



# Muslim News

1 September 2012 , 14 Shawwal 1433

## Prime Minister Key fetes Muslims on Eid

Prime Minister John Key has acknowledged the positive contributions of New Zealand Muslims to economy, bilateral relations as well as to peace that the country enjoys.

The occasion for Key's public testimony was Eid celebration to mark the end of Ramadan that was hosted in Parliament building in Wellington on Tuesday 21st August.

In attendance at the occasion were FIANZ executive council members, Ulama Board members, ambassadors and high commissioners of Muslim countries, and representatives of Muslim communities from across the country.

In attendance from government side included host of the occasion and Minister of Ethnic Affairs and Justice Hon Judith Collins, as well as parliamentarians from both national and labour parties.

In his address, Prime Minister Key told New Zealand Muslims 'We acknowledge your contributions to the progress and development of the economy over the years. I am happy to see Muslims living and working together with other communities to make New Zealand a great



nation'.

While acknowledging the role played by FIANZ in the positive integration of Muslims into wider society PM Key also opined that FIANZ has been of great assistance in enhancing our trade especially with countries in the Islamic world.

**Continued on Page 11**

## Islam-A living Faith

**By Sheikh Mohammad Amir**

Worshipping Almighty Allah swt. Is the most important and essential element of human life. In fact the whole purpose of its creation lies in it, and the whole life is based upon this basic fact. Even the concept of Eid and festival in Islam are nothing but a collective worship of Allah swt. That is where the saying of Umar Ibn Abdul Aziz comes from, which explains the real concept of Eid in Islam:

"Eid is not for those who have worn beautiful new

clothes, but the real Eid however is for those who fear the promised Day [i.e. Qeyamah and therefore have been mindful of their duties and responsibilities]"

Furthermore elucidating the importance of worship and its reward Rasulullah (SAW) Said: "On the day of Eid Allah boasts about the fasting people to the angels. O my angels! What is the reward of that worker who had done his job completely? They reply, O our Lord his reward should be given to him in full. To this Allah (SWT) replies, O my angels! Verily my servants, the male among them as well as female have today duly performed their

**Continued on Page 10**

Dear brothers and sisters,

*Assalamo Alaikum Wa-rahmatullah Wa-barkatohu*

## EID MUBARAK

I extend my warmest greetings to every one of you on this festive day of Eidul Fitr, "Eid Mubarak", "Kullo Aamin Wa-Antum Bekhair", "Eid Wanaagsan", "Salamat Hari Raya and Zahir Batin Maaf". May Allah SWT accept all our fasts, salaah, charity and good deeds conducted during this blessed month of Ramadan and reward us generously. I am sure in our own ways we have been able to improve our spirituality (Taqwa), tolerance and love for others and unity among ourselves. I pray to Allah SWT to further increase these qualities among us.



The culmination of a month long period of fasting where Muslims abstained from all luxuries that they are used to enjoying during the day, as well as the increased prayers and steadfastness in the month point to a belief in and surrender of oneself to an Almighty Creator. In this spirit therefore, I give praise to Allah (God) the creator of humans and the universe for keeping us alive and well to witness and mark yet another Ramadan and another Eid.

As the national organisation of Muslims, this is also a time of reflection for FIANZ. What have we accomplished in the year just gone by and how are we setting new priorities to ensure that our community remains united and continues to progress at an accelerated rate than what it has recorded in the last 33 years? The focus of FIANZ and all the Muslim organisations in New Zealand has to be on the next generation. We need to encourage our youth, and engage with them and guide them so they can become valued citizens of this country by contributing in its progress and at the same time remain the ambassadors of Islam to the wider community. By living in New Zealand we have a real opportunity to create strong connectedness with people of different socio-cultural backgrounds. A useful starting point will be to cultivate the spirit of good neighbourliness with our next-door neighbour.

The FIANZ initiative of organising the Islam Awareness Week (IAW) on yearly basis will, this year, start on 27th August and provides another excellent opportunity to open our doors to all New Zealanders to appreciate our religious and social aspects. As always I would like to see all Islamic centres, Associations actively participate in this event with full zeal. This year's IAW theme is "Islam and the environment: Our rights and responsibilities".

On this Eidul Fitr let us all present our good wishes and sincere greetings to our Muslim brethren in all parts of the world and in particular to people who are being continually affected by war or being displaced within their own countries because of internal conflicts. Our thoughts are also with all those less fortunate Muslims in other parts of the world that are facing economic and political difficulties. May Allah SWT alleviate their sufferings and reward them with lasting peace and prosperity.

On behalf of FIANZ Executives, Council, and staff members, I extend a very hearty Eid Mubarak to everyone. Let us all enjoy the festival of Eid by thanking Allah SWT for his favours and bounties. Let us all pray that we get many more opportunities to observe the blessed month of Ramadan and reap the rewards by following the commands of Allah SWT.

