



## FIANZ PRESIDENT HONOURED

The President of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ), Brother Haji Javed Khan, was named in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June as a recipient of Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for services to the community, particularly the Muslims of New Zealand over two decades.

Br. Javed originally hails from Fiji, when after completing his high schooling, he moved to Wellington in 1971 to study law at Victoria University. He has served the International Muslim Association of NZ (IMAN) based in Wellington as their President until he moved to Auckland in 1990. He served as the Legal Advisor of FIANZ for many years until elected the President in 2003.



He has strong convictions and is a great advocate for the Muslims of New Zealand with emphasis on moderation and dialogue.

After 9/11, Bali and London bombings he preached tolerance and patience amongst the Muslim community. Moreover, after the publications of the Prophet's (pbuh) caricatures in the local news-media, he again took a pragmatic stance condemning the gratuitous publications but establishing dialogue with the media to apologize and refrain from such publications in the future.

He has also been instrumental in building better relationship with the Government. The Prime Minister herself and through some of her ministers and ministries have acknowledged the efforts of FIANZ in "building bridges" within the larger New Zealand community. She has included Br Javed as a Muslim representative to various overseas forums on Interfaith Dialogue.

The bestowal of QSM is a confirmation and recognition of the role that Br. Javed continues to play in enhancing the position of Muslims within the New Zealand society.

We join others in congratulating Br Javed for his sterling services and pray that Allah (SWT) rewards him for his good deeds. May Allah (SWT) shower His blessings to Br Javed and his family.

On Sunday 28 May 2006 the Right Honorable Helen Clark, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, made history by attending the FIANZ Annual General Meeting held at Al-Mustafa Jamia Masjid, Otahuhu, Auckland for the first time. There was a large gathering of local Muslim men, women and children to welcome her besides the various delegates of FIANZ constituent associations from all major centres of New Zealand.

In her address she initially thanked everyone and commented on the new masjid and the soft carpet.

She acknowledged and thanked FIANZ and the Muslim community at large for maintaining calm and building better relationship with others subsequent to attacks on Auckland masjids after the London bombings. Speaking on the diverse New Zealand people she said that migration over many years has resulted in a multi-faith and multi-cultural society. During the 19th century Gold-rush many Asians came and amongst them were few Muslims also.

The Labour Government appreciates and values the contributions made by all communities, including Muslims. Diversity makes richer society, promotes tolerance, acceptance and an inclusive environment where people feel their culture and beliefs are valued and included.

Talking of international issues that may concern the Muslim communities worldwide she said that her Government always endeavored to play even-handed and principled role. On the issue of Palestine/Israel conflict her efforts were to arrive at a peaceful and equitable solution.

After 9/11 events she has made extra efforts to build better relationship with the Islamic countries. Many Muslim leaders



## PM VISITS SAMA MASJID



*Br Faruk Usman Ali Khan, President of SAMA, welcoming PM to Al-Mustafa Mosque.*



*Br Javed Khan, President of FIANZ welcoming PM to the FIANZ AGM*

*continued overleaf*

have visited New Zealand recently, including Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bahrain, Turkey etc. New Zealand has been in the forefront in establishing the Asia Pacific Regional Interfaith Forum. Javed Khan, the FIANZ president has attended three forums with the support of her Government. These forums provide opportunities to "talk to each other and not past each other." Next year the forum will be in New Zealand.

She also alluded to the "cartoons" saga and praised FIANZ for adopting a constructive process to build better understanding with community at large and the media in particular.



*Rt Hon Helen Clarke, Prime Minister, addressing at the AGM 2006*

Speaking of various initiatives by her Government she mentioned the special "Building Bridges" program by the Office of Ethnic Affairs, police recruitment of ethnic people, and the Ministry of Social development's "Building Cohesion in Society".

