

Basharaat-E-Ahmadiyya

Year-end International Newsletter of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam, (Lahore) USA

December 2006

P.O. Box 3370, Dublin, Ohio 43016 USA

Phone: (614) 873-1030 • Fax: (614) 873-1022 • Email: aaail@aol.com • Website: www.muslim.org



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Editorial

It is with feelings of profound humility and thankfulness to Almighty Allah for all the achievements and successes He has blessed this jamaat with this year that we are publishing this annual print version of the Basharaat-e-Ahmadiyya.

The greatest achievements of this year are undoubtedly the publication of the Italian and German Holy Quran translations and Mrs. Samina Malik's historic tour of Central Asia introducing Maulana Muhammad Ali's Russian translation of the Holy Quran into the former Soviet Republics of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan.

Among other notable events was the free distribution of additional nineteen thousand Russian Holy Qurans in Russia by Mrs. Samina Malik in April of this year, which brings the number of Holy Qurans distributed free to date in Russia to approximately fifty thousand.

The enthusiastic reception of the Arabic Religion of Islam and other Arabic translations of Maulana Muhammad Ali's books among the religious scholars in Al-Azhar and Central Asia illustrates the importance and utility of translating our literature into Arabic.

Our contacts with Muslims of Albania and Bosnia and the community of French Speaking Muslims in Paris, France continue.

Typesetting of the Turkish Holy Quran and the English translation of Mujadid-e-azam are proceeding on schedule and, inshallah, these books will be printed in 2007.

Another milestone was reached in the publication of our Dutch literature with the publication of the Dutch Religion of Islam by the

The Stichting Jamaat in Holland.

By the Grace of Almighty Allah the repairs to the dome of the Berlin Mosque have been completed.

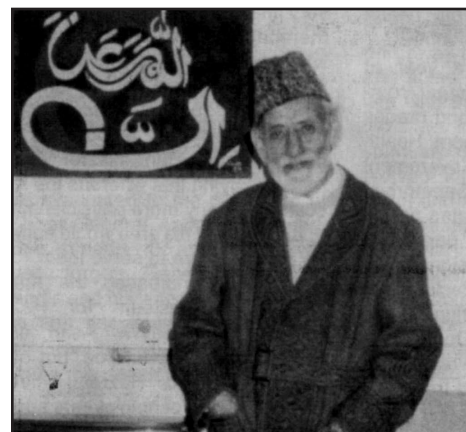
Finally, I would like to end with a quote from Mrs. Samina Malik's article which rings so true in accounting for the success of the efforts of this jamaat.

"I would like to conclude with the observation that we stand on the shoulders of giants. It is the literature produced by Maulana Muhammad Ali inspired by the Mujaddid of this age Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad that gains the acceptance in the hearts of people. Our efforts are only a miniscule part of any success in this endeavour. Humanity and our jamaat owes an unestimable debt to these great men of God.

I would like to end with an earnest prayer that may Almighty Allah accept the efforts of this small jamaat and bring about the fulfillment of His promise. For We are weak and have many faults, and He is the All Mighty, the All Merciful and the All Forgiving.

'O Allah help those who help the Religion of Muhammad and make us of them...'"

We believe as taught by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam, the Founder of our movement, that the Holy Prophet Muhammad is the last and final prophet, and that no prophet either old or new will appear after him, and that any person professing the kalima shahada should be regarded as a muslim. We believe, as did Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, that Islam as taught in the Holy Quran and as exemplified in the practice and sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad is peaceful, inspiring, rational, tolerant and non-sectarian.



Inspiration for the Translation and Publication Project by the USA Jamaat

By Mrs. Samina Malik

The person responsible for inspiring and initiating the Translation and Publication Projects was our beloved late Hazrat Ameer Dr. Saeed Ahmad Sahib. Without his prayers and most inspiring leadership it would have been very difficult to progress as far as we have. He always supported and helped those who were engaged in this work, and never discouraged those who sacrificed in the way of Allah.

At a very critical time, after the events of 1974, Hazrat Ameer Dr. Saeed Ahmad's tours of the Ahmadiyya Jamaats abroad were key in helping the Ahmadiyya Movement in surviving this shock.

Ten years have passed since his demise, but we are still moved by his beloved and inspiring memory. As a child, at the age of six years, he took the bait on Hazrat Mirza Sahib's hand, and his life, til the age of ninety-six years when he died, was a living testimony of "holding Religion above the world."

Ten years have passed since his demise, but we are still moved by his inspiring and beloved memory.

I thank almighty Allah that I was able to spend so much time with this great man of Allah.

May Almighty Allah grant him an elevated place in paradise.

The Caucasus and Central Asia



VISIT TO CENTRAL ASIA FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RUSSIAN HOLY QURAN

by Samina Malik

For several years, I had been thinking of taking our Russian translation of the Holy Quran into the Central Asian Republics, but had been dissuaded from doing so people saying I would face much problems. I was told that the authoritarian regimes in the region were hostile to any outsiders connected with Islamic movements due to the unrest being caused by Islamic militants in those countries, and I

would, therefore, face great difficulty in distributing the Holy Quran.

About five months ago I received an e-mail from brother Tahir Pasha, a journalist in Baku, Azerbaijan, saying that he had read Maulana Muhammad Ali's Russian translation of the Holy Quran and had been greatly impressed by the quality of the translation and the enlightened commentary. He strongly felt that this translation should

be introduced into Azerbaijan and the other Central Asian republics as soon as possible for the benefit of the Muslims in this region, and he urged me to visit Azerbaijan and the other Central Asian Republics.

This strengthened my resolve, and in September, 2006, I finalized plans to visit Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan.

Kazakhstan

I left Columbus, Ohio on October 15th 2006 for Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan. I flew directly from New York to Istanbul, and after a five hour wait in Istanbul, I continued my flight to Kazakhstan and landed early morning at Almaty airport on October 17th. I was very tired and exhausted after this long trip, but the immigration and customs were extremely helpful and quickly processed my papers. Mr. Tahir Pasha and his wife Ghumur, who had arrived a few days earlier from Azerbaijan, came to receive me at the airport. We had a very cordial and happy first meeting and they took me to the hotel. After I had a couple of hours rest, we went to meet the High Mufti of Kazakhstan, Haji Derbsali Abusattar. However, we were unable to see him, as he was totally preoccupied with other meetings that whole day. We did, however, meet with the Vice-Mufti and the Secretary. The Vice-Mufti who had studied in Karachi, Pakistan for four years, was very interested in our Russian translation of the Holy Quran and the Arabic books including the *Religion of Islam*. I spoke to him about the Ahmadiyya Movement and our beliefs as Lahori Ahmadiis. He was very happy to learn that we were firm believers in the finality of prophethood. I presented him with the Arabic Living thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad and Muhammad the Prophet. He very graciously made an appointment for us to meet the High Mufti the next day.

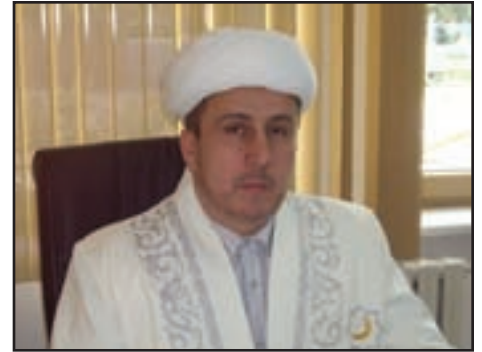
The following day October 19th, we arrived at the High Mufti's office. The time allotted for the meeting by his secretary was ten minutes, but as we talked, the Mufti became so interested in our *dawa* activities that the meeting lasted for forty five minutes. He wanted to know about our mission, and the reason for my trip

to Kazakhstan. I explained to him that the purpose of my visit to Central Asia was to spread the Russian translation of the Holy Quran.

I made it clear to him that we were Lahori Ahmadiis and not Qadianis. I emphasized the fact we firmly believed in the finality of the Prophet hood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, and that no other prophet, neither old nor new, could come after him. He gave a brief history of Islam in Kazakhstan. It was very heartening to know about the progress that had been made in Islamic education in this country since the fall of communism. May Almighty Allah have Mercy on them and bring them even closer to Islam.

The Mufti presented me with a book of their activities. I further informed him that we would send them several thousand Russian Holy Quran by early next year.

The Mufti was very pleased, and he thanked me for the offer. He wished us success in our mission to translate and distribute the Holy Quran and other Islamic literature into the different languages of the world. He also said that he would pray for the success of my trip to the other countries in Central Asia. I found the Mufti to be a very sincere and pleasant person, and I thank Almighty Allah for a very productive and successful visit to Kazakhstan.



Vice Mufti Of Kazakhstan



Vice Mufti of Kazakhstan accepting the Russian Holy Quran from Mrs. Samina Malik

Basharaat-e-Ahmadiyya

Editor: Dr. Noman Malik

News, letters and views are welcome, and should be sent to:

The Editor, Basharaat-e-Ahmadiyya

P.O. Box 3370, Dublin, Ohio 43016 USA

Phone: (614) 873-1030 • Fax: (614) 873-1022 • Email: aaail@aol.com • Website: www.muslim.org

Tajikistan

I left Kazakhstan for Dushanbe, Tajikistan early on the morning of October 20. The plane was a rickety old soviet aircraft. As soon as I entered the plane, I was surprised to see people scrambling from one seat to another. The reason soon became apparent: not all seats had seat belts and the passengers were searching for seats with seatbelts. The backs of the seats in the front section of the plane were folded down and the suit cases were piled there. As soon as the plane began to ascend after take-off, the suitcases came tumbling down the aisle!

The airport staff at Dushanbe airport were very friendly and helpful. People greeted me as if they had known me for a long time and wanted to help me in every way. My younger son Fazeel had made arrangements for an attorney friend of his, Nazirbek, to receive me at the airport and take me to the hotel. Nazirbek had been a fellow student with Fazeel in the same Masters program in Law at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

The next day, accompanied by Nazirbek and his wife Dr. Sitara (who is a practicing gynecologist) I went to meet the Rector, Hoji Abdusalol Alizod, and the Director, Mr. Saidmukaram Abdukadirov, of the Tajikistan University of Islamic

Studies. They both greatly appreciated the fact that I had come to visit them. They were very interested in obtaining the Russian Holy Quran for the University. They also expressed their need for other books on Islam and Prayer. The booklets *Islam the Religion of Humanity* and the *Prophet of Islam* as well as *the Living thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad* have already been translated into Russian and printed. Inshallah, The Russian *Religion of Islam* will be ready for printing next year, and the USA Jamaat is making arrangement to translate *the Muslim Prayer Book* and other books by Maulana Muhammad Ali into Russian as soon as possible for Central Asia and Russia.

I told the Rector and Director that we would gift them the Russian Holy Quran for free distribution, but that custom clearance would be their responsibility. They assured me that clearing the books through customs would not pose any problem for them.

