



Muslim News

19 November 2012 , 5 Muharram 1434

Islam Awareness Week 2012 calls for attention to the environment

The theme of Islam Awareness Week (IAW) this year is 'Islam and the environment: Our rights and responsibilities'. IAW 2012 was from 27th August to 1st September. The event was marked by lectures, mosques open days and tree planting exercises by Muslim communities all over the country.

IAW 2012 was launched in Wellington on 27th August and attended by Muslims and faith community leaders as well as guests that included Ms Melissa Lee (MP), who represented the Minister of Ethnic Affairs Hon Judith Collins, Hon. Peter Dunne, Minister for Revenue, Hon Annette King MP, Joris de Bres, Race Relations Commissioner and the ambassadors of Turkey, Iran and the High Commissioner of Malaysia.

Speaking at the launch, national coordinator of IAW Hisham Zaoui observed that nature and its preservation are central to the teachings of Islam and, in this regard, how we utilise the environment as a right must go hand in hand with a sense of obligation towards its protection. Such a dual relationship between man and the environment is a religious obligation that Islam takes seriously.

Zaoui added that 'because media focus on Islam goes to a different direction we hardly hear about the importance that the religion attaches to the environment and its preservation even though the Qur'an and the prophetic traditions emphasise our responsibility to the environment'.

Chief guest and launcher of the event Hon. Judith Collins, Minister of Ethnic Affairs and Justice who was represented by Ms Melissa Lee congratulated for reminding one another about the need to care for the environment. She added that the theme of the environment has come at an auspicious time when humanity is challenged to pay close attention to the way the environment is used because wrongful use has dire consequences for humanity.

In his own remarks at the launch FIANZ President Dr Anwar Ghani reiterated the commitment of Muslims to the maintenance of harmony with the environment as both a religious duty and a social responsibility.

This year's launch of IAW was also used to recognise the contributions of some individuals and groups for their positive contributions to, and impact on the Muslim communities in New Zealand.



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MAC returns JAMA with a new team

Elections into the management of Muslim Association of Canterbury (MAC) were conducted on Saturday 15th August 2012.

At the end of the exercise Mohamed Abdi Jama who is also the immediate past president received a unanimous endorsement for another term as he was returned unopposed.

The other seven management positions however are filled up by new faces who won the elections as follows:

Masoud Mhoma
Yussuf Omar Mohamed
Ashraf Ali
Sarajul Huk Mohammed

Abdelfattah Qasem
Monira Elfarrar
Denise Jaeger

In declaring the results of the elections on Sunday at An Nur mosque, Sheikh Monir Elfarrar who is also the Imam of the mosque reminded the elected leaders that leadership is a responsibility that must be carried out and delivered with dedication and sincerity. He urged those elected to be selfless in discharging their responsibilities.



Mohamed Abdi Jama

New Zealand Muslims Condemn Violent Reactions to Reprehensible Video

Following is the statement issued by the Federated Association of New Zealand Muslims on 17 September 2012 regarding the anti-Islam video:

“We of the Federated Association of New Zealand Muslims are angry about the anti-Islam video produced by Egyptian-American Coptic activists Nakuola Basseley Nakoula as we find it reprehensible, insulting and disrespectful to Islam and Muslims. We are equally saddened at the destruction and loss of lives that have followed the mindless action of Nakoula and his clique.

To produce such provocative venom that would injure the religious feeling of over a billion people and simply go underground speaks of a demonic intent to cause disaffection in a world that is working very hard to build alliance and tolerance across different civilizations.

The religion of Islam has enjoined its followers to respect other religions and to respect the sanctity of life. In the past, we have condemned instances of desecration of Jewish places of worship in this country as we would of any other places of worship including ours. For this is in line with our commitment and belief in the respect for all religions and people of the world.

We equally condemn in no uncertain terms instances of uncontrolled anger that terminates the lives of innocent people or cause them physical injury in the Middle East and elsewhere.

We call on authorities including the leadership of our country New Zealand, to implement a zero tolerance against anyone determined to cause rage and injury to the religious and cultural sensitivities of others. As Muslims we have remained law abiding and respectful of others and we are not asking too much to demand equal respect. We cherish the peace and harmony we are enjoying in New Zealand and condemn any attempt by any individual or group who embark on a mission to insult our religion with the aim of provoking excitable people to violence.