May Allah SWT make us among the righteous people and grant us success in this world and hereafter.  
Aameen

Wassalam

Dr Anwar Ghani MNZM JP  
President



HIGH COMMISSIONER

## HIGH COMMISSION FOR PAKISTAN

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August, 2012

**Eid-ul-Fitr Message**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalam-e-Alaikum,

On the auspicious and joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr 1433H, I convey my heartiest felicitations to fellow Muslims.

Eid-ul-Fitr, is the culmination of the holy month of Ramazan, during which Muslim Ummah across the globe, observes fasting with religious fervor – indeed a unique show of Islamic fraternity, unity and expression of gratitude to Allah SWT for His blessings. The essential message of the month of fasting, hence is, compassion, tolerance and forbearance.

The essence of fasting which teaches self discipline and piety must also be practiced into our daily lives. The spirit of Ramazan therefore, reaffirms the timeless principles of Islam, the fundamentals of which revolve around the eternal welfare of the mankind.

On this joyous occasion of Eid, I urge Muslims in New Zealand to be proactive and inclusive in political, economic and social processes of the mainstream society. This approach will help in building bridges amongst various faiths through dialogue to foster peaceful co-existence among all.

I wish EID MUBARAK to all and pray that this Eid Inshallah may bring happiness, peace and prosperity.

(Syed Ibne Abbas)



## Eid Message from Ambassador of The Islamic Republic of Iran in Wellington

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters in New Zealand,

May be blessed your Eid-ul-Fetr (Fetr Festivity), the Eid of thankfulness, gratitude, clemency and grace for those who have successfully prayed during this blessed month and entered God's glorious festivity.

Muslims around the world have been benefited from praying, fasting, Salat, and worshiping in the Blessed Ramadan Month on the basis of their own potentials, capacities, and possibilities, and at this end of a period of praying, penance, and devotion with the hope for divine forgiveness and grace, they will celebrate this Eid-ul-Fetr.

There is no doubt that our prayers are not delimited to this month and their quality and quantity will be continuing till the next blessed Ramadan Month.

Considering the sorrows and sufferings people are experiencing at these moments in Iran due to the last week earthquakes in the northwestern cities, I would like to express my condolences to all Muslim brothers and sisters in Iran for their losses and pains. May your prayers and worships to God bring, in this very holy month of Ramadan, some tolerance, patience, and fortitude to the people in Iran. I wish you all a very peaceful and mubarak Eid-ul-Fetr.

Seyed Majid Tafreshi Khameneh

Ambassador of The Islamic Republic of Iran in Wellington



## Message from the ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

Eid ul-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, is not only a joyous occasion but also a day of gratitude for the everyday blessings we enjoy in life. It is a time for deep reflection, renewal of pledges and to cultivate faith.

I wish these joyous occasions would bring peace and happiness for all humanity.

On this very happy occasion I would like to extend my greetings and best wishes to our Muslim brothers and sisters and their families in New Zealand.

Damla Yeşim Say  
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey





August 2012

*Dear Members of the Muslim Community in New Zealand,*

*Assalam Alikum Wrahmat Allah Wbarakatuh,*

*As the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Wellington has been reopened since October 2010, this Ramadan is the second Ramadan that we share with our Sisters and Brothers here in New Zealand. By the grace of God and with the hospitality and support of the Government of our host country and its great people, we have been able to function and provide full Embassy services in New Zealand.*

*I would like to also take this opportunity to express to you that I am very much proud of the Muslim Community in New Zealand, knowing that there are tens of thousands of Muslim citizens and residents in this great and tolerant country. I would like to express as well my appreciation to the Administration of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) for the distinguished services that FIANZ provides to the Muslim Community.*

*May God accept our fasting, prayers and good deeds during the Holy Month of Ramadan and grant us all every success in our endeavours.*

*It gives me great pleasure to send you my heartfelt greetings and best wishes as we approach Eid-ul-Fitr Al-Mubarak.*

*Mahmoud Zayed*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mahmoud Zayed".

*Minister Plenipotentiary  
and Charge d' Affaires, a.i.  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Wellington  
New Zealand*



# Eid in Parliament



## **Eid-ul Fitr Greeting**

***Assalaam Alaikum Wa'Rahmatullahi Wa'Barakatoh.***

On this Joyous and Wonderful Occasion of Eid-ul Fitr

The Council & Executive Members and Staff of  
The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand  
are pleased to extend their Heartiest Greetings  
to you, your families, friends, near and dear.