Eid fell on October 25th, and Nazirbek and his family very kindly invited me to celebrate Eid with them. They treated me like a family member, and I was very impressed by their hospitality. During the time I spent with them, we had lengthy discussions about the Ahmadiyya Movement and Islam. They had many questions

regarding the death and birth of Jesus, Prayer and basic Islam. They told me that most young people do not pray regularly, or fast in the month of Ramadan. This was the result of decades of suppression of religion under communism. During this period Islamic practices such as prayer and fasting were prohibited with tragic consequences for faith and religion.

While I was talking to the rest of the family, Dr. Sitara's father who is a medical doctor and Professor of Physiology in the medical school, was quietly reading our Russian translation of the Holy Quran. After reading the Quran for a couple of hours he came to me and said "This Quran was published in 1998. Why are you bringing it so late?" This is not the only time I would hear this complaint.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement can render a great service to our fellow muslims in Central Asia by providing them with the enlightened literature produced and inspired by the Mujaddid of this age. The people I talked to were highly educated and very interested in religion. They were doctors, lawyers and government officials. Many of the well educated people here know English. Russian, of course, is their second language. Their native tongue is Darri Farsi. We shall, inshallah, be supplying them with literature in both English and Russian.

I would like to express my profound gratitude and thanks to Nazirbek and his wife Sitara for their hospitality, help and support during my stay in Tajikistan and their assistance in arranging the meetings with the Rector and Director of the Islamic University of Tajikistan. Inshallah, I hope and pray to continue this friendship with them and have a very productive relationship in bringing the message of an enlightened Islam to Tajikistan. —



Rector Dr. Hoji Abdusalol Ali Zad and the Director Dr. Mukaram Abdukadirov of the University of Islamic Studies Dushanbe, Tajikistan



From Left to Right: Mrs Samina Malik, Rector Hoji Abdusalol, Director Dr. Saidmukaram Kadirov and Mr. Nazir Bek



Mrs. Samina Malik with Dr. Sitora in front of the main mosque of Tajikistan in Dushanbe next to the Islamic University



Mrs. Samina Malik and Dr. Sitora on Eid Day



Dr. Sitora's parents with the Russian Holy Quran

Kyrgyzstan

On 25th of October I left for Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. As soon as I landed at the airport, I arranged for an interpreter, His name was Alexander Goussev, and I found out that he also did translation work and website management. We went to the Mosque at the University. The Mosque is very beautiful and is located adjacent to the University. We met with the Imam of the Mosque who informed us that the Mufti was out of the country and would be returning on October 27. We made an appointment to meet with the mufti on the morning of the 27th, and I went and prayed in the mosque. On Friday 27th we went for our meeting with the Mufti, but were told that he was still away, so we met with the assistant Mufti, Suiun Kuliev, instead. The assistant Mufti was a very pleasant energetic young

man. As soon as he spotted the Arabic Religion of Islam in my hand, he asked "Is this the same book, *Deen-ul-Islam*, by Maulana Muhammad Ali?" I answered "yes" and was surprised that he knew about the book as we had not distributed it in this part of the world. So out of curiosity I asked him how he knew about the book. He replied "I have just returned a few months ago from Al-Azhar Egypt, where I had been studying for the past ten years. I had seen this book with some of the Sheikhs there, and had tried to get a copy, but had been unable to do so." I was overjoyed to hear this. Then he took the book and began to read aloud in Arabic Dr. Tantawi's foreword in which he pays tribute to Maulana Muhammad Ali. It was with great difficulty that I held back my tears as he read out the tribute in perfect

Arabic. He asked me for a copy, and I told him I could not give him one right now, as I had brought only a few copies to show during my tour, but I would send him one as soon as I returned home. He was delighted to hear that and also that we would be donating Russian Holy Qurans to Kyrgyzstan.

After the meeting with the Assistant Mufti, we went to meet the vice-Ombudsman (Akyikatchy) of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Koshokov Taalaibek. He was extremely interested in our Russian Quran. He had already received ten copies which I had given to brother Tahir Pasha to distribute in Kyrgyzstan. He thanked me for the copies and said that he had already distributed eight of them and had kept two for himself. He said that he had compared our translation with another leading translation and found



Main Mosque of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Front of the main Mosque of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Imam of the Bishkek Mosque in Kyrgyzstan

our translation much better. He was particularly impressed by the footnotes and introduction. Our meeting lasted almost an hour. We discussed the Ahmadiyya Movement and the claims of Hazrat Mirza Sahib. He told me that some people had come to him and told him that Ahmadis did not believe in the Holy Prophet Muhammad. In my reply I emphasized the fact that not only did we believe in the Holy Prophet Muhammad but that we also believed in the perfect finality of his prophethood in that no prophet, neither old nor new, could come after him. I informed him that we were getting the claims of Hazrat Mirza Sahib and his statements expressing his love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad translated into Russian and would distribute them all over Central Asia.

Mr. Taalaibek said that he was very glad that I had come and explained the differences between Qadiani and Lahori Ahmadis. He also asked for copies of the Certificates given by Al-Azhar to our books, Dr. Tantawi's review of the Religion of Islam with his tribute to Maulana Muhammad Ali and the front cover of the Arabic Religion of Islam. He also wanted a copy of the photograph of Dr. Tantawi with me. He told me that he would make use of this material when discussing our Movement with people.

He was very happy to learn that we were going to send several thousand Russian Holy Qurans to Kyrgyzstan. He told me that there would be no bar to sending our Russian Quran to Kyrgyzstan, and that he would arrange for their clearance. In fact, he even volunteered to assist us in sending our Holy Quran to Uzbekistan as he had contacts in that country.

I was very impressed by his sincerity and enthusiasm and thanked him for all his help.

He also set up an appointment for me to meet with the Muslim Women Association of Kyrgyzstan. So after my visit with Mr. Taalaibek I went to

meet the Secretary of the Women's association. We had a very cordial meeting, and she invited me to come and give a lecture on *The Status of Women in Islam* on Saturday 28th October at 10.a.m.

After the meeting, I went with her to the main mosque in the city for the Jumma prayers. The Jumma was attended by more than one thousand people. There was no room inside the mosque, so many of the worshippers prayed outside. It was wonderful to see more than five hundred women in the mosque on Friday. Even more so, as women are discouraged from participating in the daily congregational prayers in the mosque. Many women said to me that they had been told by the Mullahs that they would get twenty seven times more reward (sawab) if they performed their prayers at home. The unfortunate result has been that the ladies try their best to perform their prayers at home rather than in the mosque.

On Saturday, I went to the office of the Women's organization to deliver my talk. There were almost fifty women present. They listened attentively to me and greatly appreciated my lecture. After the lecture, they asked questions about our Movement and our work in USA. Also, they wanted to know about our translation project for the Holy Quran, and how they could obtain copies of the Russian translation. They were overjoyed when I told them that we would, Inshallah, send them the Russian Holy Quran for free distribution by March of next year. They told me that had they known earlier about my lecture, they would have been able to gather a much larger audience.

At the lecture, I met sister Nazeera, who was a producer in the Kyrgyzstan Television. She asked me if she could interview me for a television program. She said that in the interview, she wanted me to talk about our

Movement, Islam, status of women in Islam and about myself.

I agreed. So on Sunday she came to my Hotel with the cameraman to videotape the interview. I spoke briefly about our movement, Hazrat Mirza Sahib, and our beliefs. I emphasized the points that our movement was named after the Holy Prophet's second name Ahmad, and that we believed in the Holy Prophet Muhammad as



Vice Mufti Suun Kuliev of Kyrgyzstan



Vice ombudsman of the Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Koshokov Taalaibek



Mrs Samina Malik presenting the Holy Quran to vice Ombudsman of the Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Koshokov Taalaibek



Mrs. Samina Malik with the Secretary and a member of the Muslim Womens Association.



Youngest member of the audience at Mrs. Samina Malik's Lecture



Samina Malik with the Ladies of the Muslim Women Assoc. of Kyrgyzstan

the last and final prophet. I laid stress on tolerance in Islam, and that we regarded all prophets as messengers sent by God, and that all religions were God inspired. I reiterated the points I had raised about the rights of women in Islam in my lecture.

She was very glad to see the Russian Translation of the Holy Quran and the Arabic Religion of Islam, and took photographs of the Russian Holy Quran, the Arabic Religion of Islam, the Certificate of Alazhar for the Religion of Islam, the foreword of the Grand Imam Sheikh Tantawi, and the photograph of Maulana Muhammad Ali. Nazeera also expressed her wish to do a one hour program about the life and works of Maulana Muhammad Ali. I was very happy and moved to see their love and respect for Maulana Muhammad Ali because of his commentary and Translation of the Holy Quran. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward Maulana Muhammad Ali. When they praise the Quran and kiss

it so many times, I get tears in my eyes thinking that only if we would value him similarly.

During my stay in Bishkek Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, Noman and I had discussed the desirability of establishing a presence in Kyrgyzstan. Dr. Ahmad and Noman asked me to see if I could find a piece of suitable land in Kyrgyzstan. I requested a few people to look for a suitable plot. Soon after the television interview, I went with Brother Ruslan and Sacha to see a place which was approximately 13 kilometers from the city. It was a nice large piece of land with an old, building on it with a beautiful mountain view. But most importantly it was on a major paved road and therefore easily accessible. There are almost twenty thousand Muslims residing around this property. They presently do not have a place to pray, and are trying to put up a mud building for temporary use.

The total cost for the land and

house is only \$5000.00. If we repair the building it might cost us another \$5000.00 Altogether it will cost us \$10,000.00 to have a functioning mosque. This is an opportune time to purchase property in Central Asia. Land is still reasonably priced, but prices are rising fast.

I have told them to send all the documents to Mr. Fazeel Khan and he will take care of all the necessary details for transfer of the property to the Jamaat.

Inshallah, if we can find twenty donors willing to pay five hundred dollars each we can have a center in Kyrgyzstan. The burden of purchasing the center will, in that case be shared by all. Even if we cannot staff it immediately, at least, the people around the center will have a mosque to pray in, and that in itself would be a great service to Islam and the Muslims there, and Allah Taala Rewards those who help in building His house.

On Monday, October 30, I went

to meet the Rector of the University of Islamic Studies in Kyrgyzstan. I spent almost thirty minutes with him and he asked many questions about our Holy Quran. He said that it had been translated by a non-muslim and he wanted to check it to make sure that the translation was correct. I told him that this Quran had been out in Russia for the past nine years and had been thoroughly studied by many learned imams and scholars, and no one had voiced any objections so

far. He said, that as a Rector, he had a great responsibility for accepting Qurans from organizations, and could not do so without examining them first. He cited his experience with a Russian translation by a Muslim Russian Lady which he had approved and distributed among the students without examining it first. Later on, he said, they had discovered mistakes in the translation and had to withdraw it. I could understand his apprehension, and to reassure him, informed

him that the Vice Ombudsman had approved the translation after reviewing it. Upon this he replied that if a person of the Vice Ombudsman's rank and stature had approved it, then he would not have any objection in accepting the translation either. I presented him with a copy of the Quran, for which he was very thankful, and said that he would pray for me and for the people who had contributed towards this Quran.

