SPECIAL EDITION

Opening of the French Holy Quran in Mali, West Africa, by Sufi Leader Sheikh Bilal Dialo
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Noman Malik

A very exciting day for the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat in Mali, West Africa on Friday 8 February 2019

Samina and I are currently in Mali, West Africa to work out the details for the delivery of 15,000 copies of the French translation of the Holy Quran and 5,000 copies of *The Religion of Islam* for free distribution in West African countries. When we had visited Mali, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso in December 2018, we had presented the French translation of the Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam* by Maulana Muhammad Ali to the Sufi Sheikh leader, Sheikh Bilal Dialo, and other sheikhs in his Movement. Sheikh Bilal has a large following in the French speaking West African Countries.

He had been greatly impressed by the excellent quality of the translation and the deep spiritual knowledge present in the books, and said that these books were exactly what he had been searching for to use in their schools and educational institutions. Details of the December 2018 visit will be published separately in an upcoming edition of *Basharaat Ahmadiyya*.

**Jalsa at the Sufi Sheikh Bilal Organization Center**

In this visit, Sheikh Bilal Dialo invited us to a large outdoor Jalsa in the Sufi organization’s center in Bamako on Friday afternoon after Jumma Prayers. Approximately 800 people attended the meeting. We were the guests of honor. In his speech, Sheikh Bilal welcomed us and spoke about the work the USA jamaat was doing in spreading the Holy Quran worldwide.

Near the conclusion of his speech, he commenced the official opening of the French Holy Quran by asking Samina to present him two copies of the French Holy Quran which we had brought with us on this visit. Then holding aloft the Holy Qurans for the audience to see, he told them it was a very good translation in excellent French that was extremely close to the Arabic original and had an excellent commentary, all of which would greatly benefit people. He continued with praise for Maulana Muhammad Ali and his service to Islam.
He also praised *The Religion of Islam* calling it an ideal book for studying Islam. He told the audience that 15,000 thousand copies of the Holy Quran and 5,000 thousand copies of *The Religion of Islam* would be delivered soon for free distribution to people. The members of the audience showed their happiness by standing up and enthusiastically exclaiming *Allah hu Akbar! La ilaha illallah* and *Alhamdulillah!*

It was then time for *Maghrib* prayers. After the *Maghrib* prayers, Sufi Sheikh Bilal again picked up the Holy Quran and spoke for about twenty minutes, showing the Holy Quran, and telling them repeatedly how good the translation was and how much it would benefit people. He continued with praises for Maulana Muhammad Ali, adding the respectful title, *Sheikh* before his name. Our hearts were filled with...
Samina presenting the French Holy Quran to Leader Sufi Bilal

Samina presenting the French Holy Quran to leader Sufi Bilal
Leader Sufi Sheikh Bilal showing the French Holy Quran to the audience and praising Maulana Muhammad Ali

Leader Sufi Sheikh Bilal Kissing the copy of the French Holy Quran
Sheikh Sadjo thanking Samina and Noman for the French Holy Quran

Sufi Sheikh Bilal showing and praising the French Holy Quran again after Maghrib Prayers
joy and happiness at this sight, and we thanked Almighty
Allah for all His help. Samina was in tears while the Sheikh
was speaking. This is the first time in history that such great
publicity had been given to Maulana Muhammad Ali’s Holy
Quran in a large Muslim public gathering.

After Sheikh Bilal’s speech, we went up to his living
quarters where we had a meeting with him, Sheikh Sadjo,
the chief administrator in the organization, Khalifa Aly, and
Sister Ayesha. In the meeting, we discussed the delivery of
the Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam*. They were over-
joyed to know that our *Jamaat* in the USA had a large num-
ber of books in the French language such as the *Manual
of Hadith, Early Caliphate, Muhammad the Prophet, Living
thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad, Teachings of
Islam, New World Order, Introduction to the Study of the
Holy Quran, Mohammad in World Scriptures, Ahmadiyya
Movement, Islam the Religion of Humanity, The Prophet of
Islam, Introduction to Islam, Muslim Prayer Book, History
of the Prophets* etc.

