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

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

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



Photo: © IHRC, www.ihr.org

A 13 year old member of the al-Samouni family who saw members of her family executed in front of her, in Gaza this year.

*“How many a small group has overpowered a large group by Allah’s help, and Allah is with the steadfast.” [Quran: 2:249]*

**C**hristmas 2008 and New Year 2009, Israel slaughters 1,300 people, men, women and children over a period of three weeks. The massacre codenamed: Operation Cast Lead. At its disposal, the most sophisticated and destructive weapons supplied by its allies. Surprised at this savage attack, well don't be. We witness yet another onslaught on the innocents in Palestine. As long as this Zionist entity exists, this will repeat itself. Muslims around the world jump up from their seats with anger, their outrage drags them to the streets of every major city in the world in protest of the crimes being committed. But the sad reality is, in many cases the motivational factors behind Muslim activism is the images of death and destruction of

our lands and its people. Today we do not have the images of death and destruction beamed to our screens, and no more are our fellow brothers and sisters active. When will we maintain this fight consistently?

In the aftermath of the assault on Gaza, two of the IHRC team visited Gaza to carry out field work and research. The purpose of the visit was to collect testimonies and evidence of the horrific crimes committed by the Zionists in Gaza. This task was carried out at the earliest opportunity to try and collect evidence. Once they entered Gaza, they were warmly greeted by the official Delegations Welcoming Committee. They described the recent events in Gaza as genocide and slaughter on a scale the Palestinians had never before

experienced in all the years of occupation and suffering. Today, Gaza is the biggest open air prison in the world with 1.5 million people. It is the most densely populated area in the world with 800,000 children. Gazans narrated accounts of how civilians were specifically targeted and even animals in Gaza Zoo were not spared. Reports of how the Israel Defense Force (IDF) soldiers ordered civilians to evacuate their homes, only to execute them afterwards and then to destroy their homes. Toddlers were murdered not by shrapnel, but by bullets shot deliberately in the head and hearts. For those children that survived sat without food and water, surrounded by the bodies of their dead family members. Paramedics were initially refused access by the

IDF, but when they were finally given permission they found the children clinging to the corpses of their parents.

The Zionists are the colonizers and oppressors of Al Quds, and they have a predatory presence. The invasion is on all fronts, they have overpowered Palestinians not only with physical space but also the historic and cultural spaces, control of the economy and through class domination of the invaded. An Israeli Defense Chief of Staff has said: “The Palestinians must be made to understand in the deepest recesses of their consciousness that they are a defeated people.” The Muslim Ummah and its leaders have stopped fighting this grave injustice and to the contrary

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# FIGHTING RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION AND HATRED

British Muslims today are a diverse multi-ethnic community, continuously growing changing and evolving. We see a more established, mature and progressive community developing in the UK. Our success as a community has put us in a unique position, one where we are able to help fellow Muslims all over the world. From ambulances for Palestine to hospitals for Kashmir to food for Darfur. Our reach seems unlimited. Yet we face continuous attacks on our person, identity and belief from all quarters of British society. We are yet to develop a strategy to help those Muslims facing Islamophobia and oppression here in the UK.

We see a malicious and systematic attack by the media on the Muslim identity. Everyday we see a new article, programme or documentary in which our identity and loyalty is scrutinised and questioned ever more forcefully.

The police seem unable to understand the genuine fears and concerns the Muslim community has about dawn raids and discriminatory stop and search policies. Fears compounded by the fact that

out of the massive amounts of "intelligence" gathered and hundreds of highly publicised arrests, they have a mere 13% conviction rate.

An example of police abuse is the case of Babar Ahmed. He was arrested in 2003 as a terror suspect. During his arrest Babar sustained 50 injuries, two of which were described by doctors as life threatening. His complaint against the police was initially dismissed by the IPCC stating that his claims were unsubstantiated. This, in spite of photographs showing his injuries and a report by a doctor stating "there is clearly unequivocal evidence that he [Babar] was subjected to a harrowing physical and psychological assault by police officers". In March 2009 he accepted £60,000 from the Metropolitan Police Service as a result of taking them to court. But this is a bitter victory for Babar and the Muslim community. Despite the judgement, none of the officers have been arrested or punished. Clearly the police view themselves as above the law, and feel they can abuse Muslims with impunity.

The abuse does not stop at the arrest procedure. We are receiving

greater numbers of complaints from Muslim prisoners. Their complaints have ranged from guards withholding prayer mats and religious books to physical abuse.

There are growing reports of Muslims being stopped and ques-

tioned under Anti-terror legislation at airports. Law abiding Muslims whose only crime it seems is their names and the countries they visit. Every aspect of their lives is scrutinised without being told why or even who is conducting the interrogation. There are reports that MI5 have tried to recruit Muslims during these airport interrogations, to spy and report on other Muslims.



Another media 'poll' over hijab and identity

The attitudes displayed on an institutional level by the government, police and media are filtering down and affecting Muslims on a personal level. We are seeing greater discrimination by employers and individuals as well as organisations offering products and services.

religious holidays, prayer times and even handling grievances raised by Muslims.

The veil is the most powerful symbol of Islam in Britain today. And Muslim women are bearing the brunt of the Islamophobia faced by our community. Muslim women wearing the hijab and niqab are facing an uphill struggle in the employment sector. There are growing reports that employers are discriminating against Muslim women because of the headscarf. It seems employers feel emboldened by the general sentiments against the hijab that exist in the wider British community. Women wearing hijabs have even been denied services by businesses.



Daily Express Front Cover calling for Burka ban

Even more worryingly, attacks on women wearing headscarves in the streets of Britain are still regular occurrences.

The above is a brief description of what the Muslim community faces. The victims have no voice; they suffer in silence with very few places to turn to. The IHRC has been working tirelessly to help some of the victims. From making complaints on behalf of individuals to publicising their cases, we seek to redress the wrongs committed against our community. Due to a lack of funding and manpower our work is heavily reliant upon the generous help of the public.

As we go to press a number of arson attacks against Muslim centres, mosques and organisations in the UK have taken place, and a new furore over the burka and nikab has raged in the British press. Given the murder of Merwe El-Sherbini in Germany, we can only hope that politicians and media alike begin to understand the consequences of such discourse.

Abed Choudhury

## www.ihrc.org

The Islamic Human Rights Commission is delighted to announce to its worldwide audience the launch of its newly updated website.

This new website accommodates additional facilities which the Islamic Human Rights Commission hopes will assist its activists in their noble efforts.

We now offer multimedia facilities such as a photo gallery and video clips which we know will be of interest to all. By embracing these new methods of delivering the message of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, we hope to engage a wider audience.

We are in the process of uploading photos and videos of most past events and will be attempting to do the same for those upcoming.

Since its inception the Islamic Human Rights Commission has been engaged in the struggle for justice working with its loyal activists and supporters and shall continue to do so with the ultimate aim of bringing justice for all.



The funeral of Merwe El-Sherbini



## ANNUAL AL-QUDS DAY 2009

MARCH FOR JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE  
Sunday 13th September, London, UK  
Assemble at 1.30pm at Marble Arch to march to Trafalgar Square

Please call 020 8904 4222 for details of coaches from other cities or email info@ihrc.org

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# Anti-terrorism 2009 : Anti Terror laws

*'.. It is the first duty of Government to protect citizens from harm ....but it does not excuse the endless excesses and acts of lawlessness committed in the name of the war on terror... Surely, objectively speaking, the Bill can be seen to be an attempt to lead the public to think that it is a serious attempt to improve security. It does nothing of the kind.'*

Lord Steyn

The pretext of improving security has led to draconian sets of legislation and policy which has not only proved to be largely ineffective but managed to create an environment of fear in relation to the Muslim community. New statistics reveal a catalogue of failures by the anti-terror legislation. The comprehensive set of measures established to combat, disrupt and tackle terrorism has only comprehensively managed to demonise the Muslim community and inculcate a climate of Islamophobia within the population. Muslim communities are profiled, stopped and searched, detained at airports all under the pretext of fighting terrorism. This targeting has been confirmed by the Metropolitan Police Authority report which stated that arrests were "influenced by racial bias". IHRC feels that such policy and strategy have criminalized the Muslim community which has affectively inspired violence and terrorism towards it.

A recent example, Neil Lewington, attempted to bomb a mosque and promised to 'slay a

Muslim every week until they leave our country'. Other high profile targets have been the bombing of the respected charity Islamic Relief in Glasgow. Far right groups have capitalized on the climate of fear and Islamophobia to terrorize and further alienate the Muslim community.

IHRC has previously noted that the police have stopped and searched almost 180,000 suspects and have detained 255 for terrorist related offences without resulting in a single conviction. Lord Carlile, the independent reviewer of British anti-terrorist laws, in his most recent report has finally come to the conclusion IHRC has been advocating; that the stop and search provision of section 44 is completely ineffective. He remarks that "None of the many thousands of searches has ever resulted in a conviction for a terrorism offence. Its utility has been questioned publicly and privately by senior Metropolitan police staff with wide experience of terrorism policing."

The IHRC feels that the resulting failure of the policing measures in terms of convictions, particularly terrorism related convictions should be manifest in a change of policy. The erosion of civil liberties in the name of national security was never convincingly justified and reports and statistics confirm this view. Since the Terrorism Act of 2000, one third of those arrested were released without charge and less than 5% have been convicted of terrorism related offences, a fraction of these actually involve any

plans for violent activities.

The leaked document of the counter-terrorism strategy, named Contest 2, broadens the scope of the definition of extremism to such lengths that would effectively deem the entire Muslim as well as faith based community as extremist. The final counter-terrorism strategy document released in March 2009 did not include the problematic areas of Contest 2 but does represent the thinking behind such strategies which has gone far beyond just anti-terrorism but seek to marginalize any criticism of foreign policy and exclude mainstream Muslim voices.

Cases like Andrew Ibrahim of Bristol have shown that despite the vast civil liberties-eroding-anti-terror legislation, and despite the alienation of the Muslim Community, it was the Muslim Community itself that help thwart potential terror attacks rather than the 2.5 billion pounds spent on anti-terrorism.

IHRC has consistently criticized the erosion of civil liberties and has documented the abuse of powers since the enactment of the legislation. IHRC welcomes the recent decision by the North Hampshire Police to suspend section 44 stop and search, it also welcomes the downgrading of the terror alert but hopes that all this reflects a shift in the policy of targeting the Muslim community to working in a productive engagement strategy with the community.