May Allah SWT accept all your fasts,  
Salaat, charities and good deeds and  
Reward you all generously

***“Kullu Ammanthum Bi Khair”***  
***(Blessings on this day of Eid and throughout the year)***

***Eid Mubarak***

# Ramadhan 2012 - Wellington Islamic Centre

By Fawzan Hafiz

Ramadhan came again to spread mercy, blessing, generosity, goodwill, unity, and piety, softening the hearts of the believers in the thought of Allah Azza Wa Jall, establishing, re-establishing, affirming, and strengthening the relationship of the Ibaad with the Ma'bood SWT. At the Wellington Islamic Centre we nurtured our hearts and minds and nourished our faith. Glory be to Allah The Lord of the worlds.

Ramadhan fills the Masjid and builds the community. The Masjid has been well used, numbers of people increased from Fajr to Isha and even beyond. An assembly of seekers of mercy and forgiveness committed themselves to I'tikaf. May Allah The Glorified accept our pleas and grant us success in both worlds.

Under the leadership of Sheikh Amir we sat through many programmes in the Masjid learning the Truth, and participated in discussions to understand the fiqh of fasting and Zakah and many other important aspect of Islam during the whole month. May Allah protect and safeguard our leaders and guides – the Ulama of this Ummah.

We have participated in communal iftar and mutually reciprocated gestures of good will and hospitality. The community iftars organised by the various ethnic communities throughout the month reflecting the diverse make-up of the community. Islam is a global religion and ethnic diversity should be celebrated as a strength of this Ummah. This is uniquely expressed in hosting iftar for the community. Since our current Masjid opened in 2001 we have encouraged and facilitated such a programme in acknowledgment and celebration of our ethnic diversity. Many strong ethnic communities make up one strong Muslim Community. The communities that have sponsored and taken part over the years are:

- Arab
- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Fiji
- IMAN Youth
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Najashi Community
- Pakistan
- Singapore
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka

In previous years some Embassies have also sponsored iftar.

We have had 500 to 900 people come for each iftar. In addition to this, iftars are also organised on a smaller scale for the Musallis during weekdays.

Similar programmes are organised at Porirua, Lower Hutt, and Newlands Islamic Centres.

We have enjoyed a tremendous atmosphere in our Masjid, which has looked very 'lived-in' particularly during the last ten days. We have seen our lines during prayers grow, we estimate a couple of hundred men and women standing through the entire Taraweeh and listening to the entire Qur'an being recited by Sheikh Amir over the month. The number of participants for the various programmes has also been great. Throughout the

month we have had two dedicated programmes run by Sheikh Amir; one has been talks before every community iftar starting approximately half an hour before iftar, the other has been after Fajr each morning on Fiqh covering Saum and Zakah which is more interactive and people have an opportunity to ask questions on various issues. In addition to this we have also had a visiting scholar from Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdulaziz Aloumy, who lead the prayers at the Lower Hutt Islamic Centre during the first half of the month.

## Eid Al Fitr

Eid Salah was held in Kilbirnie, Porirua, Lower Hutt, and Newlands. The Salah in Kilbirnie began from 9.00am attended by a large number of people in excess of a thousand.

In his Eid Khutbah Sheikh Amir impressed upon the gathering the importance of utilising the Masjid for the purpose it was built as well as the importance of looking after the youth in line with the Islamic concept of Tarbiyah, as well as the dangers they are exposed to in today's society such as drugs, alcohol, and immorality. He also spoke about the suffering of Muslims in other parts of the world particularly in Syria and Burma.

Below are some photos taken during the iftar time on different days:







The month of Ramadhan brought an atmosphere of happiness and spiritual enlightenment to all the Muslims. Taraweeh prayers began after sighting of the moon was confirmed. During the month, Iftar's dinner was organised by SAMA on daily basis. Our members sponsored the daily Iftar. Taraweeh prayers were attended by both brothers and sisters. Recitation of Quran Shariff was completed on the 27th night. A celebration of Lailatul Qadar was organised on that night.

Masjid and madrasa officials from abroad and locally were activity collecting Zakart, Fitrana and donations throughout the month. Eid prayers was at 8:30, a large number of brothers and sisters attended the Masjid for the prayers. Children were given gift packs on the day of Eid.

## Eid prayers in Al Nur Mosque, Christchurch



## Eid Celebrations in SAMA, Auckland



## Eid Celebrations in OMA, Dunedin,





# OIC chief greets world Muslims on Eid

Jeddah, 01 Shawwal 19 August (IINA) – The Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu expressed his warmest congratulations and best wishes to the entire Muslim Ummah on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr.

Following is the full text of his message:

“In these blessed days when the Muslim world is celebrating the happy occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, which is an opportunity for joy and a time to express our thanks and praise to Allah for having bestowed on us the blessings of fasting and praying, I would like to express to the Muslim Ummah my sincere wishes on this occasion, praying to Almighty Allah that He may make this Eid one of goodness and hope and that He may grant Muslims all over the world happiness and blessings. I also pray to Almighty Allah to grant them success, guide them to reunite their ranks and strengthen their solidarity.

