

Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

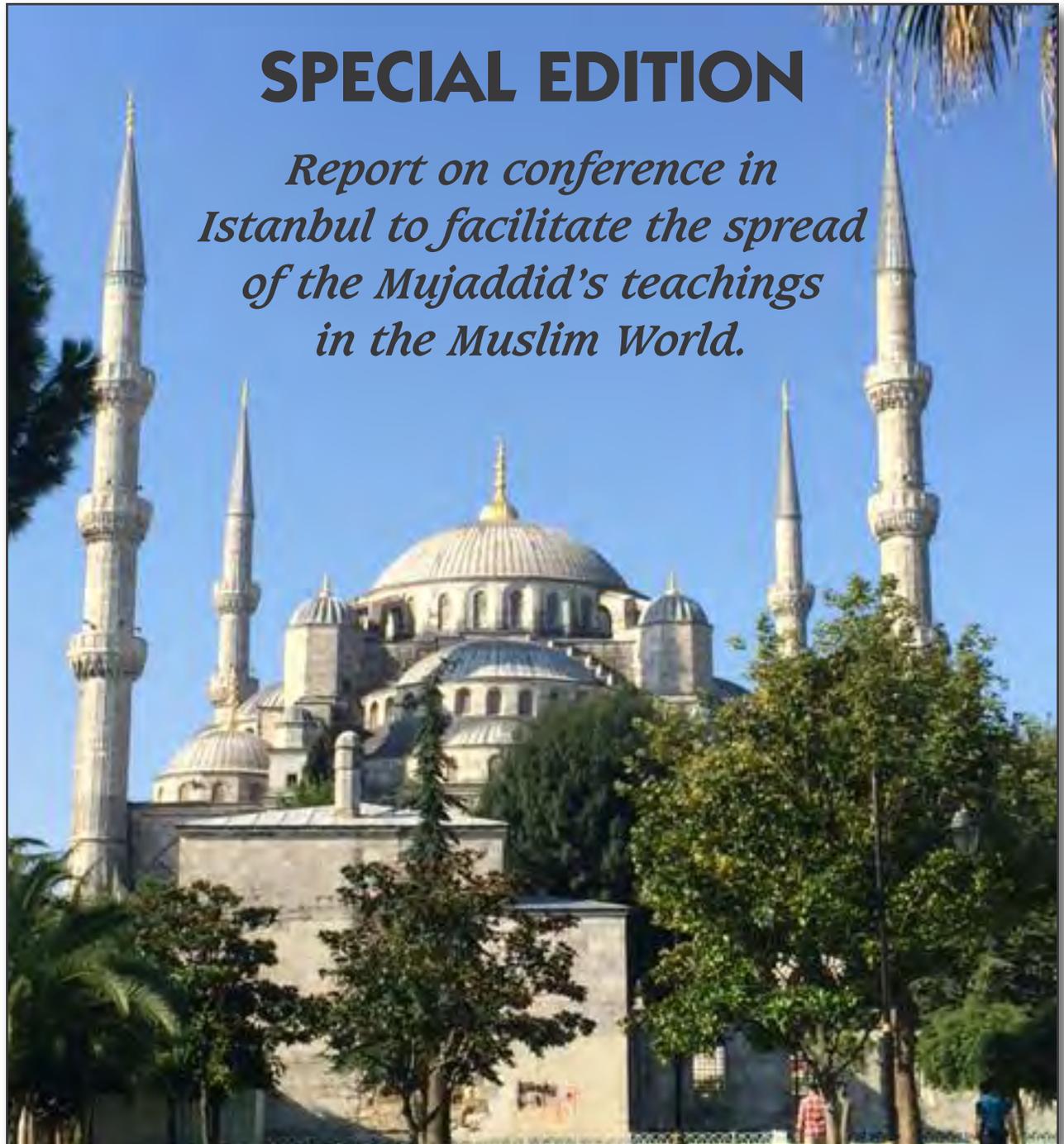
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SPECIAL EDITION

*Report on conference in
Istanbul to facilitate the spread
of the Mujaddid's teachings
in the Muslim World.*



