

Activities against Terrorism

Juristic Edict on Terrorism

PREFACE

A torturous spate of terrorism that continues unabated for last many years has brought Muslim Umma in general and Pakistan in particular into disrepute. There is no gainsaying the fact that the Muslims on the whole oppose and condemn terrorism in unequivocal terms and are not ready to accept it even as remotely related to Islam in any manner. However, a negligible minority amongst them seems to give it a tacit support. Instead of openly opposing and condemning terrorism, these people confuse the entire subject by resorting to misleading and perplexing discussions. Injustice being currently meted out to the Muslims in certain matters, double standards displayed by bigger powers and their open-ended and long-term military engagements in a number of countries, under the pretext of eliminating terror, form some of the fundamental local, national and international causes that underpin terrorism, and add a punch to the war cry of militants.

Similarly, the terrorists' recourse to violence, indiscriminate massacre of humanity, suicide bombings against innocent and peaceful people, and bomb blasts on Mosques, shrines, educational institutions, Bazaars, governmental buildings, trade centres, markets, security installations, and other public places, which are heinous, anti-human and barbarous steps in their very essence, have become a routine affair. These people justify their actions of human destruction and mass killing of hundreds of innocent people in the name of Jihad and thus distort, deform and confuse the entire Islamic concept of Jihad (holy struggle against evil). This situation is causing Muslims in general and the Muslim youth in particular to fall prey to doubts and reservations besides muddling their minds in respect of Jihad because those perpetrating these atrocities are from amongst Muslims. They practice Islamic rituals, perform acts of worship and wear appearance delineated in Sharia. This has put not only the common Muslims but a dominating majority of religious scholars and intellectuals too into a paradox, bewildered to know truly the exact and precise Islamic injunctions about the way of workings, methods and measures these individuals and groups have adopted to cause the havoc.

Furthermore, the Western media is in wont of over-projecting the incidents and episodes of terrorism and extremism about the Muslim world, and does not at all highlight positive and constructive aspects of Islam, its peaceful teachings and anthropological philosophy and orientation. So much so, that it does not even reflect hatred, condemnation and opposition towards extremists, militants and terrorists that permeate the Muslim societies. The negative outcome of this attitude has appeared by way of bracketing both Islam and terrorism together. Consequently, the western mind starts conjuring up the picture of terrorism and extremism at a slight mention of the word 'Islam', putting the Western-bred and educated youth in a quandary, leaving them more beleaguered than before. The present generation of Muslim youth in the entire Islamic world is also falling victim to mental confusion and decadence intellectually, practically and in the domain of beliefs and religious tenets.

Because of this situation, two kinds of negative responses and destructive attitudes are forming up: one in the form of damage to Islam and the Muslim world, and second a threat to the Western world in particular and entire humanity in general. The damage to Islam and Muslim world is that the Muslim youth, not completely and comprehensively aware of Islamic teachings, regard terrorism and extremism as emanating from religious teachings and attitudes of religious people under the influence of media; hence, they are getting alienated from religion. This misplaced thinking is leading them to atheism, posing lethal dangers to the Muslim Umma in future. Contrary to this, the damage threatening the Western world in particular, and entire humanity in general, is that the above-mentioned policies and racial profiling of the Muslims is inciting negative response among some of the Muslim youths who regard these forays against Islam as an organized conspiracy and enmity by some influential circles in the western world. By way of reaction, they are either gradually becoming extremists, militants and terrorists, departing moderation and poised outlook on life, charged with hatred and revenge, or are being grown and groomed into the design. Thus, the Western policies are instrumental in producing and inducting new potential terrorist recruits and workforce, with no end in sight. In both the cases, the Muslim Umma as well as humanity are heading towards a catastrophe.

Moreover, these circumstances are heightening tension, creating larger trust deficits between the Islamic and the Western worlds. The increase in terrorism is paving the way for greater foreign interference in and pressure on the Muslim states. This widening gulf is not only pushing the humanity towards inter-faith antagonism at the global level but also reducing to nothingness the possibilities of peace, tolerance and mutual coexistence among different human societies on the globe.

We thought it necessary, under these circumstances, to put the Islamic stance on terrorism precisely in its right perspective before the Western and Islamic worlds, in the light of the Holy Quran, Prophetic traditions and Books of Jurisprudence and Beliefs. We want to put across this point of view before all the significant institutions, valuable think tanks and influential opinion-making organizations in the world so that the Muslim and non-Muslim circles, entertaining doubts and reservations about Islam, are enabled to understand Islam's standpoint on terrorism more clearly and unambiguously. The contents of this research work have been summarized here briefly.

The first chapter of this document, explaining and elaborating the meaning of Islam, discusses its three grades i.e. Islam (peace), Iman (faith) and Ehsan (Spiritual Excellence). These three words, both literally and metaphorically, represent peace, safety, mercy, tolerance, forbearance, love, affection, benevolence and respect for humanity.

It has been proven in the second chapter of this document through dozens of Quranic verses and Prophetic traditions that the mass killing of Muslims and perpetration of terrorism are not only unlawful and forbidden in Islam but also denote the rejection of faith. Through reference to the expositions and opinions of jurists and experts of Exegeses and Hadith, it has been established that all the learned authorities have held the same opinion about terrorism in 1400-year-old history of Islam.

The third chapter of this edict describes the rights of non-Muslim citizens quite comprehensively. The opinions of all the leading jurists have also been listed in the light of various Quranic verses and Prophetic traditions.

In addition to that, the most important point this research study has undertaken to make revolves around the thought, ideology and mindset, which pits a Muslim against another and finally leads him to massacre innocent humanity. Such a mindset not only regards the killing of women shopping in markets and School-going girls permissible but also a means of earning rewards and spiritual benefits. What power or conviction rouses him to kill people gathered in the mosque, and earn Paradise through carnage? Why does a terrorist decide to end his own life, the greatest blessing of Allah Almighty, with his own hands through suicide bombings? How he comes to believe that, by killing innocent Muslims through suicide bombing, he would become a martyr and enter Paradise? These are the questions whirling in the mind of every person possessing common sense. While furnishing befitting answers to these emerging questions, we have resorted to those historical facts, besides scholarly arguments, which the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him) himself identified. Undertaking the comprehensive analysis of signs, beliefs and ideologies of Khawarij through the Quranic Verses, Prophetic traditions and jurisprudential opinions of jurists, we have established that the terrorists are the Khawarij of the contemporary times.

After declaring this forbidden terrorist act rebellion, gory brutality on earth and an act of infidelity, we have drawn the attention of all the responsible powers and stakeholders under the topic, "Call to Reflect and Reform" to the need of eliminating all the factors that cause people to entertain doubts, and reinforce the hidden hands actively engaged in spreading the plague around. Another theme under discussion these days emphasizes that since foreign imperialist powers are making unwarranted and unjustified interference in Muslim countries including Pakistan, the so-called Jihadi groups have come in their way to launch the offensive, inflicting upon them a devastating blow. Their action though not right and justifiable, they should not be reviled and condemned because their intention is to defend Islam. In our view, this is an awful witticism and a deplorable stance. To remove the misconception, we have specified a brief portion of the treatise in the beginning to this subject as well, bringing to the fore the fact in the light of the Quran and Hadith that evil cannot become good under any circumstances, nor can oppression transform itself into virtuous deed due to goodness of intention.

After these explanatory submissions, we also regard it our fundamental duty to let everyone know without any grain of doubt that we are going ahead with the publication of this research work solely for the sake of respect and dignity of Islam and service of humanity. We do not mean to condone or approve the unpopular and unwise policies of global powers through this Edict, nor do we aim to justify the wrong policies of any government including that of Pakistan. We neither seek pleasure of any government, nor tribute or appreciation from any international power or organization. Like always, we have taken initiative and are performing this task as a part of our religious obligations. Our objective in doing so is to wash off the stain of terrorism from the fair face of Islam, familiarizing the Muslims with real teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunna and try to rid the suffering humanity of the raging fire of terrorism.

May Almighty Allah bless this endeavour with His benevolent acceptance through the holy means of His Beloved Messenger (blessings and peace be upon him).

The questions striking minds and their brief answers

The heart-stabbing gory scenes of the acts of terrorism jolt the minds of all the eminent and common people of the world with some gruesome questions that demand satisfactory answers. We have attempted to serve detailed, logical and matter-of-fact replies to these inquiries. Brief answers to these questions are appended here in sequence, while their details have been presented in the same order in subsequent chapters of this research work.

- 1. The first question in this connection that bothers all relates to use of force to spread beliefs: Is it lawful for a group or organization to use force to promote and put into effect their own creed and beliefs in the name of reforming others' beliefs and ideologies, presuming themselves to be on the right path? Does Islam allow, somehow, the killing of people maintaining ideological differences, looting their wealth and properties and destroying mosques, religious places and shrines?**
 - Islam is a religion of peace and safety that champions love and harmony in society. According to Islamic teachings, only such a person will be called a Muslim at whose hands the lives and properties of all the innocent Muslims and non-Muslims remain safe and unhurt. The sanctity of human life and its protection occupies fundamental place in the Islamic law. Taking anyone's life for nothing and killing him is an act forbidden and unlawful. Rather, in some cases, it amounts to infidelity. These days, the terrorists, in a vain attempt to impose their own ideas and beliefs and eliminate their opponents from the surface of the earth, killing innocent people ruthlessly and indiscriminately everywhere in Mosques, Bazaars, governmental offices and other public places are in fact committing manifest infidelity. They are warned of humiliating torment in this world and in the hereafter. Terrorism, in its very essence, is an act that symbolizes infidelity and rejection of what Islam stands for. When the forbidden element of suicide is added to it, its severity and lethality becomes even graver. Scores of Quranic verses and Prophetic traditions have proved that massacre of Muslims and terrorism is unlawful in Islam; rather, they are blasphemous acts. That has always been the edict unanimously held by all the scholars that have passed in the 1400 year Islamic history, including all the eminent Imams of Tafseer and Hadith and authorities on logic and jurisprudence. Islam has kept the door of negotiation and discussion open to convince by reasoning, instead of taking up arms to declare the others' standpoint wrong, and enforce one's own opinion. Only the victims of ignorance, jealousy and malice go for militancy. Islam declares them rebels. They will abide in Hell.**
- 2. The second question in this regard is: what are the rights of the non-Muslim citizens in a Muslim state?**

- Islam not only guarantees the protection of life, honour and property of Muslim citizens of an Islamic state, but also assures the equal protection of life, honour and property of non-Muslim citizens and of those people too with whom it has entered into a peace treaty. The rights of non-Muslim citizens enjoy the same sanctity as those of Muslim citizens in an Islamic state. There is no difference between them as human beings. That is why Islamic law metes out equal treatment to both Muslims and non-Muslims in blood money and Qisas. Non-Muslims have complete personal and religious freedom in a Muslim society. Their properties and worship places also enjoy complete protection. Besides non-Muslim citizens, even the ambassadors of non-Muslim countries and others working on diplomatic assignments have also been guaranteed complete protection. Likewise, the protection of life and property of non-Muslim traders is the responsibility of Islamic state. Islam does not allow and recommend the use of violence against and killing of peaceful and non-combatant citizens under any circumstances. Those indulging in attacks on peaceful non-Muslim citizens, kidnapping them for ransom, and torturing them mentally and physically, keeping them under unlawful custody, are in fact committing serious violation of Islamic teachings.
3. The third question arises: does Islam offer manifest commands on the sanctity of human life? Is it lawful to kidnap and assassinate the foreign delegates and innocent and peaceful non-Muslim citizens to avenge the non-Muslim global powers' wrongs and atrocities?
- The emphasis Islam lays on the sanctity and dignity of human life can be gauged from the fact that Islam does not allow massacre even when Muslim armies are engaged in the event of war against enemy troops. The killing of children, women, the old, patients, religious leaders and traders is strictly prohibited. Nor can those who surrender their arms, confine themselves to their homes and seek shelter of anyone be killed. The masses cannot be massacred. Likewise, worship places, buildings, crops and even trees cannot be destroyed. On the one hand, there is a clear set of Islamic laws based on extreme discretion, and on the other, there are people who invoke the name of Islam to justify the indiscriminate killing of people, children, and women everywhere, without any distinction of religion and identity. It is a pity that such barbaric people still refer their activities as Jihad. There can be no bigger discrepancy than that seen around on earth. This can no way be permissible to keep the foreign delegates under unlawful custody and murder them and other peaceful non-Muslim citizens in retaliation to their interference, unjust activities and aggressive advances. The one who does it has no relation to Islam and the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him).
4. The fourth and very significant question underlines rebellion: Is armed struggle permissible against the Muslim rulers to remove their governments because of their non-Islamic policies, or get accepted the demands, bring them on to the right path, giving up their impious activities? Is rebellion permissible against the constitutional government, its writ and governance? What should be the legitimate way to change the rulers or make them mend their ways?

- Islam is not merely a religion. It is a complete Din, a code of life. Providing a complete set of principles for every walk of life, it has also made arrangements for the protection of the collectivity of society. The rights and duties of state institutions have manifestly and clearly been spelled out. All citizens of Muslim state have been placed under obligation to abide by state laws, rules and regulations. One of these principles is that a Muslim state and society should be a paragon of peace, and mutual coexistence. That is why Islam strictly prohibits the taking up of arms against a Muslim state, challenging its authority and writ, and declaring war against it. Islamic law holds such an action as rebellion. God forbid if such conditions are created, then it is the principal responsibility of an Islamic state to take urgent measures to eliminate rebellion with iron hand and exterminate terrorism so that no individual or group can dare destroy the social harmony of society, ruin peace and shed innocent blood. Islam holds the peace and tranquility of a society, in general, and of a Muslim state, in particular, so dear that it does not allow people to raise the banner of revolt in the name of injustice, oppression and other vices of ruling elite. In the light of Prophetic traditions, the banner of rebellion against a Muslim state cannot be raised unless the rulers commit explicit, dedared and absolute infidelity, and stop the performance of religious rituals like prayer through the use of force.

The conditions leading to forbiddance of rebellion in the light of the Quranic verses, Prophetic traditions and expositions of the jurists are evident. Referring to Holy Companions, their successors, Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Malik, Imam Shafai, Imam Ahmad Bin Hanbal and other leading jurists, the fact has been brought to light that absolute consensus exists among all the leading jurists on total forbiddance of rebellion against Muslim state, and there is no difference of opinion between any schools of thought. Such a rebellion as challenges the writ of the state, and has been launched without the collective approval and sanction of society, is but a civil war, blatant terrorism and an obvious act of strife. It can never be called Jihad under any circumstances.

As for struggle to reform some impious Muslim ruler or state, that is not at all prohibited or disallowed. The forbiddance of rebellion and armed struggle should not mean at all that an evil should not be called an evil and no effort be made to stop its spread, or the obligation of faith to bid good and forbid evil be abandoned. Certification of truth and rejection of falsehood is binding upon Muslims. Likewise, seeking to reform society and fight off evil forces is one of the religious obligations. The adoption of all constitutional, legal, political and democratic ways to reform the rulers and the system of governance, and stop them from violation of human rights is not only lawful but also binding upon Muslims. Making efforts at individual and collective levels to establish truth, end reign of terror and oppression and restoration of a system of justice forms the part of obligations of faith.

5. The element of Khawarij is unforgettable in the history of terrorism. The question arises: who were Khawarij? What does the Islamic law ordain about them? Are the present day terrorists a continuation of Khawarij?
- The Khawarij were the rebels and apostates of Islam. Their advent took place during the period of the Prophethood (blessings and peace be upon him). Their

intellectual growth and organized emergence took place in the Osmani and Alvi periods respectively. These Khawarij were so punctual and regular in performance of religious rituals and acts of worship that they would appear more pious than the holy Companions would at times. However, in keeping with the manifest command of the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him), they were absolutely out of the fold of Islam. The Khawarij would not only regard the killing of Muslims as lawful, reject the Companions for their disagreement with them, raise the slogan 'there is no command but Allah's', consider the launch of armed struggle and killing against Hazrat Ali (ra) as lawful, but would also keep on perpetrating these heinous actions. These Khawarij were in fact the first terrorist and rebellious group that challenged the writ of state and raised the banner of armed struggle against a Muslim state. The texts of Hadith clearly establish that such elements would continue to be born in every age. By Khawarij is not meant merely a group which took up arms against the rightly guided Caliphs, but it encompasses all those groups and individuals bearing such attributes, ideologies and terrorist way of action who would continue to rear their head and perpetrate terrorism in the name of Jihad till the Day of Judgment. Despite being almost perfectionist in the performance of manifest religious rituals, they would be considered as being out of the fold of Islam for their wrong and misplaced ideology. A Muslim state cannot be allowed to give them any concession in the name of dialogue or stop the military action without their complete elimination in the light of instructions of the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him). The only exception when they can be spared is that they lay down their arms, repent of their actions and vow to honour the state laws and writ of the Muslim state.

6. What are the measures that the government and the ruling classes should take to put an end to mischief-mongering, terrorist activities and the armed strife?
 - The government and the law enforcing agencies should, at the outset, remove those stimulants and all the factors that contribute to make the common man a victim of doubt. Due to these factors, the ringleaders and the chieftains of terrorism snare the sentimental youths very easily in their trap, change their track and lead them to militancy. Exploiting their sentiments, they prepare them for terrorist activities. The policies, events and circumstances the terrorist elements use as fuel for their evil agenda need to be remedied and set right on priority. That will certainly help eradicate the root causes of the spread of plague. Similarly, if the world powers as well as Pakistani agencies fail in attending to the real hardships of people, removing their complaints and abandoning the deceptive policies, the restoration of real peace will remain merely a dream.
7. Another important question under inquiry in various circles of society refers to a dilemma: can we justify as lawful the atrocities of terrorism if they are done with the intention to promote Islam and secure the rights of the Muslims?
 - The Khawarij, even today, invoke Islam and raise slogan to establish the Divine Order, but all of their actions and steps constitute a clear violation of Islamic teachings. When their supporters do not have any legal argument to defend the actions of Khawarij, they draw the attention of people to the vices of the ruling

elites and oppression of the imperialist forces as a justification for their killing. They feel contented that though the terrorists are doing wrong things, their intention is good beyond any doubt. This is a major intellectual *faux pas* and people, both educated and uneducated, suffer from this doubt. An evil act remains evil in all its forms and contents. Whatever way we may interpret injustice, it is going to remain the same. Therefore, no forbidden action can ever become a virtuous and lawful deed due to goodness of intention. Law in Islam applies to an action. Massacre of humanity, perpetration of oppression and cruelty, terrorism, violence and bloodshed on earth and armed rebellion and strife cannot become pardonable actions due to any good intention or pious conviction. Nor is there any space for deviation from this fundamental principle. Thus, this argument of terrorists and their well-wishers is also false in the sight of Islamic law. Therefore, we commence our arguments with the clarification of the same dilemma that an evil doing cannot change into a pious deed due to any pious intention it supposedly generates from.

Good intention can never change a vice into virtue

If some good intention motivates bloodshed and massacre, the question arises whether tyranny and barbarism can be declared lawful on this basis. Some people think that though suicide explosions are atrociously evil, killing of innocent people too is a monstrous crime, spreading mischief and strife in the country is again a heinous act, while destruction of educational, training, industrial, commercial and welfare centers and institutions is still a greater sin, the suicide bombers are doing that with good intention and pious motive. Therefore, they are justified. They are retaliating foreign terrorism against Muslims. They are doing a Jihad. So, they cannot be given any blame.

In this brief discussion, we shall analyze this thought in the light of the Quran and Sunna. The Quran rejected as disbelief the idol-worship that was perpetrated with the intention to attain to nearness of Allah. We find a detailed account of this matter in the Quran and Sunna. Some of the holy verses are produced here to facilitate comprehension of the issue.

The Quran says:

“(Say to the people:) ‘Listen, sincere obedience and worship is only Allāh’s due. And those (disbelievers) who have taken (idols as) helpers other than Allāh (say in false justification of their idol-worship:) ‘We worship them only that they may bring us near to Allāh.’ Surely, Allāh will judge between them concerning the matter in which they differ. Certainly Allāh does not give guidance to the liar, very ungrateful.”
(Al-Quran, 39-3)

When the idolaters of Makka were asked the reason of idol-worship, they said the idols would get them into Allah’s proximity. The intention to attain to Allah’s nearness is good, but idol-worship is blasphemy and disbelief. The idolatry, therefore, cannot be justified because of good intention.

Similarly, the terrorists' claim of reformation too cannot be accepted because, practically, they prove bloodshed and violence instead of some constructive work and reformation. Allah Most High says:

“And among people there is also someone whose conversation seems to you pleasing in the life of the world and who calls Allāh to witness that which is in his heart, but in truth he is most quarrelsome. And when he turns away (from you), he runs about in the land to do (everything possible) to rouse mischief and destroy crops and life. And Allāh does not like mischief and violence. And when it is said to him (on account of this tyranny and violence): ‘Fear Allāh,’ his arrogance stimulates him for more sins. Hell is, therefore, sufficient for him. And that is indeed an evil abode.”
(al-Quran, 204-206)

These verses too describe that many people will make conversation appearing delightful in the perspective of superficial arguments. They will swear on their good intentions, and declare Allah witness to their noble objectives and pious aims. Despite their assertions and testimonial claims, however, Allah has declared them miscreants and evil-mongers to face the torment of Hell. So their swearing on their intentions has been refuted because they are doing sheer terrorism, violence and strife. Their crimes, therefore, cannot be forgiven due to their good intentions and noble designs declared on oath. This is the basic principle drawn from the Quran and Islamic Law.

These Quranic verses explain the same point:

“When it is said to them: ‘Do not spread disorder in the land,’ they say: ‘It is we who reform.’ Beware! (Truly) it is they who spread disorder, but they do not have any sense (of it) at all.”
(al-Quran, 11-12)

Here again the mischievous and criminal mentality has been described that the miscreants never take their activities as disruption, violence and strife; rather, they call it Jihad and deeds of reconstruction and reformation. They presume that the tyrannous activities they perpetrate are aimed at greater good of society. Today's tragedy is that terrorists, murderers, mischief-mongers and rioters try to prove their criminal, rebellious, tyrannous, and brutal blasphemous activities as a right and justified reaction to foreign aggression under the garb of defense of Islam and national interests.

They should know that, as good intention can never prove an unlawful act justified, pious designs can never prove blasphemy as righteousness, and virtuous objectives can never prove an impure act wholesome, the intention to perform Jihad, in the same way, can never prove violence and terrorism lawful and permissible. The intention to protect Islam, erect defense against foreign aggression and avenge the wrongs and excesses inflicted upon Muslim Umma is one thing, and brutal mass murder of innocent citizens, vast destruction of civil property, ruthless target killings and destruction of mosques and markets and businesses is altogether a different debacle. The former can never prove the latter lawful. The one has nothing to do with the other; there is no relevance and congruity between the two. Terrorism, carnage and mass destruction can never be justified in the name of any intention of enforcing Islamic commands and judicial

system. Nor can these condemnable activities be any exception to the rule, or be overlooked, or forgiven.

The in-depth study of the Quran and Hadith makes one dauntlessly declare that Islam makes it conditional to realize the lawful objectives only through lawful means, to attain to the noble targets only through permissible resources and reach the sacred destinations by treading only the righteous ways. A holy goal can never be attained by following an evil and criminal path. Constructing a mosque is a pious act, but it cannot be proved lawful to do it by looting a bank. The objectives of mercy cannot be achieved through cruel and oppressive ways. The designs of an exalted pious person cannot be materialized by adopting blasphemous methodology. In sum, good cannot be earned by evil means. Fair is fair and foul is foul. This is Satan who says, 'fair is foul and foul is fair.' This is the majesty and purity of Din that it has purified and reformed both the destination and its path. It has made both objective and method pure and upright.

The people who base their argument on the Hadith, 'actions are judged according to intentions,' in order to justify their brutal ways and cursed means, make false and heretic implications. They cannot set a wrong thing right. This Hadith signifies only those actions that are proved pious, permissible and lawful. Their acceptability has been based on trueness of intention. If the intention is pure, they will be accepted, or they will be rejected. If the intention is not good, or the coveted intention does not exist, the actions will not be considered acts of worship, despite their apparent righteous value. They will be rejected or discredited. But the actions that are forbidden, unjust, unlawful and blasphemous cannot be made permissible, lawful, just and creditable by even extremely good intentions joined together. This is such an Islamic principle and legal formula as no one of the Companions, pious predecessors, Imams, and authorities of hadith and exegeses has departed from to date. Some scholars have also interpreted this hadith, 'actions are judged according to intentions,' as pointing to manifestation of deeds according to intentions. The actions take shape according to the intentions. So a terrorist's actions speak of his intentions. His killings and destructive activities refer to his foul intention and condemnable ideas and beliefs. His heinous actions cannot stem from pious intentions and beliefs. The bloodshed he causes refers only to a cruel man inside him and not any kind and merciful soul. It is, therefore, evident that whatever false implications and foul justifications these rebels, criminals, evil-mongers, tyrannous brutes may put forth to prove their atrocities as act of Jihad, they have nothing to do with the teachings of Islam.

The Holy Quran has vividly described them in this verse:

“It is those whose entire struggle is wasted in worldly life, but they presume they are doing very good works.” (al-Quran, 18: 104)

Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri

Historical Launching of Fatwa Against Terrorism

TV Coverage

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/9959/Historical-Launching-of-Fatwa-Against-Terrorism-leading-Islamic-authority-launches-fatwa-against-terrorism-and-denunciates-suicide-bombers-as-disbelievers-Anti-terror-Fatwa-launched.htm>

Media Report



Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, the founding leader and patron-in-chief of Minhaj-ul-Quran International, has issued his detailed edict (Fatwa) against terrorism which consists of more than 600 pages. The launching ceremony of the Fatwa was held on March 2, 2010 in London (UK). Minhaj-ul-Quran International UK arranged a press conference which was heavily attended by representatives of the international media besides Labour party minister Shahid Malik, members of EU and UK parliaments Sajjad Karim, Muhammad Sarwar, James Finter, ambassadors of Iraq, Germany and other countries, officials of the Home Office, Commonwealth Office and Metropolitan Police, Professors and Muslim and Christian community leaders.



Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri presented the anti-terror Fatwa in Urdu and English languages before the international media. It should be kept in mind that Shaykh-ul-Islam had declared to issue a detailed Fatwa against terrorism and suicide bombings in December 2009, which was originally thought to consist of 300 pages, whose volume later on increased to 600 pages due to scholarly dealing of the subject. This Fatwa is the only one of its kind in terms of its intellectual value, penetrating research and authentic allusions. Hence, it is a scholarly and historic document.

Talking to the international media on the occasion, Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that ever increasing wave of extremism and terrorism has destroyed the world peace. It is a matter of great misfortune that these terrorist activities of the misguided elements have been bracketed with Islam though the reality is otherwise. He said that majority of the religious scholars condemn terrorism but the condemnation is merely rhetorical. No one has come forward with an authentic and intellectual response to terrorism in the form of a patent decree. Minhaj-ul-Quran International has told the world in no uncertain terms through issuance of this Fatwa that terrorists have nothing to do with Islam. It is a peaceful religion, which not only condemns but also prohibits every kind of terrorism at every level under any pretext.

He said that the suicide bombers are out of the pale of Islam. He hoped that the youth would not become the fodder for the cannons of terrorist elements or extremist organizations after studying the Fatwa. The terrorist elements brainwash the youth by invoking wrong interpretations of the faith. The youth who advance the objectives of the terrorists should regard themselves out of the fold of Islam in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Prophet (saw). He said that terrorism is terrorism and it cannot be justified under any pretext through allusion to any real or alleged instances of injustice and there is no space for terrorism in Islam.



He regretted the fact that the Islamic teachings, which are based on love, peace and welfare, are being manipulated and quoted out of contexts to serve the designs of the vested interests. He said that Islam spelled out a clear code of conduct during the course of war and gave complete protection to the non-combatants including

women, the old, and children etc., so much so that trading centres, schools, hospitals and worship places were also declared as safe.



Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that those who want to impose the Islamic order on others by means of force and naked power belong to the group of Khawarij who, during the Caliphate of Hazrat Ali (ra), took up arms and initiated rebellion against the Islamic state in the name of enforcing the Divine Order. The terrorists of today also belong to the same breed of Khawarij. They resemble one another in their appearances, body demeanors and even working. He said that Islam does not approve of the killing of innocent people under any excuse. There is a judicial system to indict the wrong-doers and bring them to book. It is the responsibility of the Islamic state to implement the system of justice and punishment through state-run mechanism and none can be allowed to take law in his hands.



He vehemently condemned those who perpetrate terrorism in the name of religion and branded them as the greatest enemies of Islam. He said that if at all these people have to wage Jihad, they could do so against ignorance, corruption, dearness, poverty and

other social evils. He also blasted the opponents of democracy and said that the Holy Prophet (saw) is the champion of the democratic and consultative system. Shaykh-ul-Islam reminded the Islamic governments of the fact that it is their national and religious duty to eliminate terrorism and terrorist networks from their midst. They should continue the military action till the complete elimination of these groups.

In reply to a question, he said that the Islamic governments should allow democracy to flourish and strengthen political system and processes. If the enemies of Islam and Khawarij are totally annihilated, the roots of terrorism would stand dismantled. He deplored that the Muslim youth happened to be the first casualty of terrorism, for they got trapped in the hands of the terrorist for the sake of religion. The major advantage of the Fatwa would be that the youth would be able to know the reality of their actions whether they are choosing the path to hell or heaven.