After meeting the Rector, I went to visit Sister Jamal, the president of the *Muslim Women's Organization of Kyrgyzstan*. She is doing a great service for Islam in this region. She travels extensively in Central Asia and all parts of Kyrgyzstan. She showed me all the activities she is engaged in for the service of Islam, and presented me with an album of photographs of her work in Central Asia. I was very impressed by her dedication and commitment to the Islamic cause. She also works with women in prison. When I presented her with a copy of the Holy Quran, she was very happy to see the Quran with the extensive footnotes, Index and Introduction. She asked me why our organization had not thought about the Muslims of Central Asia for the last nine years. At that moment, I just wished that our Jamaat would have distributed some Holy Qurans to these people in Central Asia in the beginning. She said that the correct and true teaching of Islam were very much needed in Central Asia. I told her that we would try our best to assist them and work with them in this endeavour.

She also invited us to come and speak on Islam to the Muslims of Kyrgyzstan. May Almighty Allah help us to send the Russian Quran and other Russian books on Islam to these countries.

After the meeting with sister Jamal, I came back to the hotel, packed my bags and went to the airport to board the flight for Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Mrs. Samina Malik discussing Women's right in the Holy Quran with sister Nazira and Secretary of the Womens Organization of Kyrgyzstan



Ladies of the Muslim Women Assoc. of Kyrgyzstan Listening to the Lecture of Mrs. Samina Malik



Ladies of the Muslim Women Assoc. exchanging addresses with Sister Samina Malik



Sister Jamal, the President of the Muslim Women's Organization of Kyrgyzstan with Mrs. Samina Malik



Sister Jamal the President of the Muslim Women's organization



Mrs. Samina Malik presenting the Russian Holy Quran to Sister Jamal



Television Station of Bishkek Kyrgyzstan



Sister Nazira conducting the TV interview of Mrs. Samina Malik in the Hotel.



Mrs. Samina Malik presenting a Russian Holy Quran to Sister Nazira.



Building and land being purchased by the USA Jamaat for a Mosque in Bishkek Kyrgyzstan



Front view of the old building being purchased for the mosque in Beshkek Kyrgyzstan



Rector of the University of Islamic Studies in Bishkek Kyrgyzstan

Uzbekistan

I arrived in Uzbekistan on October 29. The next day, I went to see the Al-Bhukhari Islamic University. It is a beautifully laid out university. In the library of the mosque adjacent to the University, I was thrilled to see the Holy Quran which was one of the original Qurans that Hazrat Usman had sent out twenty three after the death of the Holy Prophet from which

all subsequent copies of the quran were made. It is written on vellum and is so beautiful that one wants to keep on looking at it. In the Library there were also hundreds of copies of the Holy Quran in different languages. I spotted one Holy Quran in Albanian language, which had a cover which looked exactly like that of our Quran, with the same Arabic inscription

design on its front cover. When I told Noman about it, he asked me to go back and get photographs of the cover and the inside first pages of the Quran. So the next day I went again and photographed and videotaped the cover and the inside pages of the beginning of the translation. It was very interesting to see so many Qurans in different languages. Inshallah, the

librarian told me that they will get our translation displayed also. I also went to a few *madrassas* and saw how they learnt to recite the Holy Quran.

The next morning I met with the Vice Mufti Shiekh Abdurazzaq Manzuur, who is in charge of the Foreign Missions, and is lecturer in the Islamic University of Uzbekistan. He is also the first person to translate the Holy Quran into the Uzbek language from the original Arabic. He was very happy to meet me. He said that he knew about Maulana Muhammad Ali and had heard about the Russian Holy Quran, but had not actually seen one so far. He was very pleased to receive a copy and to see the commentary of the Holy Quran. He asked me if we had this Quran tafseer in Arabic. I told him that we are working on it. When I showed him the Religion of Islam in Arabic He was overjoyed with it. He read the foreword by Sheikh Tantawi and was very happy with Dr.

Tantawi's comments about Maulana Muhammad Ali, and remarked that Sheikh Tantawi is a very good man, and that he has a lot of respect for him. I informed him that we were getting the Religion of Islam translated into Russian, to which he replied that it would be very useful for the students in the university. I told him that our Movement would like to send several thousand copies of the Quran free for the people of Uzbekistan., He said that he would be very happy to receive the free copies of the Quran for the Muslims of Uzbekistan. He asked his assistant to give me the address of the Mufti's office, where the Quran should be shipped. I gave him one Quran as a gift and he also took the Religion of Islam and was putting it away on his shelf. I told him that I needed this book, as it was the only copy left with me, and that I would ship him this copy from Baku. Before I left, he asked me twice not to forget to send him a copy.

After meeting with the Vice Mufti, I went to meet the Rector of the Islamic University of Uzbekistan, Professor Dr. Shukhrat Yovkochev. The University is large and beautiful. As there was tight security it was extremely difficult to get through the front entrance. My interpreter, who also was the driver, went twice to get permission from the guards to enter the University to meet with the Rector, but was rebuffed each time. The third time, I went to the guards and showed them a photograph of my meeting with the vice mufti Sheikh Abdurazzaq Manzuur on my digital camera. This had the desired effect, and the Security guard called another guard and asked him to take me to the Foreign Ministry Department. I went in, and two assistant directors took me in their office and began a detailed interview. They asked me where I had come from, what I was doing in Uzbekistan, whether the government knew that I was here and which organization did I



Office Complex of the Grand Mufti of Uzbekistan



Mrs. Samina Malik in front of the Mosque and Library housing the Holy Quran of Hazrat Usman and translation of different languages in Tashkent Uzbekistan



Side View of the Office complex of the Mufti of Uzbekistan



One of the original copies of the Holy Quran made by Hazrat Usman in Tashkent Uzbekistan



Mrs. Samina Malik viewing the copy of the Holy Quran made by Hazrat Usman in Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Holy Quran translation in different Languages in the Library of Tashkent Uzbekistan

belong to. Then they asked me to write it all down in English for the Rector as he knew English, and he would decide if he wanted to meet with me after reading my report.

I wrote a very nice letter to the Rector stating the reason for my visit and that I had been in Uzbekistan for a few days and that I would be leaving tomorrow. I also informed him that I had met the rectors of all the other universities in the different countries in that region. The assistant took the note to the rector who replied that he would meet me the next day. I wrote another note to him saying that I would be leaving for Baku tomorrow, and would not be able to meet him. A few minutes later one of the directors came back, and asked me to accompany him to meet the Rector who now had some free time. The Rector could speak a little English. He said that he read my note and would like to hear what I had to say. I told him all about the Russian Holy Quran. He wanted to know which movement I belonged to, and said that

the Qadianis had opened some centers in Central Asia. I told him all about our movement, about the split and about the claims of Hazrat Mirza Sahib and our differences with the Qadianis. He was also interested in the countries that I had visited. Luckily, as I had the photographs on the hard drive of my computer, I was able to show him photographs of myself meeting with Dr. Tantawi, with the Bosnian Mufti, Mustafa Ceric, the Chairman of the Albanian Islamic community, Sheikh Bastawasi and a few other people. He was very impressed and pleased with the photographs.

I informed him that we had sent fifty thousand Russian Holy Qurans to Russia for free distribution, and told that we could send him a few thousand copies by March of next year. He was very pleased to accept the donation, and told his assistant to give me the address to which we could ship the books. He also presented me with a book detailing the history of the University in English. He told his assistant to give me a tour of

the University. He said if I ever wanted to learn Arabic, I could come here, as they had excellent Arabic teachers. In the end, he said that he was very pleased to meet a lady who travels all over the world for Islam. I told him that we have other members who also travel for Islam, but sometimes I travel alone, as they all have full time jobs.

After taking leave of the Rector, on the way back, I thanked Almighty Allah for His Help. So many people told me not to go to Uzbekistan because of the political situation there. Even the Ombudsman in Kyrgyzstan, Mr Koshokov Taalaibek, told me to send him the Qurans intended for Uzbekistan as it was difficult to ship the Qurans there, and he would be able to help me.

But my experience was different. The Rector of the Islamic university in Uzbekistan had been very happy to accept our offer of free Holy Qurans and had instructed his assistant to give me the address where to send the shipment, and that should I need any



Mrs. Samina Malik presenting the Russian Holy Quran to Mufti Shiekh Abdurazzak Manzuur in Tashkent Uzbekistan



Vice Mufti Shiekh Abdurazzak Manzuur of Tashkent, Uzbekistan looking at the Russian Holy Quran and Arabic Religion of Islam



Mrs. Samina Malik in front of the Islamic University of Tashkent Uzbekistan

help, I should contact his assistant.

I would like to acknowledge the great help I received from Akbar Akhundjanov in Tashkent who made the travel arrangements for me in these countries. Akbar Invited me to tea to meet his family. I will always treasure their friendly and warm hospitality.

We all should thank Almighty Allah for the help He has given to our Jamaat. Without the help of the Almighty our Jamaat could have not done all this. I also would like to thank you all for your

prayers and encouragement. Especially heartening was Dr. Hamid Rahman's e-mail in which he wrote "if Janji would have been alive, how happy he would have been."

I think of Janji every day of my trip. Any small work I have done is all through his encouragement and prayers. When I am alone I think of him all the time and I really miss him. A day before Eid, I even cried for him. May Almighty Allah Grant him a place in Heaven. =====



Akbar Akhundjanov's sons in Tashkent Uzbekistan



The Rector of the Islamic University of Uzbekistan, Prof. Dr. Shukhrat Yovkochev looks at the Russian Holy Quran



Mrs. Samina Malik presenting the Russian Holy Quran to Rector Dr. Shukhrat Yovkochev of University of Uzbekistan



Younger son of Akbar Akhundjanov with Mrs. Samina Malik

Azerbaijan

I arrived in Baku, Azerbaijan on November 2. I was met at the airport by Brother Tahir Pasha and his wife Ghummer who took me to the hotel. The next morning, accompanied by my interpreter, Rameeza Aligizi, I went to the office of the Sheikh-ul-Islam of Azerbaijan and requested an interview with the Sheikh-ul-Islam Prof Dr. Allahshukur Pashazadeh, (the main Sheikh of all of Azerbaijan). I was given an appointment for 3 o'clock that afternoon. When I arrived for the appointment, I saw that there were reporters and a cameraman from the State TV present in the conference room. Before the meeting with the sheikh, I had no idea that the meeting was going to be recorded for broadcast on national TV. Several of the Staff members of the Mufti's department were also seated at the conference table. The interview lasted for thirty minutes, I talked about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. I told the Sheikh about the publication and translation work of the jamaat, and how the jamaat was spreading the message of the Holy Quran throughout the world. The Sheikh wanted to know the difference between Qadiani and Lahori Ahmadi, and in my answer I made it clear that hazrat Mirza Sahib never claimed prophethood, and that

he himself firmly believed that the Holy Prophet Muhammad was the last prophet, and that no prophet, either old or new, could come after him. The Sheikh said that he knew about our Russian Quran. He also recounted a brief history about their Organization and gave me a book detailing its history. My meeting with the Sheikh was very pleasant. Inshallah, I will try to get a copy of the recorded interview.

