



Muslim News

23 September 2010 , 14 Shawwal 1431

Contribution of Muslim community to NZ economy significant: FIANZ President

Muslims continue to make significant contribution in the overall economy of the country and add colour to our national diversity, FIANZ President Dr. Anwar Ghani said yesterday.

Speaking at the Eid reception hosted by Pansy Wong, Minister for Ethnic Affairs, in the Grand Hall of Parliament Buildings, Dr. Ghani said that Halal industry which not only included meat and meat by-products but also includes dairy products, cosmetic and pharmaceuticals is a unique contribution of Muslims and



Dr. Anwar Ghani speaking at the Eid reception in Parliament Building, Wellington yesterday.

full opportunities in Halal tourism are yet to be realised.

“It is encouraging to see our youngsters also beginning to contribute in the sporting arena which would give them confidence and generate national pride. FIANZ’s excellent and long standing relationship with Muslim countries in the South East Asia and Middle East can be used to develop and further enhance the trade and cultural relationship with these countries”, he said.

Prime Minister John Key, leader of the Opposition

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Pastor Terry Jones and the Quran burning saga: Much Ado About Nothing

By Mohammed Musa

The recent attempt by Pastor Terry Jones of the Dove Church in Gainesville, Florida to burn the Holy Quran generated controversy and anxiety around the world.

The event itself according to the earlier plans of its mastermind, Pastor Terry Jones was to take place on September 11.

Even though the plan failed to materialise as announced, several interpretations and explanations have emerged to explain Pastor Jones initial

motive.

First, that it was billed to happen on September 11, a day when many are commemorating the sad event of the same date in 2001 when thousands-Americans and non-Americans, Christians, Muslims, Jews and others were killed points to a trial and a judgement.

It is a pointer that Pastor Jones has tried the World Muslim population of 1.5 billion people and found them collectively guilty of the sad event. If this is as interesting as it is bizarre the

Prime Minister John Key recognises Muslims contributions at Eid celebration

Prime Minister John Key recognises Muslims contributions at Eid celebration

At the ‘Eid in Parliament’ gathering to celebrate the Muslim Eid el Fitr, PM Mr John Key acknowledged the contributions of Muslims in New Zealand.



According to the Prime Minister Muslims are making positive contributions to both the economy and cultural diversity of New Zealand. He observed that Halal exports to Muslim countries are significant to New Zealand economy and this will yet grow further with the active involvement of New Zealand Muslims. Mr Key also commended Muslims for their community spirit and involvement as seen in their recent participation towards earthquake relief efforts in Christchurch.

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Contribution from Muslim community to NZ economy

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Mr. Phil Goff, MPs, diplomats and Muslim community leaders attended the reception.

Acknowledging the proactive role the different state and government agencies play in engaging with the Muslims, Dr. Ghani said that in the past few years, government has, through its various agencies and instruments such as the Office of Ethnic Affairs, Police, MSD as well as the Office



of the Prime Minister maintained a policy of engagement with Muslims.

“This has gone a very long way in assuring young Muslims who are concerned and baffled by negative international media representations of Muslims. Thus government policy of engagement serves a very useful purpose in reassuring young Muslims and encouraging them to continue to feel positive about themselves as members of a faith community in this country”, he said.

Pastor Terry Jones and the Quran burning saga

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next implication is even more so.

If Pastor Jones has determined Muslims are guilty his self determined and prescribed punishment is stunning. The Qur'an is the Holy book of Muslims who, by his judgement are guilty and therefore must be burned.

Burning the Qur'an for Pastor Jones will facilitate the disappearance of Islam from the world especially if his action generates a global ripple.

My doubt about the sincerity of Pastor Jones' plans did not arise because he has continuously kept shifting on the motives of his plans but because he could easily have implemented his plan in his bedroom or with the 29 members of his church. Most networks report that the Dove Church is made up of 30 members.

But he chose to go public with the plan. He invited a White House intervention, persuasion or negotiation before he could change his mind. At a point he linked his

bonfire to the planned construction of an Islamic Centre at Ground zero etc etc.

His daughter, as reported by the networks claimed Pastor Jones is a very 'strange person'.

“If Pastor Jones has determined Muslims are guilty his self determined and prescribed punishment is stunning”.

Hillary Clinton joined general American public opinion to describe Jones' plans as 'mindless, irresponsible act'.

We have heard all these and many more. But I wish to go back to my earlier assumption that Pastor Jones intends, by burning the Quran, to stir global ripple of inferno and bonfire around Quran

burning.

And the end of it would wipe Islam from the face of the earth. That he would hold such a view demonstrates among others his absolute ignorance about Islam. For the religion in both theory and practice is not surviving and thriving because of the numerous copies of the Quran found in homes or libraries or on-line etc.