British cabinet minister, Shahid Malik, paid glowing tribute to Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri and said that he has always projected the real teachings of Islam. His Fatwa would have long-term positive and revolutionary impact on the Muslim community living in UK and elsewhere and would transform mindsets. He assured his full cooperation at the governmental level.

The media men asked Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri a number of questions, which he answered satisfactorily. The press conference continued well over three hours. Shaykh-ul-Islam also gave short interviews to different media outlets on the occasion.



Shaykh-ul-Islam speaks at the American Institute of Peace

Dated: 10 November 2010



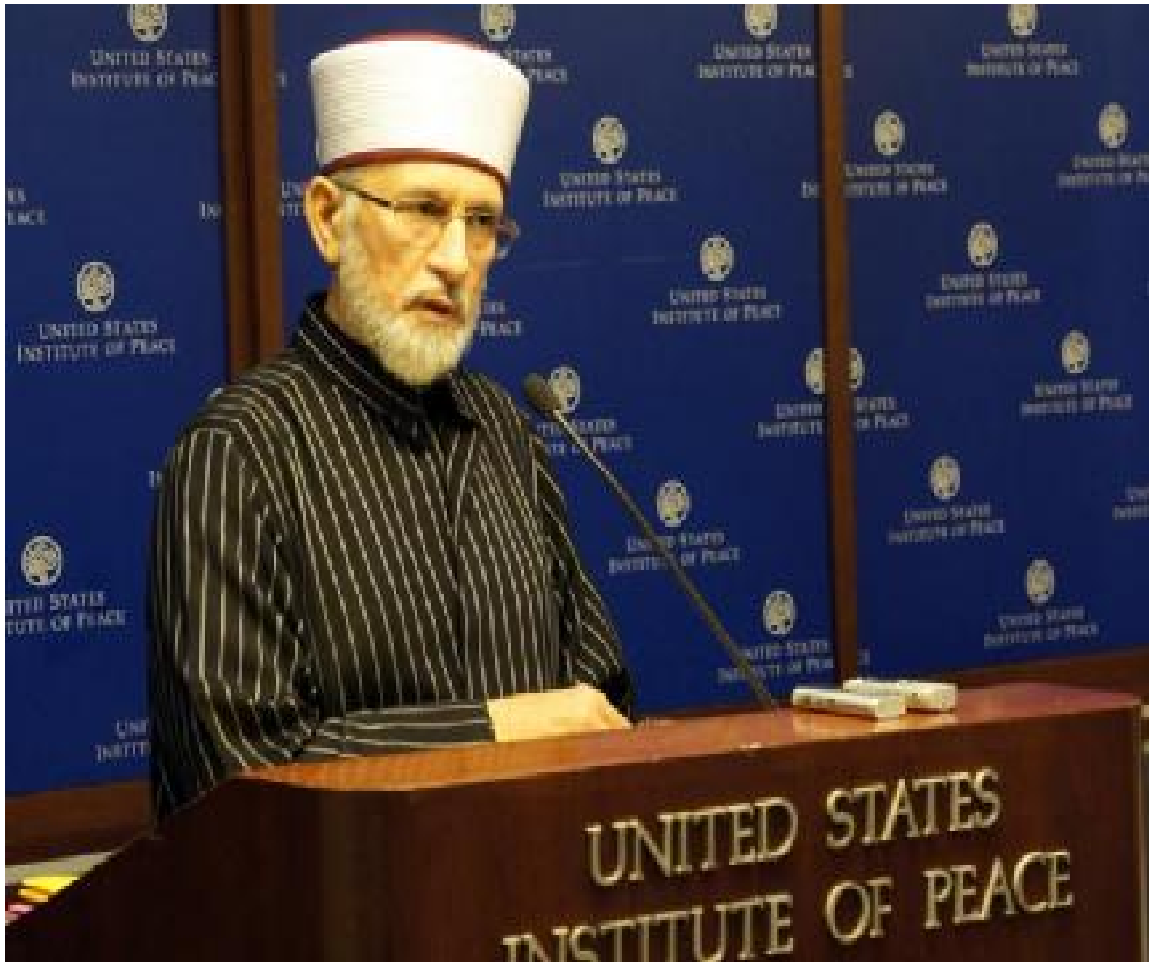
Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri delivered a special lecture on “Islamic Concept of Jihad” at the US Institute of Peace on November 10, a prestigious think-tank. The audience comprised senior scholars, doctors, professors, engineers, policy makers and opinion leaders etc. Shaykh-ul-Islam who was on an important visit to the United States was accompanied by Sahibzada Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri.

Speaking on the subject drastically misunderstood in the West, Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri unflinchingly declared that the Islamic concept of Jihad offers guarantee for the establishment of global peace and a welfare-oriented commonwealth of nations. It is unfortunate, he denounced, that the so-called Jihadi groups misinterpret this concept and use it for their nefarious agenda. He said that these groups misinterpret the verses that particularly deal with the concept of Jihad in the Holy Quran in order to suit their evil objectives. Consequently, the concept of Jihad gets confined to killing, which is not the case in reality.



Highlighting various points about the Islamic concept of Jihad, Shaykh-ul-Islam said that the real concept, as described in the Holy Quran, does not ordain killing, fight and bloodshed. He said that out of 35 verses that deal with Jihad, thirty one (31) verses describe it in various shades and meanings without having anything to do with battle and killings. He stated categorically that he did not find even a single verse in the Holy Book in which Jihad and killing has been used together. These are two different words, which the Holy Quran has not put together at any place.

He said that the word 'Jihad' has been used to mean 'defensive war' in the Holy Quran. It is a situation when war is launched against a nation and it takes up arms to defend itself. Jihad, he maintained, is not an aggression. Rather it represents action for self-protection according to the Quranic concept.



Referring to the holy life of the Prophet of Islam (S.A.W), Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that the founder of Islam fought against different forces for thirteen years, only defending himself and his people. He did not attack the enemy forces on his own even in a single battle. He always fought back the aggression imposed on him by the enemy.

Shaykh-ul-Islam said that the five verses that mention 'self-defence' were revealed to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) in the city of Makkah. Describing various meanings of Jihad, he said that the major Jihad is the one undertaken against one's ill-commanding self i.e. it is a process of self-reform that seeks to control base desires through a process of spiritual training. The second category of Jihad, he mentioned, is 'Ijtihad' whereby 'Muftahid' interprets the Islamic law in keeping with the contemporary demands. The third category of Jihad is related to the social aspect, and it is Jihad by action. Through this Jihad, people endeavour to promote education and human wellbeing. It is the sum total of peaceful struggle launched to bring about positive change in society through elimination of vices and injustice.



The fourth meaning of jihad, Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri explained, is to spend in the way of Allah. He said that two kinds of Jihad have specifically been mentioned in the Holy Quran. One relates to struggle for one's self-reform and against ill-commanding self and the second is to spend on the people in the way of Allah. He said that according to the Holy Quran, if you spend on welfare and social activities, it is Jihad by one's wealth.

Shaykh-ul-Islam said that the fifth meaning of Jihad concerns 'defensive strategy against aggression'. He said that it is written in the United Nations Charter that when you are under attack, you have every right to defend yourself. This is what the Holy Quran calls Jihad but it has its strict connotation by way of defensive strategy.



“Permission (to fight against mischief, disruption and oppression) is granted to those against whom (unjust) war is waged, because they were oppressed and Allah is doubtlessly All-Powerful to help them (the oppressed).” (al-Hajj, verse no.39)

“And fight in the cause of Allah against those who fight against you. (Yes,) but do not exceed limits. Surely Allah does not like those who exceed limits.” (Al-Baqarah, verse no 190)

He said that problem with the most of the scholars is that they fail to notice it while understanding of Jihad. They confuse the concept of Jihad with killing and lose sight of its wider meaning.

In the same context, Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri emphasized that no individual or a group is allowed to declare Jihad on his own. The power of declaration of Jihad rests with the state. He said that the Muslims were ordained to initiate defensive war after the passage of 20 years since the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) declared Islam as the final religion. The verse no 190 of Sura Baqara says that the Muslims clinched a peace deal for their protection.

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that the Muslims fought more than 60 battles and there was not even a single battle out of 60 wherein they preempted the enemy attack. They were always forced to react in defence when wars were imposed upon them leaving them with no option but to strike back. He said that the words such as “Jihad for the sake of Allah” are also misinterpreted.

Referring to Hadith of Sahih Muslim and Bokhari, he said that when the Muslims are in a state of war, Islam has forbidden to kill women, children, patients, priests, religious scholars, farmers, traders and diplomats. This is an Islamic fundamental principle that underlines war strategy. Islam has accorded so much priority to human life and its continuity that it has strictly disallowed the Muslims from destroying crops, trees and waging an all-out war against civilian population. He said that there is complete consensus of all major schools of thought on these principles.

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that those who have wreaked havoc in the world through bomb blasts and suicide bombings are not Muslims. They belong to the Khawarij school of thought. It was the first group that attacked the fourth Caliph Hazrat Ali (RA), and founded the tradition of killing and violence under the excuse of establishing the Quranic rule. He said that there were more than one hundred Prophetic Traditions that clearly denounce the Khawarij and declare them out of the pale of Islam. These people have nothing to do with Islam any way.

According to Sahih Bokhari and Muslim, Islam fought two wars against terrorism in the first two centuries. He said that the signs of terrorists and Khawarij according to these Books of Tradition are the following:

1. They would be youth.
2. They would be brain washed.
3. They would have thick beards.
4. They would be extremists in their views.
5. They would emerge from East.
6. They would be violent.
7. They would refer to the Holy Quran.
8. They would apparently project themselves as protector of Islam.
9. They would propagate good things but would be the utter evil of creation.
10. They would resort to killing and shedding blood with abandon.
11. They would continue to emerge with the passage of time till the Day of Judgment.

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that jurists and religious scholars have described these signs of Khawarij in history. Their common sign is that they would resort to killing people indiscriminately by raising a banner of revolt against the government of the day. They would raise a slogan of imposing Islamic system.

He said that there is another misunderstanding about terrorists:

“So when the sacred months have passed, then kill the idolaters (for the violation of peace treaty) wherever you find them and capture them, imprison them and lie in wait

for them at every place of ambush (to catch and besiege them). So, if they repent, establish Prayer and start paying Zakat (the Alms-due), then leave their way open. Surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Ever-Merciful." (Al-Tawbah, verse no 5)

When the Muslims got permission about their self-defence, some Western scholars wrongly translated the verses dealing with Jihad as if the Muslims equated Jihad with the killing of non-Muslims. He said that it was based on misunderstanding, while the fact remained that there is no such thing in Islam.

This sura was revealed during the ninth year of hegira when the Muslims were ordained to adopt defensive strategy. The first word of this verse is peace referring to Hudabiya Pact. None of the tribes was allowed to attack the other in the holy cities of Madina and Makkah.

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that the shared commonality between the Muslims and non-Muslims is not war but humanity. The UN has formulated its charter according to the Quranic concept. All leading jurists of Islam have interpreted 'Dar-ul-Islam' as peaceful country in which human beings and rights are respected without any discrimination of race, colour and creed. The entire world, he added, has become One World today and none can be allowed to resort to killing others and perpetration of violence. He said that this was his message against terrorism.

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that Minhaj-ul-Quran International is making practical endeavours for the elimination of extremism and terrorism from the world. It has particularly focused its energies on the students and youths. It annually holds various programs in which the youths are imparted lessons of their religion against terrorism and extremism. Four-day Al-Hidaya Camp is a case in point.

After the conclusion of speech by Shaykh-ul-Islam, the audience asked various questions which he answered befittingly and in detail. The question-answer session continued for about an hour. The management of the US Institute of Peace thanked Shaykh-ul-Islam for his lecture.

Shaykh-ul-Islam speaks at Global Peace & Unity Event



Islam stands for peace, love and human dignity and there is no room for terrorism in Islam. This was stated by Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, in a powerful speech to a gathering of thousands of British Muslims at the Global Peace & Unity event on 24 October 2010.

Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri started his passionate and powerful speech by declaring that Islam stands for peace, love, compassion, human dignity and mercy. He said "Islam does not stand for any kind of violence, militancy, terrorism, and brutality."



He said "This is Islam which came at a time when the dignity of mankind was lost, there was brutality, violence and people were cutting their necks. At that time there was racial, religious and tribal discrimination and there was no respect for slaves. At that time Islam stood up for the poor and oppressed people, orphans, and women and gave respect and dignity to the mankind irrespective of their race, religion and culture. This is Islam which came for promotion of global peace and mercy and dignity."

He said "I want to communicate this message of Islam to the whole mankind. People have misled the youth by wrong perceptions and interpretations of Islam."

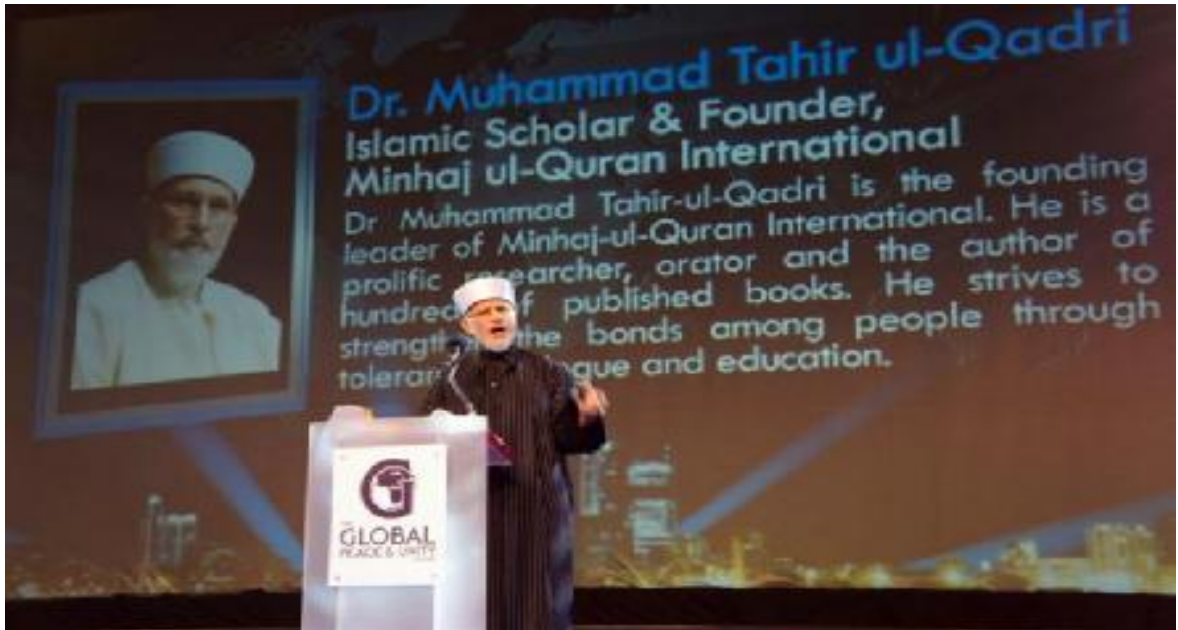
"Jihad: Perception and reality"

Speaking about "Jihad: Perception and reality", Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that the perception that Jihad is a holy war is completely wrong and younger generation has been misled on this count. It is due to various reasons. Jihad is seen as an act of violence which is against the concept of jihad.



Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri clarified that "the literal meaning of jihad is exertion, struggling, striving, and putting extreme efforts according to extreme abilities, to counter evil, to achieve good for sake of Allah."

He added that "The defensive struggle against your enemy, defensive struggle against your lower-self, hatred, arrogance, corruption is one dimension of Jihad. And this is for the Safety of the mankind, not for killing of mankind."



Dr Qadri said "he wants to address the Muslim audience who are misguided or misled and to the western world that there is NO verse which advocates killing, brutality and terrorism."

"There are two ways of determining the meaning of a verse, either through its actual text or context (a verse which comes before or after). There are in total 35 verses in the Holy Qur'an which mention the word 'jihad'. There is no single verse in the Holy Qur'an which has both words i.e. jihad and 'qitaal' (fighting) in the text of the same verse. There are only 4 verses which mention jihad (in the sense of lawful defensive fighting) in the context of qitaal; qitaal is mentioned in some verses either before or after, but not in the same verse. This means that jihad and qitaal (fighting) have not been mentioned together in the whole of the Quran from Al-Fatiha (first chapter) to An-Nas (last chapter). This means that Jihad does not necessarily mean fighting".

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said "Let me make it very clear and sound, let me remove any ambiguity that no leader or a group has any authority to declare Jihad. If any leader or a group does that, it is terrorism and not jihad."



He also made it clear that "it is solely the prerogative of a state authority to declare Jihad and only as a matter of last resort when diplomacy and all other efforts to make peace have failed."

Declaration against terrorism

Finally he asked the audience to support a declaration against terrorism and to raise their hands and stand up against the suicide bombing and terrorism. The whole crowd stood up and agreed with Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri.



Media Coverage

1. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/oct/24/baroness-warsi-islamic-conference-ban>
2. <http://www.prestv.ir/detail/148053.html>
3. http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=120050&Itemid=2
4. <http://abna.ir/data.asp?lang=3&id=210936>
5. <http://www.thenation.co.uk/P-19.html>
6. <http://thenews.com.pk/28-10-2010/National/12456.htm>

Sixth Annual 'al-Hidayah 2010'

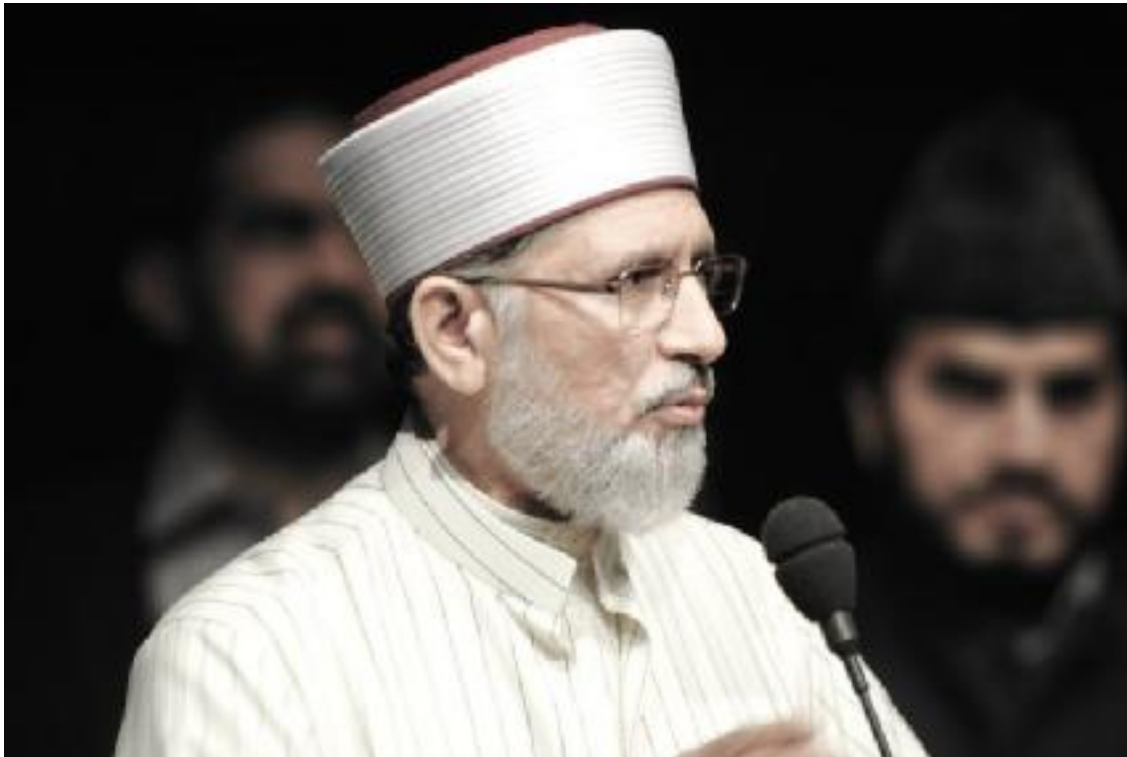
Anti Terror Summer Camp held in Britain

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/12283/Sixth-Annual-al-Hidayah-2010-held-in-Britain.htm>

The 'al-hidayah 2010' which attracted around 1500 young Muslim men and women from across the UK, Europe and North America, was held at the University of Warwick on 7th, 8th and 9th of August, 2010 with the aim to de-radicalise and spiritualise the Muslim youth. The UK's first Anti-Terror Camp, as described by the western media, was organised by Minhaj-ul-Quran International UK and every participant paid £200 to participate. Included among the special guests were academicians, politicians, government officials and various media outlets as well as scholars from across the UK. Some key participants included:

- Andrew Stephenson MP, Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party
- Dr Hisham A Hellyer, University of Warwick
- Prof Richard Rowson, Kingston University
- Nick Chatrath, University of Oxford
- Mark Goldby, Head of Prevent for the Metropolitan Police

Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, the keynote speaker of the event opened the camp with a press conference which was attended by mainstream UK and international media.



At the opening press conference Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri shed light on the aims and objectives of the camp and emphasised on the reasons why he believes it is necessary to train the youth to tackle extremist ideologies. He said that this 3-day initiative is aimed at awakening the Muslim youth to challenge the arguments of the extremist and to promote the need of collective action for promotion of peace, interfaith dialogue, and harmony and addressing the misunderstandings and confusions the concepts of jihad, khilafah and democracy.

Analysing the emergence of terrorism, he said that cancer of terrorism does not emerge from nowhere but it begins as an 'ideological infection' which is a narrow interpretation and vision of Islam. It is misinterpretation of the Qur'an, Hadith and classical authorities of Islam. He said this process begins in mosques, schools, Universities, and through the internet by extremist groups. They initially start persuading their argument which leads towards brainwashing. He said that "terrorism is a cancer that begins from and an ideological infection."



He emphasised that it is vital to recognise that this phase of non-violent extremism eventually leads towards violence and terrorism. Some people engaged in counter terrorism fail to recognise non-violent extremism as dangerous but it is the foundation of home-grown radicalism.

In a passionate voice he said that terrorism has ideological, philosophical and political roots and extremists misinterpret concepts of Jihad, Khilafah, and democracy. There are some groups who consider democracy and participation in politics as disbelief and these incorrect concepts are used to exploit the vulnerable youth.



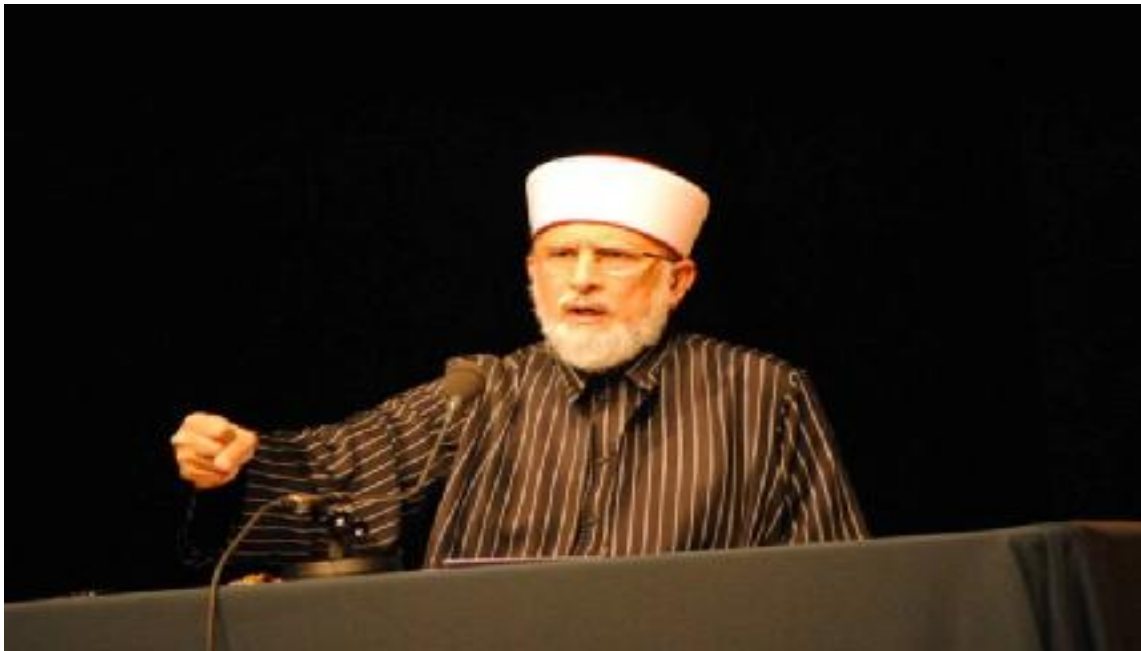
Addressing a vital issue which is being prominent amongst the extremists is to take over Britain and western countries and to host a Muslim flag on 10 Downing Street; Dr Qadri rejected this notion and said it was nothing but non-sense and ignorance of Islamic teachings. He said this kind of thinking shows the mental illness of such individuals and they need mental treatment.

He clarified that Britain and other western countries were not 'Dar al-Harb' (Abode of War) but 'Dar al-Aman' (Abode of Peace) where people of every religion and faith have equal rights and opportunities to practise their religions and even launch faith-based TV channels..He added "All these Western countries - Britain, Europe, North America, wherever you are living - since you are enjoying all rights, all freedoms according to the constitution as other non-Muslim communities are enjoying, there is no difference. And I would have no hesitation in saying you are enjoying the rights and freedoms much better than in many other Muslim and Arab countries."

He said that Islam had been hijacked by the radicals and that he wants to reclaim Islam back from them and promote peace, tolerance, harmony in the world. He initiated an intellectual, academic and spiritual war against terrorists to reclaim Islam back.

Dr Qadri also clarified that he or his organisation Minhaj-ul-Quran does not take any funding by any government in the world hence he does not say anything to please any government. He says the truth to please his Lord and the Prophet (peace be upon him).

He said that the youth who attended the anti-terror camp are being trained to rebut the arguments of the extremists in their communities, colleges and at the universities. It will prepare them intellectually and spiritually against the forces of extremism.



He stressed that foreign policies of western countries are used as tools of ignition to exploit the sentiments of young people and radical preachers and groups exploit such sentiments and passions of youth.

He said there are alternative solutions to violent actions. He said integration, participating in political process and to express disagreement of foreign policy in a peaceful, constitutional and democratic manner is regarded as Islamic. Integration is a solution which Islam has provided and which should be used to practically play a vital and progressive role in the western countries.

Dr Qadri also clarified the concept of Jihad, which has been hijacked by the extremists and he pointed out that out of 35 Quranic verses which mention the word jihad, 31 of them have nothing to do with fighting or war at all. He clarified that the other 4 verses only deal with self-defence. He


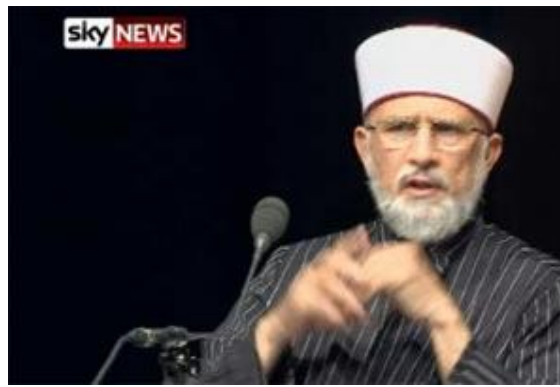
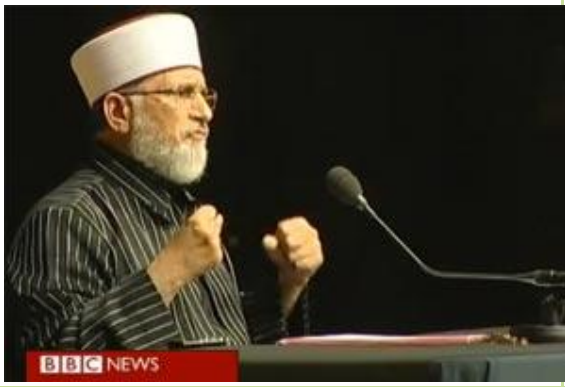

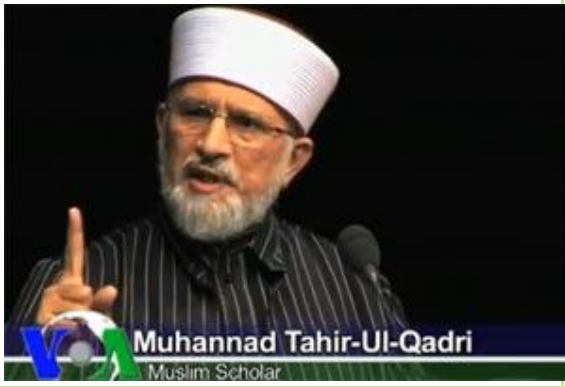

also made it clear that individuals or groups have no authority to declare jihad. It is solely the prerogative of a state authority to declare jihad and only as a last resort when diplomacy and all other efforts to make peace have failed. The Khawarij-inspired jihadist ideology is swiftly being dismantled and it is proved that under no circumstances or pretext are they allowed to declare war.