Massoud Shadjareh

Continued from page 1

have adapted and settled to the reality of the environment of what Palestinians face, a reality that is not questioned. We refer to numerous hadiths that mention the liberation of Al Quds, believing such a utopia will dawn upon us soon, hadiths of the likes of:

*Shadad Ibn Aws (ra) reports that the Prophet (saw) said, "I-Sham will be conquered and Al-Quds (Jerusalem) will be conquered and you or your sons will be Imams there, if Allah will". (Tabarani)*

But when will we realize that the future does not come into being without us struggling to make our dreams a reality. The unjust apparatus of Israel have to be dismantled, because this dehumanizing injustice of the men, women and children of Palestine cannot go on, whoever they are Muslim or not.

Our outrage and anger cannot stop when the media stops reporting it. Our anger must be channelled. This anger that we have, is a tool that will enable all those who yearn for social justice to recapture our human dignity. We have the right to be angry and express that anger, this should be the motivation to fight for justice. Paulo Freire, an educator and influential theorist of critical pedagogy says:

*"Anger animates a form of rebel-*

*liousness [which] is the indispensable starting point; it is the eruption of just ire, but it is not enough. Rebellion, while denunciation, must expand into a more radical and critical position, a revolutionary one, one that fundamentally announces. Changing the world implies a dialectic dynamic between denunciation and the announcing of its being overcome, indeed, of our dream"*

IHRC has been producing a continuous stream of campaign letters, alerts with sample letters, and press releases, organised numerous events, like demonstrations and vigils etc. Also soon after the return of the IHRC team from Gaza a round-table meeting to discuss the 'Rule of Law and Israeli War Crimes in Gaza' was organized. Representatives from NGOs, lawyers and politicians, attended from across the world. Please invest in this noble cause, as only together can we make a difference. If we do not value the life and blood of the innocent, then who is going to?

At the time of writing, here in Europe, the funeral of 32 year old Marwa El-Sherbini had just taken place in her native Egypt. She was killed in a frenzied attack in a courtroom in Germany where she had just finished giving evidence against a man accused of an anti-Muslim verbal

hate crime against her. It was the defendant in that case who stabbed her 18 times in front of her three year old child. Marwa's husband intervened in the attack to save his wife. He was both stabbed by the assailant wounded by the courtroom police who reportedly mistook him for the attacker. What commentary can be given about such an incident? What more can be said? The Holy Qur'an (4:75) states:

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

Now more than ever we must ask ourselves, what reason indeed? You can read about our work this last year in this issue. Please help us fulfil our duties towards the oppressed. Whether it is a desire to help refugees in Libya or work against hate crime in Europe, or oppose kangaroo courts in Nigeria, or campaign against unjust laws wherever they are, please do something that makes you a 'helper'. In doing so please join us in the struggle for justice. Join IHRC.

Ahmed Uddin

# ISLAMOPHOBIA Awards 2009

## Yes, they're back



The Islamophobia Awards 2008 winners announcement coincided with the start of the Gaza. It was of course inappropriate to publicise them then. Subsequently we have decided to roll 2008 and 2009 into one announcement this year, so... in case you don't already know, comedy, hilarity, satire and all things funny, the 'Awards' acknowledge, with a reluctant smile, the severity of anti-Muslim prejudice in the world today. Nominate your regional Islamophobes by sending us their names and the reason you are nominating them. We'll add them to the nominations page on

our website [www.ihrc.org.uk/islamophobia](http://www.ihrc.org.uk/islamophobia) and people can vote freely for their choice.

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

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

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER**

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

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

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

**THIS SERVICE IS ENTIRELY CONFIDENTIAL**

Your £10 standing order this Ramadan will bring happiness to the families of prisoners this Eid

HHUGS is a registered charity that provides practical help to UK based families of those detained under Terrorism laws.

Practical help we provide:

- Food parcels
- Emotional support
- Holiday packages
- Help with medical expenses

[www.hhugs.org.uk](http://www.hhugs.org.uk)

"Whoever will have a believe in Allah, Allah will release his distress in this world and the next." - Prophet Muhammad (saw)

[www.ilmwear.com](http://www.ilmwear.com)

Let your clothes carry The Message

### Prisoners of Faith

Imam Jamil Al-Amin, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, Khairat Al-Shater, the Morocco 12 – prisoners of faith continue to pay daily the ultimate price for speaking the truth at certain crucial moments, and they are far from forgotten.

Imam Jamil Al-Amin currently lives under permanent 23-hour solitary confinement at Colorado's USP Florence ADMAX, which has been dubbed as both the "Guantanamo Bay of the mainland" and "a clean version of hell". Al-Amin did not have any federal charges or convictions, and had a pending habeas corpus in Georgia,

physically abused on many occasions. He has had his religious rights violated and has been subjected to strip searches every time he had a visitor. He stated in the telephone conversation to his family that "There is nothing but the Quran to stave off the madness".

Reports revealed that Sheikh Omar's family planned to request permission to visit him in USA, and to demand for him to be returned to Egypt. Reports also state that Sheikh Omar's family requested to visit him in 2001 and 2004 but were denied. We request you to continue campaigning for the sheikh and remember him in your special duas.

tarian provocation and violence which had previously occurred in Sokoto.

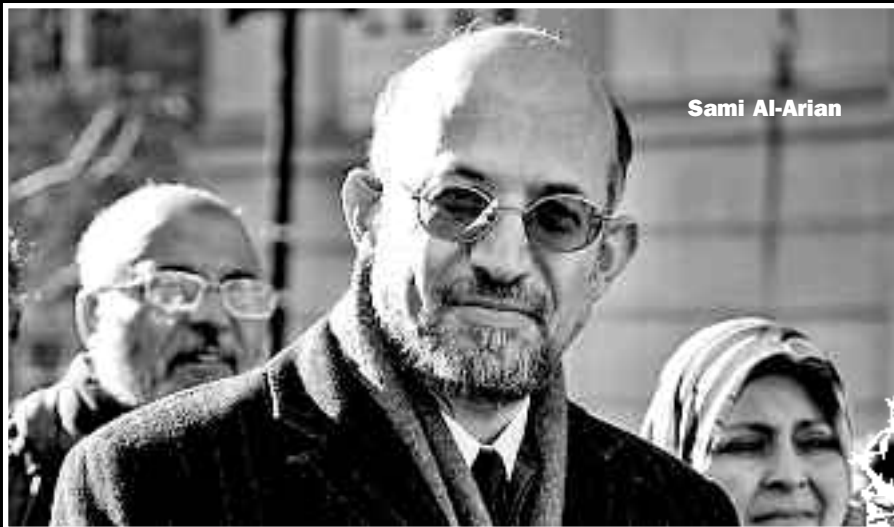
On 6 January 2009, while members of the Muslim Brotherhood were commemorating Ashura with a procession through the streets of Zaria, the convoy of Alhaji Shehu Idris, the emir of Zazzau, was attacked with stones. Though both members of the Muslim Brothers and the Zazzau emirate council denied any Shia involvement in the attack, nevertheless several so-called 'retaliatory attacks' were directed toward members of the Shia community in which five people were reportedly killed and over 100 injured. Additionally, the homes of several

ed youth, we have been researching and building a case to take to the UN.

In Libya, due to the continued and concerted efforts of IHRC campaigners and other, many of the refugees detained at Misratah, have been removed and resettled in other countries. Some have been resettled in Romania, others in the Netherlands, others in Sweden. However, many refugees are still detained and await resettlement. These refugees, majority of them being from Eritrea, had fled their country out of fear of persecution and faced an uncertain future in Libya.

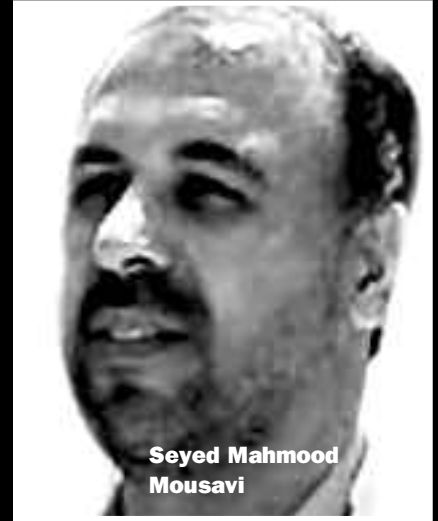
suggesting his affiliation to the military, while several expert witnesses affirmed this status was awarded to military and civilians alike and is no way indicative of a military affiliation. Unfortunately, the baseless terrorist-stigma which the government attached to Mousavi remains with him.

On 8 January 2009, Mousavi was transferred to America's "Muslim-only prison"; the Communication Management Unit (CMU) at Terre Haute, Indiana. As Katherine Hughes reported, all of the 45 prisoners at CMU, a "medium security" terrorism unit, currently houses are either Muslim or Arab, while the federal facility is to



Sami Al-Arian

"...recent events starkly resemble the violence... which had previously been the subject of IHRC campaign work"



Seyed Mahmood Mousavi

**Islamic Human Rights Commission**

**IHRC**

his home state and that of his conviction. In fact, even the Georgia State Prison at Reidsville had been likewise holding Al-Amin under 23-hour solitary confinement in spite of him not having any violations which could warrant it.

Unfortunately Imam Jamil is only one of at least 25,000 U.S. prisoners currently living in solitary confinement. In January 2009, IHRC wrote an open letter to President Obama, regarding the widespread use of 23-hour solitary confinement in the American prison system. In that letter, we expressed deep concern over the more than 30 states across America that operate Supermax-like facilities which use 23-hour lockdown and long-term isolation. Our letter, which also highlighted the case of Imam Jamil, argued that if torturing terrorism-suspects, as Obama clearly expressed, is a betrayal of core American values, then long-term and permanent solitary confinement in American prisons should cease.

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the elderly Egyptian sheikh imprisoned in the US in 1995 under sedition laws last used during the American civil war, continues to be detained. According to reports last received by IHRC, the Sheikh's health had severely deteriorated and in a telephone conversation with his family he had told them to pray for him.

Sheikh Omar has been reportedly held in solitary confinement for the past 13 years and has been

Given the torturous and horrific conditions endured by these prisoners, many of whom have little to no human contact, campaigners are highly encouraged to send letters of support to prisoners of faith. Such letters are a real source of comfort for them, reminding them that large numbers on the outside remember and care about them. Please visit our website for more details.

### West Africa

Last year, we reported of government-sponsored sectarian violence in northern Nigeria's Sokoto. On 27 May 2008, 113 members of the Islamic Movement in Sokoto were sentenced in a kangaroo court void of any lawyers to 11 years in prison. In months to follow, the prisoners were then transferred from Sokoto to 14 different prisons throughout southern Nigeria, in what was seen to be a deliberate attempt to impede current appeal cases. IHRC has been in close contact with lawyers representing the detainees and is currently filing a case to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. Additionally, we have maintained an engaging correspondence with the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) concerning the detainees and killings.