Stories to share with the family

Stories to share with the family FIANZ Muslim News brings to you the second story in the lecture on how to raise a strong Muslim youth delivered by the FIANZ Dawah and Outreach Chair Mustafa Farouk to the youth who attended the Avondale-Hamilton Youth Camp on July 10, 2010 at the Hamilton Mosque. This second story is about the importance of having an unshakable belief and conviction about Islamic teachings.

How to turn a goat into a dog: the power of reinforcement

One day a labourer went to a nearby village and worked on a farm for five solid days tiling land, planting guinea corn and groundnuts for a local farmer. He was paid for his hard work with a goat, as was customary in those areas for farmers to pay for services in kind rather than in cash. The labourer was very pleased with the goat he earned and just could not wait to take it back to his family in town. He strapped the goat on his back, hopped on his bicycle and headed towards his hometown. As he pedalled on, oblivious to everything except the goat that kept trying to nibble on his shirt collar; he was seen approaching from afar by four conmen resting under the shade of a tamarind tree. One of the conmen asked the others if there was a way they could rid the labourer of his goat without the use of any force. The four thought quickly and came up with a plan of making the man part with his prize possession peacefully.

The four conmen spread themselves at even distances along the route to

the labourer's town and waited for him to arrive at each of their stations. When he reached the spot where the first conman was stationed, the man appeared from behind the bushes and greeted him pleasantly and inquired after his health, where he was heading to, and then added "that is a mighty fine dog you had strapped on your back". The labourer glared at him and said "you must be blind to confuse the goat I just earned for my hard work with a dog". "Oh well, if you are really sure it is a goat" responded the first conman slyly.

can mistaken his hard earned goat for a dog and with that thought a small seed of doubt about his goat got planted in his mind. He quickly shrugged off that thought, took a hard look at his goat again, reassured himself he was not losing his mind and carried on with his journey home. It was not long after the second encounter when he reached the third conman who also appeared from behind the bushes as just another villager on his way home and rudely shouted to the man on the bike "why don't you let that poor dog run and

follow you rather than carrying him all strapped on your back on a bike". The labourer couldn't tell the third conman off with alacrity as he did the first two, because by now the tiny seed of doubt has grown with this third encounter and he is no longer so sure of whether he was right or all these three individuals could each

independently be wrong. So he mumbled "mind your P's & Q's" using a tone barely audible to even him and sadly continued on with his journey with lingering doubts about what exactly is strapped on his back.

The labourer kept asking himself "was it a goat or a dog I am carrying?????? By the time he reached the fourth conman and heard him refer to what he thought was a goat as a dog, the labourer became convinced he must be wrong, that it was a dog he was carrying and not a goat, or else, how can four separate individuals – whom he did not know were in cahoots – all be wrong. As a result the labourer angrily chucked what the conmen convinced him was a dog away; the conmen waited for him to turn a corner and they quickly



Source of pictures: Google Images

The labourer rode on thinking in his mind what a fool that person was to have mistaken this fine goat for a dog of all things. But no sooner had he started to forget his encounter with the first conman when he reached the station of the second one who also appeared as if by chance from behind the bushes and greeted him warmly like a long lost friend. Just as he was starting to think what a gentleman the second conman was, he too asked "what are you doing carrying a dog on your back like a baby". The labourer retorted angrily "can't you people see that this is a goat and not a dog" and pedalled furiously away from the second conman.

But as he pedalled off his mind began to wonder how two separate persons

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News in Pictures: Fitr Eid prayer



Muslims across New Zealand and the world observed the end of fasting month of Ramadan with Eid prayers on Friday, 9 September. Eid is celebrated on the first day of Shaw'waal, at the completion of Ramadan. Shaw'waal is the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. The Eid-al-Fitr is a very joyous day. On this day Muslims show their real joy for the health, strength and the opportunities of life, which Allah has given to them to fulfill their obligation of fasting and other good deeds during the blessed month of Ramadan.

Hamilton



Christchurch



News in Pictures



There was a meeting of Somali community leaders and the Police recently in Hamilton where FIANZ President Dr. Anwar Ghani attended.



Write to us

Muslim News is published fortnightly by the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand. We welcome news and information about the Muslim community in New Zealand and the world. Please email news, views and photos, to nzmuslimnews@gmail.com

MUSLIM CONVENTION



"Building Better Families"

Events:

**27 - 28
November
2010**

**Stalls, Family Fun, Children Rides,
Netball, Ladies Activities, Fashion
Show, Soccer, Volleyball, Sports
Health Check, Information, etc**

Forum

Where: Papatoetoe High School
Entrances from Nicholson Avenue & Carlie Street, Papatoetoe

Starts at 9:00am Sat 27, finishes at 5:00pm Sun 28 Nov 2010
Further inquires: fianz@vodafone.co.nz, Ph: (04) 3878023