The month of Ramadan is a month of peace, serenity and security, where Muslims are particularly fervent in fulfilling their prayers, worshipping and soul purification. While some of us find in Ramadan a time to feel secure and serene, it is distressing for me to say that corners of the Islamic world were deprived of this serenity and peace, while some other parts are currently undergoing various forms of misery and harsh conditions, especially in Syria where aspects of human suffering as reflected by the absence of basic necessities of life, lack of security, increasing disturbances, continued violations of human rights, the killing and displacement have become an everyday fact of life.

We pray to Almighty Allah that this year's Eid Al-Fitr would represent a glimpse of hope for the Syrians, and that their plight will come to an end so that they can regain their normal lives in a context of peace and stability. Our brothers, the Rohingya minority in Myanmar, are also still



suffering from flagrant violations which threaten their very existence in that country. I call once again on Muslims from all around the world to make every effort to help our Muslim brothers in Myanmar overcome their plight.

***On this happy occasion, we reaffirm our support for our Palestinian brothers and confirm the firm stance of the Muslim Ummah concerning the city of Al-Quds, and the need to preserve its Arab and Islamic identity against the risk of “Judaization” and to put an end to occupation.***

On this happy occasion, we reaffirm our support for our Palestinian brothers and confirm the firm stance of the Muslim Ummah concerning the city of Al-Quds, and the need to preserve its Arab and Islamic identity against the risk of “Judaization” and to put an end to 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.

It is my sincere hope that at a time when the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is witnessing a new beginning, after changing its name and logo and following the establishment of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission in the beginning of this year, that this would usher in a new era of prosperity and empowerment for our Muslim world and reflect the virtues of justice, equality, peace and tolerance which characterize the true Islamic religion and its tolerant teachings, in a context which respects the sanctity of life and embodies the values of human dignity, the spreading of human rights, the

overcoming of pitfalls and disputes and their settlement through dialogue and peaceful means in a context of brotherhood and consideration”. The Fourth Islamic Summit Meeting held recently at the kind initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy

Mosques, May Allah preserve him, under the theme “Islamic Solidarity”, and its important outcomes in terms of reinforcing the bonds of solidarity between Islamic countries and nations, confirming the unity of ranks and consolidating harmony which is the strong chord that is unbreakable amongst

Muslims, had a significant impact on reprobating sectarian disputes, quenching unrests and restoring security, which bodes of a new dawn for the Muslim world where the virtues of peace, fraternity, purity of heart, tolerance and prosperity are.



# Islam-A living Faith

Continued from Page 1

obligatory duty, thereafter they set forth to Eid prayer-ground, raising their voice in prayer to me. I swear by my Honour, by my Grandeur, by my grace and by my Exalted position, that I shall surely answer the prayers of those people. Thereafter Allah addresses the people, go forth, I have forgiven your sins, and have replaced your evil deeds with righteous ones. Those people then turn from the prayer ground in such a condition that their sins stand forgiven” (Sunan Al-Baihaqi).

Here we should also note the importance of fasting during the month of Shawwal, as prophet saw said: “He who observes the fasts in the month of Ramadan, and also observes fasts for six days in the month of Shawwal, it is as if he has observed fasts for the whole year.” (Muslim).

Fasting in the month of Ramadhan is an excellent deed, and attending the Traweeh prayer is a very good practice, but it is not good enough to mark our identity as Muslim. A Muslim, a true believer is one who realizes the importance of application of Shariah on the basis of day to day life, and on the basis of each and every moment. As muslim we are bound by the rules of Islam, which means we have to pass our life in accordance with the Quran and Sunnah. A life will only be considered a successful one if it was lived in conformity to the commandment of Allah and the way shown by Rasulullah saw; he has set

up a pattern, and established a modal and example, as how a muslim’s life should be. And also told in details the purpose and objective of it. The Holy Quran proclaims: “Indeed you have a fair example in the messenger of Allah, for whosoever hopes for Allah and the last day and remembers Allah much” (33: 21).



So by the departure of Ramadhan we should not depart our good deeds and Amal as well, and wait for the next Ramadhan to come and then start an other lot. We rather should be a practicing muslim by practicing the religion in every sphere of life at all time.

We must note here one of the most significant points, which is that we are living in a society where it is very difficult to maintain our Islamic entity and religious dignity. As the entire environment is in contrary to what we believe. Therefore the only place where we can safeguard our faith is the mosque and the environment of the mosque. So we should have a strong connection with the mosque, and make it the focal

point of our thought and activities, such as Attending the prayers in congregation, joining the Islamic activities held there, bringing the friends and family and spending some time in it.

The mosque was and is still the school of this nation, the university and the source of all virtues. Students are taught in it, and children brought up in it, and scholars graduated from it. Today we are in disparate need to reaffirm the role of the mosque and its message. Because the mosque is the house of Allah in which His faithful slaves are honored, and the spiritual enlightenment and honor and dignity emit. It fills our heart with joy to see the mosque crowded with young people, who represent the bright future of our community.