In the wake of the summer of 2007's violence, most of the thousands of expelled community members found refuge in neighbouring Zaria, though unfortunately, recent events in Zaria greatly echo the sec-

members of the Shia community were looted and set ablaze, as were a primary and secondary school affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. IHRC also received worrying reports of some local residents who suspected the involvement of the Zaria local government in the torching, as some had allegedly been witnessed prior to the event removing uniforms and changing into civilians clothes.

These recent events starkly resemble the violence in Sokoto which had previously been the subject of IHRC campaign work. Sokoto appears to be repeating itself in Zaria, as the atrocities in Sokoto had also been initiated by a seemingly sectarian attack or provocation, and resulted in an immeasurable onslaught on a minority community. Likewise, it was Sokoto's state and local government which collectively punished the local Shia community for the assassination of Umaru Danmaishiyya. This included the destruction of the clinic, Islamic centre and school associated with the Shia community, the displacing of thousands, including 1500 children, the torching and razing scores of homes, several murders and collective arrests and sentencing.

IHRC will carry on fighting against the persecution of minority religious communities in northern Nigeria.

### North Africa

In Morocco, IHRC has taken on a case of 15 Sahrawi youth abducted in 2005. Working closely with a committee of the mothers of the abduct-

### Americas

The case of American-Iranian national Seyed Mahmood Mousavi is indeed an alarming one. Recently transferred to a "medium security" terrorism unit, Mousavi has been effectively branded by the government and prison system as a terrorist, in spite of him never being formally charged with or convicted of any terrorism-related offences.

Early-on in the case, federal prosecutors offered unsubstantiated material and "secret evidence" to suggest terrorism, which saw Mousavi's home, business and place of worship raided at gunpoint by the FBI, and left him in jail without bail for over a year before his trial. While the government originally asked for a 9 year sentence, Mousavi's lawyer, with help from IHRC, was successful in significantly reducing his sentence to only 33 months, including denaturalisation. On 14 October 2008, Mousavi was convicted of filing false tax returns, omitting group membership on naturalization forms, and violating the U.S. economic embargo against Iran. However, several translated documents offered by prosecution as court exhibits were suggested by expert witnesses as being flawed. Amongst the numerous examples of mistranslations: one document presented the Farsi words for "police department" to say "military"; another document affirming Mousavi's janbaz ('disabled/war-victim') status and eligibility to receive benefits was presented as evidence

eventually hold an estimated 85 inmates. Prisoners at CMU are under especially tight restrictions, including no contact visits, only two 2-hour visitations per month from behind a glass by immediate family members, and the monitoring and copying of all outgoing and incoming mail. IHRC will continue monitoring Mousavi's case and advocating against America's "Muslim-only prison".

Another US-based campaign IHRC has been involved in over the past year is that of Dr Sami Al-Arian. Al-Arian is a Palestinian peace-activist and former University of South Florida professor who was convicted in 2003 on charges of funding terrorists. His conviction has received much media attention, and has been referred to as a 'federal witch hunt' by some. After a 2005 court win in which a Florida jury rejected federal charges linking Al-Arian to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, his attorneys struck a deal whereat he pleaded guilty to a lesser charge to face only deportation.

Dr Al-Arian had spent more than 5 years detained in federal custody, and had been under 23-hour solitary confinement at the Pamunkey Regional Jail in Virginia. IHRC wrote to the Pamunkey Regional Jail regarding his 23-hour solitary confinement, though he was released on bail before our letter reached the jail.

In the latest chapter of his case, federal prosecutors filed contempt charges against Al-Arian for refus-

ing to testify before a grand jury in Virginia. His defence argue that a 2006 plea agreement with exempted him from further testimony and cooperation with federal prosecutors. On the relevance of the previous plea agreement, Judge Leonie Brinkema stated: "Whether this case goes forward or not, there's something more important here: the integrity of the Department of Justice." After his defence filed a motion to have his contempt charges dismissed, Sami continues to await decision from Judge Brinkema on whether he will stand trial or the charges will be dropped altogether.

Further, IHRC has also been

positive note, Arzigul finally gave birth to her baby son on 9 February 2009.

In April 2009, IHRC received reports of Chinese villagers protesting against the destruction of a 700 year old Muslim cemetery on southeast China's Hainan Island. At the time we drafted our alert, 10 ancient tombs had already been destroyed as local military personnel carried out the construction of a parachute training base. IHRC will continue monitoring the situation as it develops.

Burma is home to a persecuted Muslim community known as the Rohingyas who are currently living in a despicable state in the country.

## Europe

Campaign work in the UK over the past year has largely centred around the issue of Palestine. IHRC's 'Boycott Israel' campaign, in collaboration with Innovative Minds (Inminds), has been carrying on more popularly than ever. Last Ramadan, we launched the 'Boycott Israeli Dates' campaign which targets dates being sold in Europe which are sourced from Israel's illegal settlements. The same Israeli exporters, who exploit and oppress Palestinians during the harvest, shamelessly target European Muslims by exporting just before Ramadan. The main

## Middle East

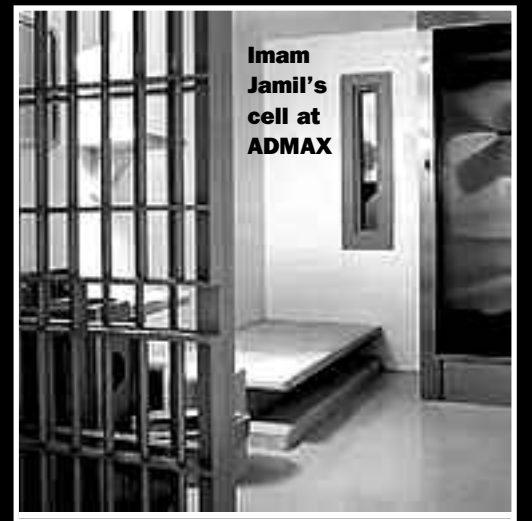
In Bahrain, human rights violations and suppression of political expression continue unabated. In the past year, IHRC has participated in seminars on Bahrain, which focused on the escalation in the rise of human rights abuse in the country. We presented our UPR report in the seminars highlighting the unjust 2006 elections which were reportedly manipulated to ensure the ruling family's primacy in the country and the Citizenship Law of Bahrain which is following a special naturalization scheme. It is believed that there are political motives

continued in Yemen as one more political prisoner mysteriously died in detention in Sana'a. Last year we had reported on 26 year-old Yemeni national, Ibrahim Ali Al-Nashery's arrest and subsequent detention by the Yemeni police on 5 March 2008, due to his alleged involvement in Husain Badr Al Din alHouthi's Zaidi group. This year we regrettably report on his death in police custody. On 20 April 2009, his body was returned to his family with serious wounds. Al-Nashery is the third known political prisoner to die in police custody, following the death of Ali Amen Nader in 2006 and Hashem Abdullah Yahya Hajar in September 2007.

Gaza Border crossing at Refah



Uighurs from China



Imam Jamil's cell at ADMAX

# CAMPAIGNS

engaged in advocacy work helping to find host countries for some of the 17 Chinese Uighur Muslims formerly detained at Guantánamo Bay. So far, 4 have been resettled in Bermuda, while Italy, Portugal, Belgium and Palau have also agreed to take some of the men.

## Asia/Far East

Widespread human rights abuses against western China's Uighur Muslims continue to receive significant attention from IHRC's campaigns team. On 15 March 2009, we launched the photo exhibition Uighurs: China's forgotten Muslims, which featured photos by Swedish photographer Per Engström, and highlighted the troubling human rights situation in western China.

In addition to the briefing we produced in March 2008 over the transfer of Uighur women, in early 2009 we did another briefing concerning China's Uighur hajj prohibition. In November 2008, the world was rocked by reports of a forced abortion to take place on a Uighur woman in Xinjiang who was 6 months pregnant, for which IHRC joined swift international campaign efforts against the planned action, by writing to the Chinese embassy demanding them to call off the forced abortion. As Arzigul Tursun's case is clearly just the tip of the iceberg, IHRC continue monitoring forced abortion cases in China and campaign against this brutal practice. On a

They have been subjected to innumerable human rights violations such as denial of citizenship, humiliating restriction on their freedom of movement and residence within the state, destruction of their properties and settlements, relentless taxation, prohibition of their right to marry and to found a family, restriction and/or denial of their right to education, right to work and to get access to food and other essentials, medical care and necessary social services.

A large number have fled Burma to neighbouring lands such as Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Many of these refugees are living in extreme poverty.

IHRC is supporting the cause of these people by joining hands with the Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK), which is tirelessly working for the rights of their people. We participated in a demonstration organized by BROUK in protest of Thailand's treatment of the Rohingya boat people. We will keep our readers informed with regards to future campaigns on the Rohingya people.

In India, IHRC is currently involved in a campaign to produce a statement, in conjunction with Citizens International Malaysia, calling for the indictment of the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi and his accomplices for collaboration in planning the slaughter of thousands of Muslims in Gujarat in 2002.

Israeli produce exporters are Agrexco and Hadiklaim; Agrexco's brand names are Carmel, Jordan Plains and Jordan Valley, while Hadiklaim's brands are King Solomon and Jordan River. M&S, Sainsbury's Tesco and Waitrose also market Israeli dates under their own brand names.

The latest IHRC/Inminds collaborative project is the 'Shopping Can Kill' campaign, which launches July 2009. IHRC is also working together with Inminds on an updated wallet-size boycott card which is planned to be distributed both in the UK and the US.

Regarding the heavy-handed and discriminatory policing at UK demonstrations and events during the 22-day attack on Gaza, IHRC wrote to the Mayor of London and Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police.

Also, in the run-up to the January attack on Gaza, a number of Muslim organisations focussing on humanitarian work in Palestine were threatened with unjustified account closures, particularly Interpal and the Ummah Welfare Trust (UWT). IHRC joined campaign efforts against such actions by drafting letters and alerts, to put pressure on banks, such as Lloyds TSB and Barclays, accused of targeting Palestine-oriented charitable organisations for account closure. Additionally, IHRC campaigned against the BBC's decision not to air the Disasters Emergency Committee's (DEC) Gaza appeal, asking campaigners to write to the BBC's Director-General.

behind the extraordinary naturalization campaigns and especially that they are not carried out openly and are based on racial and sectarian bases.