Hosted by
South Auckland Muslim Association
Ibrar Sheikh 021 240 8786, Haji Hasim Khan 021 777705
Email: secretary.sama@xtra.co.nz



SAMA marks Eid



Brothers attending Taraweh prayers at Masjid Al Mustafa

By Ibrar Sheikh

The sacred and blessed month of Ramadan has come to an end and we have celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr. I am sure that by the grace of Allah, all of you must have striven hard in His way in accordance with the teachings of the Quran and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

South Auckland Muslim Association with help of its members were able to arrange all the Iftars during the month of Ramadhan. The Eid ul Fitr was observed on Friday with Eid Salah starting at 7:30am. Approximately 1500 brothers and sisters attended the Eid Salah. The



Brothers cleaning Masjid Al Mustafa in preparation for Eid

entire program were broadcasted on Radio Tarana and Radio Apna.

On Thursday night, the announcement of the moon sighting was made from Majid Al Mustafa and broadcasted on both Hindi Radio Stations. This announcement was made by the Vice President of FIANZ, Br Javed Iqbal.

After having a wonderful ramahan and Eid, let us not forget to pray for all humanity and our country; for its security and peace. Let us all work towards the common goal of making our country and the world a better place.

OIC felicitates Muslim Ummah on Eid Al Fitr

The Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, expressed his warmest congratulations and best wishes to the entire Muslim Ummah on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, praying to Almighty Allah that He may make this Eid one of good and hope and that He may grant Muslims all over the world happiness and blessings.

The following are excerpts from the message:

The Muslim world is marking these days the happy occasion of Eid Al Fitr, which is an opportunity for us to celebrate and express our thanks and praise to Allah for having bestowed on us the blessing of fasting and praying. On this occasion, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations

to the Muslim Ummah, praying to Almighty Allah that He may make this Eid one of good and hope and that He may grant Muslims all over the world happiness and blessings. I also pray to Almighty Allah that He may grant them success, guide them towards unifying their ranks and strengthen solidarity among themselves so that they may defend their faith and culture against injustice and evil, and that they may reach the coming Ramadan enjoying good, progress and prosperity.

Ramadan is a month of peace, tranquillity and security in which Muslims persevere particularly in prayer, worship and purification of the soul. However, it is unfortunate that this holy month has witnessed natural calamities that have hit Pakistan causing massive damage to citizens,

some of whom died because of the floods and others became homeless. We call upon Muslims all over the world to make every effort to assist their brothers in Pakistan.

We should not forget Al Quds and the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque, the first prayer direction (Qiblah) and the third Holy Mosque. We affirm the Muslim Ummah's unwavering position on the City of Al Quds and the need to safeguard its Arab Islamic identity against the threats of judaization and to end occupation. We reiterate our call to the Member States to continue to provide all forms of support and backing to the Palestinian people to ensure their self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian State with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

Christchurch Earthquake - Mayoral Fund Appeal

7 September 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalaam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

I pray to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala that you all are in the very best of health and progressing well in the path of Taqwa and receiving the bounties of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala in this most blessed month of Ramadhan.

As you are all aware, the city of Christchurch has been gravely affected by the 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck on Saturday, 4 September 2010 and resulted in widespread damage to properties and infrastructures. Alhamdulillah, by the Grace of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, no lives were lost. This is indeed a miracle.

We, as citizens of this country, must now come together to play our part to assist our fellow citizens in the Canterbury region to bring normalcy to the City. A letter of support has been sent to the Mayor of Christchurch offering the assistance of the Muslim community. Although at this stage there are no requests for volunteer-support, we should be able to mobilize some brothers/sisters should the need arise.

In the meanwhile, FIANZ has launched a fundraising appeal to raise money for the Mayoral Fund set up by the Mayor of Christchurch to assist in the relief effort of the Canterbury region. We request all Brothers and Sisters to donate generously towards this noble cause. Appropriate announcement/request should be made at Masajid and Islamic Centers, particularly during the Eid Prayer and Jumah. Donations are to be directed to FIANZ's Appeal Account as detailed hereunder:

Bank of New Zealand
020 500 - 0737236 - 006
FIANZ Appeal Account

The Federation recommends that the Local Associations coordinate the fund raising at regional level and deposit the money raised into the abovementioned account. Regional Associations and individual community donor are kindly reminded to state clearly that they are donating for "Christchurch Relief Fund" when depositing the money in the FIANZ Appeal Account.

Jazakallah Khair and Wassalam.

Sheikh Mohammad Amir
For Hilal Committee
President

Stories to share with the family

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took the goat and went their ways. The labourer on the other hand went home a frustrated man who was ripped off of his priceless possession by conmen who simply played with his mind using the power of reinforcement.