In order to instill a sound style of life in accordance with Islamic Shariah, the prophet saw said: “every new born is naturally predisposed as a Muslim. However, his parents are the one who make him a Jew, a Christian or magus”. Hence when a child is brought up with deep belief in Allah, he/she will eventually acquire good and sound culture as an adult. This is one of the unique characteristics of Islam as a religion of mercy and peace.

We have forgotten that we are believers in our creators the Almighty Allah and his beloved messenger Mohammad saw, we have forgotten that we are believers in the day of judgment and the life in the Hereafter. We have become unmindful of our

duty to show the world by example that the solution to all problems lies in our beautiful religion Islam. Just to give you an example of its golden teaching that the Islam instruct its followers to curb their hand and tongue from evil, and not to do bad in return to bad, but to do the best in return to the worst, not for fear from any one, but rather for fear from Allah Alone.

But where we are from this teaching? Just what percentage of the muslims practice Islam in their homes, businesses, social gatherings and relationships? We should measure ourselves in the light of Quran and Sunnah as to where do we stand. We call ourselves muslim and follower of prophet Mohammad saw. Does Islam reflects on our daily life? Do we ever think as a muslim what our duties are? Moreover we always look for some excuse to avoid the religious obligation. Slight flue and cold or minor headache becomes an excuse to leave the prayers even inside the house. Jobs and personal commitments are being considered as valid reasons to stay behind the congregational prayers. Whereas as at the same time all our worldly affairs are normal and go well. The only thing which is effected by is the religious obligations.

If the salt has run out we have time and strength to drive the car to the supermarket to purchase it, likewise if the milk is finished we are available to drive to the dairy to buy it. Similarly if we are feeling bored inside the house we have plenty of time to go to parks and walk around streets and shops. But when it comes the issue of prayers and religious obligations we pretend very busy and find ourselves overwhelmed and

tightened with the time.

How long are we going to continue like this? How long are we going to offer flimsy excuse? Knowing that Allah swt is well aware of every thing, hidden or exposed, we can deceive each other, but we can never deceive the All knowing Allah, He is fully aware of our situation.

All this happens because we have very little faith in Allah and the Hereafter, consequently it becomes very difficult to fulfil the religious obligation, which is the only beneficial in the Hereafter. On the other hand we have very strong faith in this world. That is why dealing with the worldly matter is very easy.

One should be proud of his or her religion, and must recognize the favour of Allah that He has given us through this religion, let us have a close look of ibn Hisham, one of the prophet's earliest biographer has recorded how Jafar Tayyar ra described to Negus the king of Abyssinia the message of Islam and the preaching of its prophet while explaining to the Ethiopian king, the spokesman of the small band of Muslim immigrants from Makkah, did not say that the prophet saw performed miracles, or devoted most of his time in meditation, prayers and fasting, as these were present in other heavenly religions in one or the other shape. All he said was that: "The makkans were an ignorant folk who worshipped idols, ate flesh of dead animals, tormented their neighbours, inflicted cruelty on brothers. The powerful allowed all the injustice to the powerless. Till a man appeared among them. .... who taught them to give up idol worship, speak the

truth, stop shedding each others blood, refrain from misappropriating the belongings of orphans, look after the comforts of neighbours, and abstain from accusing chaste women of infidelity. Therefore we trusted him and believed in him. (Seerah Nabaviah vol 1 p/ 372).

Let us conclude this by a saying of the prophet saw, in which he admonished a man: "Take advantage of five (by doing good deeds and making amends for the bad ones) before an other five befall you. Take advantage of your youth before you grow old, your health before you become ill, your wealth before you become poor, your free time before you become busy, and your life before it is time for you to die" (Musnad Ahmad, Hakim).

We should also not forget on this auspicious occasion our less fortunate brothers and sister in many parts of the world who are going through hardship and difficult time, and ask Allah SWT with a sincere heart to release them from all calamities and suffering, and give them a happy and peaceful life. And may this Eid bring for them an end to all disaster and sorrow. Ameen.

On this happy occasion I would like to extend my warmest and heartfelt greetings to all Muslims, and congratulate them for having strived to fulfil this honourable obligation of fasting and praying. And we wish you a very happy and blessed Eid.

We beseech Allah SWT to accept all our good deeds, and forgive the shortcomings, (Ameen).

## Prime Minister Key fetes Muslims on Eid

Continued from Page 1

Responding on behalf of the Muslim community FIANZ President Dr Anwar Ghani reiterated that Muslims in New Zealand have continued to make significant contributions to the economy by 'adding colour to our national diversity'. He also added that, as it stands today, there is room to still increase Muslim contribution to the economy beyond the multi-billion dollar Halal industry. Dr Ghani advised government to invite Islamic Banks to make a presence in the New Zealand economy as a way to

enhance trade and economic relations for the progress of all.