Looking to the future she mentioned three priorities for Muslim kiwis:

1. Modernization and transformation of the economy
2. Building stronger family; young and old
3. Building a unique national identity of our diverse country

In all three the Muslim community has a part to play; young people and sports; Quranic classes are necessary for a sense of identity. We need to build a distinctive New Zealand with one identity built on each of us being sincere in who and what we are, where we come from, what our hosting home and culture are. Openness and dialogue are important to go ahead as a nation.



*Br Daud Azimullah, Master of Ceremony*



*"Token of Appreciation" presented to Prime Minister by President of SAMA*



*Dr Ashraf Choudhary, MP, addressing at the AGM 2006*



## THE MONTH OF SHA'BAN

"O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, that ye may ward off (evil). Quran Baqarah: 183

Sha'ban is the eighth month of the Islamic calendar and precedes the month of Ramadhan when fasting is obligatory.

Narrated by Hazrat Aisha (R): "I never saw the Messenger of Allah fast a complete month save for Ramadhan, and I have never seen him fast more in a month than he did in Sha'ban". Muslim & Bukhari.

It is strongly recommended that the missed fasts should be made up before the beginning of the month of Ramadhan, and

preferably during the month of Sha'ban. Moreover, fasting during Sha'ban trains one to be ready for the Ramadhan fasting.

This year the month of Sha'ban 1427H started on Saturday, 26 August 2006. We anticipate that Ramadhan may begin on 24 September 2006.

Members of the community are urged to sight for the new moon of Ramadhan on Saturday, 23 September 2006 (corresponding to 29th Shabaan 1427H). Sighting of the new moon for Ramadhan should immediately be reported to FIANZ Office (Tel: 04 387 8023) or Sheikh Mohammad Amir of the Hilal Committee (Mobile: 021 232 7624)





## FIANZ Ulama Board

The Federation of Islamic Association of New Zealand (FIANZ) is the umbrella organization for the Muslims of New Zealand. It takes care of their religious, social and political needs. It represents them on national as well as on international level.

The Ulama Board was formed in 2001 by the FIANZ Council as an advisory body on religious matters.

The Board facilitates a number of services, such as issuing verdict on Sharia related issues, providing religious counseling, dealing with marital matters, determining the emergence of the moon for the Islamic months, etc.

Currently the Board consists of six learned scholars, their names as follow:

Sh. Mohammad Amir, Chairman  
 Sh. Amjad Ali, Deputy Chairman  
 Sh. Mohammad Anwar Sahib, Secretary  
 Sh. Mohammad Airout,  
 Sh. Mohammad Khalil Nadat  
 Sh. Mohammad Ishaq Koshia

FIANZ encourages the community members to forward their religious queries to the FIANZ Office so that they may be referred to the Ulama Board for their ruling.



## KEY VISITORS TO FIANZ OFFICE

FIANZ had been very busy hosting stream of VIP visitors to its office. During the past few months, we have welcomed the following visitors to our office:

Tim Pankhurst, Editor, The Dominion Post

HE David Kersey, NZ High-Commissioner-Designate to Malaysia

Officials from Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (MUIS)

Scholars from Saudi Arabia

Dr Bilal Philips, Islamic Scholar

Indonesian Audit Team officials

Indonesian Quarantine Authority officials



*Tim Pankhurst, Editor of Dominion Post*



*Visiting Scholars from Saudi Arabia*



*Brs M Hanif, Salim and Zainal (Officials from Majlis Ugama Singapore)*



*HE David Kersey, New Zealand High Commissioner-Designate to Malaysia*



## MECHANICAL SLAUGHTER OF POULTRY

In August 2003, the FIANZ Ulama Board after carefully observing the procedure concluded that the process of Mechanical Slaughter by Turks Poultry in Foxton can be accepted as “Halal” provided the following conditions were fulfilled:

### Conditions

- The machine should be manually operated by Halal Slaughter man
- The processing speed should be maintained at such level, so the Halal slaughter man can easily say the prayer on each chicken.
- The electric knife must be sharp.
- For each chicken the slaughter man must press the button and must say the Tasmiyah (Bismillahi Allahu Akbar) at the time of pressing the button.
- It is the throat that is cut ensuring the severance of the esophagus and jugular veins.