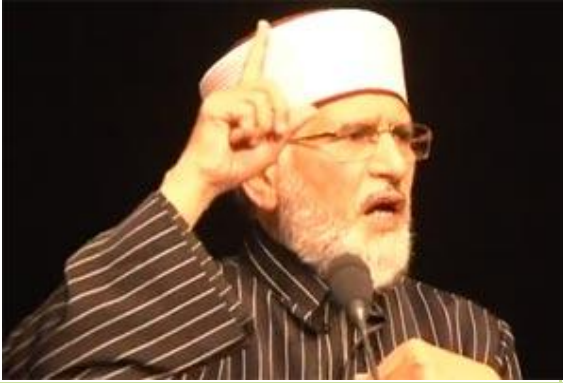


Addressing the confusion of identity crises whether a Muslim youth in Britain is British or a Muslim, Dr Qadri said that there is no interlink between one's faith and one's citizenship or country. "If you can be a Pakistani and still a Muslim, how can you not be a Muslim if you are a British national?" he questioned. He said that Muslims should fully integrate into the societies where they are living and positively contribute to the society. Their faith does not stop them to contribute towards the country where they are living.

Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri said that following the publication of Fatwa against Terrorism, it put a stop to its practice of stereotyping the Muslims and conveyed the Islamic message of tolerance, harmony and interfaith dialogue to a wide range of people and regions. This step dealt a lethal blow to the extremists and encouraged the reformers.

TV Coverage of Alhidayah 2010

<p>Shaykh-ul-Islam on CNN</p>	<p>Shaykh-ul-Islam on Sky News</p>
 <p>A screenshot from a CNN broadcast showing Shaykh-ul-Islam at a podium. He is wearing a white cap and a light-colored shirt, gesturing with his right hand. The CNN logo is at the top, and there are buttons for 'INFO', 'MORE VIDEOS', and 'SHARE'.</p>	 <p>A screenshot from a Sky News broadcast showing Shaykh-ul-Islam at a podium. He is wearing a white cap and a dark striped shirt, gesturing with his hands. The sky NEWS logo is at the top left.</p>
<p>Shaykh-ul-Islam on BBC News</p>	<p>AFP : UK Muslim youths in summer camp against extremism</p>
 <p>A screenshot from a BBC News broadcast showing Shaykh-ul-Islam at a podium. He is wearing a white cap and a dark striped shirt, gesturing with his hands. The BBC NEWS logo is at the bottom left.</p>	 <p>A photograph showing a group of people, including children, sitting in a room. A man in a white cap is visible in the background, likely the speaker at the camp.</p>
<p>Shaykh-ul-Islam on VOA News</p>	<p>CNN - Issues facing Muslim Youth (Understanding Islam)</p>
 <p>A screenshot from a VOA News broadcast showing a close-up of Shaykh-ul-Islam. He is wearing a white cap and a dark striped shirt, gesturing with his right hand. The VOA logo and his name 'Muhannad Tahir-UI-Qadri Muslim Scholar' are at the bottom.</p>	 <p>A screenshot from a CNN broadcast showing a split-screen. On the right, Shaykh-ul-Islam is speaking at a podium. On the left, a woman in a white headscarf is shown in a smaller inset window. The CNN logo is at the bottom right.</p>
<p>AFP: Hundreds of Muslims attend English anti terror camp</p>	<p>AFP : UK Muslim youths in summer camp against extremism (German)</p>



[VOA: Anti-Terrorism Summer Camp Held In Britain \(Urdu\)](#)



[TF 1: Anti-Terrorism Summer Camp 2010 \(French\)](#)



Alhidayah News Coverage

- [UK: Anti-terror camp trains youth to counter extremism](#)

Dated: 25 August 2010



On 7 August, the UK's first Anti-Terror Camp was held in the county of Warwickshire, led by prominent Pakistani scholar Dr. Muhammad Tahir ul Qadri, with the aim of protecting youth from radicalisation by presenting them with arguments that they can use to counter extremists.

- [Grande-Bretagne: plus de 1.300 jeunes ont participé à un 'camp d'été antiterroriste'](#)

Dated: 09 August 2010



Plus de 1.300 jeunes musulmans britanniques et européens ont participé à une rencontre de trois jours à Coventry (centre de l'Angleterre), surnommée "camp d'été antiterroriste", destinée à leur fournir les arguments pour

combattre les thèses extrémistes.

- [Anti-Terrorism Summer Camp Held In Britain](#)

Dated: 13 August 2010



What is being called the Western world's first anti-terror camp for young Muslims is being held in Britain with thousands of people attending from across Europe and North America. 'Al-Hidayah 2010' - as it is called - is being staged by the Pakistani Muslim scholar Muhammed ul-Qadri, who is giving workshops and lectures on how to recognize and counter extremism.

- [CNN: Muslim cleric holds 'anti-terror camps'](#)

Dated: 11 August 2010



Coventry, England (CNN) -- Tired of Islamic terror camps grabbing headlines, a Pakistani Muslim cleric is fighting back by holding his own "anti-terror camp." Islamic cleric Shaykh Muhammad Tahir ul-Qadri is the man behind "Al-Hidayah," an Islamic retreat at the University of Warwick in the UK. He preaches peace and love and tolerance -- but not for radical extremists.

- [معسكر بريطاني ضد اراهاب](#)

Dated: 12 August 2010



المقل لصيف وفتا شب الف 20 بمشاركة "القاعدة" اراهاب ضد معسكر بريطاني

- [Hundreds of UK Muslims attend anti-terror camp](#)

Dated: 11 August 2010



COVENTRY: Prominent Islamic scholar Dr Muhammad Tahirul Qadri urged participants at an anti-terrorism summer camp to follow the Prophet (PBUH) and not Osama bin Laden. That summer camp, named al-Hidayah (The Guidance), which concluded on Monday, was led by the scholar and attracted hundreds of young British Muslims

this week. His message to the roughly 1,300 people attending the three-day event on a university campus in Coventry, central England, was clear - terrorism is anti-Islamic.

- [Hundreds of Muslims attend anti-terror summer camp](#)

Dated: 11 August 2010



COVENTRY, England — "Follow the Prophet Mohammed, don't follow bin Laden!" That was the message from an anti-terrorism summer camp led by a top scholar which attracted hundreds of young Muslims this week. Al-Hidayah (The Guidance) was led by Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, who earlier this year issued a fatwa, or religious ruling, against terrorism.

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Express: Muslim cleric holds 'anti-terror camps'

Dated: 11 August 2010



Coventry, England (CNN.COM) – Tired of Islamic terror camps grabbing headlines, a Pakistani Muslim cleric is fighting back by holding his own "anti-terror camp." Islamic cleric Shaykh Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri is the man behind "Al-Hidayah," an Islamic retreat at the University of Warwick, in the UK.

CNN: Muslim cleric holds 'anti-terror camps'

Dated: 11 August 2010

CNN: Muslim cleric holds 'anti-terror camps'

Sky News: Fighting Extremism: Anti-Terror Camp Opens

Dated: 07 August 2010



Muslims are taking part in the UK's first anti-terrorism summer camp as part of a "spiritual war" against Al Qaeda recruiters. The three-day conference in Coventry is expected to attract around 1,300 young Muslims for sessions teaching religious arguments against extremists. The event has been organised by the Pakistan-based Minhaj-ul-Quran organisation whose leader, Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, has launched a fatwa - or religious ruling - against terrorism.

BBC News: Muslim summer camp preaches 'anti-terror' message

Dated: 08 August 2010



It's the summer camp with a difference. No whittling of sticks or food on the open fire. Warwick University this weekend is the venue for what is billed as the UK's first anti-terrorism camp and the BBC has been along to find out why so many Muslims turned up. Inside the lecture hall, you could hear a pin drop. Row upon row of earnest-looking young men and women were scribbling notes into a classily-bound journal handed out with their welcome back.

Hundreds of British Muslims attend anti-terror summer camp

Dated: 10 August 2010



On the agenda were lectures about issues faced by Muslims living in the West such as terrorism, suicide bombing and integration as well as music and sports, plus prayers in the room which is usually the students' disco. But for many attendees, one highlight was the opening speech by Tahir-ul-Qadri, the Canadian-based founder of moderate Islamic NGO Minhaj-ul-Quran International, during which he spoke out against Al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden.

ISLAMIC CLERIC STARTS ANTI-TERROR CAMP

Dated: 12 August 2010



Islamic cleric, Shaykh Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, a Pakistani, is fighting back by holding an "anti-terror camp." "Al-Hidayah," an Islamic retreat at the University of Warwick, in the UK, is the first of its kind, a three day camp designed to tackle Islamic extremism and terrorism.

Young Muslims attend anti-terrorism summer camp

Dated: 10 August 2010



Over 1,000 young Muslims attended an anti-terrorism summer camp in Warwick this weekend. The three day event, organised by Muslim scholar Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, includes workshops on countering extremist views.

Grande-Bretagne: plus de 1.300 jeunes ont participé à un

Dated: 09 August 2010



Plus de 1.300 jeunes musulmans britanniques et européens ont participé à une rencontre de trois jours à Coventry (centre de l'Angleterre), surnommée "camp d'été antiterroriste", destinée à leur fournir les arguments pour combattre les thèses extrémistes.

شدت پسندی، مخالف کیمب برطانیہ

Dated: 11 August 2010



نوعت اینم جو ہے کیا ایشام کا کیمب روزہ تین خلاف کے دشتگر دی میں برطانیہ نے القرآن منہاج ادارہ کے القرآن منہاج تنظیم سے لہند کر شرکت کر نہ جانوں، ڈار ایک تو بنا میں ایر ہے۔ کیمب ہلاک کا جاری فتویٰ جو خلاف کے دشتگر ص میں مبینہ کے مارچ میں لندن نے طائر القدری مولانا سروا ہے گیا کا ایشام کا کیمب ایر لے کے تشبیہ کے اسم تہ



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معسکر اسلامی برطانیہ بدق طویل

Dated: 11 August 2010

فی الوقت ۶ من المسلمین الشبان صدور بتحصین أو واللذ ، بالحدید :والإرهاب لتطرف لتجارب نستقل طریقان هناك مقدسة حرب فی عظیم مضاد فکری هجوم شن بعدها ومن الأهادین، ووسايس الانحراف شرك



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فی برطانیہ ضد الإرهاب تدبیر معسکر منہاج القرآن جماعہ

Dated: 07 August 2010

الذی المعسکر فعالیت وتستمر "الإرهاب لمكافحة" برطانیہ فی صیفی معسکر أول "القرآن منہاج" جماعہ تقوم منہاج" و مسلم شبل ألف فہ المشو کین عد تجايز أن وتوقع أيلہ، ثلاثة كوفتوي بمدينة وورنك جامعة في سبق حج تحض سبل تبحر التي "الدينية لأراسه" مؤلف اقدري طاهر محمد الكور اسمها دولية منظمة "القرآن" لجهاديين



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توقعات بحضور المئات من مسلمي برطانيا معسكرا ضد الإرهاب

Dated: 08 August 2010



برطانيا في معسكرا الأسبوع، هذا نهاية السلم، الشباب من ألف علم يزيد ما حضور يتوقع المعسكرا سيقام المنظر فين حج تحض لي، ورائه من المنظمون يهدف الإرهاب، لمناقشة وسط في واروك جمعة في ليل، ثلاثة مدار علم ويستيو، «البيدانية» اسم يحمل الذي الإرهاب يتخيف الذي برطانيا في نوعه من الأول الحدث به ويوصف اليوم انطلقا لضر والتعلمية، الدينية القرآن منہاج منظمة نيس اقدري، طاهر محمد الشوخ وقل الجبل انقاد واجبي من أن أشيع «: شبل 1.300 جنب في وتثل المعسكرا، تستضيف الدين رحل القدری، الشیخ وكان. «الإرهابية والتجرب المتطرف، المبول ضد وروحنا وأكلمنا عطا اعدادهم الي بحاجة فنح، الفوب في الإرهابين تحند وموجة التطرف، من الجديد والاتحاديون، الإرهابيين تبن صفة 600 من فتوى أصدر عندما الماضي، (أثار) مار في الإعلام أنظر محط علماء، 30 منذ الأديان، حوار لسلام إلى الدعوة بمراس الذي ليلز باكلا وتصفهم

والإتحاديون، الإرهابيين تبن صفة 600 من فتوى أصدر عندما الماضي، (أثار) مار في الإعلام أنظر محط علماء، 30 منذ الأديان، حوار لسلام إلى الدعوة بمراس الذي ليلز باكلا وتصفهم

«جنت التعذيب» بدء محاكمة الكندي خضر والقاضي عنمذ اعترافه: غوانتانامو

Dated: 11 August 2010



فی حرب جرمية ل تكب تهمة محاكمة اول كونا في الأموكية العسكرية غوانتانامو قاعة في بنات - ب ف أ - لندن، (كونا) غوانتانامو عبر اميركي جني قتل تهمة عشرة الخمسة سن في افغانستان في اوقف الذي خضر عبر الكندي لها يخضع اوباما براك الرئيس عهد عليه بنوية قتلہ القاء

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- **إرغام مجمع تجاري بريطاني على انتزاع مقعد شرقي من مراقبيه**
Dated: 10 August 2010



مواضيع في ركنه الأكثر، غرب شمل، ماثق في الضخم التجاري، وشديد مجمع كان، شرق، مقعد الغاء فان أذا
الذرة غبة على بناء تم كى المقعد كيبان، اذ رمضان، شهر، يده من يومين قبل امير، بريطانيا في واسعة ضجة المجمع
تحفة الحسنة الدارة يده رجحا كذا الذين، ماشق منطقة في المقدمين المسلمين، من كيب عدد يومه الذي التجاري المجمع
في، فيه يعلون آخرين، ومسلمين المجمع في متاجر يملكون، مسلمين تجار وجود على، علاوة على، شكل في الإسلامية الحلية
الشعر في المقعد على، يحض، من أسبوعية أصول

- **بريطانيا 'مخيم صيفي ضد الإرهاب' شباب مسلم شاركوا في 1300**
Dated: 10 August 2010



وعط كوفت في أيام ثلاثة استمر لقاء في أوروبا وبريطانيا من مسلم شباب 1300 من أكثر شارك
المنظر في الآراء لحض لهم وبراهين حجج تقديم هدفه «الإرهاب ضد صيفي مخيم» اسم عليه أطلق (انظر أ
على شيد بعدما الاثني عشر، مساهم انتهى قد يكون أن، المفتت ض من «2010 الحادية» لقاء في المنظمين، وحسب
منهج منظمة تنظيمها عملية في وصلوات عمل وورش، ومؤتمرات ومناظرات نقاشات الثلاثة أيامه دى
«القرآن»

- **جماعة إسلامية تنظم معسكراً بريطانيا ضد تنظيم القاعدة**

Dated: 11 August 2010
لوطانية الاناعة هيئة هو فها وضج مسلم شاب ألف فيه لمشا كين، عدد يتجاوز أن، ويتقو أولم، ثلاثة فعاملته تستمر الإرهاب، لمكافحة بريطانيا في صيفا معسكرا إسلامية دينية جماعة تنظم
المضى، مارس في الإرهاب ضد القاري، طاهر محمد الدكتور المنظمة مؤسس أصورها التي الفتى التي ورجع إلى المعسكر خلال من تسعى «القرآن منهاج» تدعى دولية منظمة أن BBC

- **«ضد الإرهاب» شباب مسلم في مخيم صيفي بريطانيا**
Dated: 11 August 2010



بريطانية وسطكو فنتي، في أيام ثلاثة استمر لقاء في أوروبا وبريطانيا من مسلم شباب 1300 من أكثر شارك
ويحسب المنظر في الآراء لحض لهم وبراهين حجج تقديم هدفه «الإرهاب ضد صيفي مخيم» اسم عليه أطلق
أمامه دى على شيد بعدما امير، مساهم انتهى قد يكون أن، المفتت ض من «2010 الحادية» لقاء في المنظمين،
«القرآن منهاج» منظمة تنظيمها عملية في وصلوات عمل وورش، ومؤتمرات ومناظرات نقاشات الثلاثة

- **«مخيم ضد الإرهاب» شباب مسلم في 1300 بريطانيا**
Dated: 11 August 2010



وعط كوفت في أيام ثلاثة استمر لقاء في أوروبا وبريطانيا من مسلم شباب 1300 من أكثر شارك
المنظر في الآراء لحض لهم وبراهين حجج تقديم هدفه «الإرهاب ضد صيفي مخيم» اسم عليه أطلق (انظر أ
على شيد بعدما الاثني عشر، مساهم انتهى قد يكون أن، المفتت ض من «2010 الحادية» لقاء في المنظمين، وحسب
منهج منظمة تنظيمها عملية في وصلوات عمل وورش، ومؤتمرات ومناظرات نقاشات الثلاثة أيامه دى
أصدر باكستاني أسبل من دين رجلي وهو القاري، طاهر محمد يد على 1991 في باكستان، في تأسست التي
الله اعداء الإلهابيين، تعتبر الإلهابية المحمات ترم دينية فتى، صار ير في

- **تقيم معسكرا ضد الإرهاب في بريطانيا (منهاج القرآن)**

Dated: 08 August 2010
جامعة في مقام الذي المعسكر، فعاملته تستمر الإرهاب لمكافحة بريطانيا في صيفي معسكرا أول «القرآن منهاج» جماعة تقم
دولية منظمة هي القرآن، منهاج وجماعة مسلم شاب 1000 فيه المشا كين، عدد يتجاوز أن، ويتقو أيام 3 كوفت في، مدينة وورك
الجهاديين حجج يحض، سبل تدعى التي الدينية الواسعة مؤلف القاري طاهر محمد الدكتور أسسها



- **Muslims attend anti-terror camp in UK**



Dated: 10 August 2010
Hundreds of young British Muslims have taken part in a summer camp led by a scholar which promotes the message that terrorism is anti-Islamic. The three-day gathering on a university campus in Coventry, central England, was led by Dr. Muhammad Taahir-ul-Qadri, who earlier this year issued a fatwa, or religious ruling, against terrorism.

- **En camp d'été contre le terrorisme islamique**
Dated: 10 August 2010



Pendant trois jours, près de 1300 jeunes musulmans, hommes et

femmes, venus d'Angleterre, mais aussi des États-Unis et du Canada, se sont rassemblés près de Birmingham, dans les locaux de l'université de Warwick, pour trouver des solutions à la mortée de l'extrémisme, notamment dans les écoles et les universités. «Al-Hidayah 2010», sorte de «camp d'été antiterroriste», comme le décrivent les médias britanniques, proposait conférences, débats et activités multiples autour d'un thème central : comment faire face aux arguments des islamistes radicaux?

- **Grande-Bretagne: Camp d'été antiterroriste**

Dated: 10 August 2010



Plus de 1 300 jeunes musulmans européens ont participé à une rencontre de trois jours à Coventry (centre de l'Angleterre), surnommée « camp d'été antiterroriste » et destinée à leur fournir les arguments pour combattre les thèses extrémistes. Débats, animations, conférences, ateliers et prières étaient organisés par l'association Minhaj ul-Quran, fondée au Pakistan en 1981 par Muhammad Tahir ul-Qadri, éminent érudit musulman qui a

condamné en mars, dans une fatwa, les terroristes, les jugeant ennemis de l'islam.

- **Un camp d'été antiterroriste**

Dated: 10 August 2010



C'est le genre de nouvelles qu'on aimerait lire plus souvent. Un sommet musulman antiterroriste s'est terminé hier à Coventry après trois jours de débats et d'activités. Il avait été initié par Tahir ul-Qadri, un ouléma d'origine pakistanaise vivant au Canada. Qadri a fait parler de lui plus tôt cette année en émettant une fatwa contre le terrorisme.

- **Grande-Bretagne: plus de 1.300 jeunes ont participé à un**

Dated: 10 August 2010

COVENTRY (Royaume-Uni) — Plus de 1.300 jeunes musulmans britanniques et européens ont participé à une rencontre de trois jours à Coventry (centre de l'Angleterre), surnommée "camp d'été antiterroriste", destinée à leur fournir les arguments pour combattre les thèses extrémistes. La rencontre "al-Hidayah 2010", qui signifie "conseils" ou "ligne de conduite", devait s'achever lundi soir après trois jours de débats, animations, conférences, ateliers et prières organisés par l'association Minhaj ul-Quran.

- **1300 unge muslimer samlet i kamp mot terrorisme**

Dated: 10 August 2010



Vi prøver å lære opp de unge, slik at de skal greie å slå tilbake argumentene fra de radikale. Vi vil gi dem kunnskap til å motstå ekstremistene og bekjempe ideologien deres, sier Shahid Mursaleen til britiske The Guardian. Han er talsperson for bevegelsen Minhaj-ul-Quran – en sufi-muslimsk bevegelse som har satt seg som hovedmål å bekjempe islamistisk terrorisme og ekstremisme.

- **Mehr als 1300 junge Muslime bei Anti-Terror-Sommerncamp in England**

Dated: 10 August 2010



Mehr als 1300 junge Muslime aus Europa haben an einem sogenannten Anti-Terror-Sommerncamp in Großbritannien teilgenommen. Bei der dreitägigen Veranstaltung im zentralenglischen Coventry, die am Montagabend zu Ende gehen sollte, lernten sie in Vorträgen, Workshops und Debatten, wie sie Aufrufen zum Terrorismus von Extremisten entgegen treten können.

- **Großbritannien: 1.300 Muslime wurden im Antiterror-Sommerncamp geschult**

Dated: 10 August 2010



In Coventry (Großbritannien) fand ein dreitägiges Antiterror-Sommerncamp statt, an dem über 1.300 junge Muslime aus europäischen Staaten teilnahmen. Die Muslime wurden in Vorträgen, Workshops und Debatten darüber unterrichtet, wie sie gegen Aufrufe zum Terrorismus von Extremisten vorgehen können.

- **England: Über 1000 junge Muslime in Anti-Terror-Camp**

Dated: 10 August 2010



In Coventry haben mehr als 1300 europäische Muslime an einem "Anti-Terror-Sommerncamp" teilgenommen. Dabei sollten sie lernen, wie sie Aufrufen zum Terrorismus von Extremisten entgegen treten können. Mehr als 1300 junge europäische Muslime haben an einem sogenannten Anti-Terror-Sommerncamp in Großbritannien teilgenommen. Die dreitägige Veranstaltung im zentralenglischen Coventry ging am Montagabend zu Ende.

• **Primer campamento de verano contra el terrorismo organizado por musulmanes**

Dated: 07 August 2010



Londres, 7 ago (EFE).- El primer campamento de verano contra el terrorismo organizado por musulmanes en el Reino Unido comenzó hoy sus actividades en Coventry (centro de Inglaterra). Se espera que el evento, que durará tres días, atraiga a unos 1.300 jóvenes musulmanes, que escucharán argumentos religiosos contra el extremismo político.

• **Camp aims to empower with anti-terror message**

Dated: 09 August 2010



MUHAMMAD TAHIR-UL-QADRI: ...clear according to Our'an and Sunna, these kind of people having this terroristic or militant agent that has no link with Islamic teachings...

• **Guardian: Muslim groups hold 'anti-terrorism' summer camp**

Dated: 08 August 2010



Devotees of Muslim scholar Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri have gathered at the University of Warwick's campus to be taught practical ways of countering extremist views in their schools, universities and communities. They have been learning how to engage with people expressing extremist views and are being directed to passages in the Qur'an and other Islamic texts to allow them to argue against them.

• **Arab News: UK Muslim youths in summer camp against extremism**

Dated: 08 August 2010



LONDON: Britain's first "anti-terror" summer camp opened Saturday, with the goal of teaching Muslim youth how to rebuff extremists who try to recruit them at schools and in online chat rooms.

• **Anti-Terrorism Camp to be Set-up in Britain by a Pakistani Organization**

Dated: 08 August 2010

The head of the organization Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said, "I feel it is my duty to save the younger generation from radicalization and wave of terroristic recruitment in the West". "We need to prepare them mentally and academically, intellectually and spiritually, against extremist tendencies and terrorist attitudes". Qadri is a Pakistan based religious scholar who has been promoting peace and inter-faith dialogue for 30 years. He also issued a 600 page fatwa denouncing terrorists and suicide bombers to be unbelievers. He has written around 400 books and is a scholar of Sufism.

• **BBC: Muslim group Minhaj ul-Quran runs 'anti-terrorism' camp**

Dated: 06 August 2010



The three-day event in Coventry is expected to see more than 1,000 young Muslims at sessions teaching religious arguments to use against extremists. The event has been organised by the Minhaj ul-Quran to promote a fatwa, or religious ruling, against terrorism by its leader Dr Muhammad Tahir ul-Qadri.

• **Reuters UK: Hundreds expected at UK Muslim anti-terrorism camp**

Dated: 06 August 2010



(Reuters) - Over a thousand young Muslims are due to attend a camp in Britain to discuss terrorism this weekend, but rather than encouraging militancy the organisers' mission is to destroy the arguments of extremists. The three-day "al-Hidayah" camp, which gets underway at the University of Warwick in central England on Saturday, is billed as the first event of its kind in Britain specifically aimed at targeting terrorism.

- **DAWAN: Hundreds expected at UK Muslim anti-terrorism camp**

Dated: 06 August 2010



LONDON: Over a thousand young Muslims are due to attend a camp in Britain to discuss terrorism this weekend, but rather than encouraging militancy the organizers mission is to destroy the arguments of extremists.

- **UK hosts anti-terror camp for Muslim youths**

Dated: 07 August 2010



LONDON The first major Muslim event designed specifically to tackle Islamist extremism and terrorism will take place in the UK this weekend. Kicking off on Saturday, al-Hidayah 2010 is a three-day event taking place at the University of Warwick in the English Midlands.

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- **IB Times UK: Moderate Muslim declares 'intellectual and spiritual war' against extremism ahead of first 'anti-terror' camp**

Dated: 06 August 2010



Moderate Muslim declares "intellectual and spiritual war" against extremism ahead of first "anti-terror" camp

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- **MenMedia: Over 1,000 expected at anti-terror camp**

Dated: 06 August 2010



Over a 1,000 youngsters are expected to attend the UK's first ever anti-extremism camp. The event is being organised by Minhaj-ul-Quran UK, whose founder member Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri made headlines earlier this year when he also issued a 600-page fatwa against terrorism.

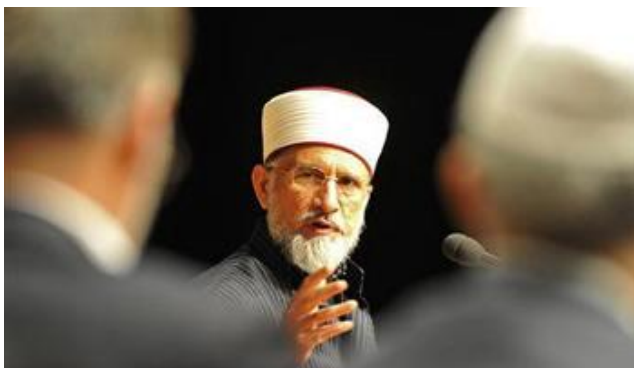
'Muslim Camp' draws teens to combat extremism Preacher a voice for moderation

(Luke Baker; Jon Boyle: Reuters)

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/8765>

Dated: 10 August 2009

This article is taken from <http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTR E5792AL20090810?sp=trued>



COVENTRY, England (Reuters) - Like any rousing Islamic preacher, Muhammed Tahir ul-Qadri's voice rises to a shout and his index finger jabs at the hammers home a point.

But rather than angry calls for jihad (holy war) or a vitriolic denunciation of the West and its aggressions against Islam, Qadri's message, equally forcefully delivered, is about moderation, peace, inclusion and understanding.

Addressing a packed auditorium from a raised platform his words beamed on to large screen behind him, more than 1,000 young followers hang on his every word, even as his lecture moves into its fourth uninterrupted hour.

"Islam is not a religion of seclusion, it is not a religion of detachment," he thunders from the dais, occasionally pausing to wipe the sweat from his brow or adjust his spectacles.

"Any killer of a non-Muslim citizen, he will go to hell. Those who are committing terrorist acts from Pakistan and Afghanistan and claiming it is jihad -- they do not know what jihad is. It is forbidden. There will not be janna (paradise) for them," he hollers, to shouts of approval from his listeners.

Qadri, 58, who was born in Pakistan but now lives in Canada, is a renowned scholar of Sufism, a long tradition within Islam that focuses on spirituality, emphasizing peace and moderation.

The author of more than 400 books on Islamic scholarship and law, Qadri travels the world delivering sermons to Sufis, while his organization called Minhaj-ul-Quran, has spread to 80 countries, from Greece to Fiji, since its founding in 1981.

In Britain, he is the main draw at a three-day retreat for young Muslims called "Al Hidayah" (Guidance), which over the past five years has grown into the biggest spiritual camp of its kind, with more than 1,200 attendees from a dozen countries.

Qadri believes camps like his, which attract teenagers -- girls and boys wearing traditional dress who sit separately in the auditorium -- as well as their parents and children as young as six, can play a part in combating extremism within Islam.

For Britain, that has been particularly important since 2003, when the country joined the invasion of Iraq, and 2005, when four young British Muslims carried out suicide bombings on the London transport network, killing 52 people.

"I feel it is my duty to save the younger generation from radicalization," Qadri said quietly over lunch on Sunday, shortly after finishing the second of several lectures and question-and-answer sessions, which concluded on Monday.