Chief Host of the Eid in Parliament celebrations Hon Judith Collins acknowledged that for Muslims, Eid el Fitr is a celebration with huge significance in the spiritual lives of Muslims. And for the wider New Zealand society 'it is about acknowledging the valuable contributions of Muslims to the cultural, religious, ethnic and economic landscape of New Zealand'.

### Voice of Islam Programs for September 2012

#### 1 & 2 September

QUR'AN:  
66:9, 25:52, 29:68-69

FEATURE:  
Jihad on Terrorism  
part 1 defining jihad  
part 2 combative jihad  
By Bridges Foundation

#### 8 & 9 September

QUR'AN:  
66:9, 25:52, 29:68-69

FEATURE:  
Jihad on Terrorism  
part 3 killing civilians  
part 4 torturing prisoners  
of war  
By Bridges Foundation

DOCUMENTARY:  
Allah is known through  
reason part 1  
By Harun Yahya

MY PATH TO ISLAM:  
Abdul Lateef Smith

#### 15 & 16 September

QUR'AN:  
66:9, 25:52, 29:68-69

FEATURE:  
Jihad on Terrorism  
part 5 holy war  
part 6 defining terrorism  
By Bridges Foundation

DOCUMENTARY:  
Islam denounces  
terrorism  
By Harun Yahya

DOCUMENTARY:  
Allah is known through  
reason part 2  
By Harun Yahya

#### 22 & 23 September

QUR'AN:  
4: 135-136

LECTURE:  
Sahabahs youth - inspiring  
today's youth part 1  
By Sheikh Aslam Ismail

DOCUMENTARY:  
The collapse of the theory  
of evolution  
- the origin of life  
By Harun Yahya

NO STONE UNTURNED:  
Allah  
By Bilal Dannoun

#### 29 & 30 September

QUR'AN:  
16: 125, 3: 104-105

LECTURE:  
Sahabahs youth -  
inspiring today's youth  
part 2  
By Sheikh Aslam Ismail

DOCUMENTARY:  
The collapse of the  
theory of evolution  
- imaginary mechanisms  
of evolution  
By Harun Yahya



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Sat 10:00pm Sun 10:00am



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## OIC urges ending violations at Jerusalem holy sites

Jeddah, 05 Shawwal 23 August (IINA) – The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) reaffirmed the safety of the holy sites at Jerusalem is of paramount importance to all Muslims, and is an integral part of peace and security in the region.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the attempt to burn the Al-Aqsa Mosque, OIC urged the international community to force Israel to abide by international law, and cease its violations against the occupied city and respect its holy sites. The statement said that the anniversary comes amid continued Israeli violations and repeated desecrations of the forecourts of the blessed first "Qibla" by Israeli extremists, and growing calls by extremists for the destruction of the Mosque and the erection of the alleged temple in its place.

The anniversary also comes at a time when the occupied city of Al-Quds is being subjected to a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing designed to drive out its indigenous population and replace them by, in grave breach of international law.

OIC said that Israel, the occupying power, bears full responsibility for the safety of the holy places it occupies, knowing that International agreements and treaties, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibit the occupying state from committing acts of aggression against holy places or denying worshippers access to these places. The Convention also bans the alteration of the landmarks of the city, population composition and urban structure, or any aggression against its historical monuments.

Given continued Israeli violations against the city, the OIC, whose creation was the direct outcome of the issue of Jerusalem, calls on the international community to force Israel, the occupying power, to abide by international law, and cease its violations against the occupied city and respect its holy sites. The OIC reaffirmed the consistent position of the Islamic Ummah vis-à-vis Jerusalem and the protection of its Arab and Islamic identity, and renews its call on member states to continue all forms of support and assistance to Jerusalem, guided by the Strategic Sector Plan, which sets out the priority sectors to be financed in the city.



# 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.



## FATIMAH FOUNDATION WEEKLY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Advancing Muslim women's confidence and skills to increase their economic capacity and community participation.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Basic English Classes for Beginners</b> Suitable for Migrant Muslim Women	<b>Chai and Chat</b> Ethnic Womens Wellness Group	<b>Participation work group</b> Research and learn about womens issues	<b>Ethnic Threads</b> An upcycle and Recycle sewing group	<b>Family Centre</b> Do drop in	<b>PantryPak Halal Food Bank</b> South Auckland
<b>10 am to 1 pm</b>	<b>10 am to 1pm</b>	<b>10 am to 1 pm</b>	<b>10am to 12pm</b>	<b>10 am to 2pm</b>	<b>1 pm to 4 pm</b>
Learn to speak English. Be taught by Muslim Women. Beginners Classes Only. Suitable for Muslim Migrant Women	Make & meet friends, women supporting women, guest speakers. All women welcome.	Build confidence as you improve your computers skills. You'll be helping to develop our Research Library.	Revive or learn a new craft.	Come in for advise, information and help.	Helping to support needy families in the community

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Information is Beautiful  
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donate a can



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# Obama hosts Iftar at White House

Washington, 24 Ramadan 12 August (IINA) – While hosting his fourth Iftar dinner Friday night at the White House, President Barack Obama reaffirmed the freedom of religion and the right to worship as the foremost freedom in America. Several prominent figures from the American Muslim community and senior US officials took part in the Iftar held in the State Dining Room of the White House.