There should always be two Muslim slaughtermen, one on the mechanical knife and the other one to inspect each chicken and to make sure that it has been slaughtered properly. He should slaughter manually any chicken that is missed by the mechanical knife, provided that the chicken is alive. If it is dead, then it must be declared non-Halal and should be removed from the chain and put aside.

In case if the current speed increases, then more Halal slaughter men are required to be able to manually check and slaughter the chicken missed by the mechanical knife operated by the first Halal Slaughter man.

### Stunning

Electrical stunning of poultry is allowed using water bath stunners

only, and it should only be head stunner. The voltage of stunner should be monitored frequently to make sure that the voltage continuously remains on the required level. High voltage may cause death of the chicken, and the slaughtering then will become meaningless.

These are very basic requirements which must be fulfilled during the slaughter, failure to do so will result in non-Halal product.

The Ulama Board would like to take a cautious step as this issue has been controversial among contemporary scholars. It would like to advise that manual slaughter is preferable as this is the safest and the most satisfying method.

CHAIRMAN,  
FIANZ ULAMA BOARD



## ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK 7 - 13 AUGUST 2006

This year, Islam Awareness Week was observed from 7-13 August 2006.

Islam Awareness Week is a week of information and activities organised by local Muslims to increase New Zealanders' awareness of their beliefs, values and practices, and to tackle misinformation about their religion in a positive way. The aim is to achieve greater understanding between us all, by promoting communication and new relationships. It's also hoped to reduce ignorance and misconceptions about the world's second largest religion: prejudices about Islam often result from misinformation through news media reporting on world events involving Muslims. Most provide little or no perspective as to what Islam's take is on the issue or the position of the other 1.3999 billion Muslims. Negative reporting has been a major cause of the ignorance of Islam we see today.

Riding on the success of the inaugural launch of Islam Awareness Week last year, FIANZ was delighted to organise the event again this year. The theme for this year's event was “Muslim Heritage”. This theme provided us with an opportunity to look not just backwards, but also into the future, both of our

community and the part it plays in wider New Zealand society. Activities during the Week such as Masjid Open days, talks, video screenings and information displays allowed people an insight into the Islamic way of life and the Muslims who follow it. Some may build on what they know, others might change what they thought they knew, or learn basic facts, such as that most Muslims are not Arabs, or that Islam means peace. Others may be interested in topics of their own interest whether it be Peace, Women, War, Law, God, or whatever. Whatever the reasons, if we have come to know each other a little better in our own ways, Islam Awareness Week had certainly achieved its goal.

As Muslims, we must reach out to fellow New Zealanders - initiatives like Islam Awareness Week highlight the work that needs to be done to increase the awareness of both Muslims and wider New Zealanders, of our respective beliefs and values. Events like this will lead to a society in which all New Zealanders are understanding, respectful and global achievers.

I believe our community will be a good example of how Islam can be positively anchored to initiate, develop and sustain the good society in New Zealand, and to live in peace and harmony with the wider New Zealand community, for our common destiny is bound together in Aotearoa.

## FIANZ National Qur'an Competition 2006

In keeping with the tradition, FIANZ organised the Annual National Qur'an Competition on 5-6 August 2006 at Al Mustafa Masjid in Otahuhu, Auckland. This year, there were about 50 participants from Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, Hamilton and Palmerston North. All participants came well prepared for the competition. Parents and community leaders also came to the competition to encourage the participants. The quality of our children's reading and memorizing capability has certainly improved markedly. It is pleasing to note that each year, FIANZ had made significant progress in organizing the competition. The Al-Mustafa Masjid in Otahuhu, Auckland (SAMA) provided excellent hospitality for all participants and their minders. All participants at the competition were presented with a Participation Certificate and a Prize. The third placing for this year went to IMAN. The second placing was captured by Al Madinah. The Champion shield went to Mt Roskill. We congratulate all winners!