"We need to prepare them mentally and academically, intellectually and spiritually, against extremist tendencies and radical and terrorist attitudes. We need to provide them with an awakening of the true picture of Islam," he said.

TACKLING EXTREMISM

Around the world, and particularly in the United States, there has been a steady increase in adherence to Sufism in the past decade. Governments keen to tackle the spread of more radical branches of Islam in their countries have worked with Sufi scholars and tried to emphasize their teachings.

In Britain, home to around 1.7 million Muslims, the bulk from Pakistan, the government at first worked to promote Sufism supporting the creation in 2006 of the Sufi Muslim Council, a group that took a strong stand against Islamist extremism.

But since then, it has moved away from explicit support, saying that working via the Sufi community -- whose exact number in Britain is not known -- is just one element of a wider approach to countering Islamic radicalism.

"It's part of a broader engagement. We don't want to isolate any one group over another," a government spokeswoman said.

Supporters of Qadri, though, are adamant about the benefits of his teachings, with students coming from as far as Denmark and Canada to hear him speak during the three-day retreat. Women in particular like his emphasis on female equality within Islam and are not always touched on by other Islamic scholars.

"What he says is mind-opening, it makes you feel good as a woman," said Sofia Saeed, 27, a legal assistant who traveled from Manchester to attend the retreat with a friend.

"There's no discrimination here. It makes you feel like a stronger believer, a stronger person," she said, comfortably mixing designer sunglasses with her full hijab head covering.

Qadri, a former minister in Pakistan and close associate of Benazir Bhutto, the assassinated former prime minister, does not believe his teachings can change radical minds overnight, but he is a believer that intellect can ultimately defeat extremism.

"If the terrorists are 10 people and the peaceful are 1,000, then they are more powerful than us with their arms, even if we are 5,000," he said. "But the point is that we have to make the 5,000 more powerful not with arms, but by the communication of the right message of Islam."

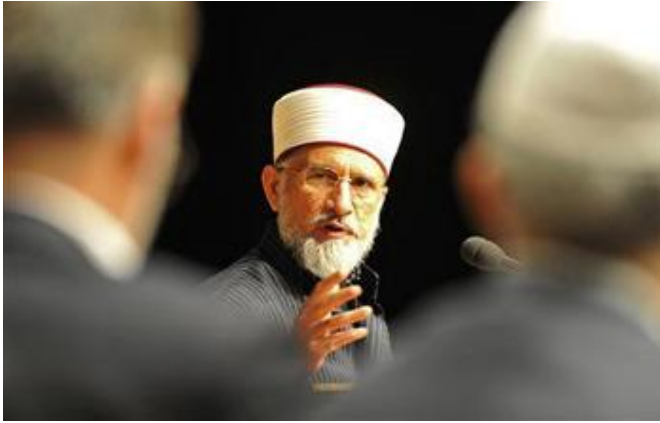
Ideas are the best weapons: Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/8774>

Dated: 12 August 2009

Muhammed Tahir ul-Qadri launches 'intellectual war' on terrorism with sermons on peace and tolerance

Muhammed Tahir ul-Qadri is on the phone, talking about war, but he is not referring to guns.



"I don't know how to use a pistol," admits the Pakistani-born Islamic scholar, who is in Birmingham, England, at the moment, though he spends roughly 10 months a year in Canada, his adopted home for the past several years. "If you put a pistol in my hand, I wouldn't know how to use it." The 58-year-old spiritual leader does know how to use words and ideas,

however, and he is recruiting them both in the cause of peace.

"I have, you can say, announced an intellectual and spiritual war against extremism and terrorism. I believe this is the time to stand up for moderate Islamic scholars who believe in peace."

Forget for now the lurid images of hatred and bloodshed that have dominated Western perceptions of Islam in recent years, and lend an ear to this voluble, respected Canadian grandfather, who is at the forefront of what some might call a renaissance of moderate Islam, preaching a doctrine of inclusion and tolerance.

"He is definitely a scholar who should be highlighted," says Asad Dean, a Muslim community organizer in Toronto. "He has a fantastic relationship with all the communities."

In their struggle for the hearts and minds of the world's 1.4 billion Muslims, Qadri and other like-minded clerics are squaring off against ruthless organizations, such as the Taliban and Al Qaeda, which present a very different facet of Islam one that celebrates violence while rejecting any prospect of accommodation with the West.

The welfare, livelihood and dreams of tens of millions of people around the globe depend on which side triumphs in this battle of words and ideas, a battle that is also a contest of military might – in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq.

Qadri is far from alone in his fight.

Partly in response to U.S. President Barack Obama's recent opening to the Muslim world, moderate Islamic clerics in many lands have been emboldened to speak out against those who traffic in the weapons of hate.

"Ideas are the best arms," Qadri says. "Societies should be armed with better ideas."

"To me, the ideal society in the world is Canadian society," he says. "We believe in the letter and spirit of multiculturalism."

Qadri has no patience with violent extremists who daunt to represent his faith.

Lately, it is Osama bin Laden and his ilk who have transfixed the attention of the West, but Qadri regards them exceptions – traitors to Islam – who have achieved an influence out of proportion to their numbers.

In large measure, he holds the news media responsible for presenting a distorted picture of Islam, one that depicts its adherents as fist-waving advocates of hate.

"Millions and millions of Muslim people – more than a billion – are living a peaceful life," he says, "but their life does not create news."

Violence, of course, does create news, as do tyranny and intolerance.

"They make women stay in their homes," he says of Muslim extremists. "They destroy girls' schools. This is against Islam, totally wrong. This has created a very bad image."

Qadri, who has served for a time as a member of Pakistan's National Assembly, has spent years promoting interfaith dialogue, largely through Minhaj-ul-Quran International, an non-governmental organization he founded in 1980 and still heads.

Qadri, who will return to Canada early next month, lives near Hamilton, where he devotes himself to writing about Islam. He says he is determined to change the negative images now associated with his faith, while also stopping radical Islam in its tracks.

It's a tall order but an urgent one.

"We want a secure future for everybody," he says. "I speak of the human race."

More Links

1. [Google News, UK](#)
['Ideas are the best' weapons](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
Kamp Muslim Inggris Melawan Ekstremis
2. [Yahoo News](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws teens to combat extremism](#)
3. [euro news](#)
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["Muslim Camp" draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
5. [Global Tv . Com](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)
6. [The Star phoenix](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)
7. [Toronto Star](#)
['Ideas are the best' weapons: Islamic scholar](#)
8. [Canada.com](#)
[Messenger of moderation](#)
Sufi scholar seeks to save young Muslims from radicalization

9. [The Brunei Times](#)
[UK Muslim camp preaches peace](#)
10. [National Post](#)
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11. [National Post](#)
[Preacher a voice for moderation](#)
12. [The Gazette](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)
13. [The Vancouver Sun](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)
14. [The Malaysia Insider](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
15. [Islam Online.net](#)
[UK Sufi Camp Combats Extremism](#)
16. [Republika Online](#)
[Kamp Muslim Inggris Melawan Ekstremis](#)
17. [Reuters Italia](#)
[Gran Bretagna. "campo islamico" contro estremismo seduce giovani](#)
18. [Reuters India](#)
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19. [Birmingham Post](#)
[Islamic author denounces terrorism as a cancer in Muslim world](#)
20. [Islam Online](#)
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21. [National Post](#)
[Preacher a voice for moderation](#)
22. [Point de Bascule Canada](#)
[GRANDE BRETAGNE - UN IMAM SOUFISTE CANADIEN PRÊCHE UN AUTRE ISLAM À DES MUSULMANS BRITANNIQUES. IL ENSEIGNE L'INCLUSION, LA "SPIRITUALITÉ", LA PAIX ET LA MODÉRATION...](#)
23. [The Province](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)
24. [Euro News](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
25. [The Windsor Star](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)
26. [IB Times](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
27. [Javno](#)
['Muslim Camp' Draws UK Teens To Combat Extremism](#)
28. [Aussie Muslims](#)
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29. [The Revival](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws UK teens to combat extremism!](#)
30. [NEWS Tin](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws teens to combat extremism](#)
31. [Yanabi . Com](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws teens to combat extremism...](#)
32. [Digg](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws teens to combat extremism](#)
33. [Nicer News](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws teens to combat extremism](#)
34. [To pix](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
35. [Canada](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)
36. [Leader Post](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)
37. [Best News](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
38. [World Peace](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws teens to combat extremism](#)
39. [ABC News](#)
["Muslim Camp" Draws Teens to Combat Extremism](#)
40. [Euro Islam .Info](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
41. [Hizb ut-Tahrir](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
42. [World News](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
43. [Toronto Star](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
44. [The Free Library online](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws teens to combat extremism](#)
45. [Daily Times](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
46. [Reuters UK](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
47. [Reuters](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws teens to combat extremism](#)
48. [Canada](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws U.K. teens to combat extremism](#)

49. [The PEW Forum | Religion News](#)
['Ideas are the best' weapons: Islamic scholar](#)
50. [The Star](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
51. [Bay Ledger News Zone](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws teens to combat extremism](#)
52. [Maryam-blog Blogspot](#)
['MUSLIM CAMP' DRAWS UK TEENS TO COMBAT EXTREMISM](#)
53. [Talk Islam](#)
["Muslim Camp" draws teens to combat extremism.](#)
54. [Times of Malta](#)
[Without attacks, Qeda's roaring to love](#)
55. [In Sing](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
56. [msnbc](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
57. [Islam is all about Peace](#)
[Ideas are the best' weapons: Islamic scholar](#)
58. [Sharia Watch UK](#)
['Muslim Camp' draws UK teens to combat extremism](#)
59. [Muslims in England](#)
[Al-Hidayah 2009](#)

POVERTY RADICALISM AND RELIGION

**TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2010 AT 11.00AM
HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT**

**RADICALISM IS GROWING IN BRITAIN AND HAS ALWAYS
BEEN LINKED TO RELIGION AND POVERTY. DOES THIS
LINK REALLY EXIST? THIS SEMINAR WILL
HIGHLIGHT THE REAL ROOTS OF RADICALISM
AND PROPOSE WAYS TO TACKLE IT EFFECTIVELY.**

SPEAKERS:

ALAN JOHNSON MP (TBC)
HOME SECRETARY

SHAHID MALIK MP
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES

PROF JEFFREY HAYNES
LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

DR WAQAR AZMI OBE
CHAIRMAN WATERHOUSE CONSULTING GROUP

DR HANY EL-BANNA OBE
FOUNDER ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE

HUSSAIN MOHI-UD-DIN QADRI
PRESIDENT FEDERAL COUNCIL MINHAJ-UL-QURAN INTERNATIONAL

Other Attendees

STEPHEN TIMMS MP
TREASURY SECRETARY

LORD NAZIR AHMED
MEMBER OF HOUSE OF LORDS

PAUL GOODMAN MP
SHADOW MINISTER

LYN BROWN MP
LABOUR MP

MUHAMMAD SARWAR MP
MUSLIM LABOUR MP

Parliamentary seminar explores solutions for extremism

Dated: 12 January 2010

LONDON. In wake of news reports that extremist groups are influencing British students, the timing for the seminar on the topic of 'Poverty, Radicalism and Religion' could not be more pertinent. A London based organisation Minhaj-ul-Quran UK held a seminar at the Houses of Parliament to explore the root causes of extremism and radicalism in Britain and find methods of tackling the issue.



MQI UK spokesman and event organiser Shahid

Mursaleen said that "We support the ban on the extremist groups but suggested to ban extremist individuals too as they will appear again with a different name. We have organised this seminar to present solutions to the Government for addressing the current issue of youth radicalisation at British Universities, which has for long been ignored."

The keynote speaker Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, a PhD fellow from Victoria University, Australia and member of federal council of Minhaj-ul-Quran International stated that "We support the ban on the extremist groups but this is not the final solution to this problem. We must stop the ideology based on slogans of Khilafa which these extremists are promoting amongst the British youth."

Mr Hussain added that after the demise of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them) the Caliphs were either elected by the citizens or appointed by an elected committee. We can see both these systems today namely a presidential form of government or a parliamentary form of government.



At the seminar Dr Raheeq Abbasi, Secretary General of Minhaj-ul-Quran International highlighted various efforts of Minhaj-ul-Quran against extremism and terrorism. Dr Waqar Azmi, Chairman Waterhouse Consulting Group said that "The Government needs to work with moderate groups and it is required to change ideologically."

Naveed Sheikh of Keele University shed light on the linkages between poverty, radicalism and religion and highlighted different views on the topic in the academia.

Dr Hany el Hanna, founder of Islamic Relief and Chairman of Humanitarian Forum said that "It can take many years to change the ideology of extremist and it's not a short term problem."



Shahid Malik MP in his speech stressed that "The Government cannot deliver the Prevent agenda on its own – this programme depends on collaborative work alongside the vast majority of people across all communities in this country who reject violent extremism and are determined to challenge it. That is why I would like to commend organisations like the Minhaj-ul-Quran and their work in facilitating discussion through this sort of seminar, reaching out to young Muslims and promoting the involvement of women in all their activities."

The question as to whether poverty or globalisation supports extremism or radicalism is also discussed by Prof Jeffrey Haynes of the London Metropolitan University. He has argued that poverty does not play a role in creating extremists since here in the west most of the extremists are from educated and middle class families.



On the other hand, Mr Hussain highlights the case in Pakistan which has around 20,000 traditional madrassas (religious schools) where the majority of them are run by the schools of thought similar to that of Islam4UK. There the pupils who attend such madrassas are from lower class families who cannot afford to send their children to state or public schools. It can be seen that the scholars who

preach extremism and in some cases violent radicalism have attended these madrassas from whom now British youngsters receive their support and guidance from, and their literature is also distributed at University Islamic societies .

The seminar also highlighted and concluded that in order to eliminate the problem of extremism from its root there is a need to close down the madrasses and modernise them with modern and scientific education.

Call by Muslim youth leaders to end preaching hatred in universities



The Muslim youth leaders in Conferences held throughout universities in the UK have called on Islamic extremists to stop promoting hatred in British universities.



The Muslim Youth League UK's conference series comes just a few weeks after a former London student tried to blow up an American plane. Nigerian terrorist, Umar Abdul Mutalib, had been active in extremist groups while studying at University College London; it emerged after the Christmas Day attack.



But young Muslims speaking in the conferences by the name of "Islamic perspectives" condemned the behaviour.

Muslim Youth League leader Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri son of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri told the audience: "Extremism has no religion and people who have an extreme political agenda do not represent the British Muslims in the UK."



League spokesperson Shahid Mursaleen said he believed UK universities were the primary recruitment area for Islamic extremist groups like Islam4UK.

He said: "We are not aware of any extremist recruitment drives in Sheffield but I believe it to be possible. We are working very hard to help universities in any way we can do and to ensure that young, vulnerable Muslims are not brainwashed by extremist propaganda. We invite extremists for an open dialogue to discuss their concerns and resolve them peacefully."

Muslim Youth League president Tahseen Khalid said: "We organized this conference to discuss the roots of extremist behaviour amongst British Muslims and invite young people to listen to an alternative moderate view."

A Sheffield Hallam University spokesperson said: "Like all universities, Sheffield Hallam would take appropriate steps to prevent any activity that may be unlawful or threatened people's safety and wellbeing."



Media Coverage:

http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/4842197.Young_Muslims_condemn_Wootton_Basset_march/

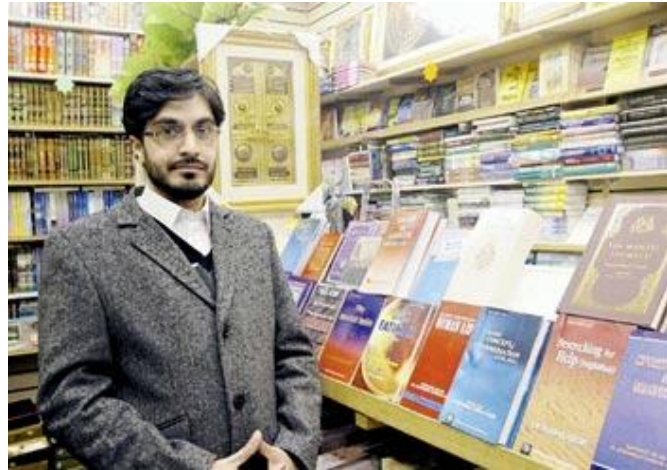
<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/Call-by-Muslim-youth-leaders.5968989.jp>

British Muslims Welcome Government Ban of Extremist Group

Dated: 10 January 2010

[10th January 2010]

LONDON. Minhaj-ul-Quran International UK (MQI UK) has said that it has welcomed the Government's plan to ban the extremist organisation Al Minhajroun and also to stop the Wootton Bassett march.



MQI UK spokesman Shahid Mursaleen said that "We have always supported the idea of banning extreme individuals and extremist groups from working in this country and have for a very long time been frustrated that they have been allowed to infiltrate universities and mosques to promote a message of hatred with their anti-west agendas."

Shahid Mursaleen added that "for too long a small group of extremists are trying to hijack Islam and British Muslims and also hopes that the implication of this ban will be that moderate Muslim organisations such as Minhaj-ul-Quran UK which convey a peaceful, tolerant and moderate message of Islam will be supported and assisted by the government in order to tackle this new wave of growing extremism in British Universities."

He further added that "Radicalism which leads towards terrorism is like a cancer within the body of Muslims worldwide and the majority of Muslims do not want it to be part of their body."

Senior MQI UK advisor, Mrs Samra Yasmin Qadri said that "with the support of the government, moderate Islamic organisations can work effectively on all levels in society in order to create integrated law-abiding, respectful, peaceful and moderate Muslims and Muslim communities in the UK."

Senior Minhaj-ul-Quran International leader Mr Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, who is currently on his UK lecture tour said that "We need to prepare the younger generation mentally and academically, intellectually and spiritually against extremist tendencies and radical and terrorist attitudes."

Minhaj-ul-Quran International UK has arranged a seminar at the Houses of Parliament for Tuesday, 12 January to discuss the reasons why extremist and radical elements exist in Britain and how we

can tackle it in which Mr Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, Dr Raheeq Abbasi, Prof Jeffery Haynes, Dr Waqar Azmi and Shahid Malik (UK Minister for Communities) will speak.

MQI UK is also holding an anti-radicalism conference at Queen Mary, University of London to discuss the Islamic Political System, Democracy, Freedom of speech and growing Radicalism in Britain. Mr Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, who is the son of the prominent scholar Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri, will be speaking at the conference along with Minhaj-ul-Quran International Secretary General Dr Raheeq Abbasi

Sunday 12th January 2010

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8453560.stm

Sunday 10th January 2010

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/europe/01/10/uk.islamist.ban/>

Tuesday 7th January 2010

<http://www.yellowad.co.uk/tn/news.cfm?id=470&headline=March%20is%20criticised%20by%20mosque%20officials>

Tuesday 5th January 2010

<http://www.newhamrecorder.co.uk/content/newhamrecorder/news/story.aspx?brand=RECONline&category=newsNEWHAM&Brand=northlondon24&Category=newsnewham&Itemid=WeED05%20Jan%202010%2016:44:24:073>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/view/115521/Oltra-ge-as-firebrand-Choudary-says-Wootton-Bassett-march-will-go-ahead/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/149748/-British-soldiers-are-like-Nazis-says-hate-cleric>

Monday 4th January 2010

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/georgepitcher/100021298/if-anjem-choudary-wants-an-anti-war-march-lets-give-him-one/>

<http://sify.com/news/187-000-facebookers-oppose-islamist-march-through-british-town-news-international-kbtkfghhg.html>

<http://www.ciol.com/Global-News/News-Reports/When-Facebookers-march-against-Islamic-march/4110129622/0/>

<http://religion.gaeatimes.com/2010/01/04/187000-facebookers-oppose-islamist-march-through-british-town-329/>

<http://www.detikinet.com/read/2010/01/04/135417/1271257/398/hadang-aksi-kelompok-radikal-petisi-internet-digalang>

Sunday 3rd January 2010

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/6927633/Muslim-cleric-Anjem-Choudary-vows-to-continue-Wootton-Bassett-march.html>

MQI UK's Response to the March in Wootton Bassett

[5th January 2010]

LONDON. Minhaj-ul-Quran International UK (MQI UK) has expressed deep concern over the announcement by an extremist group to hold a march at Wootton Bassett. MQI UK's spokesperson Shahid Mursaleen said that this group is known to consist of members who are known extremists and trouble makers including their leader Anjem Choudary.

"We strongly condemn the announcement by an extremist group to go ahead with the planned march at Wootton Bassett. Minhaj-ul-Quran pays tribute to the dead British soldiers," he said.

"Extremists like these always claim to speak for Islam and British Muslims yet they are not qualified to do either. These kinds of extremists do not represent the British Muslims" He added that "This march will achieve nothing other than to incite hate crime against innocent law abiding British Muslims."

He said that this march should not be allowed to take place and it defies belief that a group that is supposed to be banned can operate by just changing its name.

"It must be remembered that a protest by a handful of extremists at a home coming parade in Luton led to violent demonstrations being held by the right-wing English Defence League across the UK which targeted all innocent law abiding Muslims. If the government and police do not act to stop this protest and curtail this group then there will be similar backlashes against British Muslims."

"Minhaj-ul-Quran International UK has arranged a seminar at the Houses of Parliament for next week to discuss the reasons why extremist and radical elements exist in Britain and how we can tackle it"

"We have also launched a series of lectures for British youth 'Islamic Perspectives Series 2010' at Queen Mary, University of London by Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri to explore ways in tackling radical ideologies and groups such as Islam4UK."



Seminar: “Challenges for Muslim Youth”

Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri Son of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri speaks about radicalism, education and democracy

Rotterdam – On Thursday 14 January a seminar took place at the Erasmus University titled ‘Challenges for Muslim Youth’, organized by Minhaj-ul-Quran International Netherlands. The chief guest of this evening was Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, son of the renowned scholar Shaykh-ul-Islam dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri. He urged the gathered youth to work for a culture of democracy and education and to resist radicalism in all its manifestations.



The introductory lecture titled 'From Makkah to Rotterdam' was given by Mohammad Cheppih. He inspired the youth with many examples from the Islamic heritage, in how to live in a diverse and non-Islamic environment and still be a good Muslim.

In his lecture, Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri cautioned the listeners about the dangers of certain scholars and their organizations: *"If we send our children to mosques where narrow-thinking and radicalism is preached, then we will destroy the liberal and peaceful message of Islam"*. He emphasized the fact that narrow-thinking leads to extremism, then to radicalism and eventually to terrorism. *"Terrorism doesn't belong to any religion, it actually doesn't belong to humanity."*

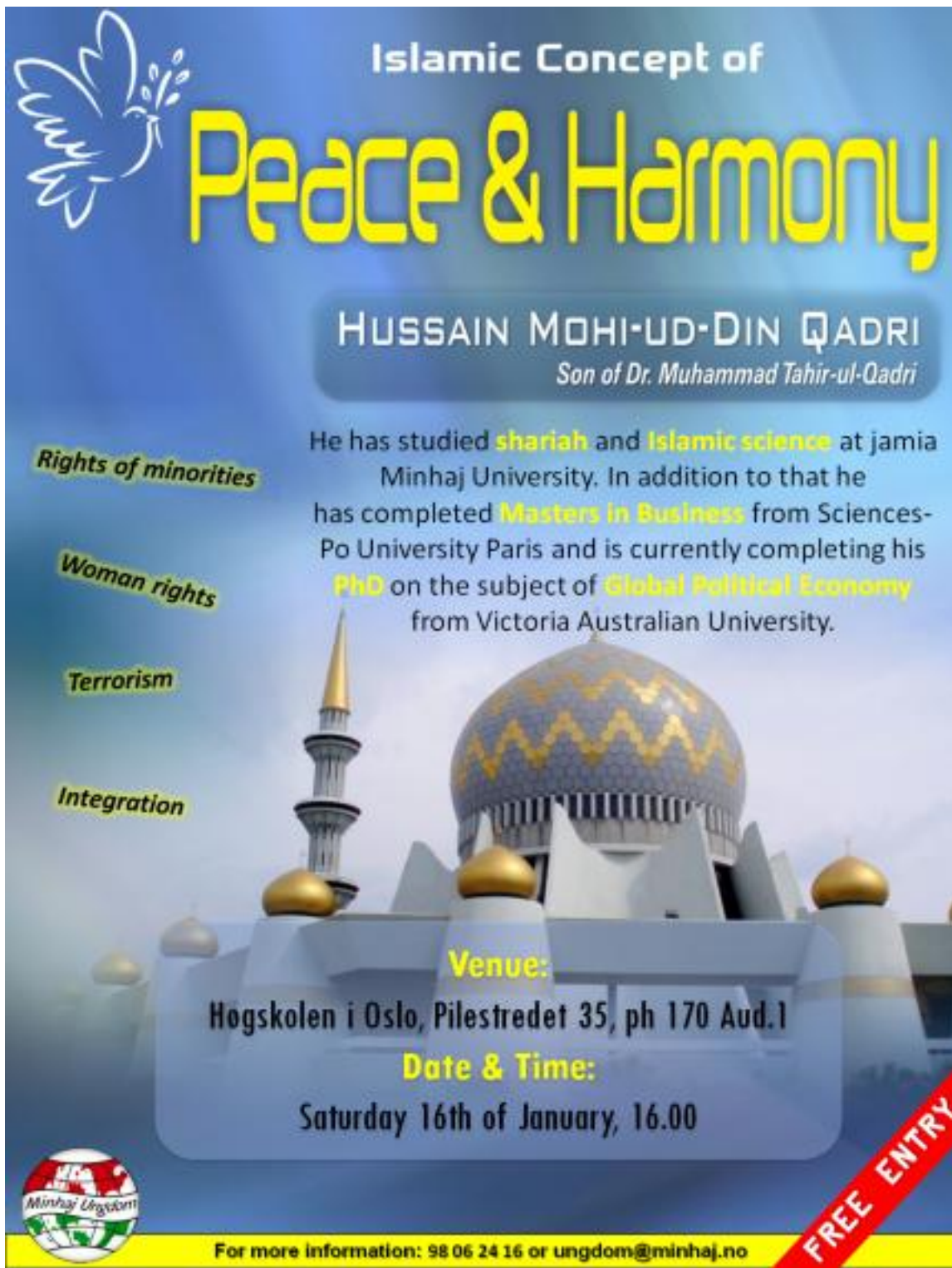


He strongly stressed the fact that Islam is for democracy: *"Islam promoted democracy in the society. It gave rights to women to participate in the parliament 1400 years ago. The Islamic state of Madinah was a democratic state. The third caliph was selected by voting and there was a parliamentary system. And the grandson of the Prophet (pbuh) fought against Yazid, the leader of the Islamic state at that time, because Yazid was a dictator."* Qadri sees the absence of democracy in most Muslim countries is a fertile soil for many social problems. *"Of the more than 50 countries there are hardly democratic countries. Even the so-called democracies aren't real democracies. They don't represent the Islamic democratic values. And because dictatorship doesn't give people their rights, they become violent. They are rejected their rights and justice."*

He finally urged the participants of this seminar to take up their responsibility: *"We have seen our elders. They came to this country in critical situation. Today, it's on the next generation of the society. Not just Muslims, I call upon youth of every society: Leave hatred behind and respect and love each other."*

Minhaj Youth Holland

Peace Seminar in Oslo Norway January 2010



Islamic Concept of
Peace & Harmony

HUSSAIN MOHI-UD-DIN QADRI
Son of Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri

He has studied **shariah** and **Islamic science** at jamia Minhaj University. In addition to that he has completed **Masters in Business** from Sciences-Po University Paris and is currently completing his **PhD** on the subject of **Global Political Economy** from Victoria Australian University.

Rights of minorities

Woman rights


Terrorism

Integration

Venue:
Hogskolen i Oslo, Pilestredet 35, ph 170 Aud.1

Date & Time:
Saturday 16th of January, 16.00

FREE ENTRY

 For more information: 98 06 24 16 or ungdom@minhaj.no

Peace and Harmony Conference Oslo2010 Pictorial view



Mr Hussain M uhiudin Q adri Son of Dr Muham mad Tahir-ul-Qadri



Akhtar Choudry Vise representant I Stortinget





Toleranse, respekt for andre, også ikke-muslimer, og fred var budskap som i går trakk hundrevis av muslimer til et seminar. 1075 B.S. 12000

– Gir feil bilde av muslimer

Minhaj Ungdom mener at muslimer som oppfører seg som moralpoliti, har misforstått islam. Det rammer muslimer flest.

– «Moralpoliti» gir folk flest et feilaktig bilde av den vanlige muslim. Folk kan tro at det er slike holdninger muslimer lærer i moskene, men det er tvert om. Vi blir opplært til toleranse og respekt for andre. Ingen har rett til å dømme andre for ikke å være gode nok muslimer, sier Mehtab Afsan i Minhaj Ul Quran.

Han mener at de som oppfører seg slik, ofte ikke har grunnleggende kunnskaper om islam.

– Degens muslimer er blitt mer katolske enn paven. Fei for egen del. Ingen har rett til å være moralpoliti, sier han.

Fred og harmoni. Nettopp det forsøkte Minhaj Ungdom å gjøre noe med da de i går arrangerte et seminar i Oslo om islams budskap om fred og harmoni. Det trakk flere hundre muslimer, likelig fordelt på menn og kvinner, unge og voksne.