This story highlights the following: (1) To be a strong Muslim one has to have a strong conviction about what Allah revealed in the Quran and through the teachings of the Prophet (SAW) and have no doubt whatsoever. Allah says in the Quran "A believer is the one who believes in Allah and His Prophet and has no doubt" (Quran 49:15). There are many faith-thieves trying to rob us of our iman. One way they do that is by trying to create doubts in our minds about our beliefs just like the way the conmen did to the labourer in the story above. We have been taught in the Quran to pray for protection against such thieves from among men and Jinns (Quran 114:1-6); (2) The power of positive or negative reinforcement in changing our perception of realities. The tactic employed by the conmen -(of repeatedly saying the same thing over and over again) is a double edged sword: it can be used negatively as in the story or it can be used positively to reinforce Islamic beliefs in the mind of a person; and (3) It underscores the wisdom behind the repetitious way the Quran was arranged, with verses of similar meaning, and reminders or warnings spread throughout its pages and not just grouped in chapters. This way one is able to grasp the essence of the teachings of Islam in any two of its pages making the Quran very unique and a true source of guidance different from all other books.

Aoud and Hamzeh win Ramadan Qu'ran Quiz



Aoud and her brother Mahzeh Mamoon have emerged winners of the Ramadan Qur'an quiz in Christchurch. The daily quiz that ran throughout the month of Ramadan asked participants to identify the surah from which a verse is read out. Imam of Masjid An Nur Dr Hisham El zeiny presented prizes to the winners comprising of Islamic books and full Qur'an audio tapes. He urged Aoud and Hamzeh to continue studying the Qur'an.

Why Natural Disasters?

Excerpt from a Friday Khutbah at Hamilton Mosque

By Mustafa Farouk, FIANZ National Dawah and Outreach

Just last week an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale hit Christchurch. Alhamdulillah there was no loss of lives, but the damage was estimated to cost about 4 billion NZ dollars. Pakistan is reeling from a devastating flood that affected the lives of up to 20 million at a cost yet to be estimated. Recently, on January 12, 2010, there was also an earthquake in Haiti with about 200,000 dead and up to 3 million individuals affected. The 2004 Tsunami killed approximately 94,081 in Indonesia; over 29,744 in Sri Lanka; 9,451 in India; 5,046 in Thailand; 200 in Somalia; 90 in Myanmar (Burma); 74 in the Maldives; 67 in Malaysia; 10 in Tanzania; 3 in Seychelles; 2 in Bangladesh; and 1 in Kenya.

Natural disasters like Lahars, Volcanic eruptions, Floods, Limnic eruptions, Cyclonic storms, Blizzards, Droughts, Famines, Plague, Hailstorms, Heat waves, Tornadoes, forest fires, Tsunamis etc have been occurring throughout the history of mankind in every part of the world. These disasters and their impact are expected to double by 2015 according to OXFAM.

Why all these natural disasters?

Natural disasters occur for many reasons best known to Allah Who created and Has control over everything. The reasons from our very limited knowledge include (and Allah knows best):

1. Natural disasters are signs of Allah's Power and a proof of human infirmity

We believe as Muslims that everything in nature is created without any flaws by Allah for a purpose (44:38-39; 54:49). The small strides humans have made in technology and other sciences often gets into our heads making us forget that in the scheme of things we are smaller than small, that we have no power and are in no way able to frustrate Allah in any way. Therefore, when Allah turns

the air or breeze, which He allows us to enjoy in hot days, into strong hurricanes or tornados, or the rain that provides us drinking water into a powerful flood (15:22), it makes us realise the powers of Allah and the fact that we are powerless despite all the advancement we made and the technologies we possess.

2. Natural disasters are punishments for violating Allah's laws and serve as lessons for future generations

Natural disasters occur as punishments for the mischief that humans cause

“Natural disasters occur as punishments for the mischief that humans cause on earth so that we may reflect on our actions and go back to Allah (30:41)”.

on earth so that we may reflect on our actions and go back to Allah (30:41). The people of Noah were punished with floods (29:14); for the people of Thamud and Madyan, they disbelieved in their prophets Salih and Shuaib respectively and they were punished by an earthquake (7:78; 91); the Ad were destroyed by a storm wind furiously raging for seven nights and eight days without cease (69:6-7); and the people of Lut a violent Tornado with showers of stones were sent by Allah to destroy them (54:33-34). These punishments as horrendous as they may seem are much less than these nations deserve (35:45). And it was not Allah who wronged them, but it was they who had wronged themselves (29:40). The calamities visited on these nations only serve as a reminder and lessons to those who survived the calamities and for generations to come (2:66; 29:35).

The one question we ought to be asking ourselves is: Do the reasons why earlier

nations got destroyed by the different natural disasters still exist today? Yes, they all exist, and could be the reason the world is experiencing more natural disasters today and are expected to increase in frequency.