In his speech, Obama expressed his commitment to defending the freedom of religion. “It’s enshrined in the First Amendment of our Constitution – the law of the land, always and forever. It beats in our heart – in the soul of the people who know that our liberty and our equality is endowed by our Creator,” Obama said. His speech comes just after the Mitt Romney presidential campaign released an advertisement saying that Obama is threatening religious freedom in the country. “Who shares your values?” the ad asks. “President Obama used his health care plan to declare war on religion, forcing religious institutions to go against their faith. Mitt Romney believes that’s wrong. “When religious freedom is threatened, who do you want to stand with?”

The ad was attacking Obama over the Health and Human Services mandate that employers cover contraception and sterilization in their employees’ health insurance. Religious institutions, such as hospitals and colleges, are not exempt from the mandate. Both Catholics and evangelicals

are protesting the mandate for violating their religious freedom.

On another note, Obama also honored several guests attending the White House dinner, including Huma Abedin, close aide to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Obama thanked Abedin for her tireless work and for representing the U.S. and its democratic values.



He said Abedin, who has been at Clinton’s side in the White House, the Senate, her 2008 Democratic campaign against Obama and in her globe-trotting travels at the State Department, had worked tirelessly to represent the United States. Clinton has relied on Abedin’s expertise and “so have I”, the president added. “The American people owe her a debt of gratitude – because Huma is an American patriot, and an example of what we need in this country – more public servants with her sense of decency, her grace and her generosity of spirit. “So, on behalf of all Americans, we thank you so much,” Obama told Abedin.

She was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1976 but moved with her family to Saudi Arabia when she was two. Her father was born

in India under British rule and her mother is Pakistani. Abedin has been the target of a small group of Republican lawmakers, including former presidential candidate Michele Bachmann. Abedin was mentioned in a June letter written by Bachmann and her colleagues for possible association with the Muslim Brotherhood. Bachmann wrote the letter to the

deputy inspector general of the State Department alleging the conspiracy and demanding a probe. The letter was denounced by several Republicans including Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) who said “Huma represents what is best about America: the daughter of immigrants, who has risen to the

highest levels of our government on the basis of her substantial personal merit and her abiding commitment to the American ideals that she embodies so fully.”

Republican Senator John McCain spoke strongly in her defense, saying she was a devoted public servant full of “decency, warmth and good humor”. “Put simply, Huma represents what is best about America: the daughter of immigrants, who has risen to the highest levels of our government on the basis of her substantial personal merit,” McCain said. Members of Congress, including Minnesota Congresswoman Bachmann, wrote a letter to the deputy inspector general of the State Department alleging the conspiracy and demanding a probe.

# OIC chief slams global inaction on Rohingya Muslims

Jeddah, 07 August (IINA) – The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu expressed disappointment over the inaction of the international community to stop the massacres, injustice and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Myanmar government against Rohingya Muslims in the Arakan region.

In his speech at the extraordinary meeting of the OIC Executive Committee on this issue on Sunday, Ihsanoglu explained the steps being taken by OIC to protect Muslim minority in Myanmar. He said that the neglect of the rights of Rohingyas by the international community and the lack of unity among Rohingya organizations spurred the OIC to exert earnest efforts to unite these organizations for the first time at the OIC headquarters in May 2011.

The OIC General Secretariat had directed its offices at the United Nations in New York to coordinate with its member states which are also non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (Azerbaijan, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo) to urge the Council to consider the plight of the Rohingya minorities, he noted.

The secretary general proposed at the meeting to condemn the continued repression and ethnically-motivated oppression of the Rohingya Muslims as well as to demand restoration of their legitimate rights and request member states, particularly those with representation with the Myanmar government, to do all within their means to convince the Myanmar government to repeal the arbitrary 1982 Citizenship Law which led to withdrawal of citizenship from Rohingya Muslims.

Ihsanoglu also urged countries, especially Myanmar's neighboring countries, as well as Islamic organizations and bodies to provide urgent assistance to the Rohingya Muslims. He proposed that the Islamic Group in Geneva should dispatch an urgent request to the Human Rights Council to send a fact-finding mission to investigate the massive violation perpetrated against the Muslims inhabitants of Arakan.