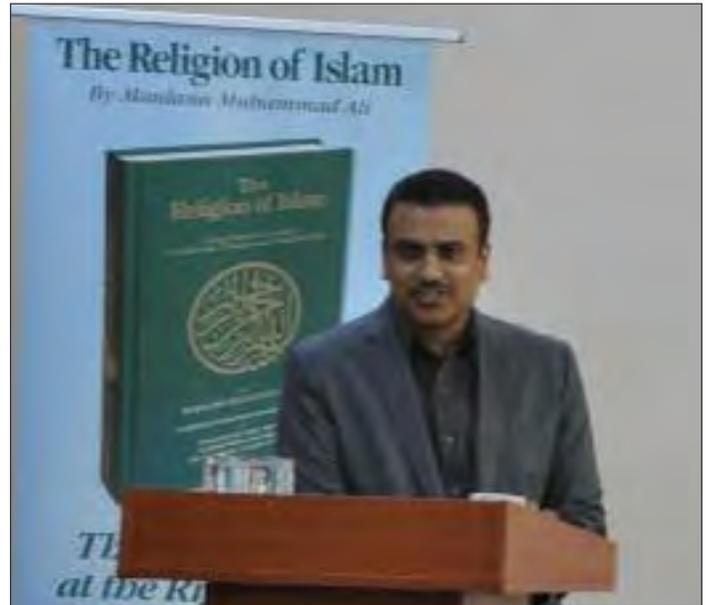
Continuing the Great Revival Initiative

Report on Conference in Istanbul to facilitate
the spread of the Mujaddid's teachings in the Muslim World

Alhamdulillah, the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society (the U.S. branch of the International Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement) held a very successful conference in Istanbul, Turkey from September 3-7, 2015 for a delegation of seven leading Sufi Sheikhs headed by Sheikh Alaa Abul Azayem (Head of the Azmiyyah Sufi Order and Head of the International Sufi Union).

The conference came at the urging of Sheikh Azayem and Sheikh Omar Bastiwi (former Director of the Office of the Grand Imam at Al Azhar Al Shareef, and Secretary of the International Sufi Union). Both Sheikhs have learned a lot about the Ahmadiyya Movement, the differences between the Lahore and Qadian Jamaats and the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib through their interactions with Samina and Noman Malik. Both also attended the US Jamaat's annual convention last year which was devoted to celebrating the centenary anniversary of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

Being very impressed with the work being done by the US Jamaat for the advancement of Islam in the West and the Arabic literature published and distributed by the US Jamaat in Egypt, both Sheikhs offered to arrange for several other leading Sufi Sheikhs to meet with us to learn about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. As most people are only familiar with the Qadian Jamaat's beliefs and interpretations, which has been an obstacle to the spread of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's teachings in Muslim-majority countries, both Sheikhs desired that other leading and influential Muslim figures learn the truth about the Ahmadiyya Movement —



Fazeel welcoming delegates.

just as they had. In particular, they wanted us to establish for the delegation of participating Sufi Sheikhs that Hazrat Mirza Sahib did not claim to be a prophet and firmly believed in the finality of prophethood in the person of the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Heeding the sincere advice and well wishes of Sheikh Azayem and Sheikh Bastiwi, the US Jamaat organized a conference in Istanbul for this purpose. Two months prior, Samina Malik visited Istanbul to attend to the necessary arrangements, including event location, accommodations, etc. Our dear Sister Ayse Kucur and Prof. Sadi bey Kucur were a tremendous help in this regard. Two additional leading Sufi figures from Egypt who had read our Arabic publications and were interested in learning more about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement also participated in the conference. Also in attendance were several journalists from leading newspapers in Cairo. This was also arranged by Sheikh Azayem, so that the Jamaat's true beliefs and teachings may be publicized beyond those in attendance and to the millions of people who read the local papers in Cairo everyday. We were also blessed to have our close associate Prof. Dr. Hussein Aly from the American University in Cairo (accompanied by his talented wife, Hannan Aly) attend, who worked tirelessly as a professional translator throughout the entire event. And, we were fortunate to have our dear friend Dr. Halil Ibrahim from Kosovo participate. The representatives of the U.S. Jamaat were Dr. Mohammed Ahmad, Sr. Lubna Ahmad, Sr. Samina Malik, Dr. Noman Malik and Fazeel S. Khan.



Yumur Kucur reciting the Holy Quran.



Conference attendees.



Fazeel delivering lecture.