Although the interview lasted for thirty minutes, excerpts from it were shown for about seven minutes on TV. It was very clearly and nicely recorded.

Alhamdulillah! For the first time, news about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and the work it does were shown on national and worldwide TV.

The translation of the news on the TV is as follows:

"Sheikh ul-Islam Prof Dr. Allahshukur Pashazadeh had a guest from USA. Her name is Mrs. Samina Malik and she belongs to the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore USA. In the meeting Mrs Samina Malik told the Sheikh that she is touring Central Asia to donate the Russian Holy Quran and other books to the People of Central Asia. Samina Malik also told the Sheikh that their Movement had distributed fifty thousand Qurans free in Russia. She told the Sheikh

that her movement is getting the Holy Quran translated into different languages and spreading it in the world. This Russian Holy Quran was translated by Prof. Dr. Sadestky. The Sheikh was very happy to meet Mrs. Malik and accept the donation of three thousand copies of the Russian Quran for free distribution in Azerbaijan. The Sheikh also thanked Mrs. Samina Malik and the Ahmadiyya Movement for their hard work in the translation and publication of the Holy Quran. The Sheikh thanked Samina Malik for coming to visit him."

The front cover and the inside of the Russian Holy Quran as well as segments of the sheikh opening the Quran and reading some verses from it were shown on TV several times. I was shown talking to the Sheikh and donating the Quran to him. As this TV channel is a state satellite channel, Azeri people abroad who subscribe to this channel were also able to view it.

After the meeting with the Sheikh, I was given a tour of the Mosque and the attached office complex.

I also met with Professor Dr. Mugaddas Payizov, who has been a professor of Arabic for the last forty years. He was delighted to see the Arabic *Religion of Islam*. He said that he would use it as a text book and placed



Vice Sheikh ul-Islam looking at the Russian Holy Quran



The main Mosque of Baku, Azerbaijan



Mrs. Samina Malik showing the Russian Holy Quran to Rector of the Arabic University of Azerbaijan, Prof Dr. Haci Sahir Hasanali

an order for two hundred copies. He said that in addition to the Russian Quran, they would like to have the Turkish Quran which was perhaps more needed in this country as the Azeri people are Turkish speaking. The translation of the Turkish Quran is finished and it is presently being typeset. We shall, Inshallah, send it to them as soon as it is printed. Prof Payizov was also very pleased to read the foreword by Dr. Tantawi the Grand Imam of Sheikh ul-Azhar praising Maulana Muhammad Ali. We Thank Almighty Allah that we were able to put the endorsement of the Grand Imam of Al Azhar Dr. Tantawi in the Religion of Islam, as it greatly increases the value and prestige of the book in their estimation.

I promised Prof Payizov that we, inshallah, would send him two hundred copies of the Arabic Religion of Islam. May Allmighty Allah Reward Maulana Muhammad Ali for the great work he did by writing these books so vitally important for both Muslims and non- Muslims.

After the meeting with the Prof Payizov I went to meet the Rector of the Arabic University of Azerbaijan, Dr. Haci Sabir Hasanli. It was very kind of him to see me without a prior appointment. He told me that he had heard about our Russian Quran translation, but unfortunately had not been able to obtain one. So I gave him a copy and told him that we would, Inshallah be sending three thousand



Mrs. Samina Malik presenting the Russian Holy Quran to Rector of the Arabic University of Azerbaijan, Prof Dr. Haci Sabir Hasanali

copies soon. He was very happy to hear that. He also expressed interest in acquiring copies of our Turkish Translation of the Holy Quran. He was very impressed to see the Arabic Religion of Islam, and I promised that, inshallah, I would send him some copies for the University. He was greatly interested in the work of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, and after I had told him about our activities, he responded with a dua that may Allah Taala Bless us for our sacrifice. When I was leaving his office,

he came down stairs and showed me one of their Arabic classes. He told the students that it would not be long before each one of them would soon have a free copy of the Holy Quran. I thank Almighty Allah that my meeting with the Rector went so well.

After meeting with the Rector, we went to the Daily News Paper of Azerbaijan where I met two journalists one of whom Taufiq Turkel interviewed me. Thanks to Almighty Allah, the interview went very well, and my account of the



Mrs. Samina Malik with students of the Arabic studies of Islamic University of Azerbaijan



Rector of the Islamic University of Azerbaijan, Prof Dr. Haci Sabir Hasanali bidding farewell to Mrs. Samina Malik



Mrs. Samina Malik showing the Russian Quran to Prof. Dr. Mugaddas Paizov of Islamic Studies of Azerbaijan

Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and its work was published in the paper on Monday.

During my stay in Baku, I had the pleasure of meeting Brother Tahir Pasha's Family who invited me twice to their house for dinner. His mother, sisters and nieces made me feel completely at home and I felt as if I was one of the family. I was very touched by their warm and friendly hospitality. They gave me some beautiful gifts for myself and for Malaika, my granddaughter. May Almighty Allah Bless them all for their kindness, and I hope, inshallah to continue my friendship with them in the future.

I would also like to thank my interpreter sister Rameeza for her help. She refused to accept payment for her services and said she was doing this work for Islam.

I also would like to thank all the people in Baku who helped me in every way they could.

An interesting thing happened after my interview with the Sheikh was broadcast on National TV. When I walked into the Hotel, all the Lobby staff began to applaud. I looked around to see whom they were applauding, but I could not see anyone. Then I realized, they were applauding me. They had seen my interview with the Sheikh on TV. They all crowded around me and asked me how they could get a copy of the Holy Quran. Similarly the next day when I was in shop in the market, people



Dr. Mugaddas Paizov, Prof of Islamic Studies with Mrs. Samina Malik



Mrs. Samina Malik resents the Russian Holy Quran to Prof Dr. Mugaddas Payizov



Mrs. Samina Malik in conference with the Sheikh Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazada and staff in Baku, Azerbaijan



Sheikh-ul-Islam Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazadeh reading the verses of the Russian Holy Quran



Sheikh-ul-Islam Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazadeh reading the review of the Sheikh Dr. Tantawi's review in Arabic Religion of Islam



Mrs. Samina Malik presents the Russian Holy Quran to the Sheikh-ul-Islam Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazada and members

again surrounded me and asked how they could get copies of the holy Quran.

I would like to thank all those who prayed for the success of the work in Central Asia and those who sent me encouraging emails. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward them all.

I wish to thank Dr. Ahmad and the directors of the USA jamaat for reposing their trust in me when sending me on this mission. Dr. Ahmad and his wife Lubna kept in daily touch with me through e-mail, and their encouragement was a source of great comfort for me.

I would like to conclude with the observation that we stand on the shoulders of giants. It is the literature produced by Maulana Muhammad Ali inspired by the Mujaddid of this age Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad that gains the acceptance in the hearts of people. Our efforts are only a miniscule part of any success in this endeavour. Humanity and our jamaat owes an unestimable debt to these great men of God.

I would like to end with an earnest prayer that may Almighty Allah accept the efforts of this small Jamaat and bring about the fulfillment of His promise. For we are weak and have many faults, and He is the All Mighty, the All Merciful and the All Forgiving.

“O Allah help those who help the Religion of Muhammad and make us of them...”



Mr. Tahir Pashazada with the Sheikh ul Islam Dr. Allahshukur Pashazada



Mrs. Samina Malik is giving a brief history of the importance of the translation of the Russian Holy Quran to Sheikh Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazada and members.



The journalists who took the interview of Mrs. Samina Malik for the daily Newspaper



Journalists of the daily news paper of Baku Azerbaijan interviewing Mrs. Samina Malik

Id ul Fitr Khutba

Compiled and delivered by Ebrahim Mohamed,
President AAIL South Africa, 24th October 2006

*He it is Who has sent His
Messenger with the guidance
and the Religion of Truth that
He may make it prevail over all
religions. (Ch 9: 33)*

Praise be to Allah Who us brought us together so that we may share in the joyous celebration of Id and afford us the opportunity to ponder and reflect on His majestic teachings. Praise be to Allah Who has made us endure the trials of the Ramadan as well as make us taste the blessings and joy of the Holy Month. Every Ramadan should bring a change in us for the better even if it means discarding just one bad habit going forward. Otherwise the fast was a waste. During the days of Ramadan plagued by the pangs of hunger and thirst, I realized that I will never be able to look at a poor man in the same way ever again. I told myself that I need to find a way of being less wasteful and find a credible institution that feeds the poor that I can support. There are many other lessons the Ramadan taught me but I cannot share them all with you now as I do not have the time, but this is one I will concentrate on for the rest of the year. I challenge each one of you, if you have not done so already, to do the same. For each one of you I know there must have been something that was of exceptional significance that the Ramadan inculcated in you that you would like to take forward with you after Ramadan. Perhaps you are one who loses your temper very easily and the Ramadan helped you to keep your temper under control? Or perhaps you are often neglectful of your prayers and the Ramadan helped you to be more regular with your prayers? Only you know what is the best lesson the Ramadan had for you and which you would want to work on and uphold relentlessly for the rest of the year.

But the question I have for all of us that have benefited from the Holy month of Ramadan, is what can we do collectively that would benefit humanity? Everything we have done so far is for ourselves. What is it that we can do in the way of Allah? And the answer that I come up with every time is that we should engage in constructive propagation of the Holy Quran for the month of Shawwal is the month in which the propagation of the Holy Quran started. We should become ambassadors of the Holy Quran by familiarizing, nay at best, strive to gain a good understanding of its sublime teachings and striving to model our own lives on it.

But before I can do so, I need to know if the Holy Book can provide me with answers to the many questions that I often struggle with. I cannot narrate all the questions here for lack of time but I will share some of them with you as I am certain you grapple with the same questions. I also need to know whether the Quran provides the best answers

2. Does the Quran clearly explain who I am and what role I play in the grand plan of the Divine scheme of things?

The answer is an emphatic yes and I challenge any skeptic to prove me wrong. None of the previous scriptures (Torah, Injeel, Vedas, Bagha Vagita etc) are in its pure form any more and therefore its depiction of the Divine Being are grossly imperfect and cannot be relied upon by any serious seeker after the truth. For example, the Christians do not know if God is one or three or four or whether God has a Son and whether the son is really a son or a god himself. Even the Pope, who is the Head of the largest Christian group, admits that the Trinity or the Triune concept of God is confusing and cannot be adequately explained. The nature of the Christian God is one that is extremely cruel and unjust. The God of Christianity is said to have masterminded the cruel and bloody execution of his only 'so called' son for no offence committed by him; but to redeem other undeserving

But the question I have for all of us that have benefited from the Holy month of Ramadan, is what can we do collectively that would benefit humanity?

or whether there are better answers contained in other scriptures before I can truly become an ambassador of the Quran.