Another major campaign taken up by IHRC was that of the three prominent human rights activists who were arrested on 26 January 2009. Mr Hassna Mushaime, the Secretary General of Haq Movement, Sheikh Mohammad Habib Al Miqdad, a prominent religious figure and public orator and Dr Abdul Jalil Al-Singace, a university lecturer were arrested after their houses were raided. Bahraini authorities charged these political activists with conspiring to overthrow the regime.

The arrests plunged the country into further political turmoil, as widespread clashes occurred between supporters and police forces following the arrests. IHRC called on the Bahraini government to immediately release the representatives of Haq and to ensure fair trials for the detained youth who were also arrested. IHRC also called for the investigation of allegations of torture of the detained youth.

IHRC arranged for two barristers Osama Daneshyar and David Gottlieb to visit Bahrain to monitor the important trial which was held on 24 March 2009.

Due to the work undertaken by IHRC and other human rights activists, all defendants were released on Sunday 12th April after an official pardon by the King.

Religious persecution also con-

IHRC wrote an alert about Al-Nashery's death and instructed campaigners to write to the foreign ministers of their respective countries, protesting against this blatant injustice and pressurizing them to urge the Yemeni government to end all religious persecution. IHRC is also planning to produce a detailed briefing highlighting cases of religious persecution in Yemen.

In November 2008, we sent a joint letter to President Hosni Mubarak calling for the opening of the Refah border crossing. The letter, which was signed by British MPs, community leaders and NGOs from around the world, highlighted the Egyptian government's grave responsibility to allow vital aid to the innocent men, women and children of Gaza, whose only crime is living under occupation. And following hunger strikes in May by a group of medics and aid workers aiming to conduct a humanitarian mission in Gaza, whom Egypt denied entry, IHRC continues its appeal to the Egyptian government over the border crossing.

Additionally, we have continued to press the Saudi authorities for an investigative report concerning the attack and alleged torture of a group of British Umrah pilgrims in 2007 and IHRC is now looking into reports of widespread human rights abuses against the country's Shia minority.

Faiza Haq, Aaron Varricchio, Oussama Mezoui

# Uighurs: Forgotten Muslims of China

IHRC have been engaged in many remarkable and outstanding campaigns on human rights. The photo exhibition on the Uighur Muslims in China was no exception. The event was organised by IHRC and supported by the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) and the UK Uighur Association (UUA) to highlight the plight of this community and to bring to the fore the racial and religious persecution and discrimination they face on a daily basis by the Chinese majority. In this day and age such injustices should not be tolerated against any human being or community. The photos on display were taken by Swedish photographer, Per Engstrom on his recent visit to the troubled region. The exhibition was launched on the 14th of March 2009 and held till the 18th of March 2009 for public viewing at Abrarhouse, Edgware Road.

It was an extremely successful launch night with guest speakers Per Engstrom, Dr Enver Tohti, Kaiser Abdurusul OzHun (gave a rich insight to life as a Uighur) and photographer Angelos Rallis. People from all domains and walks of life attended, united by the sole cause from the plight of the Uighurs in an attempt to show just rights and to counter discrimination and prejudice. This event was aimed at building public awareness for the Uighur Muslim community in China and to highlight the injustices and human rights abuses that suffer at the hands of the Chinese majority witnessed by the photographers, Engstrom and Rallis. With attendance of press and media figures there was a strong enthusiasm and curiosity generated amongst the Muslim and non-Muslim community uniting to address any misconceptions about the Uighurs and upholding the integrity of human rights values. Since the 9/11 attacks in the USA, Uighurs have been perceived and labelled as 'terrorists' and 'separatists' by the Chinese government which has led to widespread suppression of the Uighur culture, traditions and religion.

IHRC is currently engaged in a summer UK tour with photo exhibition, with the intention of taking it to several designated areas to promote awareness of the Uighur issue.

IHRC would like to say a big thank you to all the staff and volunteers, the guest speakers and the media who were involved in making it into a successful event.

Meherun  
Nessa  
Khanom

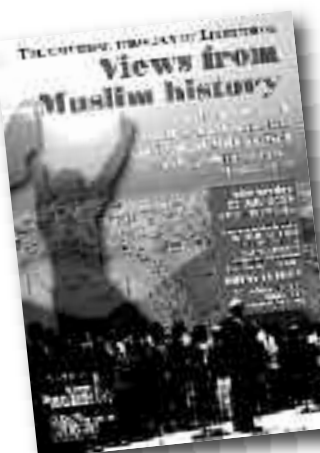
Photos: © Per Engström



## The Universal Theology of Liberation: Views from Muslim history

July saw the latest in a series of events and research around the concept of Liberation Theology and Muslims. Dr. Mohamad Nasrin Nasir and academic from Malaysia specialising in Islamic Thought and Dr. Daud Abdullah from the Middle East Monitor in the UK, presented papers at the IHRC event.

Dr. Nasir presented the main paper of the seminar and looked at various Muslim thinkers and their discussion around liberation from a theological perspective. He looked at



amongst others, Jamaluddin Al-Afghani, Farid Esack and Saied Reza Ameli and their work in this area. Using a

practical example from history he spoke about the resistance movement against French colonialism in Algeria led by Al-Kader.

Dr. Abdullah's paper looked at the history of resistance and Islam in Palestine. A lively question and answer session ensued, a transcript of which will eventually be published alongside both papers.

Look out for more such events on our new events page, as well as reports of past events including this one <http://www.ihrc.org.uk>.

Arzu Merali





Participants at the UJN second meeting in London, 2009



Participants at the second UJN meeting in London, 2009

# IHRC and CI International conference: The Universal Justice Network



Massoud Shadjareh addressing a group of human rights lawyers in Kuala Lumpur

## Other Events, Seminars and Meetings that IHRC has participated in over the year.

Please see page 12 for the work IHRC has done at the United Nations this year. Below are some of the events and meetings that IHRC members took part in.

### IHRC at the OSCE

IHRC was invited to participate in a number of meetings organised by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Seyfeddin Kara attended meetings with regard to Roma in Europe as a result of work undertaken by IHRC in Bulgaria last year.

Arzu Merali attended meetings on Muslim Youth and Education, as well as the role of National Institutions Against Discrimination. Recommendations submitted by IHRC can be found on our website.

### Other events

Massoud Shadjareh and Arzu Merali were both speakers at the 'Deconstructing the War on Terror' conference in Oslo, along with former IHRC researcher and successful author and academic, Nafeez Ahmed, author and journalist Robin Yassin Kassab and physician and human rights campaigner Professor Erik Fosse.

Other events that IHRC members took part in include a meeting and presentation to human rights lawyers in Malaysia, lectures on human rights at the Universities of Tehran and ShahreKord, and in protest at the treatment of Aafiya Siddiqui in the UK.

IHRC continued in its participation in the language of radicalisation project with the Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Contemporary Political Violence (CSRVP) at the University of Aberystwyth.

Faiza Haq spoke at House of Lords events on the ongoing human rights violations in Bahrain and Oussama Mezoui took part in and spoke at the Burmese Rohingya Muslim Organisation's protest against the treatment of Rohingya boatpeople by Thailand.

Seyfeddin Kara presented a paper on Muslim youth at universities and the effects of multiculturalism on campus at the Association of Muslim Social Scientists conference in Leicester.

Other meeting which IHRC members attended included seminars and meetings in Belfast and Malaysia.

The Universal Justice Network (UJN) is a network of NGOs and grassroots organisations from around the world committed to sharing local knowledge and campaigning on strategic issues of justice. The UJN was set up in October 2008 in Penang, Malaysia under the auspices of Citizens International and Islamic Human Rights Commission. The UJN secretariat is based in Penang and London, under Citizens International and Islamic Human Rights Commission respectively.

UJN launched concurrent campaigns in Turkey, UK, Malaysia, Indonesia and India regarding the siege of Gaza in November last year, with a letter

to Hosni Mubarak signed by various local and international organisations and public figures, calling for the opening of the Rafah crossing. This is a campaign that continues. Also soon after the Gaza massacre UJN sent its colleagues into Gaza to investigate and research what took place there. This has led to a campaign to go on to launch a war crimes tribunal against the Israelis that committed war crimes in Gaza.

In April 2009 UJN had its second meeting in London. Various topics were discussed from demonisation of Muslims and minorities, economic and social rights and justice and human rights issues for oppressed peoples around the world.

Ahmed Uddin



S.M. Idrees, from Citizens International Malaysia, contributing to UJN meeting



Participants in the first UJN meeting held in Penang.



A bombed out ambulance outside Al-Shifa hospital



The grounds of Masjid Al-Taqwa



Veteran campaigner Brian Haw joins the 24/7 vigil



Muslim and Jewish women outside the BBC protesting biased coverage of the Gaza war



Demonstrators in Trafalgar Square for Al-Quds Day

# IHRC activities on Palestine and Gaza

## Tracking down the war criminals

In defending human rights worldwide, the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) devoted ample attention to campaign work for Palestine, which heightened since the recent blockade and onslaught on Gaza. Aside from producing a continuous stream of campaign letters, alerts with sample letters, and press releases, organising numerous events, like demonstrations and vigils, we additionally sent two of our team members into Gaza, and continued to produce boycott materials, which are in increasing demand now.

Aftermath: Gaza in the days after the 22 day war is available on-line for free download or to purchase in hard copy from our on-line shop. To download the diary visit: <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/publication/s/reports/4386-AFTERMATH-GAZA-IN-THE-DAYS-AFTER-THE-22-DAY-WAR115> words

### Children for Children of Gaza vigil

In the events during the war in Gaza, IHRC collaborated with a whole host of organizations and schools in support of the children of Gaza and Palestine. The demonstration was held by children in the UK in solidarity with children of Gaza outside 10 Downing Street, to highlight the injustices that they face and to help create a voice on their behalf to show that they are not truly alone in their situation. Children and parents gathered to chant slogans such as 'Free, Free Palestine'. At the end of the demonstration a letter written by Vian al Hilli was read out to the public and then handed into 10 Downing Street addressed to the British Prime Minister, Gordon

Brown. Such unity and peaceful protesting yielded and generated mass attention by creating a platform for educating the public that the substantial number of victims who bore the brunt of the war were predominantly children and were either mercilessly killed or injured or orphaned by the Israeli forces. A heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who joined us to protest the rights of the oppressed and innocents in Gaza in the struggle for justice. Our thoughts and prayers are with them continuously.