Keeping the purpose and objective of the conference in mind, the program for the 3-day event was designed to not only impart knowledge about the Ahmadiyya Movement, but also to develop personal relationships with the Sufi Sheikhs attending. In the opening presentation on the first day of the conference, Fazeel noted that we intended to not only hold presentations but to get to know one another, eat together and pray together.

The formal presentations were as follows:

The Great Revival Initiative

Fazeel S. Khan, Esq.

In this introductory presentation, Fazeel discussed Hazrat Mirza Sahib's claim of being the Mujaddid of the age. He also explained how the focus on Hazrat Mirza Sahib's revival initiative was based on the spiritual reformation of the individual, and that this personal transformation is what is needed in order to establish universal peace and brotherhood. He also spoke on how it was necessary for Hazrat Mirza Sahib to address the widely misunderstood concept of jihad, which we see causing much chaos in the world



Dr. Hussein Aly translating Fazeel's introductory speech.



Noman delivering lecture.



Ahmad delivering lecture.

today. Fazeel also clarified that the name “Ahmadiyya” given to the Movement was not in relation to the founder’s name but rather the Holy Prophet’s other name “Ahmad”, and he further clarified the significance of the name “Ahmadiyya” in this day and age.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad: the Great Reformer
Dr. Noman Malik

In this multi-part presentation, Noman discussed the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and his claims of Mujaddid, Promised Messiah and Mahdi. In connection with these topics, the prophecies pertaining to the Dajjal and Gog and Magog were also explained. Noman also spoke about Hazrat Mirza Sahib’s passion for propagating the truth about Islam in the world. In this context, the work initiated by Hazrat Mirza Sahib (either directly through his efforts or indirectly by inspiring others) was relayed.



Sheikh Alaa Abu Azayem addressing the conference.



Sheikh Bastiwisy addressing the conference..



Sister Lubna giving her introduction.



(L to R) Ayse Kucur, Hannan Aly, Samina Malik and Lubna Ahmad.



Dr. Halil Ibrahim addressing the conference.

Spiritual Essentials: Stages of Moral Development

Dr. Mohammed Ahmad

In this presentation Dr. Ahmad provided a summary of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's deep and insightful lessons on spirituality. In particular, Dr. Ahmad relayed Hazrat Mirza Sahib's lessons on the three stages of spiritual development (from the book *Teachings of Islam*) and the three stages of perfect spiritual obedience (from the book *Reflection of the Excellence of Islam*).

The Need for Reform

Fazeel S. Khan, Esq.

In this presentation, Fazeel spoke about the current conditions of the world and, in particular, the Muslim world. He also discussed how the specific reforms initiated by Hazrat Mirza Sahib not only provided a basis for the development of a Muslim brotherhood the world over, but also the foun-

ation for universal peace. He also explained how this reform initiative is being continued by the publication work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

Reformation Essentials: Practical Solutions to Contemporary Crises

Dr. Mohammed Ahmad

In this presentation, Dr. Ahmad detailed specific reforms initiated by Hazrat Mirza Sahib. In particular, he discussed Hazrat Mirza Sahib's efforts in resolving the Sunni-Shia rift, which is being used as a basis for political disputes in many parts of the Muslim world today. He also discussed Hazrat Mirza Sahib's teachings on the correct meaning of *Jihad* and the need for *Ijtihad*. Wrong notions by Muslims, such as death being the punishment for apostasy, was also discussed in the context of how some Muslims' beliefs contribute to negative opinions about the religion of Islam. Finally, he emphasized Hazrat Mirza Sahib's message on purification of the soul being ultimately needed in order for meaningful reform to take place.

Split in the Ahmadiyya Movement: Muhaddath vs. Nabi

Dr. Noman Malik

In this presentation, Noman spoke about Hazrat Mirza Sahib's denials of any claim of prophethood and the reason for the split in the Movement. In particular, the differences between a *muhaddath* and a *nabi* were addressed. And, relatedly, the issue of *takfir* due to the implication of the Qadian Jamaat's belief was discussed. This presentation provided the attendees with clear and unequivocal declarations on the beliefs of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement (as contrasted with the Qadian Jamaat). The presentation was concluded by discussing the purpose for the creation of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and Maulana Muhamamd Ali's passion for the propagation of the true teachings of Islam in the world, particularly through the distribution of the Holy Quran.