I have therefore summarized the questions I have and reduced it into two main ones i.e.

1. Does the Quran provide me with a perfect concept of the existence and nature of GOD, which no other scripture can provide, that readily appeals to and satisfies my rational mind?

sinful parties. How can anyone trust a God like this when it comes to executing justice? Even humans of the worst kind will not resort to such a despicable act out of their own free will.

The way the Divine Being is depicted in the Quran, appeals to the reasoning faculties of the human mind. As we look around us everywhere and we ponder on His creation, we see everything is on an evolutionary path of progress, from the smallest vegetable seeds to vast luxuriant plantations; from the smallest atoms to the gigantic planets and galaxies in the

universe; from inconceivable sperm cells to the highest and best of his creation, the human species, known as Adam or Mankind. The list goes on and on, ad infinitum. So the Divine Being or Allah as we name Him in Islam is aptly called “Rabb” in the Quran, an Arabic word which no other language has an equivalent for. The best the English can do to give some meaning to the word Rabb is;

That Being Who brings everything into existence from nothing, nourishes and sustains it through several evolutionary stages; each stage being higher than the other until such things reach its perfection.

But this is not all; the Quran describes the nature of the Divine being in such a way as not to be found in any other ancient scripture or modern writings. The Holy Prophet’s, first mission was to establish a grounding faith in Allah in men. He did not start by applying himself to removing degrading usages or evil customs or superstitions. Almost the whole of his Mecca revelation has but one theme: Allah is the Creator (Rabb) of all; He is the Nourisher of all, He reveals Himself to man. He makes His will known to man, He is the Holy One, He is nearer to man than his own soul, He is the Beneficent One, the Merciful One, the Loving One, the Affectionate One, the Forgiving One, the Giver of all gifts, the Ample Giving, He listens to every man’s prayer, He loves good and hates evil, He loves those who serve the poor and those in distress, He loves the truthful ones and so on.

As for the nature of Allah, we find that the Quran does not depict Him as a wrathful, punitive God ready to punish at all times. In fact we find that His Mercy extends to all mankind regardless of religion, race or creed. We find that His kindness and Mercy are boundless, beyond the conception of man; He is Merciful to the believers and to the unbelievers, the righteous and to the

sinners alike: Says the Holy Quran;

O My servants who have acted extravagantly against their own souls! Do not despair of the mercy of Allah, for Allah forgives sins altogether. (39:53)

Only from the Quran, we learn that Allah has been revealing Himself to all nations, and Divine revelation is recognized as a universal fact. While revelation of the highest kind through the angel Gabriel was peculiar to the prophets, in its lower forms – through inspiration by the infusion of an idea into the mind, or in the form of a true dream or a vision – revelation was granted to other than prophets, to men as well as women.

And it is not for any mortal that Allah should speak to him except by infusing an idea into the mind or from behind a veil or by sending a messenger and revealing by His permission what He pleases. (45:51)

Even unbelieving people are also spoken of as seeing significant and truthful dreams. Thus in the history of the Prophet Yusuf (Joseph) we are told;

And two youths entered the prison with him. One of them said, I saw myself pressing wine; and the other said, I saw myself carrying bread on my head of which birds ate (12:36)

And the King said, I see seven fat kine which seven lean kine devoured, and seven green ears and (seven) other dry; O Chiefs explain to me my dream. (12:43)

Both the youths and the King were unbelievers, and the three dreams were interpreted by Joseph as speaking of future events, being prophetic in their essence.

So this is sufficient to prove to me that Allah’s ni’mat or goodness to mankind is magnanimous, transcending all boundaries. So this is the God that is worthy of my worship and emulation and this description and more which I do

not have the time to cover here today, is contained in the Holy Quran alone and nowhere else. So the Holy Book more than answers my first question.

On my second question as to whether the Quran clearly explains who I am and what role I play in the grand plan of the Divine scheme of things, I find adequate evidence that pleases my rational mind, in the Holy Quran.

The Holy Quran says;

So set thy face upright for religion in the right state – the nature made by Allah in which He has made men; there is no altering of Allah’s creation; that is the right religion but most people do not know. (30:30)

Surely we created man in the best make (95:4)

Unlike Christianity that teaches that every child is born in sin, the Holy Prophet, explaining the first verse above, said that “every child that is born conforms to the true religion (lit. human nature i.e. Islam); it is his parents who make him a Jew or a Christian or a Magian (Bukhari 23:80)

Every child was thus recognized by birth to be a Muslim; the purity of human nature was not affected by his being born of non-Muslim parents.

Everything created by Allah, we are further told, was made according to a measure so that it could not go beyond a certain limit.

Glorify the name of thy Lord, the Most High, Who creates things, then makes them complete; And Who makes things according to a measure, then guides them to their goal. (87: 1 -3)

So from an uncivilized state when mankind was still a slave to and worshipper of the forces of nature, the Holy Prophet through the teachings of the Holy Quran raised the early Muslims to the dignity of Master and Ruler over the forces of nature. By realizing their position

and role in nature in the grand Divine scheme of things, the early Muslims took vigorous strides towards the expansion of knowledge and the advancement of sciences. Reading and writing was within a few years spread throughout the whole of Arabia and other countries which came under the influence of Islam, and the Muslim State so encouraged the pursuit of study and scientific research that centers of learning and universities sprang up throughout the empire of Islam. Unlike the dark ages that set in after Christianity, Islam left behind a trail of light and learning that gave rise to the renaissance (the revival of learning) in Europe.

But although the Holy Quran inspired the contributions of human thought on the physical sphere which led to man's conquest of the forces of nature, it, more importantly, brought about a complete change in the spiritual outlook of man. About Allah we are told;

Who made good everything that He created, and He began the creation of man from dust; Then He made his progeny of an extract of water held in light estimation; Then He made him complete and breathed into him of His spirit. (32:7-9)

This verse shows a mystic relation of the spirit of man with the Divine Spirit and refers to the higher life of man. The destiny of man we are taught by the Holy Quran through the Holy Prophet was therefore higher than the mere conquest of nature on the physical plain; it was to seek union with the Divine Spirit. That is the ultimate goal of all mankind. Says the Holy Quran;

O Soul that are at rest! Return to thy Lord, well-pleased with Him, well-pleasing Him. So enter among My servants, And enter into My Garden. (89: 27-30)

The goal of life for every human being is therefore Liqa – Allah, or the meeting of Allah in the language of the Holy Quran. So man's progress from one stage

to another higher stage is endless. The aim and goal, according to the Holy Quran, is not this worldly life and the conquest of nature but it goes much further; progress to realms that the eyes have not seen and the ears have not heard of (according to the Holy Prophet). Our progress goes beyond this world into the next world. Says the Holy Quran of the believers in the next life:

Allah has promised to the believing men and the believing women gardens in which rivers flow, to abide in them, and goodly dwellings in gardens of perpetual abode; and greatest of all is Allah's goodly pleasure – that is the grand achievement. (9:72)

So while spiritual realization is limited in this world, the next world opens unlimited fields of advancement to higher and higher stages. Paradise was thus according to the Prophet, the starting point for an advancement to higher and higher spiritual stages; hence the high places to which the faithful shall be raised, know no end, as there are still higher places above them, and hence the ardent desire for more and more light in that life.

The Holy Quran, teaches that even those who wasted their opportunity in this life by engrossment in lower desires would ultimately be saved, hell being only a remedial stage in the higher life of man. Hell is called in the Quran as maula or friend of the sinners in one place (57:15) and Umm or Mother in another (101:9)

All men, both believers and unbelievers, were created for mercy, and the purpose of Allah i.e. the meeting with Him or reaching the highest stage of our spiritual evolution must ultimately be fulfilled. The sinners we are told will have a hard life in Hell for a while because they avoided the "hard striving" here which was needed to bring them closer to their Lord. But this 'hard life' will not last forever as with the teachings of Christianity for we are assured on the authority of the Holy Prophet;

Surely a day will come over hell when there shall not be a single human being in it. (Fath

al Bayan fi Maqasid al – Quran)

Surely a day will come over hell when it will be like a field of corn that has dried up after flourishing for a while. (Kanz al Ummal)

In another Hadith, the inmates of hell are expressly stated as being placed on the road to a higher life;

"Then Allah will say, Bring out (of the fire) every one in whose heart there is faith or goodness to the extent of a mustard seed, so they will be taken out having become quite black; then they will be thrown into the river of life and they will grow as grows a seed by the side of the river"
(Bu: 2: 15)

This report is conclusive on the remedial nature of Hell and establishes beyond a doubt that all men will ultimately be set free on the way to a higher life.

The Holy Quran, teaches that even those who wasted their opportunity in this life by engrossment in lower desires would ultimately be saved...

So with this knowledge from the Holy Quran corroborated by the Holy Prophet in places about who I am and what is my role in the grand Divine scheme of things, I am highly satisfied that my second question has been adequately answered and I am ready to serve as an ambassador of the Holy Quran and engage in the propagation of its sublime message to those who are sincere seekers after the truth. So I pass this message on to you, in the hope that I have adequately motivated and inspired you to do likewise.

Barakallah! _____

Publisher's Note to Italian Translation of the Holy Quran

In 1988, at the behest of the late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad, the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam Lahore USA undertook the project to translate the second edition of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation of the Holy Quran into the major languages of the world. Maulana Muhammad Ali originally published his monumental English translation of the Holy Quran with an exhaustive commentary in 1917. This was the first English translation of the Holy Quran by a Muslim to become widely available in the western world and, as such, it fulfilled the long expressed wish of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (d.1908), the mujaddid (reformer) of the fourteenth century hijra, to present the sublime teaching of Islam to the West. Maulana Muhammad Ali, citing the greatly increased knowledge and understanding of the Quran he acquired since the publication of the first edition, decided to revise his English translation of the Holy Quran. He completed this arduous task just days before his death on 13th October 1951. The second edition of the English translation of the Holy Quran was published in 1953. Masha Allah, as providence would have it, in December 2004, the USA Jamaat received correspondence from Ms. Sara Crovetto, residing in Genoa, Italy, requesting permission to translate the English translation and commentary of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali into Italian. Ms. Sara Crovetto is an Italian Muslim and an extremely gifted translator. Her request was followed by a sample translation of the Sura Fatiha in Italian which was determined to be excellent upon evaluation. The enthusiasm of the translator and the excellence of her work prompted the decision to proceed with the project to translate the second edition of

Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation of the Holy Quran and commentary into Italian. In March of 2005, Dr. Noman Malik and I flew to Genoa, Italy to meet Ms. Sara Crovetto to finalize the arrangements for this project. Alhamdulillah! Ms. Sara Crovetto, dedicating herself to this work with such zeal and passion, completed the entire translation in an unprecedented eight months. The translation has been meticulously checked and proof-read by Mr. Marco Beggatio, a professional Italian translator currently residing in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Noman Malik spent his weekends for several months analyzing and discussing the suggested changes to the translation with Ms. Sara Crovetto over the telephone. His knowledge of the correct meaning and proper uses of various Quranic terms was very valuable in producing the final result of this work. The final work has also come to fruition after Mrs. Lubna Ahmad, of the USA Jamaat, checked the entire Arabic text portion of the work. Ms. Sara Crovetto has also translated four other books of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement and

is currently translating Maulana Muhammad Ali's monumental treatise, The Religion of Islam. The cost of the translation and printing of the Italian Holy Quran translation project has been borne by Chaudry Sadaat Ahmad of Pakistan. May Almighty Allah reward him and his family for their devotion and sacrifices towards this essential cause. The typesetting cost has been paid by the USA Jamaat. Along with other Holy Quran translation projects simultaneously in the works, I was closely involved in managing and coordinating this particular project, having made several trips to Italy in this regard. Of great assistance to me in the final stages of this project was Mr. Ken White of Megg Enterprises in Campbell River, Canada, who

diligently worked on the type-setting with such patience and grace. All affairs are in the Hands of Almighty Allah, and all projects are completed at the time of His choosing, as He is the Best Knower. The guiding spirit behind all of the translation projects undertaken by the U.S.A.