De kom for å høre på innlegget til Stortingets visepresident, Akhtar Chaudhry (Sv), men ikke minst foredraget til Hussein Mohi-Ud-Din Qadri fra Victoria University i Melbourne, Australia. Han har studert sharia, islams vitenskap og økonomi ved universiteter i Lahore og Paris. Han er dessuten sønn av en lærer imam som har sendt ut en fatwa mot terrorisme.

Hjernevasken. Qadri talte også om fundamentalister, som kaller seg skolerte muslim-

mer, som hjernevasker ungdom til å begå terrorhandlinger og annen kriminalitet. Det er slike som har søpet for at islam blir sett ned på i store deler av verden. Han appellerte muslimer til å respektere alle, også ikke-muslimer.

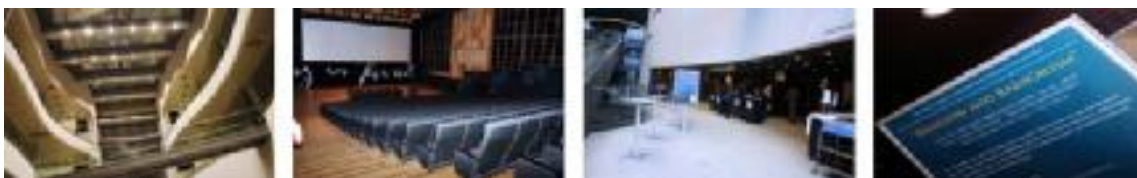
– Islam skal ikke lage problemer for folk.

Atif Rauf, leder av Minhaj Ungdom, sier det er feil å bedrive kontroll av andre. For møtet diskuterte han med unge på nettet, som var skeptiske til et seminar om at islam står for fred.

– De kaller seg muslimer, og forfekter at islam står for hevet sverd. Hvis du vil vite hva islam er, ikke se på muslimer, men finn frem Koranen og les selv, sier Rauf.

bilde: khalidqadri@posteo.rs
afg: talib@posteo.rs

Historical Conference in Denmark under the title Religion and Radicalism



In the serene surroundings of the Danish National Library M inhaj ul Quran International Denmark on October 31st 2009 hosted an ambitious conference with the focal point on religion and radicalism. The venue is in Copenhagen a characteristic of the beautiful Copenhagen harbor front and is also known as the "Black Diamond" from its shape and black glass facade as well as its vast collection of contemporary and classical literature underlined the knowledge base this conference was built on.

With the aim of discussing the topic from a generic angle a broad specter of high profile persons with relation to the topic in their profession and research were invited to speak at the conference.

Among the speakers were

- The Director of The Danish Security and Intelligence Service, Prevention Center, Jakob Ilum
- Copenhagen Mayor of Integration Jakob Hougaard
- Scholar Ph.D at the Southern University of Denmark, Prof. Torben Rugberg Rasmussen
- Professor at University of Copenhagen, Prof. Jørgen Bæk Simonsen
- Advisor to the Danish Ministry of Integration, Dr. Karen Lise Johansen Karmann

- Ph.D Researcher at the University ofCairo, Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri,



Jakob Ilum, The Danish Security and Intelligence Service, Prevention Center,



Jakob Hougaard, Copenhagen Mayor of Integration



Prof. Torben Rugberg Rasmussen, Scholar Ph.D at the Southern University of Denmark,



Prof. Jorgen Bæk Simonsen Professor at University of Copenhagen



Dr. Karen Lise Johansen Karman Advisor to the Danish Ministry of Integration,



Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, Ph.D Researcher at the University of Cairo

Around 485 people had pre-booked their seats to participate in the conference. Among those Danish Police officers, priests, social worker, delegates from the German Iranian, and Pakistani embassy, Danish University students and members of the religious community in Denmark.



The conference was kicked off with a welcome to the city of diversity and tolerance by the Copenhagen Mayor of Integration. Copenhagen is actively involved in assuring freedom of religion and increasing tolerance by giving the different subcultures possibility to maintain their culture and religion. Lately a lot of focus is on building a grand Mosque in Copenhagen as an integrated part of a new city area.



The main focus of the Director of the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) was to collaborate with the different religious groups in order to diminish radical elements as representatives from these groups are much better in touch with their own community than PET.

He stressed the need of the different groups to be proactive in the prevention of radicalism. He stated that the main victim of radical elements is not the surrounding society but the group itself from which the radical elements arise. This is due to the fact that the society gains mistrust and demand for more control over the group.



Dr. Torben Rugberg Rasmussen from the Southern Danish University put the discussion under scrutiny by questioning the mere premises for the debate. He asked whether radicalism really is a society triggered phenomena or if it is really a matter related to the personal psychological conditions of the individual radical subjects. Acknowledging that radicalism arises at the periphery of group cultures he finds it questionable that radical elements should be influenced by the group culture rather than their own mindset. Another important point from Dr. Torben Rugberg was that radicalism may be caused by being far from the core of the religion rather than being close to the religion. Thus, he brings up the argument that ideology of radicalism in itself can be opposite to the religion or group it emerges from.



Dr. Jørgen Baek Simonsen started his talk by the fact that radicalism has been part of every culture since the dawn of man thus diminishing the point that radicalism is only a product of a few specific cultures and religions. He also touched on the area of the radicalization process and stressed the need to promote a positive world view within the religious groups.



As a break in the conference Minhaj Media Group Denmark had created a video with the title "Is this religion?" The video was a photo montage showing on one side the outrageous acts and crimes done in the name of religion and also the harmony and beauty of worship done all over the world. The video moved the audience to tears as the contrast of true Radicalism and true Religion.

Dr. Karen Lise Johansen Karman gave an interesting insight into the activities currently going on in the ministry of integration and mentioned projects aiming at education and activities for young individuals. The basic thesis is that being educated and being busy with productive work will promote a more society positive perception at the targeted group.



Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri finalized the conference with an insight for the non-muslim audience and a reminder for the muslim participants. "Radicalism has no religion" was the opening of his speech. No religion in the world promotes extremism. Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri specified his focus to the Muslim heritage of the traditions of our beloved prophet (SAW) and his followers. He mentioned how non-muslims were protected in a muslim society and how places of worship of other religions than Islam were also protected. Even to the extent that Mosques that were built in violation with the rules would be demolished in order to regain the rights of minority religions. He mentioned the Medinan treaty, which as the first treaty of the world explicitly gave rights to minorities and the weak in society. Also in absolute terms forbade extremism and radicalism.



After the conference the panelists joined for dinner and were presented with flowers and books written by Shaykh ul Islam Dr.Tahir ulQ adri. They highly appreciated the initiative by Minhaj ul Quran International Denmark and insured with joint and collective struggle to combat extremism and radicalism.





Islam stands for peace, security and excellence The MQI delegation met members of parliament UK

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid7727/>

A delegation from the London branch of the Minhajul Quran International organisation met with UK members of parliament on Wednesday 25th February 2009. The delegation headed by Sahibzada Hussain Mohi-ud-Din al-Qadri and members included: Ishtiaq Ahmad -



Chairman of the London branch of MQI, Shaykh Sadiq Qurayshi - Minister of Religion, Abbas Aziz - Secretary General and Asif Shakoor - External Affairs Secretary met members of the UK parliament: Julie MacDougall - caseworker for parliament, Lindsay Roy - MP for Glenrothes & Central Fife, Mohammad Sarwar - MP for Glasgow, Kirsty McCullagh - Research Assistant for MP Lindsay Roy, Russell Brown - MP for Dumfries & Galloway Constituency.

In London's centre of politics Sahibzada Hussain Mohi-ud-Din al-Qadri told MPs: "I would like to present an accurate image of Islam which is often misrepresented by people." He further told the leading politicians: "Islam stands for peace, security and excellence. Dr Qadri and Minhajul Quran is representing this today". Sahibzada Hussain defined the very foundations and principles of Islamic law and said they were based on avoidance of hardship and easing of difficulty. He added that Islam was not for killing people and creating hardships. Sahibzada Hussain said: "There is no compulsion in Islam; there are no hardships; it's all in the law of Islam. It's not something I am making up in order to better the image of Islam"

Whatever is presented today in relation to Islam is completely false. Sahibzada Hussain said: "How can such a religion ask to destroy and kill people when the Prophet Muhammad - the torchbearer of peace explicitly prohibited the killing of children and women during armed combat."

In a message of harmony Sahibzada Hussain said: "Muslim society is not an isolated society but an integrated community. It does not matter whether your neighbour is a non-Muslim, the first share should go to him. A short minority misrepresented Islam. We need love, we need to love things, even love animals; they are all living things. Those who promote extremism have nothing to do with Islam. Love eliminates hatred and extremism. Anger and jealousy should be taken away through the seed of love. No narrow thinking; Islam hates and forbids it in the strictest terms."

Sahibzada Hussain said destroying schools and institutions of learning is not part of Islam. Freeing and educating a concubine or people earned a huge reward in Islam. In Prophet Muhammad's era prisoners were released if they imparted education to the children during their imprisonment.

Speaking about the life and mission of the founder of Minhaj ul Quran International (MQI) Sahibzada Hussain said: "We have taken the same path Dr Qadri has taken. He has taken his life to spread harmony and peace among people, countries, communities and faiths. We need a peaceful mission for our future generations."

Sahibzada Hussain said: "No one calls the Tamil tigers terrorists in Sri Lanka. No one calls the Jewish and Christian elements of violence Jewish or Christian terrorists. If you highlight an individual who does not represent us (Muslims) helps that one individual and not the entire Muslim community." Dr Qadri has taken an open and blunt stand against the perpetrators of the 9/11 acts. Dr Qadri is the author of articles published in the international press on Islam and Peace and the most misunderstood Concept of Jihad. Sahibzada Hussain Muhiduddin al-Qadri is the son of the foremost living authority of Islam – Shaykh ul Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir ul Qadri.

Sahibzada Hussain in his speech said terrorists are using children for their brutal activities and evil works. 750 million US dollars have been spent on war in Afghanistan. The 750 million dollars should have been spent on building institutions of learning – schools, colleges and universities "If you make their life beautiful. Then they will love you. They say life is not good; it's not worth living; so they resort to suicide and killing themselves. Extremism originates from poverty as well. When they have a beautiful future, they will not opt to die. I would like to convey this message to the corridors of power in the House of Commons" said Sahibzada Hussain.

Sahibzada Hussain sent a very strong message to key policymakers and lawmakers. His well received message echoed in the corridors of the House of Commons. Glasgow Constituency MP Mohammed Sarwar said: "I wish that Hussain's voice is heard and I am sure it will be heard." MP Sarwar also said: "I know Hussain's father Dr Tahir ul Qadri- a scholar of immense repute and stature." He also added: "I have heard Hussain speak about Islam; he is a very great speaker I have been inspired by." This ended the great Sahibzada Hussain's visit to the UK's House of Commons

Sahibzada Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri Meets the British Department of Communities and Local Government

<http://www.nirhain.org/english/tid/7899>

Sahibzada Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, the son of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, was invited in London to share his views with the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 25th February 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to help the British Muslim community.



Maqsood Ahmad OBE (standing left) who is senior Advisor on Islamic Affairs and Interfaith to Department chaired the meeting and expressed his pleasure at hosting a prominent scholar like the son of the Shaykh-ul-Islam of the time.

Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri is seen above flanked by the leading figures of the DCLG

present, Liz Sleeman (left) the deputy head of the Preventing Extremism Unit and Jane Everton (right) Deputy Director of the Faith and Cohesion Directorate; they said they felt truly privileged and honoured by Hussain Mohi-ud-Din's participation in their meeting.

The meeting was arranged by this government body to take advice and formulate new strategies to make Muslims more prominent in the society and tackle extremism.

They were later joined by Azhar Ali (above, middle), the senior advisor to Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP – Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Hussain Mohi-ud-Din's discourse highlighted the importance of having more British born and bred trained imams and scholars for the guidance of Muslim youth. This, he explained, is because these imams would be able to communicate better with the newer generation having been brought up in the country. He also suggested that courses should be set up to train the existing imams in English language, communication skills and certain aspects of sociology to help them

become more accessible to the community. He said that the doors of Minhaj-ul-Qur'an International are open to help with these ideas.

He highlighted the problems of extremism and provided solutions in the form of detailed guidelines and procedures. He listed the causes leading to terrorism and pointed out that it was up to both Muslims and non-Muslims to work together to tackle it. "Even if the ordinary village imam is seen as unaware of the modern world and somewhat old fashion... at least he will try speaking to you with his mouth and not with a gun."

The meeting also appreciated and lauded the efforts and works of Minhaj-ul-Qur'an International in Pakistan for welfare work and interfaith harmony.

The meeting ended with Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri presenting the gathered with 2 books he had recently written:

1. Sugarcane Ethanol as an Alternate Fuel Source for Pakistan is a research-based work, which tends to explore sugarcane ethanol as viable energy source.
2. SAARC & Globalization: Issues, Prospects and Policy Prescriptions; This throws light on the various aspects of globalization in relation to SAARC.

The meeting ended with key initiatives noted to help British Muslims go into further education and more skilled jobs.

Peace & Integration Workshop held in Oslo (Norway)

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/8701>

Dated: 12 July 2009



Attended by a large number of workers, associates and office holders of Scandinavian chapters of Minhaj-ul-Quran International, Peace & Integration Conference was held from July 10 to July 12, 2009 under the banner of Minhaj-ul-Quran International with the cooperation of MQI European Council. A caravan of MQI Denmark comprising more than 250 people attended the program. Besides this, people

from Sweden, Finland, Germany, Spain, France and England also participated in the Workshop. Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, under whose patronage the program was held, also delivered his talk to the participants on training-related matters.

The central leaders who spoke in the Workshop included Sahibzada Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, president of MQI Supreme Council, Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi, Secretary General of MQI, Allama Sadiq Qureshi, Amir of MQI London, Allama Hafiz Iqbal Akram, Director of Minhaj-ul-Quran Foundation Europe, Allama Muzammas Ali Khan and Allama Hassan Mir Qadri.



Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that Islam espoused and promoted peace and harmony and has ordained its followers to become the source of peace for those around them. Some misguided people were bringing a bad name to Islam and peaceful Muslims through their evil actions. However, presence of such destructive and injurious elements should never be construed as being the representation of Islam's message and thought. Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, whose services for promotion of interfaith dialogue and harmony at the global level are recognized, urged the West to start a dialogue with the

mainstream Muslims at an institutional level to help curb extremist tendencies. A documentary film of 'Aagosh' (Orphan Care Home under Minhaj Welfare Foundation) was also shown on a big digital screen. Sahibzada Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri delivered a rational, logical and thought-provoking Friday sermon on 'Relationship with the Holy Prophet (saw)'.



The formal proceedings of the camp got underway with recitation from the Holy Quran by Qari Zaheer Ahmad followed by recital of Naat by Minhaj Naat Council Denmark. Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri delivered special address to the training session.

Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said: only the journey undertaken for the sake of knowledge implemented in practical life is considered the blessed one. He said that the Prophets, saints and blessed people of Allah would undertake frequent journeys to the distant and far-off places for the sake of knowledge because whatever a person can learn during a journey, he cannot do the same while staying at the same place. He said that little importance should be given to facility because it is part of training. He said that we were on a journey in our lives and we should not lose sight of our final journey. He urged the participants to love Allah intensely because love does not admit of polytheism. Whenever Allah talks of love, He does not want this love to be devoted to Him alone. Rather He includes the love for the Holy Prophet (saw) in this whole.

Shaykh-ul-Islam said that man was also a traveler and we should try to get rid of love for the Satan and the alluring desires of fill-commanding self by replacing it with love for Allah and His Prophet (saw) so that our conditions both internal and external could undergo transformation. The first sign of faith is that love of Allah and His Prophet (saw) should be superior to all other kinds of love in the world. Allah Almighty did not adopt this style of description for any one else. He did not mention the name of any other creation with His Name and ordained His servants to hold it superior to others. It is only lawful for the person of the Holy Prophet (saw).

Two Norwegian people embraced Islam at the hands of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri in the training camp. It was announced after the Friday prayer that a Norwegian woman wanted to get into the fold of Islam and wanted to embrace faith in front of everyone present there. The woman was brought to the main hall fully dressed in Islamic

veil and she embraced Islam at the hands of Shaykh-ul-Islam. A large number of people were present in MQI Oslo Islamic Center.



Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri asked the woman in English language whether she was embracing Islam out of her free will or under any coercion. She replied that she was accepting Islam willingly and out of her free volition. Shaykh-ul-Islam then administered Kalma to the woman and briefed her about basic pillars of Islam and beliefs. She was renamed as Zainab. In the similar manner, a man also accepted Islam at the hands of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. The newly converted Norwegian was renamed as Ahmad Hussain at that occasion.

A meeting presided over by Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri and attended by MQI office holders and workers of MQI decided to establish 'Maqas-e-Durood' at forty different places in the city. The duration of one such session would not be longer than two hours and forty sessions would be held at different places every week.

Talking to the people at the occasion, Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that this step would help promote the message of MQI and strengthen the weakening spiritual relationship of the Ummah with the Holy Prophet (saw). "This is how the broken relationship would not only be repaired but the worries of people would also be lessened," he concluded.

European Workshop on Peace & Integration, Milan Italy

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/t08716>

Dated: 26 July 2009

Minhaj-ul-Quran European Council and Minhaj-ul-Quran International (Italy chapter) organized Peace & Integration Workshop in Ripamonti Hotel of Milan city of Italy from July 17 to July 19, 2009. Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, founding leader and patron-in-chief of Minhaj-ul-Quran International graced the occasion on special invitation. Besides him, the distinguished participants who attended the Workshop included Sahibzada Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, president of MQI Supreme Council, Sahibzada Hammad Mustafa Qadri al-Madani, Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi the MQI Secretary General, Allama Nazir Ahmad Khan, Dawood Hussain Mash`hadi, coordinator foreign affairs, Allama Hassan Mir Qadri, Amir European Council, Sayyid Arshad Shah, president of European Council, Muhammad Naeem Shah, vice president of European Council, Hafiz Muhammad Iqbal Azam, Secretary General European Council, Milan Maqsood Ikram, director Media of



European Council, Naveed Ahmad Andalusi, and other leaders of MQI Europe. Sarfraz Ahmad, president of MQI North Italy, Haji Khalid Mahmood, vice president, Muhammad Ashraf, and office holders of MQI South Italy Muhammad Ali Baghat, Manshad Ahmad, Samee Ullah Warriach, Hafiz Abdul Manaf, Zaheer Anjum and other workers made strenuous efforts day in and day out to make this Workshop a success.

The Day One Proceedings

The participants had started reaching the nearby airports i.e. Bergamo and Malpensa near the Milan city a day before the start of the workshop for participation. The associates workers of MQI across Europe began to arrive at 7 am since morning on the first day of workshop on July 17. The organization had made



arrangements of buses and cars for transportation of the participants who were coming from different parts of Europe to the hotels. The guests, who were coming in the form of caravans, were divided into various groups and transported to the Ripamonti hotel through hired buses and cars from all the airports of Milan. The host organization formed two committees to look after the transport matters and facilitate the incoming guests in the best possible manner with minimum of

inconvenience.



The formal proceedings of the Training Workshop got underway with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Qari Muhammad Tariq (France) followed by recital of Naat by various Naat-Khawans like Muhammad Asghar Qadri (Greece), Qari Muhammad Tariq (France), Farhan Aslam (France), Muhammad Qadeer Ahmad Khan (Spain) and Muhammad Afzal Qadri (Italy). Allama Hassan Mir Qadri gave introductory talk, briefed the delegates about the schedule of the camp and passed on other instructions. Muhammad Naeem Chaudhry, vice president of MQI European Council, welcomed the guests on behalf of Minhaj European Council and Minhaj-ul-Quran International Italy. Asr prayer was offered afterwards.

At 6:40 pm, Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri entered the hall and more than seven hundred workers, associates and leaders of MQI from across Europe gave a standing ovation to His Eminence. Before he started his discourse formally, Shaykh-ul-Islam welcomed all the delegates and congratulated MQI Italy for holding the prestigious and historic Training Workshop on Peace & Integration. Mr. Giampiero Alberti, in-charge priest of interfaith relations of Catholic Church (Italy) also came to the camp on special invitation and held a meeting with Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. Shaykh-ul-Islam welcomed the guest and said that he was pleased on his coming to the occasion. Conversation between Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri and Mr. Giampiero Alberti took place in Italian language. Mr. Faizan Ashraf and Muhammad Arshad Shah rendered the interpreters' services.

The representative of the Christian Community said that he was working for promotion of interfaith relations and was immensely impressed by the work Minhaj-ul-Quran International was doing for the promotion of global peace and harmony among civilizations through its worldwide network. He said that the doors of all Churches of Italy were open to MQI. He said both Christians and Muslims believed in the same God and this fostered the feelings of brotherhood and mutual respect. Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri told the Christian leader that MQI was playing its important role in bringing people of different cultures, religions and civilizations closer to one another in the entire world including Europe. Welcoming the gesture of the Christian Community leader, he also conveyed the message of good will to the followers of Christianity on behalf of the Muslim community.

Shaykh-ul-Islam's keynote speech

His Eminence Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri spoke on mutual brotherhood and the Sunna of the Holy Prophet (saw). Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that Islam espoused and promoted peace and harmony and has ordained its followers to become the source of peace for those around them. Some misguided people were bringing a bad name to Islam and peaceful Muslims through



their actions. However, presence of such fringe elements should never be construed as being the representation of Islam's message and thought. Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, whose services for promotion of interfaith dialogue and harmony at global level are recognized, urged the West to start a dialogue with the mainstream Muslims at an institutional level to help curb extremist tendencies.

During the speech of Shaykh-ul-Islam, there was break for evening prayer. The speech of His Eminence Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri continued till 12 at night. After Isha prayers at 12, arrangements for open air dinner were in place for the delegates by Minhaj European Council and MQI Italy.

Proceedings of the second day

The activities of the second day started with the breakfast in the morning. The delegates after taking their breakfast at 9:30 started reaching the Workshop Hall. A Llama Hassan Mir Qadri threw light on 'the requisite character for the service of religion' in the light of training manual 'Minhaj-ul-Aml'. He instructed the participants to order their lives in accordance with the directions contained in the training manual. Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi also spoke on the aims and objectives of MQI. He asked workers to resolve their mutual differences amicably, act upon the Constitution of MQI, implement and get the policy decisions of Central Secretariat implemented, and respect the difference of opinion etc.

After the speech of Secretary General Dr Abbasi, a documentary film containing the introduction of various Directorates of MQI was played on projector screen, which the audience liked very much. At 2 p.m., A Llama Hafiz Nazeer Ahmad delivered speech on the services of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri for the revival of the Muslim culture, civilization and polity.

Sahibzada Hassan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, president of MQI Supreme Council, gave a detailed talk on the topic of qualities of leadership for two hours. The main points of his speech were as follows:

- Despite being shown the destination, leadership's exposure to difficulties and trying circumstances in the light of life of the Prophets and Friends of Allah;

- M Q I is also on its way to destination achieving its targets following the footsteps of Friends of Allah and the Sunna of the Prophets ;
- Need of continuous hard work, patience and forbearance for the attainment of destination ;



After the Asr prayers, Shaykh-ul-Islam said in his key note speech on the second day :

"Thanks to some developments across the globe for last few years, that the universal values of great religion, Islam, have come in for denunciation. By invoking the actions of a few individual Muslims to typify the character and conduct of millions of adherents of this divine faith, efforts have been made

to equate Islam with bigotry and obscurantism. This is most unfortunate at a time when the need for inter-faith dialogue and harmony cannot be over-emphasized in order to bridge the gulf between Islam and West. The proponents of 'clash of civilizations' and their counterparts in the Islamic world are bent upon creating differences aimed at spreading confusion and misunderstanding about the teachings of Islam. In view of these circumstances, it is all the more necessary to bring the message of Islam in correct perspective to serve the cause of coexistence. Islam so emphatically lays its stress on.

Let me state at the outset categorically and unambiguously that the message of Islam is peace, tranquility and unity. If one concentrates on the meanings of the word 'Islam', it appears that this word takes its origin from *salam* (safety) or *silm* (peace). Etymologically and literally the word '*Islam*' means 'peace, tranquility and harmony'. The word '*Imaan*' can be translated into or more clearly it means 'faith'. Every religion is based on faith. Faith is known as Imaan in Islamic terminology. *Imaan* has its own root-word — *aman*. *Aman* again means 'peace, tranquility and harmony'. The difference between Islam and Imaan can be explained in the sense that there is a faith to be believed in and there is practical order to be practised. The faith is known as Imaan and the practical order is known as Islam.



In Islam, the word *Imaan* is used in two dimensions. Firstly it means to be in peace or to live in peace. Secondly, it connotes living for peace and being peaceful to others. According to *Islam* a man who does not maintain peace for mankind, cannot be regarded as a genuine Muslim or even a believer. The believer is the man who lives only peacefully for mankind. When he lives for the sake of others, only

then he would be blessed with Divine peace by Allah Almighty. The Holy Prophet (saw) was sent not only for the Arabs or a specific tribe or territory but his raising was for the whole of mankind. As declared by the Holy Qur'an:

"O men! I am sent to you all as the Apostle of Allah."(7 :158)

It has been mentioned in the tradition of the Holy Prophet (saw): "I have been raised (as Messenger) for the whole creation." Here lies the main point. Since the raising of the Holy Prophet (saw) is for the whole mankind, his message of peace is also for the whole mankind. The Holy Qur'an gives the idea of peace and welfare for mankind on the basis of unity of mankind. The Holy Quran says:

"O mankind! Reverence your Guardian-Lord, Who created you from a single person."(4 :1)

The verse has two layers of interpretation namely historical interpretation and scientific interpretation. From the point of view of historical interpretation, the whole mankind has been created from a single father, Adam (as). He is the origin of the whole mankind. Everybody has been created from the same single unit. From the perspective of scientific interpretation, the verse shows that the whole mankind has been created from a single cell of life and that is zygote.

According to the historical and scientific approach, the origin of human life comes into the category of single unity. This unity (historically and scientifically) of the creation of mankind indicates that our destination is also the attainment of unity. We should work for the uplift and unity of mankind. This uplift of mankind, its welfare and betterment is absolutely impossible without harmony, reconciliation and unity.

In his last sermon delivered to the believers, the Holy Prophet (saw) eliminated the unjust order imposed upon mankind. That unjust order at that time was based on human degradation, social injustice, economic exploitation and political suppression. The Prophet of Islam (saw) inaugurated a new world order based upon four concepts namely respect for humanity, social equality, economic justice and political freedom.

The concept of human welfare is the basic target and we need to pool together all our resources for its attainment at personal, social and global levels. Any type of process of reform has to start from the personal level in Islamic scheme of things. Islam instructs and educates us that welfare should be achieved at every level by creating a balance and harmony between mundane and spiritual aspects of life. Human personality is a compact whole consisting of many parts, which are epitomized in the form of division of life between secular and spiritual aspects. Biological dimension of life is manifested in social, cultural, socio-cultural, psychological aspects and there is a need to take these factors into view too at the personal domain.

Efforts should also be made for the achievement of human welfare at the social level, the level of collective environment of our society. We have to work for the elimination of economic exploitation so that human welfare is achieved socially. We have to fight against political oppression and for educational uplift. We have to campaign for economic, social, cultural and spiritual welfare. This is not possible without eradication of hatred. There is no place for hatred in communities. Ideas and philosophies can be different but we need to look at the singularity of origin in spite of differences and plurality of ideas. Allah Almighty has created balance between singularity and plurality. It is

this diversity, which brings about perfection, balance, tolerance and moderation in society. Historically speaking, people belonging to various religions have lived in Islamic societies as equal partners in the business of state and this aspect of multiculturalism figures quite prominently in Islamic societies." His Eminence Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri urged the need for more interaction and dialogue among civilizations aimed at fostering greater understanding in the larger interest of global peace and harmony. He said Minhaj-ul-Quran International was working worldwide for the achievement of the above objective. He also instructed the participants to become the source of peace and contribute to the development of their respective societies.

The National Peace Conference in Communique

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/t/787>

Dated: 09 April 2009



The National Peace Conference was held on April 9, 2009 under the auspices of Minhaj-ul-Quran International and Pakistan Awami Tehreek. The conference was attended by 150 representatives of various political and religious parties, welfare organizations, and other organizations representing different

classes of society in addition to lawyers, religious scholars, students, journalists and traders. Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri addressed the Conference telephonically. Nazim-e-Aala Minhaj-ul-Quran International Dr Raheeq Abbasi and Naib Nazim Aala Sheikh Zahid Fayyaz discharged their responsibilities as the Conference Secretary.