The entire humanity share in a single desire for peace, if some unscrupulous elements such as Nakoula target Islam to disrupt humanity's common asset today, they may target others tomorrow to achieve their aim. That is why Muslims and non-Muslims have a joint obligation to speak out against such disruptive elements and remain vigilant that they don't hold the world to ransom.

Javed Khan
Acting President

OIC Group at UN seeks collective action against blasphemy

New York, 24 September 2012 (IINA) – The permanent representatives of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states to the United Nations have strongly condemned the release of the so-called “Innocence of Muslims” video as yet another abhorrent example of incitement to hatred and discrimination against Muslims under the pretext of exercising the individual’s right to freedom of expression and opinion.

In a press statement, the OIC Group stressed that the despicable and reprehensible film and cartoons published recently by the French magazine “Charlie Hebdo” have once again reminded the international community that these irresponsible acts have serious implications on international peace and security. The OIC Group has noted for many years the systematic and continuous denigration of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), which is indicative of a larger problem that should concern not just Muslims, but also the adherents of all faiths and religions. The alarming increase in the number of acts that denigrate and defame religions, their symbols, books and followers of those religions contribute to the incitement of hatred, violence, and discrimination against followers of religions. Furthermore, such irresponsible acts, which are mostly politically motivated, hinder the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief. The concerted efforts of all the stakeholders are necessary to deter such kinds of provocations and instigation to religious hatred. The Group called on the political and religious leaders across the world and all stakeholders to take a united stand against fanatics and radicals who are destabilizing global peace and security by fanning religious intolerance. Moreover, recalling the consensual Human

Rights Resolution 16/18 and the UN General Assembly Resolution 66/167, the Group underscored the importance of reinvigorating the international community’s collaborative efforts towards their implementation, and revitalizing the Istanbul Process in that regard. The Group reiterated in these resolutions that there is necessity on the part of Member States of the UN to introduce and/or implement adequate measures, including legislations, against acts of hate crimes, discrimination, violence, and intimidation caused by negative stereotyping and incitement to religious hatred, violence, discrimination on the basis of religion, in particular for Muslims, and in accordance with their obligations under the international human rights instruments.

In this regard, the Group welcomed the statements of the OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. It also welcomed the UN Secretary General’s condemnation of these acts as shameful and disgraceful, and his call to avoid abusing the fundamental right to freedom of expression. Accordingly, the OIC Group also supported the call of the OIC Permanent and Independent Human Rights Commission to the States to fully implement the steps identified in the consensual Human Rights Resolution 16/18 and the UN General Assembly resolution 66/167. Finally, while calling on the Muslims worldwide to practice restraint and avoid resorting to violence in their protests against such provocations as in the case of the disgraceful and denigrating, so-called “Innocence of Muslims” video, the OIC Group underlined that it was necessary and urgent more than ever to create a global awareness for promoting respect for sacred religious beliefs and symbols.

ISESCO Chief urges Obama to fulfil pledges to Palestinians

Rabat, 28 Dhul Hijja 1433/ 13 November 2012 (IINA) – Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), urged U.S. President Barack Obama to fulfil the pledge he made earlier in his first mandate to support the Palestinian people’s legitimate aspiration for a fully sovereign State of their own.

He made the appeal in a congratulatory letter sent to Obama on his re-election as President of the United States of America.

In the letter, Dr Altwaijri said: “The Muslim world at this juncture is looking forward to you taking concrete action to do justice to the Palestinian people; fulfilling the pledge you made in your speech at Cairo University to support their legitimate aspiration for a fully sovereign State of their own, respectful of the relevant international instruments; as well as fostering dialogue of cultures and alliance of civilizations; promoting peace and coexistence among peoples; and endeavouring for a world where justice, democracy and respect for human rights prevail.” He added, “The world is pinning its hope on the U.S.A. to pursue, under your second mandate, a fair and balanced policy, consistent with the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the United States and with the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, and upholding the causes and legitimate rights of the oppressed and deprived people of the world.”

Islam Awareness Week 2012 calls for attention to the environment

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The distinguished individual harmony award went to Professor William Shephard for his honest research and writing that gave insight into the diversity of New Zealand Muslim communities.

The group award was presented to the Maori, Pacific and Ethnic Services Division of the New Zealand Police Force for its services and sacrifice during the Christchurch Earth quakes and continuous support to ethnic and Muslim communities.