### Al Quds Day 2008

The Al Quds Day Demonstration, organised by the Justice for Palestine Committee at the end of Ramadan, attracted some 4,000 people to the protests in support of the oppressed world-wide using the symbolism of Palestine. The demo attracted Muslims and non-Muslims of all denominations and had the support of a large number of organisations and lobby groups such as the Islamic Human Rights Commission, Stop the War Coalition, MCB, Orthodox Jews against Zionism Neturei Karta, FOSIS

and the Palestine Return Centre to name but a few.

This year the counter demonstration consisted largely of Zionists, Iranian secularists and right wing fascists. Al Quds demonstrators were met with racist chants such as "Terrorist bombers off our streets", "White pride: no surrender", Nazi salutes and a violent attack on demonstrators, most of whom were women and children. Riot police were forced to storm the march in order to protect Al Quds demonstrators which eventually resulted in the arrest of five counter demonstrators.

This year we saw the one of largest Al Quds Demonstration in London in recent years - this year it's even more important to take part in this event. Please see the event notice in this newsletter for the date and time of this year's event on 13 September. Many cities and towns have organised coaches for people to attend. Please contact the IHRC office on 020 8904 4222 for more information.

### 24/7 Vigil for Gaza

IHRC organized a round the clock vigil outside the London Israeli

embassy expressing solidarity with the besieged Gazans. The vigil was attended by veteran activists and new campaigners, with people joining in such events for the first time. People of all denominations and joined in, with journalists, councillors, students, visitors to London and many others joined in. We were privileged to have veteran campaigner Brian Haw join us one night also.

### Women's Speakout

Also both Muslim and Jewish women came together to hold a vigil and speakout with the BBC refusal to report - about Zionist apartheid, women giving birth at checkpoints, the expulsions, the theft of land and resources, the imprisonment of children, the swimming pools in Zionist settlements filled by siphoning Palestinians' drinking water. The BBC did not publicly complain that Israel is preventing their reporters from entering Gaza to witness the bombing and invasion firsthand. Neither did it report Jewish opposition to this Zionist slaughter of the innocents. This event was co-organised by IHRC and the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN), UK.

### Issues around Demonstrations

While the Gaza onslaught invoked unprecedented waves of solidarity demonstrations worldwide, Britain's peaceful demonstrations were largely met with by disproportionate and heavy-handed policing and random arrests. IHRC circulated 'know-your-rights' leaflets at the demonstrations, and for victims of the police brutality and detention, IHRC was there to provide casework assistance and advocacy. A report on the policing is due for publication later this year.

### Other Work

Further, a letter signed by parliamentarians, community leaders, international multi-faith organisations and NGOs was delivered to the Egyptian Embassy by a delegation led by IHRC Chair Massoud Shadjareh. This initiative was taken up by the Universal Justice Network (UJN) and similar events were held in India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Turkey.

Also under the auspices of UJN, IHRC was involved in facilitating legal research into bringing people to account for war crimes.

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) sent two team members into Gaza to investigate and collate evidence on the war crimes that took place. Soon after the return of the lawyers a round-table meeting to discuss the 'Rule of Law and Israeli War Crimes in Gaza' was organised by the Secretariats of the Universal Justice Network (UJN): Citizens International (CI) and The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC). This meeting offered an opportunity to exchange views, brief colleagues on and discuss the issue of the crimes committed by Israel. Many felt that it was essential for activists and lawyers to have a brainstorming session to share ideas and pave a way forward. Representatives from various disciplines, such as NGOs, lawyers and politicians, attended from across the world. IHRC is putting its effort to ensure a long term project is sustained in capturing these criminals. We are trying to collectively work towards building an infrastructure that will identify the perpetrators, help with the collection of evidence according to international standards by providing training and advice. Further, to create a database of crimes and criminals, research and identify legal discourse around the world, particularly in Europe where it is possible to prosecute, empower NGOs, human rights and legal professionals to use their resources to bring about action.



Children standing in support of Gaza children outside No 10 Downing Street



Les Levidow, from Jews Against Zionism, addressing the crowds at Al-Quds Day



Rabbis and Ulama jointly condemning atrocities against Palestinians at Al-Quds Day



## IHRC Merchandise & Campaign Material

Malcolm X T-Shirt, unisex, long sleeve. Malcolm X T-Shirt This iconic image comes from the design team at Iim Wear (<http://www.iimwear.com>), and is designed exclusively for IHRC. All T-shirts come in black and are long sleeved in the following sizes M, L, XL and XXL. Promotional offer £10 incl p&p

Emotional Fitness Coping Skills for the Ups and Downs in Life ISBN: 978-893-3083-65-7 A self-help guide to emotional wellbeing. Published by Citizens Association of Penang, 2008 £7 including postage and packaging

Towards a New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine (12 March 2009) This report is a compilation of papers presented at the conference Towards a New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine held in June 2005 which was organized by IHRC and NEDA Cost £12

IHRC BADGES Pack of 10, small button badges. £2.50



The Ka'bah, Makkah 1, Large Small



Medina Sunset 1, Large Small



Dome of the Rock, Large Small



Masjid Al-Aqsa, Large Small



Water fountain, Fath, Istanbul, Large Small



Almohad door, Seville, Andalusia, Large Small



Interior of Masjid al-Aqsa 1, Large Small



Interior of Masjid al-Aqsa 2, Large Small



Interior of the Dome of the Rock, Large Small



The Ka'bah, Makkah 2, Large Small

Muhsin Kilby is a London based photographer who has travelled through and photographed many parts of the world. His travels have taken him to Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Sudan, Egypt), as well as the USA & Canada, Israel - Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and western Europe. An accomplished photographer, he has also written on various issues including Jerusalem and the Palestinian issue.

Please tick the box next to the items you want and fill in your name, address and contact details on the form overleaf and send your payment to: IHRC, P O Box Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH, United Kingdom. If you are based outside the UK please contact IHRC before purchasing items as there may be additional postage costs involved.

ANNUAL **AL-QUDS DAY 2009**

**MARCH FOR JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE**  
Sunday 13th September, London, UK  
Assemble at 1.30pm at Marble Arch to march to Trafalgar Square

Please call 020 8904 4222 for details of coaches from other cities or email [info@ihrc.org](mailto:info@ihrc.org)

## BOYCOTT ISRAELI DATES

The two main Israeli date producers are Agrexco and Hadiklaim.

Agrexco has brand names Carmel, Jordan Plains, Jordan Valley.

Hadiklaim has brand names King Solomon, Jordan River.

Hadiklaim also supplies Israeli dates to supermarkets who market them under their own brand names, these include Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose.

Always check the label, sometimes they are labelled 'products of West Bank' - this just confirms they are grown in the illegal Israeli settlements.

[www.inminds.co.uk/boycott-israeli-dates.php](http://www.inminds.co.uk/boycott-israeli-dates.php)



# A global focus: Research for rights

**A** lhamdulillah over the past year the Research Department has had a multitude of titles published and many more forthcoming within the next couple of months. We have not only focused on national issues affecting Muslims within the UK, but have been able to investigate other parts of the world such as France, Denmark and Palestine.

Early this year, IHRC republished its extensive report looking at the Metropolitan Police Service's policy of Muslim Profiling during a 2002 pro-Palestine protest and analysing what steps have been taken since to ensure ethical policing is present in all cases. It raises important issues on positive interaction between the MPS and Muslim organisations as well as highlighting the 'special relationship' that MPS continue to share with the pro-Zionist Community Security Trust (CST). In order for improved relationship between Muslim organisations and the MPS, a more positive and proactive partnership needs to be established.

This report was first published in 2002, hoping to eradicate the biased policy of Muslim profiling, but unfortunately events in January this year showed otherwise. On 28 December 2008, Israel began its indiscriminate bombardment of the Gaza strip that eventually led to the death of more than 1500 innocent citizens, many of whom were children. Ordinary citizens from all over the world, including the UK took to the streets in large numbers to protest against the onslaught and voice their anger and disgust. In London, MPS heavy handedness was apparent from the first demonstration, which started off peacefully but ended with scuffles and arrests due to bad implementation of policies. The 'Gaza Demonstrations 2009' report contains witness statements and IHRC observers' notes highlighting police brutality and MPS mismanagement of large crowds, which consequently led to several health and safety concerns and unwarranted stops and searches and arrests.

The report questions if lessons have been learnt from past protests and suggests that the only way for relations to improve is for clear cut and transparent policies being implemented within the police force and that those who abused their badges be brought to account for their actions against innocent protesters.

Early this year, IHRC published its findings on the effect of the Hijab ban in French schools. In 2004, the French government implemented a ban on all religious symbols in French schools. 'For Liberty? The Impact of the French Ban on the Islamic Headscarf and other Religious Symbols in Schools' looks at the effects of the law on what was largely per-

ceived to be its actual target group-Muslim girls and young women. The book includes distressing personal accounts from dozens of Muslim girls and young women collected and originally published by the March 15 Liberation Committee, as well as IHRC's own submission to the Committee against the

**"It has been another busy and fruitful year for the Research team who have worked tirelessly to bring issues to the forefront and open debates"**

Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Further reports on Belgium and Turkey and their issues with the hijab are in the pipeline for publication this year.

Ongoing research includes IHRC's analysis of Free Speech and Hate Speech, looking at key issues affecting Muslims in Denmark, Holland and the UK and their experience of hate speech. It is an important study that will look at how much Muslims have been affected by specific events namely the publishing of the cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the release of two Islamophobic movies ('Submission' and 'Fitna') and the Satanic Verses respectively and how able they feel to be able to participate in public discourse and mainstream media.

Another report will be analysing attacks on anti-Zionist activists, with many of the victims coming from the Jewish community. Islamic Human Rights Commission has seen the first hand bias and hypocrisy that is apparent when protesting against the Zionists and Occupied Palestine.

A report on the treatment of Roma in Bulgaria based on last year's field trip awaits publication. It is based on the submission of IHRC to the UN's Committee for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination. The book of 2005's conference 'Towards a New Liberation Theology: Reflections on Palestine' was finally published this year. If you are interested in a hard copy please hurry as stocks are diminishing. However it can be downloaded for free as can most IHRC reports, from our website.

## New research projects for 2009/10

IHRC will, God-willing, be undertaking a pilot project in the UK to assess the level of hate crime and Islamophobia experienced by Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim. If successful, it is hoped this will provide a sound methodological basis for assessing hate crime levels in other minority communities. IHRC is hoping to trial this project in other European countries in the coming year.

A further project in the pipeline this year seeks to analyse the narratives around Muslims and Islam in 'Western' discourse. The project over the next two years will look at Policy Documents, News, Literature and Film. It is hoped that a second phase will look at narrative in Muslim majority cultures about the 'West' in a similar pattern. This is a long term and ambitious project that seeks to understand how various ideas of the 'other' have been constructed, and look towards how better understanding can be developed between peoples.