The Conference was vastly attended by dignitaries and politicians like Malik Gulam Mustafa Khar (Ex Governor Punjab), Ghulam Ahmed Bilour (Federal Minister Railway), Liaqat Baloch (Central Naib Amir Jamaat e Islami), Ihsan Wain (Sec. Gen. ANP), Pir Nazim Shah (Markazi PPP leader), Miskeen Faiz-ur-Rahman Durrani, (President PAT), Anwaar Akhtar Advocate (Sec. Gen. PAT), Ijaz Ahmed Ch. (Vice President Tehreek e Insaaf), Ibtisam Ishaq Zheer (Sadar Jamiat Ahle Hadith), Hameed-ud-Din Al-Mashriqi (Quaid Kha ksar Tehreek), Sardar Rauf Kashmiri (Chairman JK Liberation Front), Hafiz Aki f Saeed (Amir Tarz e em I slamin), Dr Mjid Abel (Pastor In charge of Naulakha Presbyterian Church), Malik Hakmeen (PPPP), Firdos Butt

(Ex, President Lahore High Court Bar), Sohail Mahmood Butt (Chairman Anjuman Tajran, 2 Mall Road), Prof. Muhammad Akram Chishti (Central Deputy Secretary, Anjuman Asataza), 2 Prof. Muhammad Awan (President Anjuman Asataza) Khalid Parvez (President Anjuman Tajran Urdu Bazaar), Rashid Gardezi (ATI), Sayyid Raheel Shah (President PSF), Shabbir Siyal (Tehreek e Insaaf), Dr Manohar Chand (Krishna Mandar), Padri Chaman, Sayyid Danish (Secretary General, ISO), Sayyid Tufail (President Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front), 2 Sardar 2 Kalyan Singh Kalyan, Sardar Ranjeet Singh (Gorudwara Dera Sahib), Sayyid Nau Bahar Shah (Chairman Shia Political Party), 2 She e Raheel Qazi (Ex. MA), Admiral (R) Javed Iqbal 2 (Central Additional Secretary General, Tehreek e Insaaf), Brigadier Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Shadab 2 Raza Qadri (Sunni Tehreek), Aadeeb Javidani (Chairman All Pakistan Private Schools Association), 2 Babar Butt (President Tajar Itehad, Punjab), 2 Khalid Malik (Vice President, Am 2 2 Committee), 2 Mhamma d Babar (Secretary General, Mttahida Talaba Mahaz), 2 Kwaja a 2 2 Junaid (Ex Olympian), Tayyab Saqib (Pakistan Foreigners Association), 2 Agha Mrtaza Royya, 2 Ali Ghazanfar Karrarvi, Zulfiqar Ali (PSO), Farooq Azad Khan (President Peoples Muslim 2 League), Allama Rana Muhammad Idrees, Sohail Ahmad Raza, Jawwad Hamid, Sajid Mahmood Bhatti 2 Ahmad Nawaz Anjum 2 Mahan Abdul Qadir, Sayyid Ali Raza Rizwi, 2 Leharasab 2 2 Khan Gondal Advocate, Muhammad Ishtiaq Choudhary Advocate, 2 Neem ul Din Ch. 2 (Coordinator Pakistan Awami Lawyers Movement), Fatima Mshadi (President Mrhaj-ul- 2 Quran Women League), Sumera Ra faqat (Nazima MWL), Maria Kokab (Aurat Foundation), 2 Rehana Kausar, Saima Fayyaz, Tahira Batoool, Uzma Bukhari, Faiza Malik, Huma Aziz, Bilal Mustafavi (President MYL), Syed Farhat Hussain Shah (Nazim Ulama Council), Sajid Hameed Gondal (Secretary General, MSM), Miss Uzma Saeed Advocate, Sarfara z Ahmad Khan, Nasir Iqbal Advocate, Mahboob Hussain Advocate, Wasim Zafar Advocate, Muhammad Afzal Gujjar, Hafiz Gul am Farid Man Iftikhar Ahmad, 2 Raja Mhamma d Nadeem Iqbal 2 2 Muhammad Is'haq, Dr Tanvir Azam Sandhu, Shahid Latf, Mr Aif Akbar, Iftikhar Bag, Hafeez 2 2 Ch, Qazi Faiz ul Islam and other leaders.

The conference pondered over the internal and external terrorism Pakistan is faced with, the escalating suicide attacks, persistently deteriorating law and order situation in the country, 2 2 2 the ever-mounting sense of insecurity, the threats to the solidarity and survival of Pakistan, 2 fast rising economic imbalance and the resultant terrorist tendencies. The leaders and the representatives of various parties presented their views, opinions and analyses of the dismal 2 2 situation prevailing in the country. 2

The Conference agreed upon to issue this joint communiqué comprising the following salient points.

1. The Conference strongly condemns the unending activities of terrorism in Pakistan including the suicide attacks. It declared all the elements involved in these inhuman and barbaric activities anti-Islamic and anti-Pakistan. The conference takes exception to the anti-state elements responsible for terrorism in the country and expressed firm resolve to continue condemning all the terrorist activities by all means and at all levels and declares persistent struggle against terrorism till its total elimination from the homeland.
2. The conference intensely and deeply condemns the perpetual Drone attacks in the Pakistani territory. They are an assault against the independence and integrity of Pakistan, sheer violation of the UNO charter and the worst example of state terrorism.
3. The Conference strongly condemns the ever-increasing open interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan, the statements being issued against Pakistan and its various institutions particularly ISI and conspiracies to link Pakistan with terrorism.
4. The world powers are warned that the Drone attacks are direct interference and these and other such negative measures are causing promotion of terrorism and creating sympathy for the terrorists. It is demanded against this perspective that if the world powers and international forums are sincere in eliminating terrorism this practice should stop forthwith.
5. Pakistanis are peace-loving and long for peace all over the world. They have always condemned terrorism in the world severely and strongly. They can never even imagine of an aggression against any country or doing it any harm. Linking Pakistan, therefore, to terrorism is most sad and deplorable. The Pakistani nation has been rendering its sacrifices against terrorism persistently since 1980. No one can find its example in the world. The cursed propaganda against Pakistan is, therefore, strongly condemned.
6. The Government of Pakistan seems to have failed completely in handling terrorism and its elimination. It is therefore strongly demanded that the Government should take immediate steps to implement the following suggestions put forth by the

- National Peace Conference to make possible an advance towards the immediate and solid solution of the grave problem the nation is so distressingly facing.
- i. The Drone attacks must be brought to an end immediately through all the diplomatic resources, friendly countries, and other world forums and organizations.
 - ii. The anti-terrorism measures and cooperation by the Government with world powers in Afghanistan in war against terrorism must be made conditional with complete termination of Drone attacks.
 - iii. The current apologetic foreign policy based on helplessness must be replaced with an independent foreign policy based on equality, national honor and self-esteem.
 - iv. The Pakistani embassies in foreign countries should be activated. The Government should appoint competent and patriotic people in its foreign missions. Pakistan should also give a befitting reply against the condemnable and negative propaganda against her and her various institutions.
 - v. Instant measures need to be taken in a daring but wise way after making a meticulous action plan to expose at international level the foreign elements involved especially neighboring country's hand in the worst type of terrorism in Pakistan.
 - vi. The free movement of terrorists and all means of their logistic support must be intervened and ended by deploying the state machinery timely and effectively.
 - vii. Foolproof arrangements be made to protect and safeguard the terrorists' possible and easy targets like government institutions, religious and public places and gatherings and the security and safety of common man, his life and property must be guaranteed, ascertained and ensured.
 - viii. The political measures and related methods should be adopted to eliminate terrorism from the country instead of using military power and operations.
 - ix. Measures should be taken on priority to eliminate unemployment, ignorance and poverty from the backward areas of Pakistan especially the tribal areas.
 - x. Measures are also required to be taken on priority for political stability in Pakistan, free judiciary, stability of institutions, regard and esteem of constitution and one another's mandate, removal of dearness and price-hike, provision of immediate and low-cost justice and elimination of every shape and form of oppression and exploitation. This will make possible the removal of all the factors responsible to generate terrorism.

- xi. Circumstances are being created in the provinces of Frontier and Baluchistan that pose a threat to the very Federation of Pakistan. The Government must unveil the conspiracies in this regard and immediate be taken to put an end to these conspiracies.
 - xii. A National Policy for the Elimination of Terrorism formulated in the light of these suggestions and proposals, the attention be taken in confidence and measures be initiated to enforce such a policy.
7. Besides the Government, the entire nation in general and the influential and elite classes of society in particular including the lawyers, religious scholars, politicians, journalists, intellectuals, teachers, traders, and other organizations should play their respective role effectively in bringing the terrorist tendencies to end.
 8. The media should play a responsible role towards elimination of terrorism. The publicity, broadcast and telecast of such programs and news should, therefore, be avoided as may encourage some form or kind of terrorism. Media is required to keep the national interest, solidarity and good name prior.
 9. The Government, the NGOs and the welfare organizations engaged in rehabilitation and support of the families and people fallen victim to terrorism should play their role most effectively and achieve instant results.
 10. The elimination of terrorism and safety and security against terrorism must be declared No. 1 priority and all necessary measures in this regard be taken immediately. All the classes of society need to play their role in this regard in the most effective manner.
 11. The National Peace Council was established to diagnose the causes of terrorism, the reasons of its prevalence, determine its reinforcing internal and external elements, precisely delineate a national program for its elimination and devise methods for its effective implementation. The constitution of the National Peace Council is as follows:

Chairman: Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri

Members:

Jahangir Badar (Secretary General PPP), Zafar Iqbal Jhagra (Secretary General PML-N),
 Mushahid Hussain Sayyid (Secretary General, PML-Q), Ihsan Waiien (Secretary General ANP),
 Dr Farooq Sattar (Convener IQM), Maulana Anjad (Secretary Information JU), Gulam

Mustafa Khar (Ex. Governor Punjab), Liaqat Baloch (Vice Amir, Jamaat e Islami), Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi (Secretary General, Minhaj-ul-Quran International), Awwaz Akhtar Advocate (Secretary General, PAT), Ejaz Ahmad Ch. (Vice President, Tehreek e Insaf), Dr Sarfraz Naeemi, Ibtisam Ithi Zheer (President, Jamiat Al e Iddi th), Hafiz Akif Saeed (Amir Tanzeem Islami), Ghulam Ahmad Bilour (Federal Minister Pakistan Railway), Ali Ahmad Kurd (President Supreme Court Bar Association), Sayyid Nuh Bahar Shah (Shia Political Party), Dr Majid Abel (Member Minority), Dr Awais Farooqi (Member NGO / President Focus Pakistan), Miss Firdos Butt (Ex President Lahore High Court Bar), G. Kadim Hussain Qaiser (Ex Vice Chairman, Punjab Bar Council), Qari Zawwar Bahadur (Secretary General, JUI), Sohail Mahmood Butt (Chairman, Anjuman Tajran Mill Road), Nazir Ahmad Gohan (Member Tajran), Dr Rafiq Ahmad (Nazria Pakistan Foundation), Sayyid Rashid Gardezi (Member Student / President Mutheda Talaba Mahaz), Hina Aziz (Member Women / President Pakistan Women Workers Federation), Prof. Mhamma d Awan (Member Anjuman Asatza), Sardar Kalyan Singh Kalyan (Member Sikh Minority/ Secretary General Guru Nanak Ji Mission, Pakistan), Dr. Manohar Chand (Member Hindu Minority).

Note:

All other participants will be the members.

All Leaders / Secretaries of the national, provincial, political and religious parties registered with the Election Commission of Pakistan may also be the members.

All parties are requested to submit their proposal within fifteen days. Council will formulate a national action plan within one month on the basis of suggestions and opinions received from all political parties and various classes of society.

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri's keynote address at "National Peace Conference"

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/7911>

Dated: 09 April 2009

Addressing the participants and leaders of different political and religious parties who attended the "National Peace Conference" held under aegis of Minhaj-ul-Quran International on April 9, 2009, Shaykh-ul-Islam Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said: "Islam is a



Dr

religion of peace and harmony. There is no need to establish it here as the Quranic injunctions and 1400-year history of Muslims are clear evidence authenticating his reality. The Holy Quran has equated the killing of one person with the killing of entire humanity and protection of one person with the protection of entire humanity. The Holy Prophet (saw) has himself described a Muslim as someone by whose hands and tongue other Muslims are not hurt and remain safe. Leave alone unjustly killing anyone, a person using foul and immoral language against others could not be called a Muslim.

"There is a constant talk of peace in the entire world today and war on terror is being fought to establish elusive peace. There is no denying this truth that terrorists are not only enemies of peace but also of entire humanity. The peaceful forces should struggle against them but the questions arise here as to who fanned terrorism? Who opened this front? The situation was not as volatile as today ten years ago. Where have the army of terrorists appeared from all of a sudden? Is it not likely that the global forces fighting terrorism are also been responsible in creating this monster and now the whole world is being made victim to dash of civilization in the name of establishment of peace?"

"Condemnation of terrorism is not sufficient for the establishment of peace only. Rather real enemies of peace should be identified first. The second important thing is that Northern Areas of Pakistan, FATA, Waziristan, and Swat have historically been known as peaceful areas where religious-minded but simple people reside. These areas are even without basic

necessities of life. Majority of people are poor and earn their livelihoods through day-long labour.

“What revolution has come about in these regions in a period of last three years that these people have turned against their country and started confronting army and other security forces? From where have arms and ammunition come in large quantities and who is providing people with expertise to take on a state and its army? Who is providing training, weapons and money to terrorists? As it is now being openly and clearly said that foreign powers are supporting terrorism, what role has our former and present governments including the provincial ones performed to address the problem? Why did they allow it to grow amidst our polity? Drone attacks have become a routine affair in the tribal areas of Pakistan. The first thing that needs to be mentioned here is that Drone attack constitutes an attack on security and sovereignty of an independent country. Why did the government allow the US to violate our territorial integrity and at what forum? Suppose these attacks are meant to target terrorists, why has no detail of these terrorists been published in the press?

“In the similar manner, our army makes claim to kill scores of terrorists each day but never has their identity been established? Local people are getting caught up in the crossfire between security forces and terrorists and are losing their lives for no fault of their own. The remainder of them, who are lucky enough to be spared, get maimed and injured for life.

What type of peace is being established here? There is another noteworthy point that why are people who are involved in spreading mischief and who have even threatened the US many a time being spared and not taken out by US’ drone hits? Why it is so that many citizens of Pakistan have been picked up on mere suspicion but hundreds of people living in Afghanistan and adjoining areas who are involved in open warfare have been given carte blanche to operate?

“The semi-literate leaders and commanders of terrorist organizations brief media and unveil their plans to target their adversaries and still their location is not identified which might result in their capture in this day and age of satellite. These questions are brain teasers for a man with normal IQ and intelligence level. To top it all, what is matter of more concern is the fact that the longer the war on terror is getting, the more terrorism is spreading instead of getting eliminated.

“This war was exported to the tribal regions of Pakistan from Afghanistan and now it is directed at Quetta, Islamabad, Lahore, Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, the FATA and Pakistan.

The situation has reached such alarming levels that our Mosques, sacred places, religious institutions and hospitals are not being spared.

“We are, no doubt, living in critical and perilous times but our national habit of blame game or being content with expressions of condemnation could not protect us from this raging fire of extremism and terrorism. Whatever be the source of attack on our sovereignty be it external or internal, we need to formulate a serious and dynamic national policy. Major responsibility of taking much-needed initiatives rests on the government. Our parliament has already passed a consensus resolution against terror and there is a need to fully implement this national consensus into policy framework. Our national leadership including religious, political and military needs to act and act fast. Some points are instructive in this regard:

We need to reassess, re-evaluate and reformulate our foreign policy having the potential and dynamism to draw clear lines between our friends and foes.

We should rethink our relationships with India, Afghanistan and especially the US in the light of our national interests.

The tendency to look towards others for protection of our sovereignty and national security will have to be shunned as no one including any Islamic country would come to our rescue. National solidarity should be promoted instead as necessary part of self-reliance initiative.

We need to clarify our position vis-à-vis war on terror and apprehensions of international community in the larger interest of durable peace by employing robust diplomacy.

Taliban have become an identity and representative of a particular religious mindset. Some religious scholars of Pakistan regard them as their brainchild. Therefore, heavy responsibility lies on their shoulders to take initiative and make Taliban understand the real concept of religion so that they (Taliban) do not end up defaming Islam and undermining the only atomic Islamic state by becoming stooge in the hands of anti-Pakistan element.”

First Meeting of the National Peace Council

<http://www.mrhaj.org/english/tt/842>

Dated: 03 May 2009

The National Peace Council Meeting was held in Central Secretariat, Mh Raj - u - Quran



International attended by Nazim-e-Aala MQI Dr

Raheeq Ahmed Abbasi, Muslim League (Q)

leader Mehna z Ra fee, ANP Secy Gen Ihsan

Wain, Senior journalist Iftkhar Ahmed, Secy

Gen Anwaar Akhtar Advocate, Khaksar

Movement leader Hameed-ud-Din al-Mashriqi, Jawad Hamid, renowned legal expert Khadim

Hussain, President International Commission of Human Rights Sohail Akhtar, Col. Retd UK

Tressler, Shia Political Party leader Sayyid Mubhar Shah and others.

Nazim-e-Aala MQI Dr Raheeq Ahmed Abbasi briefed the media on decisions taken in the

NPC Meeting and answered their questions. He said that Central Secretariat, Mh Raj - u -

Quran International will be the permanent Secretariat of the Council and Mr Jawad Hamid of

MQI will be the Secy Coordination NPC. The leaders unanimously decided that 1973

Constitution provides perfect guarantee of peace. The political leadership and the civil

society, therefore, should take guidance from the 1973 Constitution. A committee on this

occasion was constituted comprising SM Zafar, Ihsan Wain Anwaar Akhtar Advocate, Col

Khadim Hussain and Mr Sohail Akhtar.

The Committee will prepare recommendations based on decisions taken from the 1973

Constitution that will not only eliminate all forms of exploitation and deprivation. That will

make possible the establishment of peace. This was also decided in the meeting that

Monthly sessions of the NPC will be held till the formulation of the national peace policy.

The next meeting of the Council will be held at the residence of President International

Commission of Human Rights Sohail Akhtar on 7th of June. He also told the press that

Balochistan, Frontier and Sindh political leadership will also be invited to attend the next

meeting in order to take unanimous decisions at national level to establish peace in the

country. This is the collective responsibility of the leaders to put an end to the sense of

deprivation of the smaller provinces.

Dr Raheeq Ahmed Abbasi told the press that it was unanimously decided in the meeting that letters will be sent to Army Chief and DG ISPR asking them how the modern weapons and funds are provided to the militants and who all are responsible to stop and control it. The parties present in the Parliament will raise this question in the parliament as well. He said that leaders of civil society and various NGOs will be sent invitations to participate in the next meeting of the Council. This was also decided in the meeting to launch campaign or contact with general public for the establishment of peace and elimination of terrorism. The NPC leaders will distribute handbills as the first step of the said campaign.

Second meeting of National Peace Council held at MQ Secretariat

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/t/858>

Dated: 07 June 2009

National Peace Council (NPC) held its second meeting on June 7, 2009 at the central secretariat of



Minhaj-ul-Quran International Lahore under the chairpersonship of Ms Mehnaz Rafi, former MNA and central

leader of Pakistan Muslim League (Q). The participants of the meeting included Ijaz Chaudhry, central leader of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, acting Nazim-e-Ala of MQI Sheikh Zahid Fayyaz, Secretary General PAT Anwaar Akhtar Advocate, Sohail Akhtar of International Commission for Human Rights, Coordinator of National Peace Council Jawad Hamid, Jamat-i-Islami leader Farid Ahmad Piracha, Syed Noubahar Shah, head of the Shia Political Party, Muhammad Ya'qub of Tehreek-e-Khaksar, Sohail Mahmud Butt, actor Ferdous Jamal, Col. (R) L.K. Tresslor of Muslim-Christian Alliance, Aslam Mohsin of Awami Qiyadat Party, Sardar Ranjeet Singh, Qasim Afzal and other central leaders of different parties.

Performance report of last meeting was put forward and discussed in detail. The participants discussed the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. The central leaders of different political parties demanded of the government to establish peace in the country. They said that immediate steps needed to be taken in order to ensure the rehabilitation of Swat and Malakand affectees. The participants appreciated Minhaj-ul-Quran International for its initiative to bring different elements of national opinion on one platform.

Addressing the meeting, Sheikh Zahid Fayyaz said that religious and political parties would have to join their forces for the sake of peace and harmony in the country. He said that MQI had established

National Peace Council under the instructions of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. The establishment of peace is now uppermost on the agenda of MQI with the cooperation of all political parties. He said that those using terror and suicide bombing for their ulterior motives had nothing to do with Islam and the Muslims. The following decisions were taken in the meeting after mutual consultation:

- The government should establish 'rehabilitation fund' on the pattern of relief fund for the affectees of Malakand, Swat and Buner.
- Well coordinated and effective policies should be formulated for national unity and integration. Failure in responding to the rehabilitation challenge would produce disastrous consequences.
- Military operation should be concluded as early as possible and be accompanied by effective political strategy.
- The government should provide all possible resources for safe and secure return of refugees and their return and rehabilitation should immediately be made possible.
- Terrorists could use the disaffection and disappointment among the affectees and use it as a weapon against the government.
- Aid should be made available to the affectees at their tents respectably and those living out of camps and in homes should also be taken care of.
- Full attention should be paid to the aid and support of over five hundred minority families located around Hasnabad Temple.
- Steps should be made for establishment of peace in the tribal region so that the affectees should go back home.
- The affectees should be settled in cool areas instead of hot ones and steps should immediately be taken for ensuring maximum protection against scorching heat.
- Transfer of power to the provinces as promised in Constitution 1973 could go a long way in eradicating the feelings of deprivation among the provinces. This would be helpful in the establishment of peace and elimination of separatist tendencies.
- The power to legislate on concurrent list should preferably be invested in the provinces and the articles contained in this list regarding provincial rights should be implemented forthwith.
- New Finance Commission should be announced as demanded by the Constitution and maximum grants-in-aid should be given to provinces.
- Rights of the tribal region as mentioned by the Constitution should be given immediately and problems of these areas should be resolved through constitutional reforms and transfer of power.

The next meeting of National Peace Council would be held on June 25, 2009 in the central secretariat of Minhaj-ul-Quran International in which leaders of different political parties would participate. The meeting would discuss and identify the major causes of terrorism and work out contours of national strategy against terrorism based on consensus and in accordance with our national aspirations. The meeting concluded with Dua.

Meeting of National Peace Council under MQI

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tt/8814>

Dated: 20 August 2009

The meeting of National Peace Council was held on August 20, 2009 in the central secretariat



of Minhaj-ul-Quran International. MQM's central leader Senator Col. (R) Tahir Mash'adi presided over the meeting, whereas Nawab Shah Zain Bugti, president of Janhori Watan Party (Balochistan chapter) was the special guest on the

occasion. Other participants included Minister Ahmad Khan (PPP), Hasan Wain (ANP), Mithnaz Rafi (PML-Q), Sheikh Zehid Fayyaz (MQI), Anwar Akhtar Advocate (PAT), Harmed-ud-Din Mashriqi (Khakhsar Tehreek), Sohail Akhtar Malik (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan), Adeb Javadani (senior journalist), Aslam Mohsin (Awami Qayadat Party), Aleena Tiwana, Khawaja Muhammad Junaid (former Olympian), Muhammad Jawad Hamid (Coordinator of NPC), Bilal Mustafavi and other representatives of different political parties.

All participants agreed that all problems facing the federation would be solved if the federal government would give provincial autonomy to the provinces in line with the provisions of the Constitution. The meeting expressed its complete unanimity on the need to abolish concurrent list and empower provinces to undertake legislation on the subjects contained in it.

The participants demanded of the government to opt for negotiations instead of military operation to find solution to the problem of Balochistan. Such factors as poverty and area should also be considered seriously at the time of declaring new NFC Award in addition to the population criterion. The provinces' right over their resources should also be conceded and their royalty be given in time. Urgent measures should be taken for the creation of harmony among the federating units. Special attention should be paid to the eradication of poverty and backwardness, which are the major cause behind the proliferation of terrorism. The minorities should be given complete protection so that there is no repeat of communal incidents.

Addressing the meeting, Shah Zain Bugti said that the Qaid-e-Azam promised complete provincial autonomy to the provinces and the 1973 Constitution also envisaged the same. Every province has complete control over its resources but it is the unfortunate province of

Balochistan which has been kept deprived of its resources. He said that all of us would have to play our due role to save Pakistan.

Senator Tahir Mash`hadi demanded of the government to end the military operation in the restive province of Balochistan, find lasting solutions to the problems of unemployment and poverty, and guarantee minorities of the protection of their rights as promised by Qaid-e-Azam.

Secretary General PAT, Anwar Akhtar Advocate, said in his talk that the National Reconciliation Council was playing important and positive role in the society. He said that the transfer of rights to the provinces would end their feelings of deprivation. National Finance Commission should be formed on the basis of poverty, area, and income generation in addition to the poverty factor. Other institutions like Council of Common Interest and National Economic Council should also be activated to play their role effectively in the promotion of national integrity.

All-Pakistan Mashaykh Conference

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/7742>



Minhaj-ul-Quran International organized an All-Pakistan Mashaykh Conference in the central secretariat in Model Town on March 3, 2009, attended by more than 300 religious scholars, Mashaykh and Pirs from across Pakistan. The participants regarded the conduct of this conference timely for elimination of extremist and terrorist attitudes, protection of teachings of Sufis and Islamic mysticism, revival of

religious and spiritual values and the safeguarding of Islamic beliefs. The Mashaykh jointly condemned the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan Cricket team in Lahore and called it an attack on Pakistan. The prominent scholars and Pirs from among those who attended the conference included Dewan Bakhtiar Syed Muhammad Chishti from Pakpattan Sharif, Sajjada Nasheen Bhaira Sharif Sahibzada Amin-ul-Hasnaat, Sajjada Nasheen Dhangri Sharif Azad Kashmir Pir Attique-ur-Rahman, Moinee-ud-Din Koureja, Pir Syed Khalil-ur-Rehman Chishti, Pir Mohi-ud-Din Mahboob, Sahibzada Habib Nawaz, Pir Ghulam Rizwani Jilani, Pir Akhdoom Nadeem Hashmi, Pir Muneer Zakri, Akhdoom Wali Muhammad, Haji Ghulam Rasool Naqashbandi Qadri Saifi, Pir Faiz Shahid Faizi, Akhdoom Muhammad Ahsan, Ghulam Mujtaba Noori, Syed Zia-ul-Haq Gilani, Khan Wali Qadri, Pir Ghulam Das tigur Tougeervi, Bader Mohi-ud-Din Gilani, Pir Sanaullah Taibi Bokhari, Sahibzada Pir Syed Sajjad Shah Bokhari, Pir Faiz-ul-Hassan Shah and others.

Addressing the conference, Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that Islam was a religion of peace and harmony. Conservatism, terrorism and fundamentalism had nothing to do with Islam. Today's Mashaykh Conference condemned these negative attitudes at every level in the strongest possible words. He

said that the Sufis changed destiny of millions of people through their character and popularizing the ideas of love, peace and security. They made different societies the hub of peace through their endeavours.



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He said Mashaykh and Pirs were playing their central role in promoting the peaceful attitudes in society.

He said that there was need to do more because the country was caught in the fire of worst kind of terrorism and conspiracies were being hatched to defame Islam and Pakistan. Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that this big gathering of Mashaykh indicated the fact that the spiritual centres

in the country wanted peace and security. Minhaj-ul-Quran International would formulate such a system of spiritual training with the consultation and guidance of Mashaykh as would be instrumental in fostering spiritual values in society and would help establish durable peace in Pakistan.

He said that it has been decided to formulate a one-year course for spiritual training which would



contain such ingredients as lectures of the Holy Quran, Hadith, moral, spiritual and scholarly aspects of Islam. This would have positive and deep impact on the society. It has also been decided that real spiritualism would be promoted by doing away with excesses and evil customs. The Pirs and religious scholars would play their role in spearheading these efforts.

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that it was also agreed that spiritual training of women was as important as that of men. He said the Conference also agreed that spiritual values would have to be revived in society to correct the moral disorder and chaos and Pirs and Mashaykh would play their role in the promotion of these values. He said that only spiritual Households could steer clear the ship of society, which was caught in the uncharted waters of materialism and today's Mashaykh Conference was witness to the fact that spiritual personalities were aware of their responsibilities. He said that Mashaykh Conference also agreed that society needed to be equipped with modern, contemporary education in addition to religious one so that religious scholars could be able to respond to challenges facing Islam successfully.

Text of joint Communiqué adopted at All-Pakistan Mashaykh Conference

The participants of All-Pakistan Mashaykh Conference comprising religious scholars, intellectuals, spiritualists and Mashaykh, organized by Minhaj-ul-Quran International on March 3, 2009, agreed that practical steps needed to be taken to foil the attempts aimed at debunking the peaceful message of Sufis and promoting anti-mysticism ideologies in the wake of present national and international situation.

The participants showed their complete consensus over the following points in the joint communiqué:

1. The Conference condemned terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations taking place anywhere in the world including Pakistan and it was resolved that Sufis & Mashaykh would play their role in promoting Islam's message of love, peace and brotherhood throughout the world.
2. The participants vowed to work out a reformation strategy for all chains of spiritualism and for restoration of 'Khankahi' system.
3. It was decided to establish Mysticism Research Centre aimed at responding to the objections raised against the Sufis and promoting the mystic teachings in the light of teachings of past mystics and spiritualists.