Islam Awareness Week 2012

By Sharik Hussein

For many in the West, much of the history of Islam has been obscured behind a veil of fear and misunderstanding.

However since 9/11 twin tower bombings the Muslim world has had to face numerous challenges. Thus Muslims in New Zealand, too, have engaged in campaigns to bring about awareness and

understanding and harmony would be cultivated.

The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) is the body representing New Zealand Muslims at both government and community levels. FIANZ established IAW in 2004 and since then, has been supporting the growth and development of this nation wide initiative.

the past varied and included the following: 'Discover Islam', 'Unity in Diversity', 'Strong families – better societies', and, 'Balance in life.' and all have been successful in creating awareness and improving understanding.

IAW 2012 sets its theme to connect with New Zealand's environmental conservation heritage. The idea of Islam offering a holistic way of life through its divine laws is one of



education to the wider public about the teachings of the religion. In a way, Islam Awareness Week is the response of New Zealand Muslims to the challenges and questions asked about Islam and Muslims by those from outside.

It becomes clear from this stage that IAW was an initiative aimed at bridging information gap and promote awareness about the beliefs, values and practices of Islam. The aim is to eradicate and remove fears and misunderstanding among the wider public that are predicated on ignorance. It is hoped that by this,

In doing this though, FIANZ leadership appreciates that the future of the Muslim community lies in the hands of its youths who, for all practical represent the public image of the community today and in then future. In this realization, FIANZ handed the organization of IAW in the hand of Muslim youth so that Hisham Zaoiu is now the national coordinator of IAW.

Every year the IAW committee chooses a theme that suits the Aotearoa New Zealand context. Themes that were covered in

the lessons in this year's theme of IAW.

Islamic injunction of forbidding wrong and upholding good actions clearly places obligation on Muslims to become responsible custodians of the Earth. This, among others means, safe guarding the complex living communities, the flora and fauna from human negligence or abuse.

Thus these teachings from the Qur'an and Sunnah (Prophetic traditions) inspired the theme 'Islam and the Environment – Our rights and responsibilities.'

Islam Awareness Week began from 27th Augusts – 1st September with the official launch taking place at Kilbernie Mosque, Wellington.

The launch kicked off with the FIANZ Harmony Awards that recognize the contributions of New Zealanders to the improvement of understanding and harmony between Muslims and the wider community.

The Individual Harmony Award was presented to Dr William Shepard for his honest writings on the diversity of Muslims in New Zealand as well as for his service to interfaith activities in the Christchurch community.

The Group Harmony Award went to the Maori, Pacific and Ethnic Services Division of the New Zealand Police for its commendable service during the Christchurch Earth quakes and continuous support to the ethnic and Muslims community.

Important guests at the the launch were: Melissa Lee (Department of Ethnic Affairs); Hon Peter Dunne, Minister for Revenue, Hon Annete King, MP for Rongotai, Joris de Bres (Race Relations Commissioner), Ambassadors of Turkey and Iran as well as the High Commissioner of Malaysia.

Among the hosts were Dr Anwar Ghani and Dr Mohammed Musa (FIANZ President and Secretary), Sheikh Mohammed Amir (Chairman of New Zealand Ulama Board and many local Muslim community members.

Like in previous years this year's IAW campaign was observed in all the major cities of New Zealand as well as in smaller towns with sizeable Muslim communities.

The Muslim youth involvement as the drivers of the IAW campaign is always evident as the University and college campuses become the centres from where the campaign is executed.

For instance, Muslim Students Associations, in collaboration with local Muslim communities and mosques have organized public lectures and enlightenment events that include mosque open days.

In the the North Island, Al Madinah School kick-started



their 'Go Green and Eco-Hero' campaign by working in close association with Kaipatiki Project by planting more than fifty native trees and shrubs as a conservation project.

Both Auckland University and AUT Muslim Students Associations were fully active in the week as they hosted lectures and other enlightenment campaigns around the issue of environmental sustainability.

In Hamilton the local IAW committee organized an interfaith tree-planting day at Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park. The Hamilton City Council and Waikato Interfaith Council (WIFCO) supported the event.