Question, Answer & Discussion session.



Samina presenting the work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society.

Resurgence of the Great Revival Initiative: Work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society (USA):

The final presentation was devoted to the practical work being conducted by the US Jamaat in terms of continuing the great legacy of propagation of Islam in the world. Samina Malik discussed the various translation ventures the US Jamaat is currently engaged in and recounted her personal experiences in performing this work over the years. She guided the participants, via powerpoint presentation, on a tour of the history of this work, and related how our late Hazrat Ameer Dr. Saeed Ahmad Sahib inspired her to devote her life to this work. More current achievements of collaborating with Al Azhar to receive certifications for our publications and establishing Islamic centers dedicated to spread peaceful Islam such as in the Philippines were also relayed.

Between the presentations were sessions devoted to questions and answers and further discussion. This provided a valuable opportunity for participants to ask specific questions



Sheikh Alaa and Sheikh Dr. Haleem.



Sheikh Riffat reading a poem by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.



Sheikh Dr. Mohamed Bahgat Elkhodiri addressing the conference.

and seek clarification on particular matters. Discussions ensued on topics such as the conditions under which *jihad* in the form of defensive war may be engaged, the metaphorical use of the words “nabi” and “rasul”, the role of a mujaddid, etc. **At the end of the last discussion session, attendees broke out into applause upon being completely satisfied that the members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement are Muslims who believe in the absolute finality of prophethood in Prophet Muhammad and who devote their energy in the cause of spreading the truth about Islam in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries.**

Several of the participants also had an opportunity to speak on the final day of the conference. Sheikh Ala Abul



Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim addressing the conference.

Azayem thanked the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society for its work in spreading the true teachings of Islam in the world. Sheikh Haleem expressed his admiration for the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society’s efforts in producing such literature in the Arabic language. Sheikh Bastiwise noted how much needed the work being done by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society is in the world today. He also praised Hazrat Mirza Sahib for his great service to Islam and Maulana Muhammad Ali for authoring such invaluable books. Dr. Halil Ibrahim gave a moving talk on the impact the work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society in the fields of translation, publication and distribution will have on future generations.

The following Arabic books (some of which were translated specifically for the conference) were made available for the participants:

- *Lahore Ahmadiyya vs Qadian Ahmadiyya: Differences in Belief*
– by Naseer Ahmad Farooqi
- *Essays on Sufism in Islam*
– by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Dr. Basharat Ahmad
- *Jihad in Islam (from Religion of Islam)*
– by Maulana Muhammad Ali
- *Najmul Huda*
– by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
- *Al-Tabligh*
– by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
- *Ahmadiyya Movement*
– by Maulana Muhammad Ali

In addition, the following books have already been translated into Arabic, published and, with the assistance of our friends in Egypt, are being distributed throughout the country:



Sheikh Abdellatif AlHussin addressing the conference.

- *Religion of Islam*
– by Maulana Muhammad Ali
- *Manual of Hadith*
– by Maulana Muhammad Ali
- *Muhammad the Prophet*
– by Maulana Muhammad Ali
- *Living Thoughts of Prophet Muhammad*
– by Maulana Muhammad Ali
- *The Teachings of Islam*
– by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad



Imam of the School reciting the Holy Quran.



(L to R) Sheikh Haleem, Fazeel, Sheikh Bastiwisy, Sheikh Riffat, Sheikh Alaa, Noman, Dr. Hussein Aly and Ahmad inside the mosque.



(L to R) Sheikh Bastiwisy, Fazeel and Samina.



[L to R) Fazeel, Ahmad, Noman, Sheikh Bastiwi, Sheikh Haleem, Sheikh Riffat, and Prof. Ibrahim inside the mosque.