4. The conference also decided to establish religious centres in all the Mazars and 'Khankahs' and the institutions run by MQI would make arrangements for special meetings of Sahibzadgans and respected Pirs.
5. The conference vowed to take practical steps in order to do away with negative traditions, customs and excesses in the convents. A supervisory committee comprising effective and influential Mashaykh would also be established in this regard.
6. A Contact Group comprising religious scholars and spiritualists would be established to oversee the implementation of the above-mentioned aims and objectives.
7. The conference also decided to bring into mainstream the centres of Ahl-e-Sunna working for promotion of education and imparting training individually.
8. It was also resolved to formulate such a comprehensive syllabus for revival of 'khankahi' system as would make it easier for the general people to follow the teachings of Sufis.
9. It was also decided to hold workshops for imparting training and education to the people associated with Shrines, Darbars and other religious places.
10. The participants decided to establish good, standardized libraries in order to meet the need of reference and research work.
11. It was also decided to establish groups for Dhikr & Du'ood keeping in view the system of training of different spiritual chains.
12. The conference decided to promote Dawa work based on reformatory and preaching ways of Sufis in shrines and Darbars. Special arrangements for education and spiritual training of women would be made and priority would be given to the problems of people.

Scholarly contributions of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri lauded

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/7619>

Minhaj-ul-Quran Ulama Council organized a prestigious seminar titled Intellectual & Scholarly Services of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri in connection with celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr



Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri in the Hamdard Hall, Lahore. Central Amir of MQI, Sahibzada Miskin Faiz-ur-Rahman Durrani presided over the seminar. Allama Sahibzada Muhammad Shahzad Mujadadi, Allama Hafiz Khan Muhammad Qadri, Dr Syed Jami I-ur-Rahman Ghishti, Allama Imdadullah Khan, Shaykh-ul-Hadith Allama Muft Ghulam Ahmad Attij and Hafiz Muhammad Akber were the guests of honour at the occasion.

Nazim-e-Ala Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi and Naib Nazim-e-Ala Sheikh Zahid Fayyaz attended it on special invitation. Director Foreign Affairs GMM dik, Arreer-e-Punjab Ahmed Nawaz Anjum, Allama Mir Asif Akber, Allama Muhammad Usman Sialvi, Allama Mumtaz Hussain Siddique, Deputy Secretary General Pakistan Awami Tehreek Sohail Ahmad Raza, Director Events Management Sajid Bhatti and others were also present at the occasion.

Sahibzada Muhammad Hussain Azad conducted the proceedings of the programme. Central Nazim Ulama Council Allama Syed Farhat Hussain Shah delivered the welcome address.

The distinguished religious scholars threw light on the different aspects of the personality of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. New research and scholarly work of Shaykh-ul-Islam "Faith in the finality of Prophethood" was also inaugurated at this occasion. The speakers particularly mentioned the salient features of this book and called it the best shield for protection of the sanctity of the Prophethood.

Renowned religious scholar, Allama Sahibzada Muhammad Shahzad Mujadadi, said in his speech that there was a trend of research in writings but Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri had performed a pioneer work of creating a trend of research in speech as well. Doctor Qadri has

drawn authenticity from the Holy Quran for everything. His speech has the touch of revelation, which was not possible without spiritual ascension to the Gnostic truths. The renowned speaker Allama Hafiz Khan Muhammad Qadri said in his address that the books no doubt made one learn the methods of research but not the passion for research as it was the product of extreme love and attachment. No doubt Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri possessed both knowledge and intuition. Commenting on Shaykh-ul-Islam's book, he said that Doctor Qadri put a seal of confirmation on the issue of fidelity of Prophethood by quoting 29 Quranic verses and over 20 traditions.

Spiritualist Dr Syed Jamil-ur-Rehman Chishti compared Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri's translation "Irfan-ul-Quran" with other translations of the Holy Quran and described its salient features that distinguished it from other translations. He said that Irfan-ul-Quran was a great scholarly masterpiece having the added quality of exegesis. Distinguished religious scholar, Prof Allama Abdul Rehman Bokhari, said in his speech on the topic of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri and promotion of the Prophetic Law (saw) that the greatness of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri lay in his work, not in titles because he made the struggle for strengthening of relationship with the Holy Prophet (saw) and his mission. That accomplishment of Doctor Qadri distinguishes him from his contemporaries.

He said Pakistan was achieved for the enforcement of Islamic system. Allama Iqbal dreamed it, Quaid-e-Azam realized it while Imam Ahmad Raza Khan protected the religious beliefs and promoted the relationship with the Holy Prophet (saw). If a personality embodies the collective work of these three personalities, it is no one other than Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. He would prove to be a saviour in the sub-continent because Allah Almighty carved out sub-continent for the protection of religious beliefs.

Prof Muhammad Ahmad Awan, Muft Abdul Qayyum Khan Hazarvi, Dr Aikbar Qadri and others also addressed the seminar. Allama Mir Asif Akbar, Allama Muhammad Usman Sialvi, and Allama Mumtaz Hussain Siddique organized the seminar very well.

MQI Denmark holds grand Mawild-un-Nabi Peace March (SAW)

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/7758>



Minhaj-ul-Quran International Denmark arranged a grand Mawild-un-Nabi Peace March (SAW) that started off from the MQI centre in Copenhagen. In addition to the associates and workers of MQI and its various branches, a large number of Muslims and representatives of other Islamic organizations also took part in the Peace

March. Minhaj-ul-Quran Youth League played central role in the successful conduct of March, whereas Minhaj-ul-Quran Women League and Women Youth League showed exemplary performance in terms of its attendance.

Hafiz Zaheer Ahmad Qadri recited the Holy Quran to initiate the proceedings of the programme. The participants of procession were chanting slogans on their way. The intensity of heat was punctured with the heat of zeal and zest of participants.

A special bus was arranged for the elderly women, children and men. It was decorated with differing sayings of the Holy Prophet. The atmosphere of the procession was electric and it appeared as if the blessings of the Holy Prophet (saw) had engulfed it.

The arrangement of such a procession was a unique and novel event of its kind. The local people and Muslim community liked it very much. In addition to Pakistani community, Muslims from other communities too made part of the procession. Qaiser Najeeb thanked all the participants.

Minhaj-ul-Quran Women League protests the incident of girl's flogging

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tit/786>

Dated: 04April2009

Hundreds of women belonging to Minhaj-ul-Quran Women League held a protest



demonstration in front of the Lahore Press Club on April 4, 2009 against public lashing of a girl in Swat. The protesters condemned this reprehensible, cruel and immoral act in the strongest possible words. Women were holding placards and demanded of the government to bring the

perpetrators of this crime to justice. Central W president, Fatima M h' hadi and Central Nazima WL Sumaira Rafaqat Advocate led the procession.

Addressing the participants, Fatima M h' hadi said that this incident had shamed the entire Pakistani nation. Those who were involved in flogging the girl had nothing to do with Islam. Their version of religion was bringing both Pakistan and Islam into disrepute. She asked the government to deal with these criminals with iron hands. She said other incidents that demeaned women were a slur on the society. "Islam has given high status to women in her different roles as daughter, mother, wife and sister but the so-called champions of Islam were hell-bent to defame Islam through their ignorant activities" she said.

Fatima M h' hadi said that Islam was all about peace, harmony and love in society and those opposed to these humane values did not deserve any concession at all. The perpetrators of this crime do not know what results their actions have produced and what misunderstandings had been created in the minds of rest of the world about Islam. She said Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri was making his utmost efforts to promote the real and peaceful face of Islam and his teachings could be useful in getting rid of such problems.

Sumaira Rafaqat Advocate said in her speech that Islam gave equal rights to women as their male counterparts and the high status that a woman occupies in Islamic society does not find any match in W st. She said that the whole humanity was ashamed of the cruelty committed in Swat. A handful of extremists were bent on defaming Islam through their poisonous ideology. Ayesha Shabbir also spoke at the occasion.

Minhaj-ul-Quran Women League take out “Istehkam-e-Pakistan Rally” Rally at the Mall

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/t0/82788>

Date: 11 August 2009



front of the Punjab Assembly Hall.

Minhaj-ul-Quran Women League organized “Istehkam-e-Pakistan Rally” on August 11, 2009 at the Mall. Hundreds of women and children took part in the rally. The children were carrying Pakistani flags and placards with “Long Live Pakistan” written on them. They also presented national songs during the course of the rally. The rally started from Masjid-e-Shuhda and ended in

Ms Fatima Mash’hadi, central president of Minhaj-ul-Quran Women League, said while addressing the rally that the creation of unity within our ranks was an important step for foiling anti-state conspiracies and strengthening the federation. The circumstances demanded that we rose above our associations and demonstrated unity for security of the country.

In her address to the “Istehkam-e-Pakistan Rally” at The Mall the other day, Ms Fatima Mash’hadi said that the difference of opinion and political dissent was the beauty of democracy. We needed to respect each other’s viewpoint and eliminate hatred because we are all Pakistanis. She emphasized the importance of promoting peace, love and brotherhood in our ranks because this was the power by arming ourselves with which we could progress and advance. She said that both Islam and the Pakistani law condemned terrorism and it should be eliminated in all its forms and manifestations. “Islam is a religion of peace, mercy, harmony and equality and we need to turn to the teachings of our beloved Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) for guidance under these precarious conditions,” she held.

Central Secretary General, Miss Sumaira Raftaq Advocate said in her speech that no individuals could be allowed to take law in their hands. The minorities should be protected at all cost. The cause of national solidarity could be advanced if both people and the government worked in unison.

Paying glowing tribute to Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, Ms Sumaira Raftaq said that Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri promoted true image of Islam in accordance with the demands of the contemporary age. There was need of across the board and impartial accountability in the country. “If transparent accountability is conducted, the way could be paved for strong Pakistan,” she opined.

She regretted that women were being persecuted in the country in the name of honour and the government was not able to check such incidents. She said Islam gave comprehensive rights to women. Miss Sumaira Razaqat Advocate urged the womenfolk to join MWL to work for restoration of women rights and achieve their historical goal of peace, harmony, equality and justice in the society. Ms Ayesha Shabbir, president of MWL Lahore chapter and Ms Anela Doager also addressed the rally.

Minhaj Welfare Foundation sends relief goods worth Rs. 3 million for Swat IDPs

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tt/8482>

Dated: 14 May 2009



The first caravan of trucks carrying relief goods worth Rs. 3 million was sent to Mardan by Minhaj Welfare Foundation on 13th May, 2009. The consignment included eatables, blankets, shoes, beds, clothes, medicines and tents. Talking to the media at the occasion of departure of trucks, Dr

Shahid Mahmood, director of Minhaj Welfare Foundation, said that MWL is busy serving humanity day in and day out without any discrimination of religion, colour and race. Be it Tsunami in Indonesia, earthquake in Kashmir, NW FP and Iran, destruction wrought by floods, or rehabilitation of the Malakand affected, MWL is there to help the suffering humanity in hour of trial and tribulations.

Dr Shahid said that Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri has issued special instructions to provide every possible help and relief to our brethren of Malakand Division displaced by ongoing military action against the terrorists. Relief goods worth Rs. 3 million are being immediately dispatched as first consignment with much more to follow in weeks to come.

He said that relief camps were set up in different parts of Pakistan where hundreds of workers were busy collecting donations and relief goods. The MWL chapters around the world were also working hard to contribute to the maximum in this regard. Director of Welfare Foundation vowed to stand by the nation in every hour of suffering. He said that service of humanity was the topmost motto of the Foundation. Iftikhar Shah Bukhari, Noman Tahir Yaqub, Bilal Matfavi and Shameem Numbardar were also present at the occasion.

Interfaith Dialogue — A Peace Mechanism

Peace through promoting and protecting minority rights

Some of the recent activities

View the link below for up to date activities

<http://www.rodif.info/en.php>

Islam and Minorities

<http://www.rihraj.org/english/tt/8758>

Date: 09 August 2009

By Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri

Words fail to express the feelings of horror and grief one experienced while watching the scenes of mayhem, destruction of homes and the burning of seven people live on TV channels in the Gojra city of Punjab. What made it all the more poignant was the fact that people, inspired by religious fervour and egged on by the so-called religious clerics having half-baked understanding of Islam, were doing everything our great religion condemned and ordained its followers against. Thus through their actions, these people brought a bad name not only to Pakistan but also Islam. Displaying sheer ignorance of Islamic teachings, they handed down a justification of those elements who are otherwise, bent on denigrating Islam by invoking such incidents as the representation of what Islam stands for. It is high time we introspected ourselves and went back to the teachings of Islam vis-à-vis minorities.

Islam espouses values of universal brotherhood, tolerance and mutually peaceful coexistence ordaining its followers to be the source of peace for people around them. It aims at the establishment of such an ideal state and society where all citizens, irrespective of their association, religious identity, race, colour and creed, enjoy the similar rights and equality in the eyes of law. The Qur'anic injunction "There is no compulsion in Din (Religion)" (2:256) negates the element of coercion and oppression in religious matters and forms the basis for protection of rights of minorities. Another place, Allah Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an "(So) you have your Din (Religion) and I have my Din (Religion)" (109:6).

The importance and sanctity of rights Islam gives to minorities can be further gauged by the saying of the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him): "Beware! If anyone dared oppress a member of minority community or usurped his right or tortured him more than his endurance or took something away forcibly without his consent, I would fight (against such Muslim) on his behalf on the Day of Judgment." (Sunan Abi Dawud)

This is not merely a warning but has the sanctity of a law which was promulgated in the Islamic state during the blessed period of the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him) but which also continued to be implemented in the later period and is still part of the constitution of Islamic state. The Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him) would always forewarn Muslims about the rights of the minorities. While talking of minorities one day, he said: "Whosoever killed a member of a minority community, he would not smell the fragrance of paradise though fragrance of paradise would cover the distance of forty years." (Bidayat-ul-Mujtahid)

Whenever the non-Muslim delegations would come to the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him), he would extend them hospitality himself. Once a Christian delegation from Abyssinia came over to meet the Prophet of Islam (blessings and peace be upon him) in the blessed city of Madina, he took it upon himself to play host to the guests and made them stay in the Prophet's Mosque. He said: "These people occupy distinguished and privileged status for our companions, therefore, I chose to extend them respect and hospitality myself." (Ibn Kathir, al-Bidaya wa an-Nihaya)

Likewise, another 14-member Christian delegation from Najran came to the holy city of Madina. The Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him) made the delegation stay in the Prophet's Mosque and allowed the Christians of the delegation to worship according to their religion in the Prophet's Mosque. (Ibn Sad, at-Tabqat al-Kubra)

Such was the deep and penetrating impact of the Holy Prophet's good treatment of the minorities that their interaction with him was also based on respect and reverence. When an ally Jew was about to die during a battle, people asked him about the possible heir to his huge property, he said that the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him) would be guardian of his property. This speaks volumes of the reverence the Prophet of Islam (blessings and peace be upon him) had in the eyes of the non-Muslims.

Imam Abu Yusuf writes in his magnum opus Kitab al-Khiraj that both Muslims and non-Muslim minorities were treated equally in respect of civil law and law of punishments during the Prophetic period and that of the rightly guided caliphs. Once a Muslim killed a non-Muslim during the period of the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him). He ordered the killing of that Muslim by way of qisas and said: "The protection of rights of non-Muslims is my most important duty." (Musnad ash-Shaffi)

In the like manner, the status of a Muslim and a non-Muslim is equal in civil law in an Islamic state. The non-Muslim would also deserve the same punishment which would be meted out to a Muslim in case of commission of crimes. Whether a non-Muslim steals things of a Muslim or otherwise, both would deserve the equal amount of punishment. No discrimination can be allowed in their treatment in the eyes of law.

Contrary to the teachings of Islam and the sayings of the Holy Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him), our actual conduct is shameful to put it mildly, which is responsible for bringing Islam into disrepute. No sane Muslim can approve and condone such reprehensible acts as witnessed in Gojra. It is a matter of immense concern as to how a small minority of bigoted and radical Mullahs can hold sway over ignorant people and make them dance to their tune without any fear of reprisal from state and its law enforcement agencies.

While the administrative failure to nip evil in the bud may be blamed for the outbreak of riots in the short-run, colossal havoc these happenings caused is a reflection of how

extremism has penetrated our attitudes and social behaviours. The state cannot allow this situation to worsen by adopting passive and reactive response. It needs to initiate action to undo the damage it did when it promoted and co-opted a particular religious mindset at the cost of social equilibrium, religious tolerance and sectarian harmony. At a time when we need to reach out to other faiths in a bid to engage them in constructive dialogue and finding solutions to the contemporary problems, such acts prove only counterproductive. In the next article I would discuss the peculiar nature of rights minorities enjoy in an Islamic state.

This article was published in Daily The Nation, 09 Aug, 2009

Rights of minorities in Islam

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/taj850>

Dated: 26 August 2009

This article was published in Daily The Nation, 26 Aug, 2009

by Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri

Following a flurry of unfortunate incidents that involved mass scale persecution of the Christian community in Gajra and the misrepresentation of the religious teachings, it is high time we initiated intellectual discourse aimed at identifying the factors, which led to this tragedy. The principal purpose behind this exercise should be to fashion a cohesive and comprehensive strategy to educate masses about the real teachings of Islam and preempt any similar untoward incident in future. It is also of equal importance to seek input of the representatives of all schools of thought and other sections of society like journalists, intellectuals, civil society activists, lawyers and professors etc. Ideally, the Islamic Ideology Council is well suited to spearhead this initiative and give it institutionalised base for the production of effective results. The second phase of such an arrangement may be geared to engage the minorities living within Pakistan in a constructive dialogue aimed at allaying their apprehensions and fears.

I am of the considered opinion that the long-term solution to such problems lies in changing the mindset through sustained engagement and projection of real teachings of Islam so that no bigoted mullah, having a limited understanding of Islam, could exploit the religious feelings of people for ulterior motives.

Islam seeks to establish such a society where all citizens of the state enjoy equal rights and religion does not become the basis for any discrimination. Islamic law holds both Muslims and non-Muslims equal and no superiority or privilege is given to the Muslims on any ground. The history of Islam is replete with such examples. Once, a Muslim, who was accused of killing a non-Muslim, was presented in the court of Hazrat Ali (ra). The evidence supported the accusation. When Hazrat Ali ordered the Muslim to be killed by way of qisas, the relatives of the murderer made the brother of the killed forgive by paying him the compensation money. When the Caliph came to know of it, he asked, "Perhaps these people may have coerced you into saying so." To this, he replied in the negative, saying that the killing would not bring his brother back. Since they were paying him blood money, it would help the family financially to some extent. The Caliph agreed to the deal but added that the principle underlying the functioning of his government was "the blood of those of our non-Muslim subjects is equal to our blood and his blood money is like our blood money." (Abu Yusuf, Kitab-ul-Khiraj, p. 187)

Secondly, every member of an Islamic society is entitled to privacy and personal life. No one can be allowed to enter his house or interfere in his matters without his consent. The minorities enjoy similar rights in an Islamic state as the Muslims do. It is the fundamental principle of Islamic law that it enjoins the similar rights and duties on both Muslim and non-Muslim citizens without any discrimination.

Thirdly, Islam ordains people to worship Allah Almighty but it does not coerce followers of other religions to accept Islam and change their creed. Invitation to truth and use of coercion are mutually exclusive realities. The Holy Quran has communicated the Islamic message of truth in these words: "(O Glorious Messenger!) Invite towards the path of your Lord with strategic wisdom and refined exhortation and (do) argue with them in a most decent manner. Surely your Lord knows him well who strays a way from His path and He also knows well the rightly guided." (16:125)

Islam has strictly disallowed the adoption of such method of invitation which affects the religious independence of the other party. Allah Almighty says at another place: "There is no coercion in religion. Verily, guidance has manifestly been distinguished from error." (2:256)

Fourthly, the non-Muslim minorities are free to undertake any business enterprise or profession in an Islamic state like their Muslim counterparts and no restriction can be imposed upon them in this regard. However, those businesses, which are collectively injurious for the society, would be completely prohibited both for the Muslims as well as the non-Muslims. The minorities are also free to adopt any profession they like. They would also be subject to same trade-related taxation as the Muslims.

Fifthly, as it is the responsibility of the Islamic state to provide for the disabled or the poor or the destitute or the old in the same way, it is also under obligation to pay for the maintenance of a member of the minority community in case of his disability, old age or poverty. Minorities enjoy equal rights in terms of collective maintenance in an Islamic state. According to a tradition reported by Abu 'Ubayd in Kitab-ul-Anwal, "The Holy Prophet (PBUH) gave a donation to a Jewish family and it continued to be delivered even after (the Holy Prophet's departure from this world)."

Sixthly, Islamic state is responsible for the protection and security of minorities. If they entered into an agreement with another nation, the protection and security of the latter also falls under its domain of responsibility.

One of the conditions that defined the agreements between Muslims and the conquered non-Muslim minorities was that the Islamic government would be responsible for provision of basic necessities and security of lives of the minorities. The Peace Agreement, which was struck with the residents of the Heera had the following written in it: "A non-Muslim who grows old and cannot work or becomes disabled due to a natural calamity or he was

previously rich but has become poor due to some untoward happening, the government would not charge any tax from such calamity-stricken people. Rather these people and their families would be provided with the maintenance allowance out of official treasury." (Ibn Qayyim, Badiyat-ul-Mujtahid, vol. 2, p. 310)

The minorities cannot be compelled to render defence services. Rather, it is the responsibility of the Islamic state to defend them. Since the Islamic state is responsible for the protection of lives, honour and property of the minorities and they do not have any other obligation with regard to defence, they are liable to contribute financially to the Islamic state in the form of a tax called Jizya. Even then, Islam has taught about justice and good manners when it comes to the imposition of Jizya on the minorities.

Due to space constraint, I cannot delve deeper into the Islamic history to prove empirically how minorities were treated in an Islamic state. The reprehensible Cjra-style incidents happen because of our society's lack of knowledge of actual teachings of Islam. The vacuum of knowledge so created is bridged by the semi-literate clergy with no exposure to the Islamic historical tradition, demands of contemporary age and challenges of future.

Shaykh-ul-Islam addresses American Muslim Council on 'Islam & Peace'



American Muslim Council, in coordination with Minhaj-ul-Quran International North America (Houston Chapter), organized a dinner in honour of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, who is currently on tour of the USA. The Event was organized at Hilton Hotel in Southwest area of Houston, the largest city in the State of Texas, and the fourth largest city in the United States.



The leaders of Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Bhudda communities and other religions also attended the event along with hundreds of Muslims. Mr. Shahid Ali Sunni, founder and chairman of American Muslim Council, welcomed all the guests and thanked Shaykh-ul-Islam for attending the event. Shaykh-ul-Islam delivered a very comprehensive speech on the topic of "Islam and Peace". He said that those perpetrating terrorism in name of religion were the worst enemies of Islam and had nothing to do with our great religion. Such elements were bent on bringing Islam into disrepute through their misguided actions. He said that Islamic teachings and injunctions clearly denounced the perpetrators of doom and gloom. There is a need to expose such elements through courageous stands.



Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri said that he had passed a religious edict declaring such people infidels in the light of teachings of the Holy Quran, Hadith and Jurisprudence. He said that this edict consisted of 600 pages and was now under the process of publication, which would be translated in the leading languages of the world. Shaykh-ul-Islam emphasized the need of fostering dialogue and engagement among different religions to foil all conspiracies aimed at maligning all divine religions.



Leaders of other religions appreciated Shaykh-ul-Islam's contributions, efforts for promotion of peace, interfaith harmony and dialogue among civilizations, and further

urged that his message should be spread to other people in the community so that they should understand the true picture of Islam.

Selected clips from Shaykh-ul-Islam's videos were played on a big screen in the hall. Attendees kept on watching the clips till Shaykh-ul-Islam arrived.



At the end of the event, joint salat-o-salam was offered on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by all the participants including non-Muslim leaders. The Event was broadcast live on the internet and was watched by many people world wide.



MQI-NA (Houston Chapter) arranged special folders as gifts for all the participants who attended the event. Folders contained profile of Shaykh-ul-Islam, introduction of Minhaj-ul-Quran, DVDs and audio CDs of Shaykh-ul-Islam's lectures on selected topics, and membership forms of MQI-NA. Exhibition of Shaykh-ul-Islam's books and DVDs was also part of the event and it was attended by many participants. Everyone showed a lot of interest in Shaykh-ul-Islam's books and DVDs.



In addition to a bove event ,two other events took place in Houston at the houses of brothers Naeem and brother Zafa rIqbal. Shaykh-ul-Islam met the participants and gave answers to the questions asked by the participants .

Seminar on International Ambassador of Peace

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/t/766>



In continuation of the ongoing week-long celebrations marking the 50th birth anniversary of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, a seminar on International Ambassador of Peace was held under the aegis of Minhaj-ul-Quran International on February 14, 2009 at the al-Hamra Hall. The former

governor of Punjab, Ghulam Mustafa Khar presided over. Sahbizada Hussain Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, member of Supreme Council (MQI), and Ms Farzana Raja, Federal Minister and chairman Bena zir Income Support Programme (BISP), graced the occasion as the chief guests. The speakers included people of national eminence such as former foreign secretary Shamshad Ahmad Khan, former chief secretary Punjab Javed Qureshi, intellectual, security analyst and political commentator Hassan Askar Rizvi, Secretary General MQI, Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi, Secretary General PAT Anwar Akhtar Advocate, ANP leader Ehsan Wainand the renowned actor Shujaat Hashmi. In addition to Mib Nazim e Ala Sheikh Zehid Fayyaz, Director Foreign Affairs GM Malik Shahid Lat eef Qadri, M hamma d Jawa d M i d Sohai l Ahmad Raza, Muhammad Aqil Malik, Shahzad Rasool Qadri, Abdul Hafeez Chaudhry and Prof Zulifqar Ali, a large number of people, both men and women, belonging to different walks of life participated in the seminar.

A special prayer for late Pir Syed Naseer-ud-Din Naseer who died on Friday due to cardiac arrest was made in the beginning of seminar.

Federal Minister Farzana Raja said in her speech that Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri was making an important contribution by highlighting the true face of Islam in the modern age marked by confusion, misinterpretation and distortion. The mention of his services for God, peace, human development and interfaith dialogue was like showing a candle to the sun as these are known to all and sundry both in Pakistan and abroad. She said that she was

witness to the fact that Shaheed Mohtrama Bena zir Bhutto was a life member of Minhaj-ul-Quran International and held Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri in high esteem. She said that Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri holds prominent position among the contemporary intellectual and scholars of international repute. His services for the cause of peace distinguish him from others.

Ghulam Mustafa Khar, former governor Punjab, said in his address that Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri was a great man gifted with the unique qualities of head and heart. In spite of the fact that he did not belong to any political or wealthy family, he still reached his mark reaching the level of national and international celebrity. He said that it was a matter of great pleasure for him that he signed the BA degree of such a man of eminence as governor. Shaykh-ul-Islam owes his status and honour to the love for the Holy Prophet (saw) and his Household. He won fame and high stature in politics but rose even higher in public esteem after he gave up politics.

He said Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri was the only man whose fame and knowledge grew with the passage of time. "He is above greed, fear and self-interest. He is working hard to change the thinking of the people of Pakistan in particular and the Muslim Ummah in general. Once this thinking undergoes change, the system and patterns of government would also change," he held. Both country and democracy could not function without a good leader. "The services of Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri in intellectual, educational and scholarly domains are a matter of honour for Pakistan," he concluded.

Former foreign secretary of Pakistan and political commentator, Shams had Ahmad Khan, said that Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri was a multifaceted personality and was like a ray of hope in this murky and dark environment. His services for the promotion of peace deserve appreciation. "He is a scholar, researcher, a lawyer, author and politician at the same time and to top it all, he speaks for the humanity. His services for interfaith dialogue and harmony were historic," he observed. Shams had Ahmad lamented the fact that human minds were gripped by disorder and not peace. Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri was working for elimination of disorder and chaos by promoting cohesion and integration, he said.

Secretary General MQI, Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi said in his speech that Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri was a great man of this century and his diverse contributions would continue to influence the coming centuries. He said that Shaykh-ul-Islam had authored 1000 books, delivered 5000 lectures, set up the branches of his organization in more than 91 countries of the world with 67 Islamic centres and a chartered university,

which produced hundreds of scholars including 90 such scholars who were busy spreading peace and harmony across the world. He said that Shaykh-ul-Islam's services in the field of education and welfare were manifest from the establishment of 52 schools, 4 colleges, Orphan Home Care for 500 orphans and rehabilitative and reconstructive efforts in Tsunami, Kashmir quake, Balochistan and Bam quake and Ghaza under his leadership. He said that the next century would belong not to Bush, Blair or Musharraf but to Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri.

Security analyst Dr Hassan Askari Rizvi said that Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri's services for peace were prominent because he held onto honesty and sincerity for promotion of real message of Islam.

Awami National Party's leader Ehsan Wain said that terrorism and extremism could be eliminated by benefiting from the vision of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri.

Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri's birthday celebrations in the Church

<http://www.mrhaj.org/english/t0762>

Dated: 17 February 2009



Rev. Dr. Majid Abel, Pastor In charge of Naulakha Presbyterian Church and General Secretary Interfaith Peace Council and an esteemed friend of Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, organized and hosted a graceful Peace Seminar to honor Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri on his 58th birthday. Mr. Mathew D Lowe (American Political Officer), Dr Rabeq Ahmad Abbasi (Secretary General MQI), Dr Kanwal Feroz (well know poet, scholar), Syed Peer Usman Noori, Chairman Interfaith peace council, Noshairwan Dastoor (Zoroastrian leader), Dr. Munwar Chand (Hindu leader), Mr. Anthony Ijaz Lamuel, Mr. Qaiser Julius (Director OTS), Mr. Muhammad Mustafa (G.M. Malik) (Personal Secretary to Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri and director foreign Affairs), Sister Shakeela (Principal Don Bosco High School), Ahmad Nawaz Anjum, Mian Zahid Islam, Jawad Hamid and Sohail Ahmad Raza. This seminar represented leaders of almost all communities who paid rich tribute to Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri for his services in different fields including promotion of peace, love, integration and interfaith dialogue.