More than 500 native tree saplings and shrubs were reunited with the Earth by 100 people, with 50 representing the Muslim community and a similar number representing other faith communities. So, here we experience the emphasis of enjoining good and forbidding evil. The camaraderie and flexibility taught to us by Islam to be tolerant and respectful of other faiths – as to not despise each other but to live in harmony for the common good is at work.

At Massey University in Palmerstone North Muslim students got together with the Manawatu Muslim Association to engage in Marram planting at Himatangi Beach.

In Wellington the Muslim Students Association of Victoria University organized an attractive exhibition day, that turned out to be Islam 101 for both Muslim and non-Muslim students and staff. This was also followed by

the mosque open day at Kilbernie Masjid that proved a major success.

The mini exhibitions and stalls attracted a big number of children coming into the mosque and taking their turn for face paint – some girls wanting to be pink graceful butterflies and the naughty boys daring to become a lion or a tiger. Masha'Allah, the atmosphere was lively and characterized by cordial interaction by Muslim and non-

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Mention of the environment in the Qur'an and its purpose

The subject of the environment is a recurring one in the Holy Qur'an, it is used as a pointer to the Might of Al-Jaleel, the magnificence of Al-Azeem, the Knowledge of Al-Aleem, the Wisdom of Al-Hakeem, the beauty of Al-Musawwir, the generosity of Al-Kareem and much more. The environment is a close, reachable, and tangible pointer to its creator The Lord of Majesty and Bounty. There are things in it that are obvious, things that are not, and things we do not even know as the Qur'an declares "... And He creates that which you do not know." (Qur'an, Chapter of Al-Nahl - The Bee - verse 8)

The contents of the Holy Qur'an can be divided into three broad categories; Tawheed, Risalah, Ba'th. The verses about the environment relate to the Tawheed.

Let us glance through a few glorious lines which, even translated, are mesmerizing:

"And the earth We have spread out (like a carpet); set thereon mountains firm and immovable; and produced therein all kinds of things in due balance. And We have provided therein means of subsistence, - for you and for those for whose sustenance ye are not responsible.

And there is not a thing but its (sources and) treasures (inexhaustible) are with Us; but We only send down thereof in due and ascertainable measures.

And We send the fecundating winds, then cause the rain to descend from the sky, therewith providing you with water (in abundance), though ye are not the guardians of its stores.

And verily, it is We Who give life, and Who give death: it is We Who remain inheritors (after all else passes away). To Us are known those of you who hasten forward, and those who lag behind.

Assuredly it is thy Lord Who will gather them together: for He is perfect in Wisdom and Knowledge." (Qur'an, Chapter of Al-Hijr—The Rocky Tract—verses 19-25)

Allah SWT is pointing to these things not because these things are great in themselves but to point to the greatness of Allah Al-Khaliq The Creator Al-Mubdi' The Originator responsible for bringing such wonders to our comprehension.

The mention in the Holy Qur'an of the land, sea, air, water, fire, clouds, trees, fruits, birds, beasts, insects, fish and other such things is not for entertainment though it is powerful enough to make a man cry. The noble goal is

to see these as evidence of its Maker, Keeper, and Owner SWT.

The other crucial thing to understand is that these things are given to us trust; they are made for our legitimate use while at the same time we are commanded not to waste:

"O Children of Adam! wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer: eat and drink: But waste not by excess, for Allah loveth not the wasters."

(Qur'an, Chapter of Al-A'raf—The Heights—verse 31)

The Qur'an is also explicit in commanding us to recognize the order in the earth, which is interpreted as both the social and the natural order, it states thus:

"Do no mischief on the earth, after it hath been set in order, but call on Him with fear and longing (in your

hearts): for the Mercy of Allah is (always) near to those who do good."

(Qur'an, Chapter of Al-A'raf—The Heights—verse 56)

While humanity enjoys advantageous and dominating position, we are reminded that we are not the only ones:

There is not an animal (that lives) on the earth, nor a being that flies on its wings, but (forms part of) communities like you. Nothing have we omitted from the Book, and they (all) shall be gathered to their Lord in the end. (Qur'an, Chapter

of Al-An'am—The Cattle—verse 38)

There are many marvellous and memorable references in the Holy Book of the brilliant environment, peruse the effulgent verse below:

It is He Who produceth gardens, with trellises and without, and dates, and tilth with produce of all kinds, and olives and pomegranates, similar (in kind) and different (in variety): eat of their fruit in their season, but render the dues that are proper on the day that the harvest is gathered. But waste not by excess: for Allah loveth not the wasters.