Jamat has been our late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan

Sahib (may Almighty Allah grant him paradise). It is because of this extremely pious and righteous man's encouragement, advice, inspiration and, most importantly, prayers, that these projects are now coming to fruition. Having taken the pledge of fealty (bai'at) at the hands of Hazrat

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad himself, Dr. Saeed Ahmad was a true example of fulfilling the condition of the pledge to "Hold the cause of Religion above worldly affairs." May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward those who participated in this great jihad. I would like to end this Preface with the

Quranic verse: Our Lord, we believe in that which Thou hast revealed and we follow the Messenger, so write us down with those who bear witness. (3:53).
Ameen! *Samina Malik Vice President, Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam, (Lahore) USA Inc. Director in charge Publication and Translation September 14, 2006*

Publisher's Note to German Translation of the Holy Quran

In 1988, at the behest of the late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad, the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam, (Lahore) USA undertook the project to translate the second edition of Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation of the Holy Qur'an into the major languages of the world. Maulana Muhammad Ali originally published his monumental English translation of the Holy Qur'an with an exhaustive commentary in 1917. This was the first English translation of the Holy Qur'an by a Muslim to become widely available in the western world and, as such, it fulfilled the long expressed wish of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (d.1908), the mujaddid (reformer) of the fourteenth century hijra, to present the sublime teaching of Islam to the West. In 1946, Maulana Muhammad Ali, citing the greatly increased knowledge and understanding of the Qur'an he had acquired since the publication of the first edition, decided to revise his English translation of the Holy Qur'an. He completed this arduous task just days before his death on 13th October 1951. The second edition of the English translation of the Holy Qur'an was published in 1953. In 1921, the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam established a famous mosque and missionhouse (known popularly as Die Moschee) in Berlin. Built under the

supervision of Maulana Sadr-ud-Din, who later became the second head of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, the mosque holds a position dear to the hearts of Lahore Ahmadis the world over due to the tremendous sacrifices made by the organization in funding



its construction during the difficult post World War I years. The most prominent incident of this occurred at an annual meeting in Lahore when Maulana Muhammad Ali appealed to the women of the Jamaat for donations for the building of the minarets of the mosque, as the construction funds

had been exhausted. In response to his call, the ladies of the Jamaat took off the jewelry they were wearing, constituting a woman's life savings in those days, and donated it for the construction of the minarets. With this background, Dr. Saeed Ahmad gave priority to translating the Jamaat's literature into German. By the Grace of Almighty Allah, the Jamaat's major books, such as the Religion of Islam and Manual of Hadith, have been available in German for some time. Although an older translation of the Holy Qur'an in German, published by Maulana Sadr-ud-Din existed, a fresh translation was required. This project was commenced in 1989 when Dr. Peter Willmer, Lecturer at the University of British Columbia, was chosen as the translator from a field of experts. The result is a modern, accurate and thoroughly checked translation. Dr. Wilmer dedicated himself to this work, giving it his utmost attention, and overcame many trying circumstances in order to bring it to fruition. The translation has been checked several times to ensure accuracy. Notwithstanding that, after witnessing the thoroughness with which Mr. Abdoel Saïed Hoeseni (Zebier), President of the Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam in Holland, reviewed the Dutch translation of the Holy Qur'an, it was decided that a final review of the German translation be conducted by Mr. Hoeseni as

well since he is also familiar with the German language. This decision would necessitate a two year delay in the publication of this translation, but the expertise Mr. Hoeseni would bring to this project, which he acquired by working with the Dutch translation of the Holy Qur'an combined with his thorough knowledge of Islamic concepts, made the choice very worth while. Mr. Hoeseni checked the entire work, comprising both the Qur'an verses as well as the exhaustive footnotes, painstakingly reviewing the most detailed of points with native German speakers in academic positions. This additional work has provided an assurance that the German Holy Qur'an translation is a product that is true to the spirit of the original. May Almighty Allah reward Dr. Wilmer and Mr. Hoeseni for their diligent work and may He bless both of their families for the sacrifices they too made in the cause of this work. The cost of the translation and printing

has been borne by the two brothers, Mr. Izaz Ilahi Malik of Pakistan and Dr. Noman Ilahi Malik of the USA Jamaat. The typesetting expenses have been paid by the USA Jamaat. The entire Arabic text has been proof read by Mrs. Lubna Ahmad. May Almighty Allah Reward and Bless them and their families for their sacrifice and contribution to this work. Along with other Holy Qur'an translation projects simultaneously in the works, I was closely involved in managing and coordinating this particular project. Of great assistance to me in the final stages of this project was Mr. Ken White of Megg Enterprises in Campbell River, Canada, who diligently worked on the typesetting with such patience and grace. All affairs are in the Hands of Almighty Allah, and all projects are completed at the time of His choosing, as He is the Best Knower. The guiding spirit behind all of the translation projects undertaken by the USA Jamaat has been our late Hazrat Ameer,

Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib (may Almighty Allah grant him paradise). It is because of this extremely pious and righteous man's encouragement, advice, inspiration and, most importantly, prayers, that these projects are now coming to fruition. Having taken the pledge of fealty (bai'at) at the hands of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad himself, Dr. Saeed Ahmad was a true example of fulfilling the condition of the pledge to "Hold the cause of Religion above worldly affairs." May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward those who participated in this great jihad. I would like to end this Preface with the Qur'anic verse: Our Lord, we believe in that which Thou hast revealed and we follow the Messenger, so write us down with those who bear witness (3:53). Ameen!
Samina Malik Vice-President Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam Lahore USA, Inc. Director in charge of Publication and Translation. Dublin, Ohio USA, October 2006

Dutch Religion of Islam

Alhamdulillah! The Dutch Religion of Islam has been published by the Stichting Jamaat in Holland. The new printing is in modern Dutch and follows the format of the current English Religion of Islam. Together with the Dutch Holy Quran, this literature will go a long way towards projecting the true peaceful, reasonable and tolerant Islam which is so greatly needed in Western Europe. Both Muslims, especially the youth who have been born in these countries and are essentially European, as well as Non-Muslims will greatly benefit from these books. Brother Shabbir Hussieni has been the moving spirit behind this endeavour and other

translation projects of the Stichting jamaats. May Allah Almighty Bless and Reward Brother Hussein for this great service to Islam. At present the Stichting Jamaat has more than thirty books of the literature of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement translated into Dutch which are ready for printing. The main obstacle in publishing these books is lack of funds. Members wishing to contribute towards printing these books should contact the Stichting Jamaat. We all can fulfill our obligation as Ahmadis by helping provide these funds both on a Jamaat and individual level.

English translation of Mujaddid-e-Azam

Alhamdulillah! Dr. Hamid Rahman is busy working with Mr. Ken White of Megg Enterprises in completing the typeset of volume one of The Great Reformer, the English translation of the Biography of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, by Dr. Bashaarat Ahmad. This first volume will be printed, Inshallah, in 2007. May Almighty Allah Bless and Reward Dr. Hamid Rahman for his years of sacrifice in translating this voluminous work which is so desperately needed to remove the misconceptions and misunderstandings about the life and mission of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.



Samina Malik with Russian Muslims outside a Masjid in Moscow Russia.



Samina Malik with Imam Ishmail outside the St. Petersburg Customs Office.



Samina Malik with the Mufti of St. Petersburg Mosque.

Distribution of the Holy Quran in Russia

In April 2006, Mrs. Samina Malik made her third trip to Russia in connection with the distribution of the Russian Holy Quran. Nineteen thousand Russian Holy Qurans were printed in India and shipped to Russia. The printing cost was \$38,000.00, and the film preparation and storage charges amounted to almost \$5000.00. The shipping charge was \$8,000.00 for the forty foot container.

After considerable difficulty Mrs. Samina Malik was able to clear the Holy Qurans through customs. With this shipment the number of Russian Holy Qurans shipped to Russia totals to approximately fifty thousand.

Hazrat Mirza Sahib has prophesized that his followers in Russia would be as numerous as the grains of sand in the desert. We do not know whether this prophecy will be fulfilled in our lifetimes or not, but we do know that an essential prerequisite for its fulfillment is that knowledge of the Holy Quran inspired by the Promised Messiah and Mahdi should reach the Russian people. It cannot be over emphasized, that this is the right time to introduce our literature into Russia and the Central Asian Republics. The majority of religious leaders and public are not prejudiced against the Lahore Ahmadyya Movement, and people are thirsty for Islamic knowledge. Once they are exposed to the God inspired and enlightend literature of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Ali, the demand for it, Inshallah, is bound to increase.



Russian Muslim women attending Jumma Prayers at the Hilal Foundation Mosque in Moscow.

Community Activities of the USA Jamaat

AAIIL(USA) is making a concerted effort to partake in various community activities so that greater opportunities arise in which the views of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Society may be presented and understood. With the rise in misinformation and misunderstanding about Islam in the U.S., we believe it is incumbent upon each individual member of the Jamaat in this country to be active in the community and by personal example reveal that Islam is a peaceful, tolerant and rational faith. Some of the recent community activities by Director's of AAIIL(USA) are listed below:

Mayor's Prayer Lunch – Fazeel S. Khan was invited to attend the Mayor's Prayer Lunch, an annual event sponsored by the Mayor of Columbus Ohio's Office and the Community Relations Commission. The purpose of the event is to recognize God in public life and commend the contributions of religious communities in making the city of Columbus a better place to live in. While at the lunch, Fazeel spoke to Mayor Coleman about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Society, its renowned publication work, and its critical role in bringing about inter-religious peace in the U.S. and abroad. An invitation for next year's event has already been presented to Fazeel.