Samina was so moved by happiness and joy, that she told
the Sheikh that she would send an additional 10,000 copies
each of *Islam the Religion of Humanity, The Prophet of
Islam, Introduction to Islam and Jihad in Islam* along with
the French Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam* shipment.

We are very impressed by the hospitality of Sufi Sheikh
Bilal and his followers who took very good care of us and
made us feel completely at home. After knowing about
Samina’s health problems, Sheikh Bilal provided his own
air-conditioned car and driver for our use. We see in Sheikh
Bilal the qualities of a great leader who guides and influ-
ences his people with humility and kindness. He talks very
politely and respectfully to people. He said that when we
visit Mali again, we should be guests at his house. May
Almighty Allah bless him for his good deeds.

We would especially like to thank Sheikh Sadjo and
Khalifa Aly for receiving us at the airport and being with us
from the day we arrived.
Jummah at the Sufi Center

In the afternoon before the meeting with Jalsa at the Sufi Center, we attended the Jumma prayers at their Center. After the Jumma prayers, Sheikh Saido delivered a short speech in which he introduced Samina and me and told the congregation about the da’wah work which we were doing world-wide, and about the French Holy Quran and The Religion of Islam that the USA Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat was donating to their organization. It was a great pleasure for us to meet once again the Sufi members whom we knew from our previous visit.
Noman and samina with a Sufi Sheikh

Sufi Sheikhs with Samina and Noman at the Mosque
Saturday Jalsa

On Saturday 9th February, Samina and I attended a religious Jalsa on the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) hosted by Sheikh Aboubacar Jiawara. More than a thousand people attended the event. All the major sheikhs were present and many of them delivered speeches.

I was asked to deliver a talk and a closing dua. I gave a short talk about our organization’s work and expressed our heartfelt thanks for their hospitality and their appreciation for Maulana Muhammad Ali’s French translation of the Holy Quran and *The Religion of Islam* and reiterated our commitment to supply them with our literature.
We then had a tour of their mosque and premises. We were very touched by the friendliness and love shown to us by the members of the Sufi Group. They all wanted to shake our hands and take photographs with us. May Allah Ta’ala bless them all for their kindness and hospitality. Ameen!

We thank Almighty Allah for making this visit very productive and beneficial.

This demand for our books is a great opportunity provided by Allah Ta’ala to members of our jamaat to spend in His way and participate in the great spiritual jihad which is the objective of our jamaat’s existence.
Samina telling the Sheikh’s about the delivery of the French Holy Quran, Religion of Islam and other books.

Member of the Sufi Group with Samina at the Jalsa
Samina has worked very hard for the past twenty years to develop contact in West Africa beginning with Nigeria in 1994 and continuing with Ghana in 2017, and more recently with Mali, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. The USA jamaat has sent almost 40,000 English Holy Quran to Nigeria and Ghana for free distribution. The majority of people in West Africa are French Speaking, and we need a greater united effort to disseminate our French Holy Quran and other books in this region.

Funds are greatly needed for printing and shipping the Holy Quran and other books for free distribution. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in this Great Jihad by contributing funds for this project.

The first shipment of 15,000 thousand copies of French Holy Quran, 5,000 copies of The Religion of Islam, 10,000 copies of Prophet of Islam, 10,000 copies of Introduction to Islam and 10,000 copies of Jihad in Islam will be sent in March 2019, Inshallah. Samina and I are funding the entire cost of printing and shipping the French Holy Quran, The Religion of Islam and the other books listed above.

The objective is to send 20,000 copies of the French Holy Quran, The Religion of Islam and other major books of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Jamaat to West Africa, every year, in order to have a significant impact, Inshallah. Your help in funding this project is greatly needed. Members desirous of contributing to this great spiritual Jihad may contact Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore USA at:

E-mail : aail@aol.com
Phone: 1-614-873-1030, 1-614-266-1030

Jazak Allah!