3. Disasters are natural ways of maintaining geological and ecological balance on earth

The continental plates that we inhabit are constantly drifting like a boat on the sea. For these plates to drift in balance, the Earth's valleys have to be balanced by its mountains just like the way we distribute the load on our boats to avoid sinking. Some of what we refer to as natural disasters may be means for the Earth to achieve such balance. And humans sometimes get in the way of such a process.

There are many communities of living things inhabiting this earth, worshipping Allah, and with rights to live just like us humans (6:38; 17:44). Some of these communities depend on these so-called natural disasters to survive. For instance forest fires occur spontaneously to allow fresh herbage to grow for the sustenance of many wild animals and birds.

4. Disasters provide opportunities for renewed growth

Many are already saying that while the recent earthquake in Christchurch is a bane to some, it will turn out to be a boon to many, because of the potential for renewed growth both in physical infrastructures and financial gains and job opportunities for the people living around the city and the country at large. Were the earthquake not to have taken place, none of these would have happened or, at best, very gradually.

5. Disasters are other pathways for death

Where, when and how we are going to die is written for us in the Preserved Tablet and nothing can change that. Some people Allah has willed their death to be as a result of natural disasters, so these disasters have to happen for them to die.

6. Disasters are signs the day of judgement is getting closer

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The Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand

**INVITES ALL MUSLIMAH ADULTS AND MUSLIMAH YOUTH
IN NEW ZEALAND TO ATTEND THE:**

2011 IWCNZ National Conference

to be held at the University of Waikato in Hamilton

January 21-23, 2011

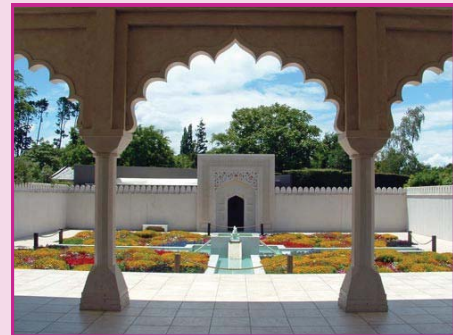
The Conference will address:

Muslimah Living Active and Fulfilling Lives

There will be workshops and activities targeted to different age groups and afternoon outings for all participants.

The event is being hosted by the Women's Organisation of the Waikato Muslim Association (WOWMA) in Hamilton. More details about the event will be forthcoming. Watch this Space!

We welcome any kind of support from Muslim businesses and organisations. Donations as well as product samples for distribution would be appreciated. Please contact WOWMA at the email to the right if you are interested in making such a contribution.



(Indian Garden, Hamilton, New Zealand)

SAVE THE DATE

For more information about the event, to preregister for the conference and to receive notices about the activities, please send an email with your contact details to:

conference@yourwowma.com

Why Natural Disasters?

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Abu-Hurairah narrated a Hadith of the Prophet (SAW) that indicated 11 signs of the approach of the Hour or Day of Judgement. Among the signs are earthquakes will increase in number; time will pass quickly; afflictions will appear; killing will increase.

7. Not all disasters are natural many are man made

Allah Says "Whatever misfortune happens to you, is because of the things your hands have wrought, and for many (of them) He grants forgiveness (42:30). Natural disasters are also caused by humans due to their deliberate refusal to observe Allah's laws that are meant to ensure the earth's stability and sustainability. One of the best known examples is the May 2008 Sichuan earthquake in China that killed 69,227. The quake is believed to have been caused by the pressure exerted on a fault by Zipingpu Dam. The greatest earthquake in Australia's history was

also induced by humanity, through coal mining. Many floods happen because of our control of rivers through the building of dams, and when these dams burst, many lives are lost and properties damaged as a consequence.

Humans knowingly build houses in flood paths and areas known to be prone to disasters such as earthquake zones, near a volcano, near the ocean or in areas of tornados or hurricanes or forest fires. They choose to live there and unwittingly become victims of these natural disasters.

But why do innocent people suffer during natural disasters and not only the bad guys?

Imaam Ahmad reports in his Musnad, from the Hadith of Umm Salamah, who said: I heard Allah's Messenger (saw) saying: "When acts of disobedience become widespread in my ummah, then Allah may send punishment upon them all from Himself" So I said: "O Allah's Messenger (saw)! Even if there

are righteous people amongst them that day? So he replied: "Indeed!" So I said: "How will that be?" He replied: "They will be afflicted with what afflicts the people, then they will move on to the forgiveness of Allah and His good pleasure."

We all have to struggle to attain Jannah. We must maintain our faith in the face of all temptations, calamities and do it willingly exercising our free will. If calamities only befall the wicked on this earth, then there won't be any wicked persons, everyone will be good, and the element of struggle, faith, and the opportunity for us to exercise our free will to worship Allah, or not, will no longer exist. So in terms of suffering, everyone suffers when calamity strikes, the only difference is that the faithful are rewarded with paradise in the Day of Judgement.