(Qur'an, Chapter of Al-An'am—The Cattle—verse 141)

To conclude this piece we quote another wondrous and awe-inspiring verse:

Do ye not see that Allah has subjected to your (use) all things in the heavens and on earth, and has made his bounties flow to you in exceeding measure, (both) seen and unseen? Yet there are among men those who dispute about Allah, without knowledge and without guidance, and without a Book to enlighten them!

(Qur'an, Chapter of Luqman, verse 20)

If ever there was a book to catech, this would be it.



Smoking at Iftar highly dangerous: Experts

Dubai, Ramadan 07 26 July (IINA) – The first puff of smoke immediately after ending the fast is capable of killing a person, doctors said while urging Muslim smokers to use the opportunity to quit the habit this Ramadan.

Smoking can be dangerous for a fasting person whose body is trying to recoup after abstaining from water and food for so long. Smokers must consider themselves lucky if they do not contract serious cardiovascular problem, experts said. “Smoking is the worst thing a person can do to his body, especially at Iftar in Ramadan,” said Dr Riaz Ahmad Minhas, an expert in internal medicine at the Emirates Clinic and Medical Centre in Al Ain. At this time, he said, the body is in greater need of liquids, glucose, and oxygen and smoking could lead to the contraction of blood vessels, preventing the required flow of oxygen. Smoking at such a critical time can also cause the blood to thicken. This can lead to the blockage of arteries, increase blood pressure, spasms (congestion of arteries), disturb regular heartbeat, and increase cholesterol. “It could be lethal and smokers must be aware of that, Gulf News reported quoting Dr Minhas as saying.

Dr Ali Jaffar, a physician in Al Ain, said inhalation of tobacco at the ending of a fast is highly injurious to the human body. People do not know how hard it is for their bodies to withstand such a blow at such

a time. “If they knew they wouldn’t be so cruel to their own bodies,” he added. A majority of smokers reach for a cigarette immediately after ending the fast. They like to have a cigarette after eating a date or a glass of water. As soon as they eat something their body starts demanding nicotine. “People with weaker willpower must seek medical assistance to control the nicotine withdrawal, he said.

Dr Jaffar also advised smokers to at least refrain from smoking at Iftar until their bodies return to normal. A smoker must take light but nutritious food and proper rest. He said Ramadan is a golden opportunity for smokers to quit the habit. The doctors said nicotine and tar are the most damaging substances in a cigarette. “It’s extremely harsh for the human stomach to tolerate them after a day-long emptiness,” they said.

Research all over the world has proved without doubt that smoking is responsible for an endless list of health problems and ailments such as weakness of the body, shortness of breath and impotency. Smokers often suffer from pain in their legs while walking or cycling as smoking gradually narrows their blood vessels. “This is the time. If a person can refrain from smoking for a whole day during Ramadan, he can quit the habit for good,” said Dr Minhas.

Plan to construct tunnel connecting holy sites

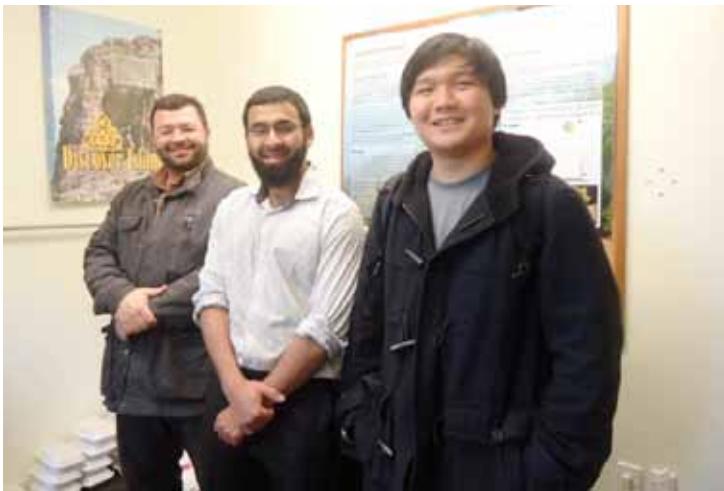
Makkah, 16 Dhul Hijja 1433/ 01 November 2012 (IINA) – Makkah Mayor Dr. Osama Al-Bar announced that an underground tunnel connecting Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah will be constructed soon exclusively for ambulance vans as well as for supply, service and cleaning vehicles.