This runs parallel to IHRC's work on minorities begun with the British Muslims Expectations project in 2004. Research for that project forms the basis of future work that will look at the construction of minorities in majority culture.

Also published in 2010 is IHRC's survey of Muslim organisations in Germany.

The research section is also aiming to put together some documentaries highlighting some of the issues it has been dealing with, in the coming year, inshaAllah.

IHRC's briefings, continue to look at various topical issue e.g. the Contest 2 proposals in the UK, or human rights abuses in Yemen and Bahrain. This year also, the research section will be commissioning some comment pieces for the new IHRC website.

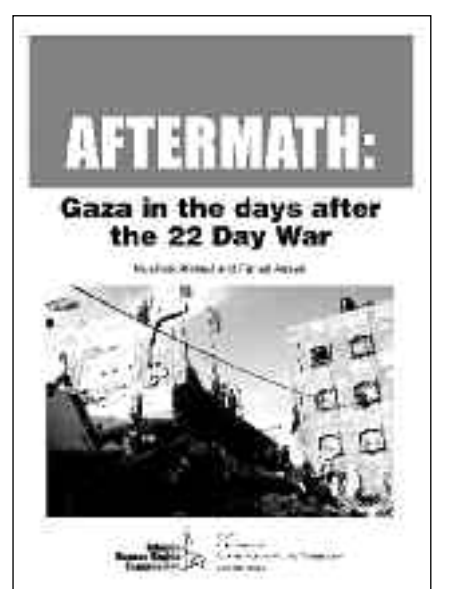
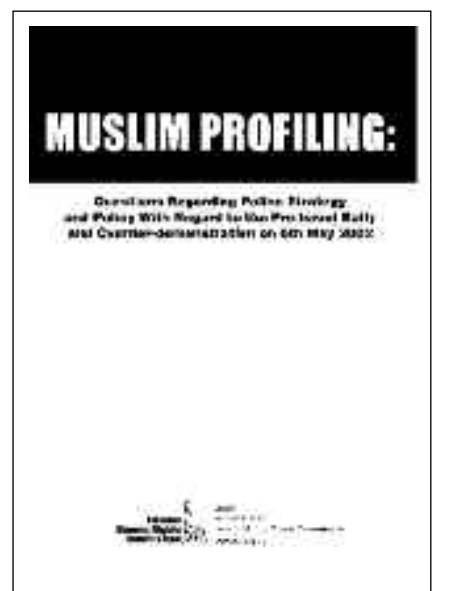
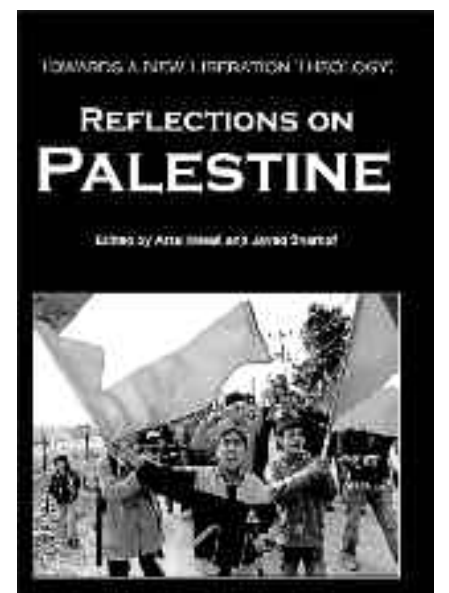
The research section also helps with IHRC's submissions to the United Nations, working with IHRC's UN liaison officer.

Our Research has been beneficial to other departments within IHRC as well as to others including students, academics, organisations, governmental and non-governmental organisations, on a national and international scale. It has been another busy and fruitful year for the Research team who have worked tirelessly to bring issues to the forefront and open debates to further enrich the civil liberties and human rights dialogue currently taking place.

## Course in Islam and Human Rights

IHRC provided a two semester course in Islam and Human Rights at the Islamic College for Advanced Studies in London last year. This was a new and exciting experience and we hope to be able to develop the course further.

Samira Quraishy and Arzu Merali



**Islamic  
Human Rights  
Commission**



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**www.ihrc.org.uk**

**or contact us on**

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

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



**A**s I write, matters this year in Europe have taken another devastating turn for the worse. Whilst there have been many issues to comment on across the world, it is because of the murder of Merwa El Sherbini, that this message will focus on Europe.

With European elections this year, we saw the rise of far-right parties in many countries. In the UK, the British National Party won two seats – something few could have believed even a couple of years ago. Many commentators have rightly pointed out that parties on the right have targeted Islam and Muslims, and this has struck a chord with voters, now attuned to the relentless demonisation of a minority. Others have pointed out that this focus on Islam and Muslims is a clever cover for a more general and insidious racism against immigrants, minorities, refugees – against difference from an imaged national norm. This latter point is one which we at IHRC bear witness to daily.

However, the rise of the far-right is also in some ways a distraction from the rise of anti-Muslim hatred and hostility. It is not only those on the right, far or centre, who berate Islam and Muslims for everything from their dress to their beliefs. Hostility often disguised as critique, and justified as free speech, has come from the mainstream right and left. It has characterised newspaper columns. It has rung out from the speeches of parliamentarians and premiers. It is heard in school playgrounds. Nicolas Sarkozy, is but one example, where a call to ban the burka or nikab, became a continent-wide campaign that saw strange coalitions of left and right, traditionalist and feminist even, united in a campaign against a beleaguered community, recognised even before 9-11 by the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) as profoundly discriminated against, marginalised and denied equality with their co-citizens.

Indeed ECRI explicitly stated that Muslim women were doubly discriminated against because of the racism AND sexism of wider society. Nine years later, rather than see a Europe that took on board ECRI's recommendations, we see a Europe mired in rising levels of hate crime and discrimination. We have said it many times, and IHRC is not alone in pointing out the similarities between the demonization of the Jewish community in the 1930s and events now.

Then as now, governments

and media decried the community for failing to integrate, for being distinct in identity when that identity was overt, for being too and disproportionately successful where that success was well-known, for asking for special favours denied to the rest of the

with the obvious critique of various members of the Muslim community – governments across Europe now overtly seek to nationalise or Europeanise 'Islam' itself. This process of redefinition began under the guise of community cohesion and national iden-

vanised society for so many reasons. Merwe had sought justice from the system after being the victim of a hate crime. After giving evidence against the man who abused, who had already been convicted of the crime against her, she was stabbed by the same man

No amount of 'integration' or 'subservience' by any minority will decrease or alter that fact. The motor for that change must and can only come from government, national and regional.

When notorious anti-Semite and Islamophobe Theo van Gogh was killed in the Netherlands, his death was immediately reported, lamented and publicised. Muslims and indeed other minorities may well wonder why Merwe's death or that of any of those killed in hate attacks did not elicit such a response as this. Where were the governmental outcries, where were the speeches from inconsolable writers?

At IHRC we have researched and written reports on ideas of citizenship, on the need for genuine equality and the promotion of minority rights. The recommendations in these work, as with many other organisations' work demand acknowledgment from the governments who so readily point the finger at Muslims as the source of societal problems. History shows us that without ideas and laws that are backed up by robust, principled and independent institutions, real equality for all is simply a slogan that is belied by violence and aggression which ultimately targets minorities. If 'Never Again' is to truly mean anything, the time for building such institutions is now.

Despite the forgoing it is important for those of us who call ourselves to believers to remember that we too must act, and work towards a more just society for all. Whilst ultimate responsibility for change lies with those who hold temporal power, we are commanded to strive for justice in whatever way we can. Whether we can only condemn Merwe's murder, or take part in campaigns against unjust laws, or simply hate all injustice in our hearts, we do not have a choice but to do so. Anything less is a betrayal of the idea of universal justice that Islam demands. It has been a bad year, but still we must hope.

Massoud Shadjareh

**"Yet, deep down, surely most Muslims know in their heart that under any other name, we are second class citizens. Our experiences, our treatment... all expose the inconvenient truth that Europe appears to have learned very little from its recent, horrendous past."**

population. All were crude and cruel stereotypes and all fed the demonization that led to the mass murder of Jews, Roma and many others at the hand of the Nazis. Yet were those governments that complained of Jewish refugees reaching their shores that much better?

Many cartoons lambasted the Jewish community in those times, many editorials and political speeches claimed that their belief system demanded that they hate

**"If there was one incident that should have shaken the complacent, Muslim or not, it was the murder of Merwa El-Sherbini. Her killing should have galvanised society for so many reasons. Merwe had sought justice from the system after being the victim of a hate crime."**

non-Jews, that their religious texts were inimical to the values of the majority societies they lived in. This all sounds alarmingly familiar to Muslims in 21st Century Europe. We are no longer faced

with the obvious critique of various members of the Muslim community – governments across Europe now overtly seek to nationalise or Europeanise 'Islam' itself. This process of redefinition began under the guise of community cohesion and national iden-

vanised society for so many reasons. Merwe had sought justice from the system after being the victim of a hate crime. After giving evidence against the man who abused, who had already been convicted of the crime against her, she was stabbed by the same man

No amount of 'integration' or 'subservience' by any minority will decrease or alter that fact. The motor for that change must and can only come from government, national and regional.

When notorious anti-Semite and Islamophobe Theo van Gogh was killed in the Netherlands, his death was immediately reported, lamented and publicised. Muslims and indeed other minorities may well wonder why Merwe's death or that of any of those killed in hate attacks did not elicit such a response as this. Where were the governmental outcries, where were the speeches from inconsolable writers?

At IHRC we have researched and written reports on ideas of citizenship, on the need for genuine equality and the promotion of minority rights. The recommendations in these work, as with many other organisations' work demand acknowledgment from the governments who so readily point the finger at Muslims as the source of societal problems. History shows us that without ideas and laws that are backed up by robust, principled and independent institutions, real equality for all is simply a slogan that is belied by violence and aggression which ultimately targets minorities. If 'Never Again' is to truly mean anything, the time for building such institutions is now.