May Allah strengthen our faith to accept whatever calamity befalls us; May we not be tested by things that we cannot bear; and May we be rewarded with Jannatul-Firdaws.

Saudi Flood Aid To Pakistan: First, Largest, Not Politicized

Washington's aid is politicized and arrogant; Riyadh's aid is compassionate

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Saudi Arabia has quietly bypassed the United States as the single largest aid donor in real terms so far. Riyadh's commitment to helping the victims of Pakistan's devastating floods has crossed US\$140 million. The Saudis have also outdone themselves. The Saudi military and air force set up a back-to-back air bridge between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, sending thirty large cargo planes carrying hundreds of tons of relief goods. The air bridge continues to operate. With more than \$120 million sent in cash, the first 3-day international telethon to raise funds, and 30 major air relief shipments to land in Pakistan in what is the largest air bridge in support of flood victims, Saudi response was better than any other nation.

The only exceptions are UAE sending six helicopters when the United States initially provided only five, [later increased to 15]. After its initial reluctance, US surpassed any other donor by providing three large cargo planes in addition to ten more helicopters. Most of the pledged US aid money is, however, 'recycled' from earlier aid commitments to Pakistan and is not new. And, according to Ahmed Quraishi, Project Pakistan Senior Fellow at Project For Pakistan In 21st Century, an independent Islamabad-based think tank, US help is politicized, meant to shore up a pro-US govt. in Islamabad in the face of better performances by the Pakistani military and Pakistani charities in responding to the humanitarian disaster. Mr. Quraishi told PakNationalists.com: "Despite frosty relations with the Zardari-Gilani government, Riyadh's aid was massive but received little media attention in Pakistan.

Unlike the US embassy's clamor for publicity and attention, the Saudis and others worked quietly. At one point, the

Saudi ambassador is reported to have told Pakistani reporters that the Pakistani media failed to highlight the fact that Riyadh was the first country to respond to Pakistani help request after the floods."

SAUDI REACTION

Within the first week of the flooding that started on 29 July, Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz ordered a massive kingdom-wide fundraising and aid collection campaign. Official aid collection camps were set up in all major Saudi cities. The Saudi royal family set an example when several princes donated \$20 million on the first day, encouraging Saudi citizens to follow suit. More than

because of his constant field presence in Lahore, Multan, and Hyderabad, in addition to the Chaklala Air Force base in Rawalpindi, to receive Saudi cargo planes.

On the recommendation of the Pakistani military, which suggested the hospitals focus on Sindh, one Saudi field hospital has already become operational in Thatta. The second field hospital will also probably be set up somewhere in Sindh considering the urgency there. Two Saudi rescue teams, which Saudi Arabia has raised according to international levels of training and performance following repeated floods in some Saudi regions, have also arrived in Hyderabad where they are active in several parts of the Sindh province.

In neighboring Kuwait, the Kuwaiti government lifted a long standing ban on collecting donations in public. This exception was made on the orders of the Kuwaiti emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed in deference to the emerging humanitarian disaster in Pakistan. Donation camps sprung up in large and small mosques and shopping malls across the emirate. Interestingly, the wealthy Kuwaiti business community outshone the government in donating to flood victims in



\$107 million were collected in the first three days. Saudi Arabia established the largest air bridge to air lift relief supplies to Pakistan, sending more than 30 cargo planes so far to Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber-PK and Punjab.

Saudi Arabia is the only country so far to have established such a large back-to-back air bridge to Pakistan. Eight more planes have landed in Pakistan over the weekend carrying two field hospitals, complete with equipment and medical staff. The Saudi ambassador Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim al-Ghadeer hardly visited his office in Islamabad in the past two weeks

Pakistan.

One Kuwaiti logistics company, Agility, mobilized 1,000 of its workers for flood relief effort in Pakistan. Fundraising efforts outside of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are important but were modest in their outcomes.

A German telethon attended by German Chancellor Angela Merkel raised \$10 million. British donations came largely from the British Pakistani and British Muslim communities, with the British magazine The Economist showing skepticism at reports suggesting ordinary

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Saudi Flood Aid To Pakistan

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British citizens have shown any passion to donate to Pakistan. Turkey has donated \$10 million, China a little more, while India came up with a symbolic \$5 million, probably because smug Indian officials were sure Pakistan won't accept the money anyway [Pakistan thanked India and accepted the money but asked New Delhi to send through UN]. Iran has sent relief supplies and most other countries have also gave preference to relief goods because of lack of trust in the Pakistani government and politicians' credibility or ability to utilize aid money properly.