Experts at the Authority for the Development of Makkah and Holy Sites are giving final touches to the project to implement it within a few months, he said. Mayor said that the Jamarat station of Mashair Railway would be part of the Makkah Metro network, adding that the SR 62 billion metro project would be implemented in the beginning of next year. Al-Bar said that the metro network would cover 182 km when the four lines are completed in 10 years. The first stage is due to be ready in three years and will cover 122 km, he said. Speaking about the tunnel project, he said that it is part of a plan for the comprehensive development of the holy sites. ‘Higher authorities have already approved the tunnel project, adding that it would facilitate quick movement of service

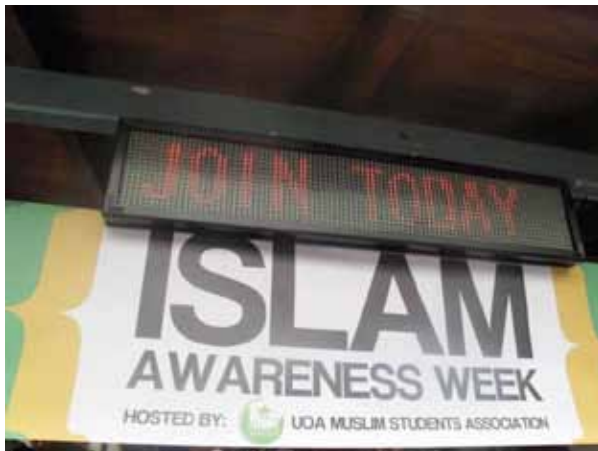


vehicles without any obstructions.’ He said the cleaners and environment health protection teams would remain in Mina for the next two days.

Photos: *Islam Awareness Week, Massey University*



Photos: *Islam Awareness Week, University of Auckland*



Islam Awareness Week 2012 (Continued from Page 5)

Muslims.

In Christchurch the Muslim Students Association at Canterbury University joined hands with the Muslim Association of Canterbury to organize lectures and tree planting exercise that were hosted on the University campus and attended by many students and local Muslims including the local Muslim community leader Mohamed Jama.

Speakers who gave lively and provocative presentations included Professor William Shepard, Dr Meysoon Salama who is also the Secretary of the Islamic Women Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ), Jamal Green and Sheikh Monir Elfarra, Imam of the An-nur mosque.

In Dunedin the Muslim Students Association at Otago University joined the local Muslim community to organize lectures and tree planting in commemoration of IAW.

The tree planting took place at Orokonui Eco sanctuary. The day was filled with sharing Islamic principles and values with the staff at the reserve and in return learning the Maori customs and traditions of safeguarding Papatuanuku – our mother Earth.

The week spilled into an all-out Islam Exhibition Day with some students debating on theological issues and others asking for enlightenment on the most basic issues about Muslims and Islam.

The later days were filled with the

arrival of a guest speaker, Sheikh Shady Al-Suleiman from Sydney. The humble scholar's presence was greatly appreciated by the Muslim community and university students for his series of lectures and discussion. In particular, the audience enjoyed his dialogue with Professor Simon Rae on the concept of God in Islam and Christianity. Later in the week there was also a Mosque open day at Masjid Al-Huda as well as international Muslim food festival to celebrate the diversity of cultures that made up the Muslim community in Otago region.

Food served on the day reflected different origins from Middle Eastern, to Malaysian, Fijian, and numerous others.



Photos: Islam Awareness Week, Tree planting, Kaipatiki Project



ACTIVITY REPORT OF AUCKLAND MUSLIM YOUTH HELD AT AL FAROOKI CENTRE ON 14 OCTOBER



This was the first get together of the Auckland Youths from different centres in Auckland.

The official programme consisted of speeches by Sheikh Mansoori, Sheikh Manzur Hussain and others on the role and duties of Muslim Youth.

This was followed by workshop conducted by Sheikh Rafat Nazam on problems faced by the youth.

The youth had good one hour of Table tennis competition.

There was open audience quiz session on Islamic topic. The participants thoroughly enjoyed this and were given prizes donated by Dick Smith.