Moreover, the following books authored by Hazrat Mirza Sahib in Arabic have been newly typeset and published, and are also being distributed throughout Egypt:

- *Hammaamatul- Bushra*
- *Tafsir Surah Fatihah*
- *Sirrul Khilafa*
- *Mawahabar-Rahman*

By the grace of Almighty Allah, the conference was a great success and a historic achievement for the Jamaat. It was the culmination of work that started many years ago. It was 18 years ago that Samina Malik started the Arabic translation project. As books were translated, she began developing relations with Al Azhar, which then led to Al

Azhar's certification of our literature and Sheikh Tantawi's writing a Foreword for the Arabic translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali's "Religion of Islam" (which has given new-found recognition to this book and our other publications among Muslims in contemporary times). Tens of thousands of copies of our Jamaat's literature, including books written by Hazrat Mirza Sahib, are now being read by Muslims in Egypt. Despite opposition (primarily due to the beliefs promoted by the Qadian Jamaat), the personal relationships that were developed over the years led to this timely conference of leading Muslim authorities recognizing this Jamaat's members as Muslims and appreciating the reform initiative brought by Hazrat Mirza Sahib. We are truly humbled by the mercy that Almighty Allah has shown us.

By the end of the conference, all attendees were as one family, *masha Allah*. This response from the participants



Sheikh Bastiwi with Dr. Hussein Aly and Samina.



Journalists attending the conference.

also bears testimony to their sense of justice, their moral character and their passion for an enlightened approach to Islam being established in the world. May Almighty Allah bless them all. Of all the Muslim-majority countries in which we have distributed our literature, the positive response we received from the people of Egypt is unparalleled. This seems consistent with Hazrat Mirza Sahib's specific reference to Egypt while speaking about the acceptance of his teachings (see *Mujaddid-i-Azam*, Vol.II, p.919).

Please continue to pray for the success of this work. It is only due to sincere prayers and Almighty Allah's mercy that this small Jamaat is able to progress and achieve such accomplishments. May we be blessed with many more opportunities to promote the teachings of the *Mujaddid* of the age throughout the world so that the healing interpretations embodied in our literature may bring peace and unity to humanity.

Ameen.



Sr. Samina speaking with Sheikh Alaa Abu Azayem.



(L to R) Prof. Ibrahim, Omar, Dr. Hussein Aly and Fazeel outside the mosque after fajr prayers.



Members and delegates at the conference.

Reproduced below are English translations of relevant parts of reports from leading newspapers in Cairo, read by millions, about the conference and about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement

The Youm 7

September 5, 2015:

News Report on Istanbul Conference

Sheikh Abulazayem said that the Lahore Ahmadiyyah has played a significant role in defending Islam against Christian missionaries in East Asia, particularly India. “We were worried about Qadian Ahmadiyya” said Sheikh Abulazayem, but added, “and we are glad to learn that Lahore Ahmadiyyah counters the claim of Qadian Ahmadiyyah that Hazrat Ghulam Ahmed is a prophet.”

Dr. Noman Malik from Lahore Ahmadiyyah USA said that the true Islam teachings are the only way to spread peace in the world, as they have never called for violence or aggression. He said that there are many countries which are in dire need for these teachings against violence such as in Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, and Philippines.

As for Lahore Ahmadiyyah versus Qadian Ahmadiyyah, Dr. Noman Malik said that Qadian Ahmadiyyah deviated from Hazrat Mirza’s teaching. As a result, Lahore Ahmadiyyah members separated themselves from Qadian Ahmadiyyah. It is noteworthy as well that Alazhar recognized Lahore Ahmadiyyah and approved the publication of their books at the time when Professor Sheikh Muhammed Sayed Tantawi was President of Alazhar.

Dr. Noman Malik said the founder of the Ahmadiyyah Movement, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, has played a major role in refuting many misconceptions about Islam. In

addition, he defended Islam against Christian missionaries in India, and that in turn strengthened the Muslims’ beliefs.

Dr. Noman Malik stressed that the founder of Ahmadiyya, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, claimed himself to be the Mujaddid of the 14th century Hijrah. He also claimed himself to be the promised Messiah as he possessed the spiritual characteristics of Messiah and this does not have anything to do with Prophethood. It is noteworthy that the separation between Lahore Ahmadiyyah and Qadian Ahmadiyyah happened when the son of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad claimed that his father was a prophet several years after the death of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad never claimed to be a prophet.

Dr. Noman Malik said that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad corrected many misinterpretations in Islam such as the account of Antichrist and Gog and Magog. Furthermore, Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, President of the Lahore Ahmadiyyah branch in USA, indicated *jihad* in Islam is not without pre-conditions. The first of these is that it is to be attacked by the enemy, and in this case the objective is to defend the country against the enemy and to end oppression. He calls for armed Islamic groups to dismiss fighting and purify themselves. This is the only way, he claims, to spread Islam and counter secularism.