SAUDI ARABIA

One of the most endearing aspects of donations coming to Pakistan from the Gulf is individual donations from politicians and businessmen, which are enough to put the wealthy Pakistani politicians to shame. On the first day of a nationwide Saudi campaign to raise funds for the victims of floods in Pakistan on Monday, 17 Aug. 2010: -

King of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah bin Abdelaziz Al Saud, donated US\$5.3 million from his private money to Pakistan flood victims - Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdelzziz Al Saud gave away US\$2.7 million from his private money - Interior Minister Nayef bin Abdelaziz Al Saud gave away two million Saudi riyals - Governor of Tabouk donated one million Saudi Riyals - Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdelaziz Al Saud [left] gave ten million Saudi riyals - Businessman Eesa bin Mohammad al Eesa, president of the Samba Financial Group, donated two million Saudi riyals Separately, and in addition to his \$2.7 million in aid, the Saudi Crown Prince has also dispatched one hundred tons of dates from his private farmland to Pakistan. The Saudi public's response to the massive Saudi aid appeal has been amazing. Women were seen donating jewellery to makeshift fundraising camps in Jeddah and Riyadh.

A Saudi commentator left this comment on the website of the Arabic-language Saudi newspaper, Okaz: "What the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, may Allah protect him, has given to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is something that all the five permanent nations at UNSC and all the Arab countries could not have given. His Majesty's stand with Pakistan will never be forgotten." Comments posted at the online editions

of Saudi newspapers showed how deeply the Saudis are moved by the tragedy in Pakistan. "Pakistanis deserve our help," wrote one Saudi. "They are our brothers."

IRAN

Iran has committed over 400 tons of relief goods so far as of 14 August 2010 out of which 180 tons have already been delivered by the Iranian transport aircrafts. These goods include tents, floorings, clothes, canned food, bread and medical supplies.

Iranian Red Crescent society has also been on the ground along with Pakistan Red Crescent society as part of its ongoing relief operation inside Pakistan reaching out to more than 100,000 flood victims. In addition to the Iranian government help Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi Golpaygani announced that one third of collected Khums will be donated to Pakistan for humanitarian assistance. Iran's chamber of commerce also donated US \$1 million to the flood victims. And on 17 August, senior Iranian cleric Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem-Shirazi [left] met the Pakistani ambassador in Tehran and announced donating \$50,000 to the victims of flood-stricken Pakistan in response to Pakistan's call for more relief aid.

'KUWAIT IS WITH YOU'

On 21 August, Kuwaiti government launched a nationwide fundraiser called 'Kuwait Is With You', in a message to Pakistanis devastated by the floods. Kuwait's official and private donations have crossed \$20 million, half of them coming from the government. But most of the aid won't reach the Pakistani government. The noisy Kuwaiti media, while expressing solidarity with Pakistan, has also seen several write-ups questioning the credibility of the Pakistani government. Some criticized the Pakistani government for 'collusion' with Washington in hounding credible Pakistani charities in the name of fighting so-called terror. The emirate launched a national fundraiser for Pakistan on 23 August, collecting so far close to \$10 million from the public. Kuwait had banned charity fundraisers for the most part of the decade. But on the 23rd, the government lifted the ban to make way for a nationwide fundraiser for Pakistan, which began grandly at the Grand Mosque of the state, where close to 1,000 worshippers donated generously for Pakistan.

Equally impressive is the contribution from the Kuwaiti business community: Mohammad Hmoud Al-Shaya Company, which owns a series of upscale designer clothing and jewellery outlets across the Gulf, donated \$500,000 to Pakistan - Kuwait Finance House has dispatched \$2 million to Pakistan - General Secretariat of Awqaf has donated \$1.5 million - The Joint Kuwaiti Committee for Relief, a local charity, has donated \$1.5 million - The sons of the late Abdullah al-Mutawa, a businessman, have donated \$100,000 to Pakistan - E-Q8 Petrochemicals has donated \$100,000 - The employees of the Bank of Bubiyan started an internal fundraiser for Pakistan - Dalal al-Mudaf [left], a senior officer at the Kuwait Investment Company, with offices in the Gulf, London and New York, has kicked off an internal company fundraiser for Pakistan as of today, Monday 30 August. In a statement, she quoted a saying by the Prophet [PBUH], 'A Muslim for a Muslim is like a wall, pulling one another'.

Agility, one of the largest logistics companies in the region with operations in Pakistan, has mobilized its 1,000 workers here to get involved in relief work. According to Tariq al-Sultan [right], Chairman of Agility worldwide, the company has offered its entire commercial warehouses full of foodstuffs and the space along with cooling facilities in Multan for use by United Nations in Punjab. In Peshawar, the company has donated several air-conditioned containers to transport food items to flood victims.

And in Sukkur, the company has put its entire fleet of trucks in the service of food and aid distribution effort across Sindh.