The next event is being planned in two months time



and will focus largely on sports.

It is intended to make this regular event for the Muslim youths of Auckland. Each Centre in Auckland is encouraged to have youth wing attached to their centres and encourage them to take part in similar events.

Many of the youth have either migrated to New Zealand or are born in New Zealand. It is important for them to know each other. This is the main aim of gathering the youth together at such events. Br Hisham Zaawi as the youth coordinator of FIANZ in Auckland Region has been very active in organising this.



New Zealand Muslims call for immediate end to the human tragedy in Gaza

New Zealand Muslims observe with a deep sense of pain and sorrow that the past five days have been period of anguish for people of Gaza and Israel.

The anguish is not what the people invited by what authorities have inflicted on them.

The five-day military offensive has seen Israel pounding Gaza strip with rockets and with plan to follow these with land and sea strikes.

The outcome of this human tragedy has so far left over sixty people dead with a quarter of these being children, pregnant women and old people, as well as hundreds severely injured. Houses and infrastructure have also been reduced to rubble. Israel claims to be undertaking 'surgical strikes' known for their 'precision' in targeting Hamas

military installations.

While these claims do not reflect what is unfolding it only confirms the aura of incoherence that pervades such official utterances on the crisis. Sadly, the victims are innocent civilians.

New Zealand Muslims call for immediate ceasefire on both sides and further call on the New Zealand government and the international community to take immediate steps to enforce the ceasefire.

We can all be accomplices to the wanton destruction either by direct action or inaction. Thus we must act to see sanity and peace restored so we can sensibly begin to talk about justice.

**Dr Anwar Ghani
President**

Death toll soars 90 in Gaza 'genocide'

Gaza City, 05 Muharram 1434/ 19 November 2012 (IINA) – Israeli airstrikes have pounded Gaza for a sixth successive day, rising to 92 the number of Palestinians killed. More than 750 others have been wounded.

Three people, including two children, were killed and 30 others were injured in the latest air strike before dawn on Monday on a family home in the Zeitoun neighborhood in Gaza City, medical officials said. Israel bombed 80 locations in Gaza overnight, the military said today, as officials prepared for a ground offensive if talks for a truce fail. Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General, was due to arrive in Cairo to add his weight to the truce efforts after Egypt took the lead in trying to broker a ceasefire and its officials met the parties yesterday. Israeli media said a delegation from Israel had been to Cairo for talks on ending the attacks. Mohamed Morsi, Egypt's president, met with Khaled Meshaal, the political leader of Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip, and Ramadan Shallah of Islamic Jihad as part of the mediation efforts. At least 11 Palestinian civilians,

including Five women and four children from the same family, were killed yesterday in what Hamas said was an Israeli air strike on a Gaza apartment building, the highest death toll in a single incident in six days of fighting. Two or three missiles fired by F-16 fighter jets reduced the house in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood to rubble, witnesses said. The strike flattened a two-story building of the Daloo family, said Gaza health official Ashraf Al-Kidra. Frantic rescuers pulled the children's bodies from the rubble, including a toddler, as survivors and bystanders screamed in grief. Later, the four children were laid out in the morgue of Gaza City's Shifa Hospital.

The Israeli military said that they had mistakenly bombed the home due to a technical error while targeting a senior Hamas official, the Haaretz newspaper reported. The report says that the military admitted killing mainly "unarmed civilians, including children and infants", and that the source of the error was either the failure to paint the target of the attack on the correct site or that one of the munitions in the strike misfired.

Earlier, medical sources in Gaza said at least three children - including an 18-month-old infant - and two women were killed in an air raid east of Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza.

The Israeli army said it had fired missiles at over 1,300 locations in Gaza since Wednesday, and that 544 rockets were fired back against Israel. Three Israelis have been killed and a few dozen wounded. The army said that some 302 rockets were intercepted by Iron Dome and 99 failed to reach Israel and landed inside Gaza. Ashraf Al-Kidra, a spokesperson of the health ministry in Gaza, said that civilians accounted for half of the Palestinian death toll. In the single deadliest attack of the Israeli operation so far, 12 civilians were killed in yesterday's air attack on a four-storey house in northern Gaza City, health officials said. Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said that he had assured world leaders that Israel was doing its utmost to avoid causing civilian casualties. However, many of the Palestinians killed are women and children.