Rev. Dr. Majid Abel expressed in his opening speech that “Na ulakha Presbyterian Church, One of the Largest Churches in Pakistan, is proud of its strong relationship with Mr. Tahir-ul-Qadri. I don’t hesitate to confess that the first step towards this friendship was taken by the most respectful and generous Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri. And this program is being arranged to celebrate the life and achievements of Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri as an emissary of peace and as our esteemed friend. Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri is a man of his words and has made practical demonstrations of his love and friendship towards other communities in Pakistan. Every year he invites Christian community at MQI to celebrate Christmas and he even declared, addressing the media that his mosque was open for Christians to worship anytime.”



Following his speech Dr. Abel invited all of the honored guests to join him to cut a birthday cake for Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri.



Addressing the seminar, American Political Officer, Matthew D Love, said that the dialogue between Islam and other religions should continue. Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri's endeavors for promotion of interfaith harmony and global peace deserved to be appreciated.

Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi said that Shakyh-ul-Islam's efforts for elimination of extremist tendencies and promotion of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions were recognized globally. The very fact that leaders of different minorities were present to celebrate his birthday indicated that his life was devoted to promotion of peace, harmony and love among religions and humanity.



Dr Kunwal Fe roz said in his remarks that Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri was the pioneer of initiating Muslim-Christian dialogue in Pakistan when he established Muslim Christian Dialogue Forum. He is the ambassador of global peace projecting such values as culture of tolerance, mutual coexistence and forbearance. The Christian community holds his services in high esteem.

Sister Shakeela said that purpose of every religion was to impart love and Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri had played effective role in spreading the Islamic concept of love for minorities.



Secretary General of Pakistan Bible Society, Anthony Ejaz Lamuel, said that there was need to work hard on promoting humanity and love in the society. Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri has played an important role in popularizing and fostering constructive and positive attitudes. Other leaders should also follow him in his footsteps.

Zoroastrian leader Noushairwan Dastoor prayed to God to give long life and health to Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri so that the society could get peace on sustained basis.



Hindu leader Munwar Chand commented that the love and respect Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri extended towards the minorities did not have any match in Pakistani history. Dr. Qadri has worked hard in spreading the concept of rights of minorities given by Islam. He is the representative of the whole humanity and real ambassador of peace.

Mr. Muhammad Mustafa (G.M. Malik) said in his speech that Dr. Majid Abel had put together a beautiful bouquet of different flowers in the form of the variety of leaders of different communities present at the seminar. He further said we would have to bring down walls of hatred, narrow-mindedness and extremist attitudes to be able to move forward. Dr. Qadri had been instrumental in promotion of humanitarian values in society.

Ahmad Nawaz Anjum, Jawad Hamid and Sohail Ahmad Raza also spoke at the seminar.

US Christian Delegation Visits Central Secretariat

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tt/9137>

Dated: 16 October 2009

The 8-member US Christian delegation led by Mr. Leif Hetland, President Global Mission Awareness visited the Central Secretariat of Minhaj-ul-Quran International on Oct 16, 2009. The other members of the delegation included Dr. Marcus Fish, Timothy Hatt, Todd Bevan, Lois Coff, Katherine Rody, Kathy Garker, Jason Reilly, Chris Ishak and Mr. Javed Akhtar.



Upon their arrival at the Central Secretariat, the guests were welcomed by the central leadership of MQ led by Director Foreign Affairs Mr. M. Hamid Mustafa (GM Malik), Director Interfaith Dialogue and Harmony Mr. Sohail Raza and Director of Event Management Mr. Jawad Hamid.



The delegation exchanged views with the leaders of Minhaj-ul-Quran International on matters of mutual interests. Naib Ameer-e-Tehreek Brig (r) Iqbal Ahmed and Director Foreign Affairs Mr. M. Hamid Mustafa (GM Malik) gave a brief introduction of MQI and its various departments. He told the delegation that MQI was working for the spread of global peace and harmony within the communities. At a time when the holy name of Islam is being exploited by the terrorists

for their evil agenda, the MQI was engaged in the efforts for highlighting the true teachings of Islam under the inspiring leadership of world renowned scholar Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad ul-Qadri.

The delegation appreciated the services being rendered by Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad ul-Qadri, for the spread of international peace and harmony. Representing the delegation Mr.



Leif Hetland said that there was a dire need to build bridges among the communities in order to develop better understanding about one another. He said all religions preached love, peace and mutual co-existence by urging their adherents to shun violence. He also emphasized the need of boosting such exchanges.

The US delegation paid warm tributes to the services of Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, Chairman Pakistan Awami Tehreek, and Minhaj-ul-Quran International for promoting peace, harmony, tolerance, sympathy and love at national as well as international levels. They greatly appreciated Dr. Qadri's valuable contributions to education and welfare, inter-faith dialogue and said they are unique. The US delegation then awarded peace award to Prof. Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri in recognition of his commendable efforts regarding promotion of peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue. Ameer-e-Tehreek Miskeen Faiz-ur-Rahman Khan Durrani and Mr. Muhammad Mustafa (GM Malik) received the award on behalf of Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri who is currently abroad.

The visit was undertaken under the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum as a part of efforts for developing understanding and curtailing differences among communities. The delegation visited various departments and branches of MQI and appreciated the set-up. At the end they were seen off by the central leaders of MQI.

Dr Raheeq Abbasi (Secretary general MQI) meets DG (Religious Affairs) of Spain

<http://www.mrhaj.org/english/tid/8647>

Dated: 05 June 2009

On June 15, 2009, Secretary General of Minhaj-ul-Quran International, Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi, called on Director General d'Afers Religiosos, Ms Montserrat Coll, in her office along with a delegation. The delegation included Muhammad Naeem Chaudhry, Allama Muhammad Iqbal Azam, Muhammad Nawaz Kiyani, Naveed Ahmad Undalasi, Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry, Zil-e-Hassan, Khurram Shabbir. Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry, president of Minhaj Reconciliation Council, introduced MQI and its services in multiple fields and Dr Abbasi to the Director General



for Religious Affairs. Dr Raheeq Abbasi gave a comprehensive introduction about the work and personality of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri as well as various programmes and projects of MQI throughout the world. The Secretary General said that MQI was going to arrange a three-day training camp by the name of Peace and Integration for the Pakistanis living in Europe in

Italian city of Milan. Muhammad Naeem Chaudhry threw light on the role and mission of MQI in the French language and invited her to visit the MQI Centre in France.

Both leaders agreed that the terrorism being perpetrated in the name of Islam was in fact a heinous conspiracy to defame Islam and Muslims. It had nothing to do with religion. Islam does not allow anyone to kill fellow human beings. There is a need to accelerate efforts for establishment of peace. Ms Monteserrat Coll told the Secretary General MQI that she was aware of the activities of MQI Barcelona and was happy with the work of the organization. She said that MQI Barcelona's initiatives for interfaith harmony and multicultural understanding were exemplary and deserved appreciation. She also told that president of Catalonia had participated twice in the programmes of the Pakistani community on the invitation of MQI. One of such meetings was held in Minhaj Islamic Centre Barcelona attended also by all the Imams of the Mosques of Catalonia.

MQI Secretary General visits Catalonia Socialist Party's Headquarters, meets its leaders

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tq8804>

Date: 15 June 2009

On June 15, 2009, Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi, Secretary General of Minhaj-ul-Quran International



visited the Headquarter of Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSC) and held meeting with the party's leadership. Dr Abbasi was accompanied by a delegation comprising Muhammad Naeem Chaudhry, senior vice president of Minhaj European Council, Allama Muhammad Iqbal Azam, Secretary General, Muhammad Nawaz Kiyani, patron of MQI Spain, Naveed Ahmad Undalasi, Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry, president of Minhaj Reconciliation

Council, Zil-e-Hassan, Muhammad Atiq, Yousuf Bilal and Khurram Shabbir. Secretary Organization, Jose Maria Sala, represented the Socialist Party delegation in the meeting.

Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry of Reconciliation Council introduced Jose Maria Sala to MQI, its leader Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, and Secretary General Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi. Dr Abbasi briefed the Socialist Party leader about the various projects and organizational work of Minhaj-ul-Quran International. Jose Maria Sala told the MQI delegation that the party was completely in touch with the local leadership of MQI and the Pakistani community. The matters of mutual interests also came under discussion.

The MQI's delegation was conducted to various parts of Socialist Party's Headquarter. Jose Maria Sala briefed about the history and activities of the Socialist Party. He told the delegation that the Party wanted to include every community into the national mainstream through sustained engagement and interaction. It should be kept in mind that the Socialist Party is the ruling party in Spain.

Directorate of Interfaith Relations organizes a national seminar

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/t/8807/>

Date: 13 August 2009



Directorate of Interfaith Relations of Minhaj-ul-Quran International organized a national seminar on August 13 to mark the Independence Day in the central secretariat of MQI. Faiz-ur-Rahman Durrani, the central president of MQI presided over the seminar, while Pundit Baghat Lal, Noushair F. Dastoor, Bishop

Yousuf, Dr Kanwal Feroz, Jacqueline Tresslor and Pastor Denial graced the occasion as chief guests. Acting Secretary General of MQI, Sheikh Zaid Iyyaz, PAT's Secretary General Anwar Akhtar Advocate, Director Interfaith Relations Sohail Ahmad Raza, Jawad Hamid and other leaders of PAT and MQI were also present on the occasion.

The proceedings of the programme started with recitation of the Holy Quran followed by a beautiful Ishaheed. National Anthem and Independence Day songs were also presented. The speakers expressed their vow to make practical efforts for national progress on this auspicious day. There is a need to highlight the Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan, which was moderate and enlightened. The speakers agreed that PAT and MQI played due role in the national development and the organization of the national seminar showed that every class of society was free to air its views.

Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Ahmad Raza said that MQI was working for the promotion of interfaith harmony and dialogue among different civilizations in the entire world. On the special instructions of Shaykh-ul-Islam Pakistan Day was being celebrated both inside as well as outside Pakistan. He said that doors of the MQI's central secretariat were open for everyone.

Directorate of Interfaith Relations delegation participates in the festival of 'Besaakhi'

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/t/8448>

Dated: 20 April 2009

The Governor House hosted a ceremony to celebrate the Sikh festival of 'Besaakhi' on April 20, 2009. A large number of the Sikh pilgrims came to Pakistan to pay regards to their religious places.



Sohail Ahmad Raza Director Interfaith Relations welcomed the Sikh pilgrims along with Sayyid Asif Hashmi, Chairman Evacuee Trust Board and other government officials at the Wagha border, Lahore. The Governor House had made arrangements of dinner in the honour of the visiting Sikh pilgrims where Sohail Ahmad Raza and his delegation were

also invited. Other members of MQI delegation included Mian Zahid Islam, Jawad Hamid, Nasir Iqbal Advocate, Qazi Faiz-ul-Islam, Zeeshan Baig, Hafiz Ghulam Farid Siddiqi, Hafiz Safdar Ali, Qazi Mahmud-ul-Islam, Qadeer Ali, and Istikhhar Ali Sajid.

The delegation of the Sikh pilgrims was led by Sardar Sureng Singh, Sardar Balwinder Singh, and Sardar Sohan Singh. Sayyid Asif Hashmi, chairman Evacuee Trust Board, additional secretary Siddiq Khurram, administrator Sayyid Faraz Abbas, and Sardar Bashan Singh, chairman Baba Guru Nanak Welfare Society welcomed the MQI delegation. Sayyid Asif Hashmi said on the occasion that MQI was working to project and promote the real teachings of Islam around the world under the leadership of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. He said they were proud that such an enlightened scholar belongs to Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Ahmad Raza, director Interfaith Relations MQI, said that Minhaj-ul-Quran International was a unique Islamic Movement of the world, busy promoting the interfaith harmony and dialogue among communities under the inspiring leadership of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. He said that MQI was telling the world that terrorism, extremism and sectarianism had nothing to do with Islam. Islam stands for peace, interfaith harmony, brotherhood and peaceful coexistence among religions and cultures. Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri's book "Human Rights in Islam" was gifted to the Sikh pilgrims.

MQI delegation participated in Hindu festival Diwali celebrations

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/ti/9213>

Dated: 17 October 2009



A delegation of Directorate of Interfaith Relations of Minhaj-ul-Quran International, led by Director Sohail Ahmad Raza participated in the religious festival of the Hindu community. Evacuee Trust Board of Government of Pakistan had extended a special invitation to the delegation of MQI to participate in the festival which was held on October 17, 2009 in Sri Krishna Temple, Ravi Road, Lahore. Besides Sohail Ahmad Raza, the MQI delegation comprised Abdul Hafiz Chaudhry, Abdur Rahman Siddiqui, Sahibzada Iftikhar-ul-Hassan Chishti and Qazi Mahmood-ul-Islam. The Hindu families from across Lahore and its suburbs participated in the festival in a large number. The organizing committee of the ceremony consisted of Dr Munawar Chand, Sunil Kumar, Prof Ashok Kumar, Dr Rajender Kumar and Jay Pal.

Kamran Michael, provincial minister for minorities, Azhar Sulehri, secretary Auqaf, Azhar Abbas, Saleem Sandhu and other delegations belonging to different walks of life also attended the ceremony.

In his talk, Sohail Ahmad Raza, Director of Interfaith Relations of MQI, said that he was there to represent Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri who was working hard for promotion of interfaith dialogue, peace and harmony in the world. He said that MQI under the dynamic leadership of Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri believed in multicultural inclusive society where minorities had constitutional guarantees for the protection of their rights in accordance with the principles



of Islam. He said that Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri always condemned terrorism, extremism and violent tendencies at all levels and promoted the idea of engagement with people of all faiths and religions to remove mutual hatreds and misunderstandings. He urged the need of forging unity among followers of all religions to address the scourges of terrorism and extremism.

The organizers of the ceremony thanked the MQI delegation for its participation in the programme.

Directorate of Interfaith Relations; MQI delegation participates in a Hindu festival 'Holi'

<http://www.mrhaj.org/english/t0803>

Dated: 20 April 2009



On March 20, 2009, the Hindu cultural festival of 'Holi' was celebrated across the world including Pakistan. A ceremony was held in Hera Krishna Temple in Lahore. On the invitation of leaders of Hindu community like Dr Munohar Chand, Dr Souraish, Prof Ashok Kumar and Dr Suneil Kumar, a MQI delegation led by Sohail Ahmad Raza, director of MQI's Directorate of Interfaith Relations, participated in the festival.

Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Ahmad Raza felicitated the Hindu community on this cultural festival on behalf of all Pakistanis. He said Islam is a universal and balanced religion, which has placed special emphasis on the protection of rights of minorities. Being a Muslim it is the fundamental obligation to protect the rights of the minorities. He said Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri working for the promotion of peace, interfaith



harmony and dialogue among civilizations to bridge gaps and foster understanding. It is in this backdrop that he set up a Directorate in MQI to cater to this aspect. There is another forum by the name of Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum which works for fostering dialogue between Muslims and Christians. He said that MQI believes in the culture of tolerance and mutual harmony among different faiths. 'It is due to services of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri that he has been given the title of Ambassador of Peace' he concluded.

said

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Minhaj-ul-Qur'an Students visit St Johns Church

<http://www.rodf.irf.org/en.php?tid=9058>

(22nd Jan 2009)



**Reverend Darren McIndoe of St Johns Church
and Becci Fryat of the Catholic faith flicking through photos**

Students at Minhaj-ul-Qur'an International London visited St Johns Church in Stratford (East London) as part of their interfaith work with the Faithful Friends organisation.

The first visit of this project was to Minhaj-ul-Qur'an International London itself. At St Johns Church, some photos were displayed using a projector screen with the attendees being asked how important they were to them in their daily lives and whether they held any religious importance. There were photos of money, celebrities, buildings and other items. Everyone found it surprising that most of the faith groups shared the same types of views on certain photos such as giving importance to helping the elderly, caring for the sick and helping the poor. The majority agreed that items such as wealth, celebrities and brand labels were not very important in the life of a faithful person. However, some pointed out that wealth, celebrities and brand labels can often be used to act as role models for society and hence play an important role in the life of a person of faith. At the end, photos with symbols and places of worship belonging to different faith groups were displayed and the participants were asked to identify them. Everyone learnt a lot through this.



The attendees were divided into small groups to discuss the photos between themselves before sharing their thoughts with everyone else. You see her brother Muneeb of the Muslim Youth League discussing an image with Christian and Hindu youth in his team.

This was followed by a tour of the Church. Non-Christians learnt that there were actually different kinds of crosses used in Christianity. The Catholic faith always has a model of Jesus (peace be upon him) on it whilst the Church of England prohibits it. Many of the Christians present were also unaware that Muslims too believed in Jesus. They also learnt that Muslims have a lot of stories surrounding the blessed Mary and the birth of Jesus (Isa `alayhis-salam) and were astonished to learn of a chapter being named after her in the Holy Qur'an: Chapter Maryam (Mary).

Reverend Darren, a young priest at the Church who led the tour gave some historic information regarding it. This was followed by a light discussion about how much religion plays a part in the life of the attendees. Reverend Darren explained that all of his life should be governed by Bible. It was also pointed out that although Sister Nasra is not a priest, wearing a scarf could be said to be a sign of practicing her religion in all walks of her life. Rafiq mentioned that historically, many women in most faiths wore the scarf which is why pictures of the blessed Mary depict her with a veil. Brother Usman mentioned that he tries to attend the Mosque for all his 5 prayers thus stressing the link he has with the mosque. Although such prayers are not found in Christianity, some of the students from a local Catholic school pointed out that they attended Church almost daily.



Attendees to the Faithful Friends meeting with the main artistically designed Church window in the background. Rev Darren demonstrating how Christians kneel for prayer. Reverend Darren demonstrating the apparatus and procedure for baptism.

Minhaj Youth Delegation visits Gurdwara

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/t/9063>

(30th March 09)

The Faithful Friends Youth group was set up by Newham's Voluntary Network Centre (VNC). The event began with a tour of Neville Road Gurdwara in East Ham. Everyone was asked to cover their heads in the main prayer hall out of respect. The photo below is of the location where the holy book of the Sikh faith is kept.

The area below is where the Sikh holy book is kept.



Attendees were then split into groups to draw pictures describing what they thought were good and bad things about Newham and how they could help improve the borough. You can see Usman Shah below from the Minhaj Youth giving his thoughts.



Inaugural ceremony of Minhaj Reconciliation Council

<http://www.minhaj.org/english/tid/9234>

Dated: 01 November 2009



A ceremony was held on November 1, 2009 under the banner of Minhaj-ul-Quran International to inaugurate the office of Minhaj Reconciliation Council (MRC) in Kharian (Gujrat). Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi, Secretary General of MQI, presided over the programme, while Mr. Robert Kevile, Norwegian ambassador to Pakistan, was the guest of honour on the occasion. Other distinguished personalities included Chaudhry Tahir Zaman Kara, president of District Gujrat, Mian Asghar Hayat, District Naib Nazim, Mian Irfan Naseer, Tehsil Naib Nazim Kharian, Ijaz Ahmad Chaudhry, M.D. of Minhaj Reconciliation Council Europe and Sohail Ahmad Raza, Director Interfaith Affairs.



Mr. Robert Kevile, Norwegian ambassador and Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi jointly inaugurated the office of Minhaj Reconciliation Council, which is located in A-Fazal Plaza on GT Road in Kharian. A huge building houses the office of MRC. Ijaz Ahmad Chaudhry, M.D. of MRC, Zaem Shaukat, vice president of MRC Norway and Samiya Naz were also present on the occasion. An inaugural ceremony was held in the banquet hall of a local hotel. Earlier Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi welcomed His Excellency Mr. Ambassador upon his arrival in the ceremony. Small children presented him with bouquet of flowers during reception.

The proceedings of the ceremony got underway with recitation from the Holy Quran followed by Naat. Mian Qamar Mahmood, Aliya Akram and Irfan jointly conducted the proceedings of the programme. Ijaz Ahmad Chaudhry, M.D. of Minhaj Reconciliation Council Europe, threw light on the aims, background and scope of operation of the Council.

the audience that MRC was brought into being in Norway a few years ago under the leadership of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. The objective behind the establishment of the forum was to provide the Pakistani community living in Norway with an arrangement, which could help them find solutions to their domestic, faith and community issues and establish peace. Later on, the operations of MRC were expanded to other countries including Spain, Italy, UK, Greece and France where the experience has been quite successful.



He told that the Norwegian government and the Pakistan Diaspora appreciated the initiative and encouraged MQI to establish its branches in Pakistan. He said that the pilot project was launched on the place to which majorities of Norwegian Pakistani families belong. He said that MQI was the only Islamic organization, which was conveying the real message of Islam at such a massive scale around the globe. Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri's efforts for promotion of peace, interfaith dialogue and harmony were no secret. He asked the influential people of the area to come forward and join hands with MQI in carrying the sacred mission forward. He also thanked the Norwegian Ambassador for his participation in the programme.



Chaudhry Tahir Zaman Qaira, PPP District president, paid glowing tribute to the leadership of Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri and MQI for their services to humanity in diverse fields. He said that Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri was serving Islam at global level. His contributions to the cause of peace and interfaith dialogue were recognized by all and sundry. He welcomed the establishment of local office of MRC in Karian and hoped that the forum would deliver effective services for the community. He assured of his help and cooperation in that regard.



Dr Raheeq Ahmad Abbasi, Secretary General of Minhaj-ul-Quran International, said in his speech that unfortunately Islam has become one of the most misunderstood and misinterpreted religions of the world. The height of it was the fact that the followers of this great Din could not understand its teachings comprehensively and entirely. Islam laid emphasis on acquisition and promotion of knowledge and enlightenment on all Muslims both men and women, to get knowledge but the literacy ratio in the Muslim countries was pathetic to say the least. He said that Islam promoted peace, tolerance and love in the world but action was quite contrary to the teachings. He said that MQI was engaged in the efforts to promote real message of Islam in the entire world.



His Excellency Mr. Robert Kevile said in his speech that Minhaj Reconciliation Council played an effective role in the resolution of disputes, promotion of reconciliation and harmony in Norway. It served as a bridge between the Pakistani Diaspora and the government. It represented the problems, aspirations and concerns of the people to the government for affirmative action, which was quite helpful for the Norwegian government to address the community issues without any loss of time. He welcomed the establishment of local office of MRC in Kharian. He said that the relationship between Norwegian government and MRC would get strengthened in the future as well. He thanked Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri and Mr. Ijaz Ahmad Chauhdry for spearheading such a productive venture.



Rana Muhammad Idrees Qadri, Naib Nazim-e-Ala, administered oaths to office holders of MRC that included Mian Qamar Mahmood, Sultan Ghani, Chaudhry Sagheer and Chaudhry Ashfaq Advocate. Syed Farhat Hussain Shah led the concluding Dua.



Minhaj Reconciliation Council Norway hosts Iftar dinner

<http://www.minhajoverseas.com/en.php?tid=9073>

Dated: 15 September 2009



Continuing its previous tradition, Minhaj Reconciliation Council arranged an Iftar dinner for both Muslims and non Muslims. The Iftar dinner was hosted on September 5 in the Mosque.



Qari Sialwi started the program by reciting some verses from the Holy Quran. Sister Iqra Mushtaq, Iqra Iqbal and Iqra Ejaz from Minhaj sisters presented a beautiful Nat.



Abduallah Arshad from MRC delivered the welcome address. Ejaz Ahmed Waraich presented future goals, and how these will be reached. In addition to all forums in the Minhaj-ul-Quran Oslo, people from other faiths were also present on the Iftar party. Many non Muslims had come to the Mosque and joined the Muslims. The Oslo police was represented by Geir Tveit who also delivered a very nice gift to the leader of Minhaj Reconciliation Council, Ejaz Ahmed Waraich. This valuable gift was given on behalf of the Chief of Oslo Police. Geir Tveit also told that this gift was given to only two other organizations before MRC; that underlined its importance.



Priest of Grønland Church, Sunniva Gylver, was also present with seven other friends from the church. Sunniva spoke about our great partnership, which warmed many hearts. She mentioned, among other things, semi-rare and tour for women which was arranged by us each year.

Espen Foss is both a student and researcher and has previously interviewed Shaykh-ul-Islam Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. He spoke about how he always feels at home with MRC at Minhaj Ul Quran Oslo. Espen praised the friendliness of the organization and congratulated its workers and leaders for minimizing the gap between different cultures.

Bjørn Nytrø is the leader of the workers union ITF. He was pleased with the iftar program Geir Dale is Director of his own company dedicated to the work for conflict resolution. He is also an author. He praised partnerships of different faiths and congratulated MRC on having "reached new heights in forging interfaith relationships". Mhamma d Asghar did a great job together with other friends of MRC team by arranging this iftar party. All the guests of honor were presented with CDs and other books written by Shaykh-ul-Islam Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri.

Conference of the Nordic Forum for Mediation and Conflict-Management in Reykjavik Iceland

<http://www.mrhajoverseas.com/en.php?tid=130>

Dated: 30 September 2009

30 September to 3 October 2009

Nordic Forum for Mediation and Conflict brings together people who work with conflicts in various areas - such as family, school, workplace, courts, neighbourhoods, and promotion of



international peace. Those participating in the moots are judges, lawyers, attorneys and others who work on mediation

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Reception at the Reykjavik City Hall by the Mayor

Participants from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland were welcomed by the mayor of Reykjavik. Here the participants were able to get to know each other in an informal setting

Thursday, October 1, 2009

The conference was held at Grand Hotel Reykjavik. The conference was opened by the Chairman of the NFM and Sattlegjörg Þorbjörg, who works as a lawyer, a mediator and was responsible for organizing this conference with the other board members from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Finland.



The President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, honoured with his presence and delivered a speech.

Main lecture on that day was delivered by Pia Deleuran, a lawyer, mediator and cand.jur.et art. She gave a speech on "The Competent Mediator - a certain profile emerging by law and what role does education play?"

Teuri Brunila was the second lecturer. He is a retired judge in the civil court and a member of Finland's Forum for the mediation.

After lunch, there was a lecture by Gerry Raven. Gerry Raven, a 65-year-old Ojibwa Indian from the Eagle clan. He lives in Hallow Water Reserve in Manitoba, Canada. He has also taught in countries like USA, Russia and Peru. At the conference he spoke about what the Scandinavian Indians call "sharing circle", how they use it and the importance of the method in the Indian culture.



Friday, October 02, 2009

Today's keynote speech was given by Katrin Jakobsdóttir, Icelandic minister for education, research and culture, as well as the cooperation minister for Nordic cooperation.

Main Lecturer for the day was Grethe North Helle, who is a psychologist, lawyer and mediator. She gave a presentation on the analysis of the causes of conflicts. Tiro Pehrman was the next lecturer. He has a master's degree in social sciences and is the education manager at Valio Oy in Finland. He spoke about the experience and research findings on restorative mediation at the workplace.



After Tiro Pehrman, Anika Rörger got the opportunity to speak. She is a lawyer, as well as a lecturer at the University of Lund. She gave an interesting presentation on "Mediation - a tool in the management of conflicts."

After lunch the participants had the opportunity to participate in various workshops. With the Reconciliation Council participated in a workshop held by Mia Telling and Bent Møtten. The topic for this workshop was "The importance of shame in conflict and conflict mediation".

Next workshop was held by Minhaj Reconciliation Council. The Council highlighted the contributions and services rendered by it since its inception. The presentation was initiated by Iram Shaheen Yasin, who introduced the participants belonging to MRC and made the audience aware that the MRC is a voluntary organization and is a part of Minhaj-ul-Quran International.



Ejaz Ahmed Waraich, President of the MRC spoke about the intent and purpose of the work done by MRC. He emphasized Islam and the Minhaj-ul-Quran's philosophy in relation to socially beneficial work.

Samia Naz threw light on the necessary expertise MRC had to acquire in order to work on conflict management and prevention. She told about the methods MRC uses in resolution of conflict mediation and why it puts some emphasis on preventive work to avoid conflicts. MRC has sustained engagement with and extends cooperation to public bodies in Norway and works closely with NGOs. Furthermore, she talked about experiences and development of MRC.

Here, MRC also got the opportunity to introduce Minhaj-ul-Quran International and its supreme leader Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. It highlighted the salient features of work, role, functions and contributions of MQ and Shaykh-ul-Islam with special reference to promotion of dialogue, peace and interfaith harmony as well as welfare-oriented work across the globe under the banner of Minhaj Welfare Foundation.



Saturday, October 3, 2009

The chief highlight of the fourth day was the keynote speech by Greta Gunnarsdotti, the foreign minister.

Knut Pettersen and Kistin Kjelland-Mørde - judges at the Oslo civil court held a workshop where the theme was: "Mediation has assisted negotiation, distribution negotiations and interest-based negotiations". They ended the workshop with a film and discussion.

A general meeting to elect a new president of NFM and new board was held in the end of the seminar.

Ejaz Ahmed Waraich is the new head of Nordic Forum for Mediation and Conflict Management. He is elected for the next 2 years.

Speaking on the occasion, Ejaz Ahmed Waraich vowed to project the aims and objectives of the forum, strengthen it economically, and improve communication.

