



Muslim News

26 July 2011 , 25 Shaabaan 1432

PM John Key visits Hamilton mosque



The Prime Minister, Hon John Key was a guest to the Hamilton Muslim community on 7th July this year. The Prime Minister arrived in the company of Hamilton East MP Hon. David Bennett and was received by the host President of the Waikato Muslim Association Mr. Ismail Gemadid and community leaders.

In his welcome speech Mr. Gemadid expressed the community's gratitude on Mr. Key's visit that he described as the third by a serving Prime Minister. He added that the community feels honoured by the visit and assured the PM that Waikato Muslims are well-integrated



citizens that always seek the good of New Zealand. Also welcoming Mr. Key to Hamilton mosque, FIANZ President Dr. Anwar Ghani expressed the view that the visit underscores the all inclusiveness of Mr. Key's government. In his response, the Prime Minister reiterated that 'we have got good things going on in New Zealand'.

He assured the Muslim community that as an inclusive society New Zealand does not need to go the way of some European countries in their stance on Muslim women headgear. Mr. Key felt at home in the mosque as he fielded questions from young Muslim men and women.

FIANZ AGM holds in Wellington

The Annual General Meeting of FIANZ was held in Wellington on 18th and 19th June 2011 with over 30 delegates and observers in attendance.

Reports from all FIANZ constituent organizations indicated reasonable progress among Muslim communities across New Zealand. Positive developments are also noted among Muslim women groups who have become exceptionally active.

Other highlights of this year's AGM was the council's approval of Baitulmal project in New Zealand as well as its approval of research funding for studies on Muslims and Islam in New Zealand.

The AGM appointed new executives for FIANZ as follows:

President-Dr Anwar Ghani

Vice President 1-Mr Javed Khan

Vice President 2-Mr Mohammed Eshaq Ali



Secretary- Dr Mohammed Musa

Director of Administration-Mr. Asif Koya

Assistant Secretary- Mr. Hazim Arafah

Treasurer- Mr Adam Awad

Assistant Treasurer- Mr. Mohammed I. Mohammed.

Muslim Council of Auckland meets at the New Lynn Centre

The Muslim Council of Auckland met at the New Lynn Centre Auckland on 3rd July.

The meeting reiterated the importance of a united Muslim ummah in 'calling to good and stopping the wrong'.

In attendance at the meeting were representatives of the Police as well as an official of the Auckland District Health Board who spoke on the forthcoming

seminar on mental health and advised the Muslim community in Auckland to take advantage of.

Also at the meeting, the FIANZ awards for community service were presented to Abdul Samad Bhikoo and Haj Sher Gul. The presentation was made by Haji Fazal Khan who is also the former President of Fiji Muslim League.



FIANZ condemns intolerance and urges caution

The Federation of the Islamic Associations of New Zealand has reacted to a recent incident where Muslim woman was sent off a public bus because of her veil. FIANZ condemns the act as typically intolerant and injurious to harmony as seen in some Western countries that chose that path.

While FIANZ notes that the bus company has distanced itself from the behavior of the driver and sought re-education for its employees it points out that reckless

actions by a minority could dent our reputation as a tolerant and peace-loving nation.

In his own reaction to the incident, MP Dr. Ashraf Choudhary also condemned it and described the action as unacceptable. He revealed that incidences like this could threaten NZ potential as a friendly learning environment for Saudi students who contribute about \$300 million to New Zealand economy.

Global Takaful industry is expected to reach 25 billion dollars by 2015

LONDON -- July 24 (IINA)-With more countries racing to take a share in the booming market, the global Takaful industry is expected to reach 25 billion dollars by 2015.

“If we continue with the 2009 growth rate of 31 percent or higher, we will clearly touch the \$25 billion mark in 2015,” said Ashar Nazim, the MENA head of Islamic Financial Services Ernst &

Young, according to Trade Arabia website.

He told an international Takaful summit, held in London recently, that the global Takaful industry is expected to grow to \$12 billion by the end of this year.

“We expect that growth will be maintained, as the foundations of the Takaful market in Muslim countries and in emerging markets have already been laid.”

Takaful (Islamic insurance) is based on mutual cooperation in the sharing of risk and addresses key features associated with conventional insurance that is incompatible with Islamic Shariah.