Alakhbar

September 27, 2015

On the second day of my arrival, I attended a conference organized by the Lahore Ahmadiyyah Movement. The conference was on the tolerant teachings of Islam. The Movement believes that it is only through the correct teachings of Islam that peace can prevail in the world.

A group of Sufi Shiekh attended the conference, including Sheikh Alaa Abulazayem, the Head of the International Sufi Union and Sheikh Omar Bastawesy, the Secretary of the Union. The leaders of the Sufi groups participating in the conference contributed positively to correcting some miscon-

ceptions on Islam. They also claim that the responsibility of the killing of Muslims and non-Muslims around the world is the responsibility of extremist groups, who know little about real Islam.

September 19, 2015:

Sufi groups supporting Lahore Ahmadiyyah against Qadian Ahmadiyyah in a conference in Turkey

In a series of seminars organized in Istanbul from 3 to 7 September 2015 by Lahore Ahmadiyya branch in USA to reinforce peace and tolerance in the world, Egyptian Sufi groups identified **Lahore Ahmadiyyah** as countering Qadian Ahmadiyyah views. The Ahmadiyyah Movement promotes “jihad by pen” and the revival of true Islamic teachings. The Egyptian groups participating included seven Sufi group leaders including Sheikh Alaa Abulazayem, the leader of Azmiyyah Sufi Group and the Head of the International Sufi Union.

Explaining some of the principles of the Movement, Dr. Noman Malik from Lahore Ahmadiyyah said that no one can harm the image of Islam whose message is valid for all ages and all places, but it is the nature of humans to take the principles and apply them in a wrong way, which leads to misconceptions. He clarified that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the founder of the Movement, never claimed himself to be a prophet. He was a reformer (*mujaddid*) who had visions different in nature from the messages carried by Hazrat Gabriel to prophets. He stressed that there are differences between the Lahore Ahmadiyyah and the Qadian Ahmadiyyah as the Lahore Ahmadiyyah believes in the finality of prophethood after the Holy Prophet Mohammad, whereas the Qadian Ahmadiyyah claims Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was a prophet. He also referred to various reformers in the history of Islam such as Hazrat Omar ben Abdelaziz, Hazrat Imam Shafei, Hazrat Ahmed ben Hanbal, Hazrat Abdelqader Ej-Jilani in the 6th century.

However, the death of Jesus Christ was a controversial

topic. The movement believes that Jesus died and will not return again to life and that God raised his soul and not his body. Members of the movement believe that Jesus was alive when taken down from the cross and continued to carry out his mission in Kashmir until he died at the age of 120. They claim that the Mujaddid, with the spiritual characteristic of Jesus and not Jesus himself, will appear. The belief that Jesus is still alive is not part of Islam, and this supports the claim that the holy Prophet Mohammad is the final Prophet.

Sheikh Omar Bastawisi, Secretary of the Sufi International Union, and Director of the office of former President of Alazhar, requested the Movement to get Alazhar reviews for more of their books.

The Ahmadiyyah Movement was established by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad lived in a small village in India and claimed to be the reformer of the 14th century according to a Hadith by the Holy Prophet that a Mujaddid (Reformer) will appear every 100 years.

The Movement stresses the spiritual part of Islam and stresses that peace in the world cannot be achieved except through the correct teachings of Islam which rejects violence and killing. They call for love and mercy for the whole world, and stress that armies and weapons are not needed, as the real need is for morality and spiritual purity. The Movement refuted the idea of defending Islam through armed groups.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement was officially established in Lahore in 1914. Alazhar has approved the publication of some of their books.

Shouroug

October 12, 2015

...Dr. Noman Malik, from Lahore Ahmadiyya USA, said that peace cannot prevail in the world unless correct teachings of Islam spread.

He stressed that the teachings of Islam do not call for violence or aggression, and many parts of the

world need these true teachings of Islam, for example in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and Philippines. He said that Al-Azhar approved some of their books when Professor Sheikh Muhammad Sayed Tantawy was the President of Al-Azhar. Dr. Noman claimed that

Lahore Ahmadiyya has had an important role in defending Islam against many misconceptions, and that Mirzah Ghulam Ahmed and the Movement defended Islam against the Christian missionaries in India.