ADA(OHIO) – Fazeel S. Khan has been elected as a board member of ADA(OHIO). ADA(OHIO) is a non-profit organization devoted to furthering the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act in Ohio and works closely with similar organizations nationally. Although Fazeel's qualification as a practicing attorney in Ohio is of great benefit to the organization, Fazeel is officially on the board as a representative of the

“Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society” and not any law firm. Thus, Fazeel is able to serve a very worthy community activity in this capacity as well as enhance awareness of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Society in a prominent and active public forum.

Interfaith Association of Greater Columbus – Dr. and Mrs. Malik are regular participants in various activities sponsored by the Interfaith Association of Greater Columbus. In fact, Mrs. Samina Malik is a director of the Columbus International Airport Meditation Room, a private room located at the baggage claim level which people may use to pray under the control of the Interfaith Association. Mrs. Malik supplies the Meditation Room with Jamaat literature and ensures that conditions are acceptable for the Islamic mode and manner of prayer. Recently, Dr. and Mrs. Malik attended a function hosted by the President of the Interfaith Association. In addition to meeting and greeting with representatives of other faiths, Dr. Malik presented a short summary of Surah Fatiha to the group which was very much appreciated.

First Community Church – Fazeel S. Khan was requested by the First Community Church to speak to the members of the Men's Breakfast, a group of church-goers who meet every Wednesday to listen to a talk and discuss it over breakfast. Fazeel was specifically asked to speak on “Islam and Democracy”. Masha Allah, Fazeel had presented an excellent speech that had grasped the audience's attention from beginning to end. The speech infused an active question and answer session that led to lively discussions. Dr. Mohammed Ahmad and Dr. Noman Malik accompanied Fazeel at the event and all three were treated with much respect and kindness. It is hoped that more such

opportunities for respectful dialogue will present themselves so that greater understanding between Muslims and Christians may be created.

Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted – For the past 8 years, the Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted program has asked AAIIL(USA) to represent Islam in its panel of religious scholars. The program is held annually at Ohio State University and one of its courses focuses exclusively on religion. In this course, a panel of representatives from various religions, including Christianity, Roman Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam, speak about their respective faiths and answer questions posed by the students of the program. The program provides a unique opportunity to discuss general issues of commonality between religions and present Islam's unique concepts in relation to such issues in a classroom setting. Issues such as, what are heaven and hell, why does God punish, how does one attain salvation, and what is the purpose of life, are discussed. As has been the case every year, extremely encouraging comments were received by the students about the presentation on Islam. Students generally express their lack of knowledge about Islam and how fascinated they are to know about its rational principles. This year, Masha Allah, one student in fact stated he had been studying a few religions closely for some years now, particularly Buddhism and Sikhism, and after learning about Islam through this program, he is convinced he wants to become a Muslim. Fazeel S. Khan has been the regular Islamic representative for this program for the past several years.

Press Releases:

AAIIL(USA) Comments on the Danish Cartoon Controversy and the Afghan Apostasy Trial

By Fazeel S. Khan

In an attempt to publicize the views of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement regarding current world events in which Islamic principles are at issue, the U.S.A. branch of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement recently published Press Releases to two significant events that have received extensive media attention.

On February 10, 2006, AAIIL(USA) released its comments on the Danish cartoon controversy. The purpose for this particular press release was two-fold. First, to condemn Jyllands Posten for publishing the obscene and extremely distasteful pictorials of the Holy Prophet Muhammad which naturally fueled anger and disgust from all quarters. Second, to advise Muslims of the appropriate response to such provocations, as mandated in the Holy Quran.

The Danish Cartoon Press Release received an extremely favorable response. E-mails from around the world were sent congratulating AAIIL(USA) for publicly addressing this issue from a calm and rational perspective. Many popular media sources displayed the Press Release, including:

PR Newswire
Yahoo!
The Seattle Times
eReleases
Forbes
Canada.com Network
Yahoo! Canada
Yahoo! UK & Ireland
DallasNews.com
Texas Cable News
AZ Central
The Press-Enterprise Inland Southern CA
Hoover's Online
Lycos
CBS MarketWatch

The Danish Cartoon Press Release is reproduced below:

February 10, 2006
For Immediate Release

AAIIL(USA) strongly condemns "Jyllands-Posten" for its cartoon depictions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad and advises Muslims to bear this attack with patience and defend its faith by informing the public of the true character of the Holy Prophet.

Columbus, Ohio, USA - AAIIL(USA), the U.S. branch of the worldwide Muslim organization *The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement*, not only strongly condemns the Danish newspaper "Jyllands-Posten" for its irresponsible conduct of repeatedly publishing caricatures of the Holy Prophet Muhammad in which he is depicted in an extremely degrading manner but also advises Muslims to bear this attack on their beloved Prophet and on their faith with patience.

"Not only is it commonly known that the pictorial portrayal of Prophets of God is forbidden in Islam, the level of vulgarity displayed in these particular cartoons of a holy figure of a religion with over one billion adherents in the world is truly outrageous conduct on the part of Jyllands-Posten", stated Dr. Noman Malik, Pathologist at Mount Carmel Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and Treasurer of AAIIL(USA).

In Islam, pictures of any prophet of God, whether it be Adam, Noah, Moses, Jesus or Muhammad, is forbidden - the rationale being - so that the physical depictions of these holy personages do not become objects of worship. The Jylland-Posten caricatures, however, go beyond the simple issue of what is advised by a religion with regards to depictions of holy personages. These cartoons were a direct attack on the Holy Prophet Muhammad's character and on the Islamic faith. Although a claim to "freedom of speech" is commonly employed as a safeguard by those who maliciously insult others, Fazeel S. Khan, Attorney at the law firm of Blaugrund, Herbert & Martin in Dublin, Ohio and Secretary of AAIIL(USA) argues:

"Freedom of speech does not protect 'hate speech' - the type of communications that incite anger and violence against others. Furthermore, freedom of speech does not safeguard material that is 'obscene', as defined by the standards of the community. It can certainly be argued that the Jylland-Posten cartoons are excluded from the loosely used term 'freedom of speech' on both of these grounds. The Danish press as well as the Danish government surely had an opportunity to prevent the publication of these insulting and hurtful depictions without compromising its democratic ideals".

Clearly, Muslims around the world are justified in feeling offended by the Jylland-Posten publications.

However, resorting to violence and rage is certainly not what is prescribed in Islam. Dr. Mohammed Ahmad, Physician at MedOhio Clinic in Columbus, Ohio and President of AAII(USA) explains:

“Upon receiving abuse from persons of other faiths, the Holy Quran tells Muslims to bear such provocations with patience, ignore the abusive acts and to exercise forgiveness in view of the ignorance displayed by the abusers. For instance, the Holy Quran states: ‘Bear patiently what they say’ (20:130); ‘And disregard their hurtful talk’ (33:48); ‘Hold fast to forgiveness and enjoin goodness and turn away from the ignorant’ (7-199)”.

AAII(USA) would like to take this opportunity to respond, with patience, to Jylland-Posten by inviting it and all others to learn about the true character of the Holy Prophet and judge for oneself whether the cartoon depictions were fair or even based on an iota of truth. For those interested, a sample of the true character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad is available online at: <http://www.muslim.org/islam/pr-life/10.htm>. AAII(USA) is available for more detailed discussions on this matter. To learn more about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, visit www.muslim.org.

Contact: Samina Malik, Vice-President, AAII(USA) aaail@aol.com; (614) 873-1030; P.O. Box 3370, Dublin, OH 43017

Similarly, on March 24, 2006, AAII(USA) again issued a Press Release regarding the apostasy trial of Mr. Abdul Rahman in Afghanistan. The Press Release has been very well received by media outlets, internet discussion forums and individuals interested in world affairs. Internet resource sites such as encyclopedia.com and infoplease.com also provide links to the Apostasy Trial Press Release, which furthers the primary goal of educating non-Muslims about the true principles of Islam and correcting misunderstood beliefs held by Muslims themselves.

March 24, 2006

For Immediate Release

In Islam, “There is No Compulsion in Religion”:
AAII(USA) Comments on the Apostasy Trial in Afghanistan.

Columbus, Ohio, USA: AAII(USA), the U.S. branch of the worldwide Islamic organization *The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement*, appeals to the Afghan government as well as Muslims internationally to practically demonstrate that Islam is a religion of peace and humanity by denouncing the view that

according to Islam apostasy is a crime punishable by death.

“Although a mandatory death sentence for apostasy may be found in other religious scriptures, for example Deuteronomy 13:6-10, the Holy *Quran* does not prescribe any punishment for apostasy”, says Dr. Noman Malik, Treasurer of AAII(USA).

The subject of apostasy is referred to several times in the *Quran* (16:106, 2:117, 3:85-89, 5:54, etc.) but neither is death nor any other punitive measure imposed. On the contrary, the Holy *Quran* mandates unqualified religious freedom by declaring: “There is no compulsion in religion” (2:256), “The Truth is from your Lord; so let him who please believe, and let him who please disbelieve” (18:29), “We have shown him the way, he may be thankful or unthankful” (76:3), etc.

Dr. Mohammad Ahmad, President of AAII(USA) explains: “Much of the confusion surrounding the punishment for apostasy in Islam is due to a lack of careful study of *Hadith* reports ... upon close examination, these reports reveal that any apostate that was killed by the Muslims was either actively fighting the Muslims or was an enemy in war.”

Attorney Fazeel S. Khan, Secretary of AAII(USA) further explains: “Just as treason is a crime under the United States Constitution, the offender of which ‘*shall suffer death*’ according to Congress, so too does Islam allow the administering of capital punishment on those who desert Muslim troops, join enemy forces, and fight against a Muslim nation ... it is the ‘*act*’ of military desertion during wartime coupled with aiding the enemy that is punishable under Islamic law, not the mere change in one’s religious ‘*belief*’.”

It is axiomatic that the punishment of death for apostasy as accepted under current *sharia* law finds no sanction in the Holy *Quran*. It is equally clear that the sources of tradition cited as the basis for this practice are misapplied; the incidents therein concern crimes of treason and treachery, not simple apostasy. AAII(USA) implores the Afghan authorities to apply these facts to its analysis of what “contravene[s] the tenets and provisions of Islam”, as stipulated in Article III of its Constitution, and, accordingly, declare the case against Mr. Rahman is dismissed on the basis that freedom of religion and freedom of conscience are not in contravention with the principles of Islam.

For more information about the controversial subject of apostasy in Islam, please read *Jihad in Islam*, a chapter from Maulana Muhammad Ali’s world-renowned book *The Religion of Islam*, available online at:

<http://www.muslim.org/bookspdf/jihadinislam.pdf>. To learn about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, visit www.muslim.org.