At present, the Takaful market makes up only 1 percent of

the global insurance market.

Malaysia and the Middle East region are the hub of the booming Takaful industry.

While Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates are the top three Takaful markets, other countries such as Egypt, Sudan, Bangladesh and Pakistan are growing at a rapid pace.

With estimated 300 Islamic banks and financial institutions worldwide, the industry expands by 15-20 percent a year and entered recently new markets from Australia to South Africa. Western financial institutions, including Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, HSBC and UBS, are increasingly offering Islamic products.

Efforts are currently underway to expand the industry to most populous countries such as Indonesia and the Indian subcontinent.

Experts believe that more

countries will adopt the Takaful industry in the near future.

“In addition to emerging markets, Muslim countries are expected to increase the adoption of Takaful and related instruments in the coming years,” Nazim said.

“We expect Takaful to be the default choice for Islamic countries in the future.”

Experts called on Muslim countries to draft favorable legislation to help the Takaful market to flourish.

“Legislation in the Islamic countries to make Takaful products the preferred choice among insurance products can place the industry on a completely different level,” said Abid Shakeel, Islamic Financial Services, Ernst & Young.

The Islamic banking industry, which began almost three decades ago, has made substantial growth and attracted the attention of investors and bankers across the world.

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Visiting Australian Scholar speaks on the virtues of fasting in Islam

Sheikh Aslam Abu Ismail, a visiting Australian scholar and trained dentist has spoken on the virtues of fasting in Islam.

Sheikh Aslam says Muslims should take advantage of the coming month of Ramadan to re-dedicate themselves in the service of Allah so they can acquire piety in the noble month and the ones ahead. He reminded the audience in both An-Nur mosque and the Canterbury University Musallah that the benefits of fasting would have been lost if we do not reflect and improve on consciousness of the Creator and His commandments.



FIANZ President speaks at the Hamilton mosque

Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ), President Dr. Anwar-ul Ghani spoke at the Hamilton mosque on 7th July, during the visit of Prime Minister Hon. John Key.

Dr. Ghani said that as Muslims we have both pride and stake in the peace that has become the identity marker of this great nation.

“We would do everything to ensure that this reputation is maintained. However, it is a two way process. Despite our best endeavours in having programmes like Islam Awareness Week, building bridges, stakeholders’ forum aimed to engage with wider community, members of our community have to sadly go through events like “maskophobia”.”, he said.

Events like these do irritate us but it also demonstrate that we have much work to do, he said.

Dr. Ghani assured the Prime Minister that the Muslim community will do “everything in our hands to live as law abiding citizens of this country and will closely work with all agencies to address any issues, concerns, comments our fellow Kiwis may have regarding our community but we need supporting hand from the Government and good understanding from wider community”.



News in Pictures



Prime Minister John Key and Muslim community leaders at the Hamilton mosque on 7th July.

Photos from the Annual General Meeting of FIANZ which was held in Wellington on 18th and 19th June 2011 with over 30 delegates and observers attended the AGM.



The Federation of Islamic Associations
of New Zealand (Inc.)



اتحاد الجمعيات الإسلامية النيوزيلندية

26 July 2011

PRESS RELEASE

New Zealand Muslims commiserate with Norwegians

New Zealand Muslims are shocked and saddened by the news of the mindless act of destruction of human lives in the peace loving country of Norway.

The bombing and sporadic shooting targeted at innocent citizens and linked to the right wing extremist Anders Behring Breivik is a brutal exhibition of intolerance accompanied by a penchant for sadism.

New Zealand Muslims condemn this inhuman act in no uncertain terms and call for justice to take its cause against its perpetrator.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with Norwegians in this challenging moment and offer our deepest condolences and sympathies to the entire nation of Norway.

This terroristic act of lawlessness by itself will not alter the global acclaim of Norway as a benevolent and peace loving nation.

-End-

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The Federation of Islamic Associations
of New Zealand (Inc.)



اتحاد الجمعيات الإسلامية النيوزيلندية

5 July 2011

PRESS RELEASE

Isolated cases of intolerance must not define New Zealand

Although geographically distant from most countries of the world, New Zealand is noted for its peace and serenity. Yet, both of these are built on the universally acclaimed reputation of Aotearoa as a tolerant and respectful nation.