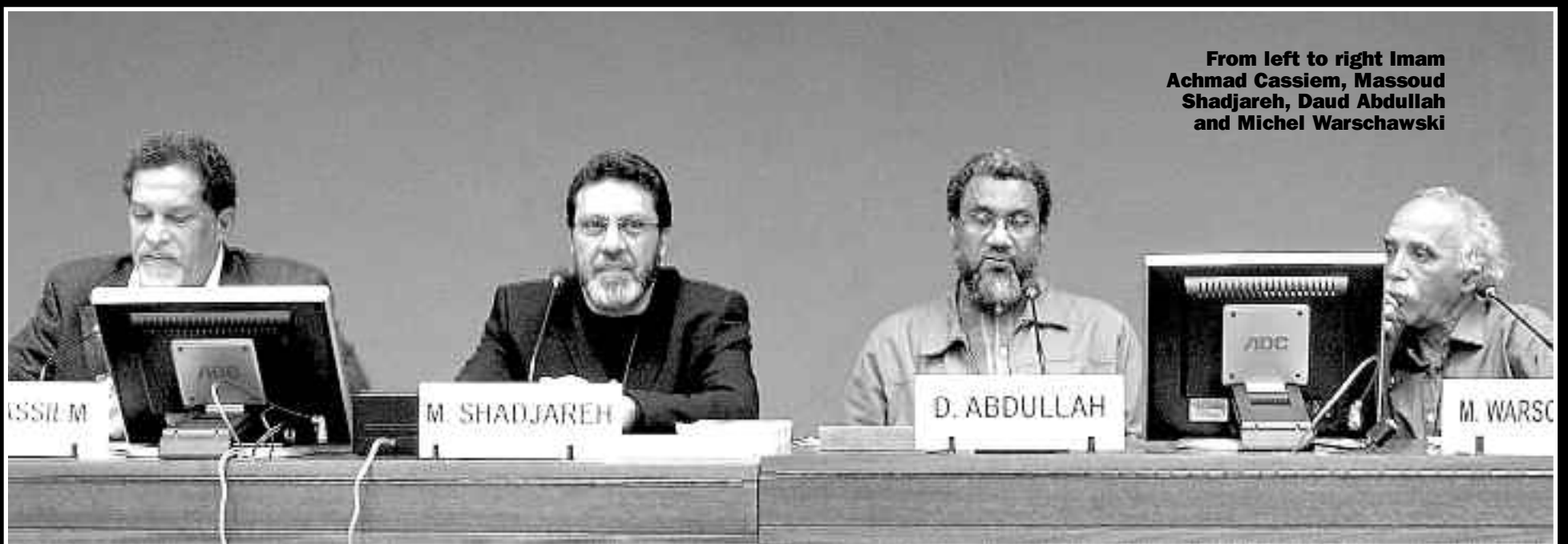
Despite the forgoing it is important for those of us who call ourselves to believers to remember that we too must act, and work towards a more just society for all. Whilst ultimate responsibility for change lies with those who hold temporal power, we are commanded to strive for justice in whatever way we can. Whether we can only condemn Merwe's murder, or take part in campaigns against unjust laws, or simply hate all injustice in our hearts, we do not have a choice but to do so. Anything less is a betrayal of the idea of universal justice that Islam demands. It has been a bad year, but still we must hope.

**Read All About It!**

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

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





From left to right Imam Achmad Cassiem, Massoud Shadjareh, Daud Abdullah and Michel Warschawski

In December 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for a review conference of the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR), held in Durban, South Africa, 31 August to 08 September 2001. The so-called Durban Review Conference (DRC) was held in Geneva, 20-24 April 2009. The core objective of DRC was to review progress and obstacles in addressing racism, giving particular attention to the 'victims of racism,' and to agree strategies for combating racism at the international, regional and national levels. The DRC initiative was taken principally by the Group of African States and the members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Among their chief concern was the need to address new forms of contemporary racism, xenophobia and related intolerance that have emerged or increased since 9/11. These include Islamophobia and discriminatory anti-terrorism measures.

#### Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) contribution to the Durban Review Conference.

DRC repeated some of the failures of Durban and exhibited well how the international politics of terrorism has infiltrated the racism dialogue and obscured the genuine concerns of communities who find themselves increasingly discriminated against in the post-9/11 climate. IHRC participation at the Durban

Review Conference was a positive effort to make the voice of the civil society heard. The following highlights just some of the work of IHRC at Durban Review Conference

#### IHRC's parallel event at Durban Review Conference.

IHRC recognizes the Durban Review Conference as presenting a unique opportunity for the development and adoption of a new approach to address the impact of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances. In this context

## Working world-wide: IHRC at Durban Review Conference

IHRC organised a parallel event on the issue of "Old and new forms of racism-the case of Islamophobia," which provided a useful framework to identify, analyze and respond directly to the societal discrimination of racism. IHRC was privileged to have the UN Special

International, Malaysia. Amongst other speakers were: Chair Islamic Human Rights Commission, Massoud Shadjareh; ex-prisoner of Robben Island (prisoner number 882/64), Imam Achmand Casseim and Chair of the Islamic Unity Convention, South Africa;

broader attempt to construct an artificial "clash of civilizations." Asma Jahangir explained how every Muslim family in the world that travels internationally is at the risk of facing discrimination. She further went on highlighting how every "Muslim that arrives at a border knows that they may be singled out by immigration officials." Massoud Shadjareh, Chair IHRC, noted that since 9/11 new forms of contemporary racism, xenophobia and related intolerance have emerged or increased. These include Islamophobia and discriminatory anti-terrorism measures for example 'stop and search,' which are grave violation of rights to physical integrity.

The proceedings of the conference are available online at UN website and Al Jazeera, and will soon be on the IHRC website also.

#### IHRC in other parallel events at the Durban Review Conference

IHRC was a co-organizer of a parallel event on "Racism, counter-terrorism and discrimination against Muslims: Action beyond Durban," with Minority Rights Group and International Commission of Jurists. Massoud Shadjareh described cases of discrimination against Muslims in the United Kingdom.

Massoud Shadjareh, was also invited as a panellist in one of the parallel event on "Human Rights, Discrimination and Islamophobia," organised by Interfaith International and Al Hakim Foundation.

Other members of IHRC were also involved in various events at Durban Review Conference. Rabbis from neturei Karta who participated

as part of the IHRC team, in various events tried to explain why Zionism is a rejection of Judaism. Michel Warchawski tried to explain the reasons for the failure of Durban Review Conference.

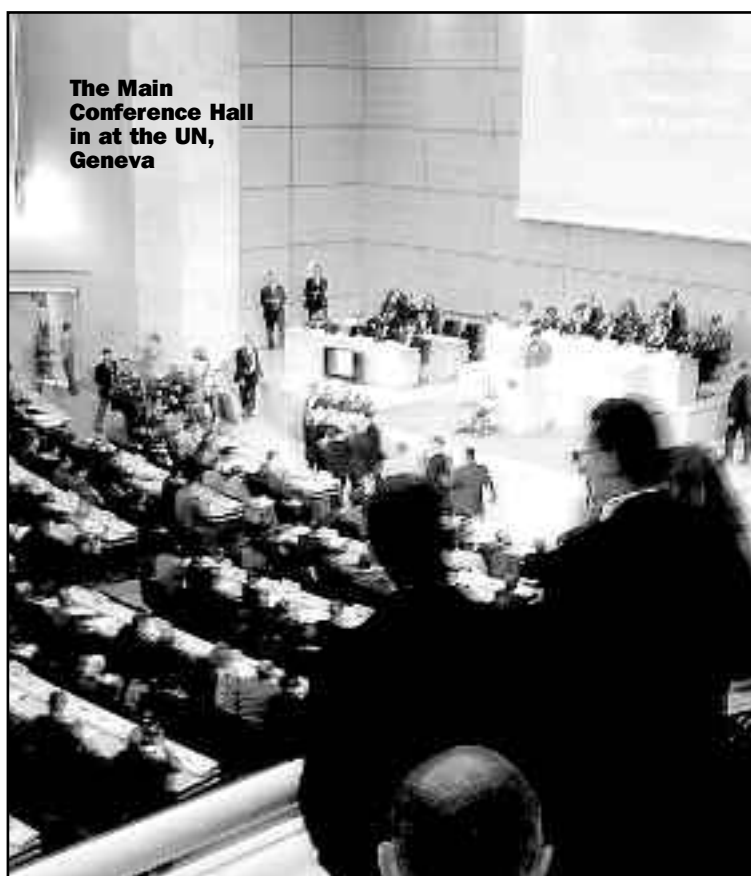
IHRC members were also contacted by various media personnel for interviews. "The conference is not taking Islamophobia seriously. Muslim communities in Europe already don't believe they are full citizens; this will alienate them," told Massoud Shadjareh in an interview with Islamonline. Details of the interview can be found at [www.islamonline.net](http://www.islamonline.net)

#### IHRC's Submission at Durban Review Conference

IHRC submitted a written statement to the main meeting of Durban Review Conference. Amongst the issues we raised was that the theme of the Durban Review Conference Against Racism has not demonstrated their commitment to fight against racism. There has been an exponential increase in anti-Muslim racism, Islamophobia and other forms of prejudice in the wake of recent international events. We also raised the issue that UK government has targeted almost exclusively the Muslim community, for incitement to racial and religious hatred. IHRC also urge that DRC reflect these concerns, and support the work done by civil society in pursuit of equality and justice.

Full details of IHRC contribution at the Durban Review Conference can be found at UN website as well as at Islamic Human Rights Commission website.

Aneesa Sillat Sattar



The Main Conference Hall in at the UN, Geneva

Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Asma Jahangir, and former Special Rapporteur on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Doudou Diene. Permanent observer of the OIC, Babacar BA, on the panel. The panel addressed the meeting of UN officials, country delegates, NGO representative, television and press. The meeting was chaired by Mohideen Abdul Kader, Director Citizen

Deputy Secretary General, Muslim Council of Britain and researcher Palestinian Return Centre, Dr. Daud Abdullah and political activist campaigner, Michael Warschawski, from Jerusalem.

The discussion began on emphasizing the need for education and intercultural dialogue to combat hateful sentiments against Muslims and Islam. Doudou Diene emphasized Islamophobia was part of a

# VOLUNTEER FOR IHRC

## Volunteer for justice: Be an IHRC volunteer



Volunteers helping to hold up the iconic IHRC banner at an event

### GIVE US 5 MINUTES

IHRC has been blessed with the support of many volunteers, based in the UK and abroad. From those who write letters of support to prisoners and detainees, to those who research reports and help out at events, and distribute material and raise awareness in their local areas (see article below), IHRC's work has been carried on by the blessings of Allah swt through the dedication of so many people.

This year please take at least a few minutes of time to join these volunteers. If you join our mailing list you will receive alerts from our campaigns section. You can write a letter of protest or write to a prisoner or detainee. It takes a few minutes of your time whenever you like. Just send an email to [subscribe@ihrc.org](mailto:subscribe@ihrc.org). If you are interested in a particular campaign, prisoner, country or field you have had experience in this may be an opportunity for you to work in that area.

### IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES...

"Volunteering for the IHRC has always proved rewarding on a number of levels. The range of activities undertaken by the IHRC and the vast array of topics the commission covers serve not only to provide an incentive to act against the

many injustices we witness today, but provide an intellectual foundation for that struggle. The sense of unity and brotherhood amongst the volunteers serves to also induce a spiritual reward for Volunteering at the IHRC."

### Oussama

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

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

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

## Opportunities for students: Be an IHRC intern

Our internships at IHRC ran as normal in 2009 continuing our excellent opportunity for graduates and students, with an average intake of ten interns every year. This year's applicants were just as competitive and as usual we received more applicants than we could accommodate. Our applicants as always come from varied and dynamic backgrounds ranging from Postgraduates to undergraduates and studying in fields.

Applications come from Germany, France, Holland, India, Pakistan and also much closer to home such as Scotland and Wales. It is unfortunate that we have not yet been able to fund any of our internships, so till this day they remain as unpaid positions. This shows the character of our applicants who apply with sincerity, to learn and benefit and not seeking financial gain. The prophet of Islam Muhammad peace be upon him once said "Verily actions are by intentions, and for every person is what he intended...". We therefore

hope that our interns leave us with that which they intended to take from the IHRC internship, which for most is an eye opening experience into the world of Human Rights. I'm glad to say that we still receive applicants yearly from both Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds which makes us happy in knowing that our applicants understand our work is universal, beyond aiming at any one group or creed but at human beings in general.

Our internships are divided into winter and summer, the summer usually lasting two to three times longer than the one month of the winter internships. Depending on what one is looking for, both the shorter winter and longer summer internships have their benefits.

Three of our departments are charged with taking our interns on board for their training and they include the Research, Campaigns and advocacy department. Those who are successful in being selected for our summer internship will end up seeing a lot more of our

operations including our UN liaison.

Our objectives are not only to provide an eye opening experience into the world of Human Rights but also to equip our interns with the necessary tools to make them active in trying to better the human condition.

After sending in an acceptable C.V, sample of writing and two references, completed applications are examined and applicants are shortlisted for interview. Our interns normally attend an interview with our Head of Research and one other member of staff (we do try to have one male and one female interviewer).

It doesn't end there. It is often said it is hard to leave IHRC. Many interns have returned to IHRC as volunteers or staff. In fact no less than four of our current staff were previously interns at the IHRC.

### D. M. Kapansa

Below is some feedback from a former IHRC intern:

### My Internship Experience at the Islamic Human Rights Commission

Coming from a legal background I was delighted when I was offered the internship shadowing the caseworker at the Commission.

From the outset, I came into a place full of dedicated people working towards the same cause.

It was interesting to find how there were many facets to the commission, each working to one great objective – Justice, and how each team worked dedicatedly to help it prevail.

My time shadowing casework support officer gave me insight into the many issues that Muslims face, mainly for being Muslim. There were many crimes committed due to hate and ignorance. I was saddened to find, that unlike some other faith groups, there was lack of awareness made public through a centralised reporting system of annual crime rates relating to Islamophobia. This propelled me to look into the cases that the Commission received alongside those published online and devise a rough summary guide to the annual Islamophobic

cases. Since leaving the commission my hope was that this was something that could be developed in the future to allow society to understand how the misunderstanding and hate of the Islamic faith causes adversities which should have no place in society.

My experience allowed me to realise just how hard those at the Commission work to create awareness on the injustice that is happening at home and away, as well as the dedication needed to achieve greater fairness.

### Fairouz Fadhl

## Help in the struggle for justice as an IHRC regional coordinator!

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

A local coordinator is a point of contact in your area and would be responsible for encouraging likeminded people to build a core group of

volunteers to campaign on IHRC campaigns. The campaigns undertaken will reflect IHRC projects and may involve letter writing, events and much more or even issues in your local community.

Co-ordinators get training at least twice a year at the IHRC office in London, and the amount of work you take on depends entirely on you.

There is a liaison officer based at the IHRC office to work with you.

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

# Are you a UK taxpayer?

## If so please help ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TRUST

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

relief to victims of human rights abuses and their families. If you wish to donate money that will be used for purely charitable purposes as defined by the Charities Commission you can send donations to the Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust. Please make cheques payable to the Islamic Human Rights

Commission Trust or pay by credit or debit card by filling in your details below and send it with the completed form below. UK tax payers are able to utilise Gift Aid when donating to Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust, by ticking the relevant box(es) below. This means for every £1 you donate IHRCT will be able to

reclaim a further 28p. You can also call the office and donate with your credit or debit card on 020 8904 4222 (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.**

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

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



### ONE OFF DONATION FORM

<p><b>DETAILS OF DONOR</b></p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Forename(s): _____</p> <p>Surname: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Post Code : _____</p> <p>Tel No : _____</p> <p>E-Mail : _____</p> <p>I want the charity to treat the enclosed donation of £ _____ all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.</p>	<p>I wish to donate by:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visa Electron</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Switch</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Solo</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Maestro</p> <p>Card number: _____</p> <p>Switch issue number: _____</p> <p>Valid from date: _____</p> <p>Expiry date: _____</p> <p>Today's date: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like a receipt</p> <p>Please return this form to us at: <b>ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TRUST</b> PO Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH, United Kingdom.</p>
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### STANDING ORDER BANKERS FORM

<p>Name(s) of the account holder(s)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Account number: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>To: The Manager (name and address of your bank)</p> <p>Sort Code: _____</p> <p>Please pay (tick choice):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> £8 / month (students/ unwaged)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> £15 / month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> £25 / month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> £40 / month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> £60 / month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) £ _____</p>	<p>Please state amount in words</p> <p>_____</p> <p>To the credit of Islamic Human Rights Commission Trust a/c no: 0477881, Sort Code 30-93-88 Upon receipt of this order and subsequently the same amount on this first day of each month until further notice, debit my / our account.</p> <p>Signature(s): _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>I want the charity to treat the enclosed donation of £ _____ all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations</p> <p>Please return this form to us at: <b>ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TRUST</b> PO Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH, United Kingdom.</p>
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**You can also donate online by visiting [www.ihrc.org.uk](http://www.ihrc.org.uk)**

# Support Justice, Help IHRCT

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).

# IHRC merchandise and campaign material



There are many ways you can help IHRC, and purchasing some of our material and merchandise is just one of many. Whether you are interested in our research or campaigns, or are looking for a gift we have something for everyone and every price range.

You can also order campaign material using the order form below. You can also visit our on-line shop throughout the year to see what else we have coming into the store [www.ihr.org.uk/catalog](http://www.ihr.org.uk/catalog)

## RREPORTS

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

### Europe's Shame: Anti-Muslim Hatred and the Roma of Bulgaria

Based on the report submitted to UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This report looks at the situation of Roma communities in Bulgaria, and the discrimination they face. Publication date: 31 July 2009, ISBN: 978-1-903718-36-8

**Aftermath: Gaza in the Days After the 22 Day War.** (7 May 2009) A diary account of two lawyers who visited Gaza to collect testimony from victims of the war. Cost £6

**For Liberty?** (12 February 2009) The Impact of the French Ban on the Islamic Headscarf and other Religious Symbols in Schools. £6

**Muslim Profiling** (22 January 2009) Questions Regarding Police Strategy and Policy With Regard to the Pro-Israel Rally and Counter-demonstration on 6th May 2002. Cost £4

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

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

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

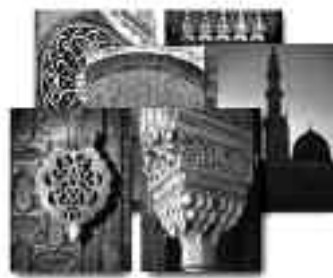
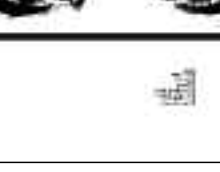
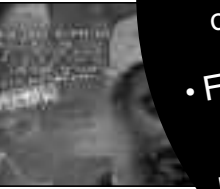
**British Muslim's Expectations of the Government: Secular or Islamic? What Schools do British Muslims want for their Children?** (July 2005) Volume 3 of the BMEG series deals with an important question dealt with by every parent. It analyses the problem facing under achieving muslim children. Cost £8.50

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

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

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

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



## IHRC LEAFLETS

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

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

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

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

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

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

## RAMADHAN SPECIAL OFFERS

The following special offers are available on orders placed during Ramadhan 2009 (while stocks last).

- FREE baseball cap with any T-shirt order
- FREE set of Eid cards with any order over £10
- FREE set of Eid cards, free cap and free umbrella with any order over £20.

Please note, umbrella will be dispatched separately from rest of order.

**Oppressed in the Name of Freedom postcards.** (Oct 2003) Per batch of 25. Specially printed cards regarding the plight of women discriminated against for wearing hijab. Currently being used to campaign for hijab rights in Turkey. Please specify which cards you require.  
 ○ Recep Tayyep Erdogan, Turkish Prime Minister  
 ○ Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner for external relations.

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

## IHRC CAMPAIGN PACKS

IHRC campaign packs are also available to download from the website: [www.ihr.org](http://www.ihr.org). If you require us to send you hard copies,



please send us £1 per item as below to help with postage and packing. The best way to keep abreast of IHRC campaigns is to join our e-mail list. Please e-mail [subscribe@ihr.org](mailto:subscribe@ihr.org).

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

Other prisoner of faith packs and campaign packs include: The Morocco 12; Imam Jamil Al-Amin, USA; Khairat Al-Shater, Egypt; and Malaysia ISA Campaign Pack- Mat Sah bin Mohammed Satray. Please specify on the form which packs you want.

## VIDEOS, CD's & DVD's

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

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

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

## BOOKS

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

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

## UMBRELLA

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

## T-SHIRTS

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

## BANNER

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

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

## EID CARDS

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

**Eid Card, Quran Set 2**  
6 Beautiful calligraphic cards\* (A6 size) with envelopes. The original IHRC Eid cards. Cost £4

**Eid card Art and Architecture Set.**  
6 A6 cards\* with various vistas from Palestine to Spain, with envelopes. Cost £4  
Set will include 6 different designs if possible. If 6 different designs are not available a seventh card will be included free of charge.

VISIT PAGE 8 FOR MORE NEW ITEMS!

Please tick the box next to the items you want and fill in your name, address and contact details on the form overleaf and send your payment to: IHRC, P O Box Box 598, Wembley, HA9 7XH, United Kingdom. If you are based outside the UK please contact IHRC before purchasing items as there may be additional postage costs involved.



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