Pakistan Flood Disaster Appeal

FIANZ wishes to announce that about \$60, 000 dollars has been collected as donations to the recent Pakistan flood disaster victims. FIANZ extends appreciations to all those who responded to the appeal for donations and prays to Allah to reward them abundantly, amin.

Eid and new dress

Farid Ahmed

Muslim children love Eid day. I asked children in my Saturday Quran class in Christchurch, why do they love Eid so much. Among many answers one answer was, ³Because of new dress. Now let us share a story about Eid and New dress.

On an Eid Day, Caliph Omar [r.a] saw his son wearing an old dress. Father could not afford to buy a new dress for his beloved son even though he was the leader of all Muslims. Looking at his son in old dress the pious caliph could not hold his tears. He began to cry.

Seeing the father crying the wise little son asked him, O Father! Why are you crying? The father answered, I fear that you might be sad looking at other children wearing new dresses while you are wearing an old dress. Then the son said, O father! A child can only be sad on Eid day for two reasons.



One reason is if Allah is not happy with the child and the other reason is if the parents are unhappy with the child. I believe neither Allah nor my parents are unhappy with me. So why should I feel sad with my old dress? Hearing the wise answer the pious caliph cried more with joy and hugged his beloved child and prayed for him continuously.

Let me finish my narration with a

question. According to this story, what is the most important factor in attaining happiness on Eid day. Is it new dress. Or gift. Or food. Or game. The answer is, the real happiness in Eid is that Allah grants special gifts for us in paradise for the next everlasting life. Other things like dress, gifts, food or game are nice things but not ³The Most Important things for our happiness in Eid.

As parents we should always remind our children about the teachings of Eid and we should make all Eid activities for children enjoyable with fun but EDUCATIVE. Children should learn why an Islamic celebration is very special and different from any traditional celebration. May Allah guide our children and us, Ameen.



Muslims across New Zealand and the world observed the end of Ramadan with Eid prayers on Friday, 9 September. **(More Photos on P 4)**

Eid payers in Hamilton

Muslims in Hamilton celebrated Eid in style. The prayers were held at the pavilion Hall at the iconic Hamilton Gardens. About 18,00 men and boys and 7,00 women and girls prayed the Eid prayer. Prayer was lead by Dr Anisur Rahman, President of Waikato Muslim Association who urged Muslims to keep up the higher standard of Taqwa that they have gained during the month of Ramadan. Br Ismail Gamadid reminded the community of its obligations as being good citizens and asked community to support the Educational project. Earlier, Dr Anwar Ghani, President of FIANZ greeted the community on the eve of Eid and congratulated the Waikato Muslim Association for job well done during the month of Ramadan. After prayers community members visited each other and exchanged greetings.

FIANZ MUSLIM CONVENTION



“Building Better Families”

Events:

**27 - 28
November
2010**

**Stalls, Family Fun, Children Rides,
Netball, Ladies Activities, Fashion
Show, Soccer, Volleyball, Sports
Health Check, Information, etc**

Forum

Where: Papatoetoe High School
Entrances from Nicholson Avenue & Carlie Street, Papatoetoe

Starts at 9:00am Sat 27, finishes at 5:00pm Sun 28 Nov 2010
Further inquires: fianz@vodafone.co.nz, Ph: (04) 3878023

Hosted by
South Auckland Muslim Association
Ibrar Sheikh 021 240 8786, Haji Hasim Khan 021 777705
Email: secretary.sama@xtra.co.nz



FIANZ Convention 2010

Nov 27–28 2010 Papatoetoe High School

STALL HOLDER REGISTRATION FORM

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name of Group: _____ Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

STALL DETAILS

Please list all the products or services that you will be selling or displaying in your stall.

AUTHORISATION

1. I would like to be considered as a Stall Holder at the FIANZ Convention 2010
2. I confirm that the details provided are true & correct
3. I confirm that I have read and I agree with the Terms & Conditions

SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

PAYMENT (\$100 per stall) Please tick appropriate box: ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque

Security Deposit (\$100 refundable): ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque

Terms and Conditions

1. SAMA committee reserves the right to refuse any application
2. The Convention organising committee will not be liable for any stall holders property
3. Stall holders will be responsible for arranging permits where applicable
4. Stall holders are responsible for clearing and removing their rubbish off the premises.
5. Stall holders will be allocated spaces for their stalls on the opening day.
6. No damage shall be caused to the grounds or the buildings by the stall holder or through any activity of the stall holder. Any damages caused to the grounds shall be repaired or made good by the stall holder immediately at the stall holder's own cost and at no cost to SAMA.
7. The stall holder shall not bring any prohibited item into the premises whether for personal use or for sale.
8. Stall holders must obtain written approval from SAMA prior to stall setup.

Send completed forms to any of the following address no later than 19th November 2010.

1)PO Box 22807, Otahuhu

2)Fax: 09 270 0832

3)email: secretary.sama@xtra.co.nz