May Allah SWT Give us more tawfiq and the ability to organise even better event in the coming years, Insha Allah.



## VISIT OF DR BILAL PHILIPS TO NEW ZEALAND 16-23 JULY 2006

The lecture visit of Dr Bilal Philips to New Zealand was coordinated by the FIANZ National Dawah Group. His visit was a prelude to the Islam Awareness Week (7-13 August 2006).

During his visit to New Zealand Dr Bilal held lectures in Dunedin, Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland.

Born in Jamaica in 1947, Dr Bilal Philip was once a Christian and is now an Islamic Scholar. He received his BA degree from the Islamic University of Madina and his MA in Aqeedah (Islamic Philosophy) from the King Saud University in Riyadh. His deep study and understanding of Islam has won him respect of ordinary Muslims as well as many learned scholars of Islam.

The theme for his lectures was "Muslim Minorities living in Western Civilizations". There were full attendance in all the Centres he presented his lecture. His lectures were very enlightening and educational.

A recurring advice throughout his lecture is for the Muslim community in New Zealand to join together to pursue an Islamic-way of life in education, housing and commerce.

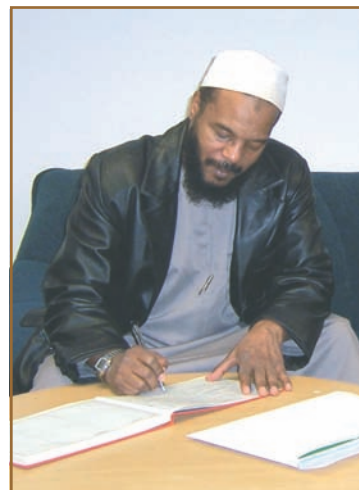
In Wellington, Dr Bilal visited the Federation's office. He met with Br Hanif Ali, Secretary and Sheikh Amir, Ulama Chairman and exchanged views.

Dr Bilal also held discussions with a group of Muslim students at the Victoria University of Wellington.

Besides giving a lecture in Hamilton, Dr Bilal also conducted the Friday Kutba at the Masjid. A big crowd of brothers and sisters gathered at the Hamilton Masjid to hear Dr Bilal.

His final leg of the visit was in Auckland. Lectures were organised at Avondale Islamic Centre in Blockhouse Bay. Dr Bilal also conducted a Workshop on Dawah Work to a group of enthusiastic brothers and sisters.

The visit of Dr Bilal was indeed very successful and FIANZ hope to continue in the tradition of welcoming respected overseas Islamic scholars/speakers to New Zealand to further enrich our community.



*Dr Bilal Philips signing the Visitors Book at FIANZ Office*

## REPORT BY GUL ZAMAN

A recent report conducted by non-governmental organizations, the European Network against Racism, says that 2005 saw "an increase in manifestations of racism and a notable increase in far-right and extremist expressions of racism" in 20 countries across Eastern Europe.

A section on the UK concluded "that new, tougher, immigration and security policies after the 7 July 2005, London bombings have helped a situation in which racism has flourished." Anti-terror crackdowns have led to racial profiling which, by the nature of stereotyping, impacts largely on the wider minority groups.

Even more worrying is the growth of extremist political forces. The document notes: "A rise of right-wing extremism is evident in a number of countries. The rise of intolerance towards Muslims has risen in the last year and the underlying tones of Islamophobia have infiltrated all forms of public and private lives for Muslims in Europe."

Should the Muslims in New Zealand be concerned with the worrying contents of this European Report or ignore them as events too far and remote to be of any significance to us? If we seriously look at the reactions within New Zealand after the 11 September 01 and the & July 05 events we notice some parallels: the introduction of anti-terror legislations; the racially motivated personal attacks; damages to our Masjids; border control incidents: political statements (Brash's bedrock values) and radio talkbacks. We live in a globalize world and whatever happens overseas also impacts on us.

Everything is not all gloom and doom. Generally we are much better off than in other Western countries. However, we need to be more pro-active in building better relationship and understanding with the other communities.