Unfortunately, there was an attempt recently to undermine this reputation of New Zealand as a tolerant and respectful nation when, on two separate occasions two Saudi women were asked off public buses.

FIANZ registers its disappointment over these incidents in which the two veiled Saudi women were turned down from using public buses in Auckland because they were wearing full Niqab.

Records in some countries around the world have linked instability and social disharmony to intolerance and that is why we worry that a member of the public would be discriminated against, nay insulted, for who she is or what she believes.

It is reassuring however, that the Bus Company involved has since taken steps to re-educate its drivers on fundamental rights and acceptable behaviour.

The reputation of New Zealand as a country of tolerant and respectful people must not be allowed to be tainted by isolated cases such as these ones. While we are geographically distant we are very close in international news radar.

While always associating itself with the tolerant majority, FIANZ wishes to caution the minority to respect people's rights and freedoms.

Ends.

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Muslim prayer at US national day

4th July is the United States national day. This year, the US embassy in New Zealand decided to celebrate the occasion in Christchurch.

US ambassador to New Zealand Mr David Huebner, for the second time extended an invitation to FIANZ to lead a Muslim prayer that opened the occasion. FIANZ secretary Dr Mohammed Musa who represented the organization acknowledged that every nationality is represented in the United States where there are over seven million Muslims. Dr. Musa observed that God has blessed the US with diversity of the human



Christchurch.

race. He said no nation is better positioned to play leadership role than the US and prayed to Allah to give wisdom and foresight to the leaders of the US so they champion freedom and liberty with fairness.

At this year's occasion of the US national day Ambassador David Huebner honoured seven New Zealanders for their courage and commitment in evacuating an American delegation to safety in the aftermath of the February quake in

Minister of Ethnic Affairs welcomes halal tourism

FIANZ delegation met with Minister of Ethnic Affairs Hon Hekia Parata on 4th May 2011.

The delegation discussed several issues about Muslim community relations as well as the enhancement of Muslim contribution to the New Zealand economy.

The delegation proposed the concept of Halal tourism, which it described as an area with abundant but not fully tapped potential. The minister on her part welcomes the idea and concept and promised to pursue and explore it jointly with FIANZ.

FIANZ delegation comprised of Drs Anwar Ghani and Mustafa Farouk as well as Mr. Sultan Eusoof.

Muslim students seek iftar donations

University of Canterbury Muslim Students send Ramadan greetings to all Muslims in New Zealand and pray to Allah to increase 'in us all the consciousness of Allah (SWT)' in the month of Ramadan and the ones ahead.

Around 200 Muslim students are expected to be gathering and breaking their fast at the university Musallah daily throughout the month of Ramadan.

The Muslim students require generous donations from brothers and sisters 'to be able to have our iftar and pray to Allah to reward you all for your kind gesture'. Our account number for donations purpose is: ANZ 1018110090556600

Muslims in Ukraine and the dilemma of identity

KIEV (Ukraine), July 25 (IINA)-Preserving the Islamic identity from the negative melting in the community is considered one of the biggest concerns that haunt the Muslims of Ukraine's. Roughly there are two million of Muslims in Ukraine out of the total population of approximately 46 million, as well as tens of thousands of people of Arab and Muslim communities residing on its territory

While ethnic Ukrainians are predominantly Orthodox and Unite Christians, Muslims have lived in the territory that makes up the modern Ukraine today for centuries. Muslim settlement in the country is concentrated in the country's southern half, particularly in Crimea, although there were colonies of Lipka Tatars in other regions such as Volhynia and Podolia.

Muslims of Ukraine find on weekly holidays a chance to visit Islamic centers, associations, socio-cultural Islamic which they view as haven for them and their children, These few centers, as scare as it is play an important role in linking Muslim communities to their identities and help them to learn Arabic language. Beside these routine activities some centers, notably the Federation of Social Organizations (Raed), the largest institution dedicated to Islam and Muslims in Ukraine organized summer camps and Ramadan programs and festive occasions.

Dr. Shadi Shwar, head the cultural section of the Union, a section which oversees the schools, camps and Ramadan's programs said to "Islam Online" website: "We aspire and seek cooperation with the people of charity in Ukraine and abroad to create special formal educational institutions for Muslims of Ukraine, particularly in the regions and cities that the Muslims are concentrated.