Contact: Samina Malik, Vice-President, AAAIL (USA); aaail@aol.com; (614) 873-1030

In response to the Apostasy Trial Press Release, the popular blog “OH!PINION”, an internet forum for thoughtful commentary on ideas, events, people and policies shaping the world, posted an article entitled “U.S. Muslims say apostasy not capital offense”. Some of the comments in the article include:

“The U.S. affiliate of a worldwide Muslim organization begs to differ with its Afghan brothers about death being the prescribed penalty for those who leave the faith.”

“According to AAAIL(USA), which is part of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, only people who leave Islam and end up fighting members of their former faith deserve the death penalty. And then, AAAIL(USA) maintains, the wrongdoing is treason, not apostasy.”

“We hope the humane and well-meaning folks at AAAIL(USA) will be able to get through to the Afghan clerics and others who all but had poor Abdul Rahman’s neck in a noose. If a big chunk of the civilized world had not gotten in their way, Rahman would surely be a goner by now.”

“Perhaps it would be helpful for the U.S. government to provide roundtrip airfare and per diem for AAAIL(USA) representatives to go talk to the Afghans. They probably wouldn’t change all the minds that need changing, but they might plant some helpful seeds.”

The Apostasy Trial Press Release has also been cited and quoted by individuals, interestingly primarily non-Muslims, defending Islam and Muslims from sweeping generalizations on discussion forums. In response to an article entitled “Christians still persecuted in Muslim countries” and subsequent comments by posters attacking Islam for the suggested intolerant principles it advocates, a contributor by the name of Steve, argued back: “But the Koran doesn’t call for the death of apostates” and provided a link to the Apostasy Trial Press Release displayed on the U.S. Newswire website. Similarly, in the internet discussion forum “PakTribune.com”, while discussing radical versus moderate views on apostasy, an American by the name of Michelle L. Zewe contributed to the discussion by copying the Apostasy Trial Press Release in full.

E-mails from individuals wanting to comment on the Apostasy Trial Press Release were also received. One such e-mail, in pertinent part, stated:

With much respect I address you,

... I am encouraged that you took this action, it is a beginning. I am SURE that, that newswire was very difficult and required MUCH courage to release. It surely puts you at odds with 90% of the Muslims in the Middle East and will have them publicly deriding you. It is a start and hopefully will be looked at and followed by other peaceful, courageous people of the Muslim faith. If others with courage, who are of a peaceful mind as you, follow your lead and begin denouncing those who misapply, misread and out and out lie about what is contained between the covers of the Holy Quran, there is hope. If the courageous do not speak up, the fanatic criminals will surely dismantle your religion from the inside, slowly having public opinion rising to a crescendo of intolerance and outright outrage about the way those who represent the Muslim religion are behaving.

It is our desire that the two press releases, as small a contribution as they are, may play a part in informing the public at large of the peaceful, tolerant, rational and inspiring nature of Islam. The responses received thus far are very encouraging.

Five Hundred French Holy Quran Arrive in Paris, France

Before she left for Russia to for the distribution of the Russian Holy Quran, Mrs. Samina Malik received an e-mail from Paris, France from Brother Sidaty Lo inquiring about the French Holy Quran. Brother Sidaty is from Senegal and is settled in Paris. Many Senegalese, who are Muslim, have migrated to France and have a large community in Paris. A considerable number are now second generation in France. Brother Sidaty had read the French translation of Maulana Muhammad Ali’s English translation and commentary of the Holy Quran and had been very impressed by the quality of the translation and Commentary. So before proceeding to Russia Mrs. Samina Malik stopped over in Paris to meet Brother Sidaty and other members of the Muslim community.

She had a very cordial and friendly meeting with the Muslim group at Brother Sidaty’s restaurant. She promised to donate 500 French Holy quran which she shipped as soon as she returned from Russia. Al Hamodillah ! just a few days before this magazine went to press, she received the happy news that the French Holy Quran had arrived in Paris.

Brother Sidaty Lo has requested that Mrs Samina Malik should come for the official distribution of the Holy Quran.

Some responses to the distribution of the Russian Holy Quran in Central Asia

Dear Sister Samina,

As Salaam wa Alaikum, WRWB

Words cannot express our joy and admiration of your tremendous success on a virtually unknown journey to the said countries.

It needs not only courage – but also a great deal of determination, which Allah through HIS Mercy has showered you in abundance.

On behalf of the President and the Fiji Jamaat, we salute you and pray to Almighty Allah to keep you in good health, more so, to continue the single handed “JIHAD” which you have been carrying out for years!

Your continuous INSPIRATION, for the propagation of ISLAM and Ahmadiyyat, is an eye-opener and a timely reminder to all of us in the MOVEMENT to “WALK THE TALK”.

Wasalaam

Mehboob Raza
General Secretary

Dear Aunty Samina,

Assalaam u Alaikum

Our hearts are truly filled with joy at the significant work and foundation you have laid for the movement in Central Asia. May Allah bless you richly and may the seed planted grow into a great tree.

My mind is filled of images of the many great saints and sufis of Central Asia who propagated Islam many centuries ago. You are now walking this illustrious path, and may Allah guide us all to greater success in our activities.

Wassalaam
Roger Bissessar
AAIIL
Trinidad

Dear Sister Samina,
ASSALAAM ALEIKUM

We have followed your visits to numerous Central Asian Muslim countries and your meeting with various clerics, scholars and dignitaries (we call it your crusade in the name of Islam and our Jamaat) with the greatest interest. Surely Allah Subhan O Tala picks those that can propagate His work and in this case we are convinced that you have been His choice. Bearing in mind the distances travelled and confronting the language barrier we doubt if we could have achieved half as much.

We are proud of the dedication and efforts that you have set for your self (and by the Grace of Allah...achieved), We earnestly pray that the Beneficent Almighty strengthen your resolve and bless you with health, continued dedication and strength to continue His noble work.

With all our love and dua for you and your family.

.SONNY Dean
President
AAIIL Fiji
And Mrs. Yasmeen Dean

Dear Sister Saminah,
As-Salaamu alaikum

It is very heart warming to learn of the successes and acceptances that you are winning as a result of your hard, sincere and tireless efforts in the way of Dawah. May Allah continue to guide, bless and reward you for those efforts. There are far too few people with the courage and fortitude that you have demonstrated over these many years in this work. Take care and return home safely

Your brother in Islam
Dr. Abdul Salaam.
Speciality Promotions
Chicago .

Dear Samina Bhabhi

Assalaam aleikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakhatahu

May Allah reward you for all your efforts. I hope people will both appreciate and realise the exposure that our Jamma't had out of all this. I would love to have a copy of the interview to enable me to distribute the same here in Australia. I think there is lot of scope for us out there.

Allah promises in the Holy Quran that He will reward for the type of deeds that you have in the past and continue to carry out. We all know that Allah does not fail in His promises. We will continue to pray to Allah Almighty for your good health to enable you to carry out the reason for the formation of our Jamma't.

Please convey my dua and salaam to all.
Allah Hafiz
Sadar ud Deen Sahukhan
President
AAIIL Australia

Dearest aunty Samina,
Assalamoalaikum,

I hope you are fine. I just wanted to let you know how happy and grateful we are for the amazing work done in Central Asia by the US jamaat. It was extremely inspiring to read your emails and hear about your travels and troubles. We kept thinking how courageous you are to be away from home and family and doing this pioneer work, a lady all by yourself. We cannot express in words how grateful we are to have a mujahida like you in our jamaat. Alhamdulillah we feel this is a giant step forward for our jamaat. We have been through hard times and the rejection we face by some Muslims is very painful. It is wonderful to see the Muslims of Central Asia, eager and excited to have their own Qurans and to learn about Islam's true teachings. May Allah bless this mission and your work and may Allah be with you every step of the way. Ameen.

With lots of love
Zainib Ahamd
USA

Respectable Auntie,
AA WR,
Alhamad-o-lillah !!!

May Allah almighty open all the doors for propagation of Islam in the world. And may Allah give all of us courage & ability to spread His religion.

May Allah reward you generously & give you more opportunities.

Please do remember in your prayers.
Ejaz Ahamd

Dear Aunty Samina,
Asslamu Alaikum

I am feeling very happy to know that your visit to Azerbaijan was a very successful. I realized here in Glasgow that how difficult it is to talk to strangers and people who don't know your language, but mashallah it seem that your intensions and actions have the Blessing of All Mighty Allah Once again congratulations on your successful visit to Central Asia and distribution of the Holy Quran.

Allah Hafiz
Salman Ahamd

Dear Chachi,
Assalam Alaikum

I hope and pray that Allah Almighty help you in your mission. We are very happy to learn the work done by you in Central Asia. Our small djamaat has done so much in Central Asia and your sacrifice is very much appreciated. On djumah this good news will be told to the djamaat members. And we praying for your health and the work you are doing to spread the holy quran in the corners of the world.

My Father Mr. Noorsardar and my mother also sends their congratulations to you and the USA djamaat.

Our Stichting Ahmadiyya djamaat is donating one thousand Euro for the building in Kirgizstan.

We are looking forward to see the photographs and the video of the trip.

Wassalaam
Jerrel, Shafida and kids
AAIIL Holland

Dear Sister in Islam,
What wonderful work you are doing, I wish I had the courage and the ability to help, but I am afraid that I am not the type who can do more than tell people of the wonders of Islam and how happy I am with it and that in Nederlands or English.

I do admire all that you do, and Haji keeskamp finds it a great offer also.

Inshallah you will be able to keep up the good work for many more years, we both remember you in our prayers. Hopefully, we shall meet again and you can come to our home for a visit when this computer doesn't take my time and we can really talk. I would so like to get to know you better.

With love and respect
Your Sister in Islam
Attiya
Holland

My most venerated aunty,
Assalamu Alaikum

May Allah shower all His blessings on you and all those who did this outstanding work. Your work and ur successful trip is not just a step its leap to achieve the great target of Hazrat Mirza sahib. I am sure that your untiring efforts will bear fruit and when the tree will be laden with the sweet fruit your name will be at the top.

The work done in these areas will be an asset for us.
May Allah help you in this jihad.

Your nephew,
Amir Aziz

Dearest Samina,
Assalaam-Alaikum!

I pray that you have reached home safe and sound after your highly successful trip to Azerbaijan!

May Allah bless you for all your untiring efforts and sacrifices to bring His Words to those who need it.

Such an achievement! I can feel your joy and satisfaction and I am very proud of you. May you have many more great experiences like this one.

There can be no better way to serve Allah than this. Our constant prayers are for you and Bhai. May Allah keep you both in excellent health so that you can continue this great work, Ameen!!

Love to you, Bhai and children, also from Khaliel.

Allah-Hafeez!
Your sister,
Mary Khaliel
Suriname

Dear sister Samina,
Assalamu'alaikum wr. wb.

Alhamdulillah for the success you have done in Central Asia. Congratulation. We hope and pray that by the Grace of Allah Almighty, this success will be followed by further success. Amin.

Wassalamu'alaikum
Ahmadi.
President AAIIL Indonesia