Some progress has been made over the years through inter-faith dialogues and diversity forums, both locally and nationally. The Prime Minister and her ministers have promptly responded on numerous occasions specially when our community felt threatened. The Office of Ethnic Affairs, Department of Social Development, and the Human Rights Commission have initiated various plans and programs to help in bringing about better understanding of Muslim cultures, values and needs.

The onus is on the Muslim leaders, and ulamas to become more active in local and national affairs. We should invite others to our masjids, institutions and functions more often. Moreover, we should also visit their church, marae and other institutions to familiarize ourselves with their cultures, values, norms etc. We need their goodwill and understanding more than they need ours.





## VISIT OF INDONESIAN AUDIT OFFICIALS, 20-27 JUNE 2006

An Indonesian Audit Team visited New Zealand from 20-27 June 2006 to have meetings with the Meat Industry Association (MIA), New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) officials and the Halal Certifiers. The team also visited selected Halal plants for inspection.

The members of the Indonesian Audit Team were Dr Etty Wuryaningsih and Dr Sri Mukartini, from the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture.

The Auditors were received at the FIANZ Office in the afternoon of 22 Jun 2006. We also invited two officials (Brs Ali Sungkar, Head of Politics and Yogo Pamungkas, Third Secretary) from the Indonesian Embassy.

New Zealand officials from New Zealand Food Safety Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Meat Industry Association also accompanied the Indonesian Auditors for the meeting with us:

Besides Secretary of FIANZ and the Executive Manager, Sheikh Amir, Chairman of Ulama Board, was also at hand to receive the Indonesian delegation.

After the Quran Tilawat, Br Hanif Ali, Secretary of FIANZ, formally welcomed the guests and gave a brief introduction of FIANZ. Following that, Br Sultan Eusoff, Executive Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on FIANZ Halal Process and Procedures. Several questions from the Auditors ranging from the type of Halal

Certificates issued by FIANZ to the selection process of the Halal Slaughtermen were answered clearly.

The Auditors were very satisfied with the answers given.

At the end of the presentation, they enjoyed afternoon tea with us.



*Officials from Indonesia Embassy, Indonesian Audit Team, NZ Food Safety Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade & Meat Industry Association*



## VISIT OF INDONESIAN QUARANTINE OFFICIALS, 21-26 AUGUST 2006

An Indonesian Quarantine Team (Basir Nainggolan, Dr Hardiman and Kuswandi Wangidjaja) also visited New Zealand from 21-26 Aug 2006 to have meetings with Meat Industry Association, NZ Food Safety Authority and the Halal Certifiers.

Officials from the Indonesian Quarantine Authorities, accompanied by the Meat Industry Association representative, visited FIANZ Office on 24 August 2006. The purpose of their visit was to seek a better understanding of the FIANZ Halal certification process and to ensure the Authentification of Certificates issued by the Federation.

We also invited Indonesian Embassy officials to participate in our presentation to the visiting Indonesian Quarantine officials.

Sheikh Amir, Chairman of Ulama Board, was also at hand to receive the visiting Indonesian officials.

The PowerPoint presentation by the office was well received and several questions pertaining to the certification process from the visiting officials were well clarified.

The visitors were very impressed with our high standard and system for the Halal Certification process.

With the successful conclusion of the Indonesian visitors, office is now preparing to receive officials from the Malaysian Halal Authorities (JAKIM) sometimes soon.



*Sheikh Amir, Dr Hardiman, Sultan Eusoff, Rowan Ogg, Kuswandi Wangidjaja, Basir Nainggolan and Yusuf Koshin*

### Upcoming Events

**FIANZ Executive Meeting**  
October 2006 , Auckland

**FIANZ Council Meeting**  
November 2006, FIANZ Office Wellington

**FIANZ Eid Celebrations**  
November 2006, Parliament House Wellington

### The Editorial Committee of FIANZ NEWS

Sr Rehanna Ali

Br Gul Zaman

Br Hanif Ali

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