The OIC Secretary General also proposed that setting up of an Islamic fact-finding committee on the events should be considered, and that a report in that regard should be submitted to the next ministerial conference. He also proposed

## Study: Southeast Asian Muslims most devout

Jakarta, 28 August (IINA) – Southeast Asia's Muslims can be confident that when it comes to some key beliefs they are among the most devout in the world.

A survey, carried out by Pew Research Center, focusing on the values, rituals and lifestyles of more than 35,000 Muslims around the world showed that the Muslims of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand were often among the most enthusiastic followers of some of the five pillars of Islam: the declaration of faith, prayer, alms giving, fasting during Ramadan and going on a pilgrimage to Makkah. The survey, which included about 5,000 people from the region, showed that believers in Southeast Asia were more enthusiastic than those in Africa, Asia, Europe and even the Middle East in upholding most of these pillars.

Some 98% of Indonesians said they gave alms annually, followed by 93% of Malaysians and Thais. Those were among the three highest rates for charity in the world. In most other Muslim communities, less than 80% of those surveyed participated in what is called zakat. "Annual almsgiving, which by custom is

supposed to equal approximately 2.5% of a person's total wealth, is almost as widely observed as fasting during Ramadan," the report released earlier this month said. "In Southeast Asia and South Asia, the median of roughly nine-in-ten Muslims say they performed zakat." This corner of Asia also outperformed when it came to fasting during Ramadan. While most of the Muslim world enthusiastically embraces the ritual of fasting during the holy month, 99% of Malaysians and Indonesians surveyed said they did. In Asia, only Thai Muslims were more devout, with 100% of them saying they fasted.

In Indonesia, mosque attendance is also among the highest in the world. The Pew report said 72% of Indonesians surveyed said they went to a mosque at least once a week. That compares to just 57% in Malaysia, 61% in Egypt and 44% in Turkey. Southeast Asia ranked a bit lower when it came to daily prayers. More than 75% of those surveyed said they prayed several times a day, which is well above the average for most of Asia and the Middle East, but below most African countries. Few of the Muslims surveyed had made it to Mecca yet: Only 6% of Southeast

Asians, compared to 17% in the Middle East and northern Africa.

Interestingly, belief in angels is highest in Southeast Asia, with 99% of Indonesian Muslims, 98% of Malaysian Muslims and 91% of Thai Muslims believing in them. Belief in powerful angels may be why few in the region think they need lucky charms. On average, Southeast Asian Muslims were among the biggest believers in witchcraft but at the same time the least likely to believe in using talismans to ward off evil or misfortune.

While around 40% of the Muslims surveyed in Pakistan and Albania believed in the protective power of charms, amulets or precious stones, less than 5% of Southeast Asian Muslims said they would use them. "In all countries surveyed, a majority of Muslims report that they do not use magical objects to ward off evil or misfortune," the report said. "Indeed, in 21 of 23 countries where the question was asked, fewer than three-in-ten Muslims say they wear talismans or precious stones for protection



# Islam Awareness Week Closing Ceremony

21 Aug 2012

South Auckland Muslim Association and New Zealand Muslim Sports Association will jointly organise the closing ceremony of the week long Islam Awareness Week.

Both Associations are determined to create awareness within our community for better understanding of New Zealand culture and respect for other ethnic groups. For that reason, the Associations strive to support and sponsor community events as well as host them wherever possible. Our hope is that through the commitment of our members, enjoyment and appreciation of the events, their life in New Zealand will be enhanced.

## **Overview**

South Auckland Muslim Association and New Zealand Muslim Sports Association in conjunction with our National Body, The Federation of Islamic Association of New Zealand (FIANZ) and Muslim Council of Auckland is organising the closing ceremony of the Islam Awareness Week, mainly to bring together Muslim and non Muslim families of Auckland where they can have some understanding of Islamic values and New Zealand cultures. The main focus of this event is to propagate the Islamic teachings from the Quran and Sunnah in light of the theme for the Islam Awareness Week.

**Theme:** "Islam and the Environment: Our Rights and Responsibilities"

**Proposed Date:** Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012, Time **2:30 to 3:30pm**

## **Purpose:**

1. Bringing together Muslims and Non Muslim families
2. Interacting with different cultures for greater participation and understanding
3. Giving leadership opportunities to younger people
4. Making our people aware of life in New Zealand
5. Spreading the Islamic Teachings to Non Muslim
6. Links with the community helps the Association to raise members' motivation, expectations and achievement, which leads to greater understanding of the community we live in.
7. Support from local community organisations is a crucial factor in attainment and combating social exclusion.

## **Program:**

1. Official Opening – FIANZ
2. Speeches from Muslim Leaders
3. Speeches from Non Muslim Leaders
4. Open forum discussion
5. Light refreshment will be served
6. The number of people expected to be approximately 150
7. Invitation to MPs, City Councillors, Community Leaders, etc.

## **Media Coverage:**

1. Radio and Newspaper will be used to publicise before, during and after the events.