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PRESS RELEASES

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIMS ADAMANT THAT NO STUNNING IS MORE HUMANE

By Shahirah Elaiza Wan Hassan

FT Australasia:

The national umbrella organization for Muslims in Australia, the Australian Federation of Islamic Council (AFIC) is adamant that there is no need for a review of the current practice of ritual slaughter for Halal and Kosher, as there is no evidence to support that stunning before slaughter is in fact kinder to the animals as claimed by certain animal rights organisations.

If ever there should be a review, the Australian government should actually verify against the use of stunning altogether as it has been proven that many animals fracture their skulls during the process of stunning and die before they can be slaughtered.

Ikebal Patel, who is the Chairman of AFIC, is speaking in reference to the captive bolt stunning method used by many abattoirs in Australia. "This shows that the practice (of stunning) is far from acceptable, while on the other hand there is scientific research which shows that ritual slaughter by Muslims and the Jewish community, using a sharp knife, that within three seconds there is no pain," he said, in reference to the famous Hanover study carried out by a team of scientist from the University of Hanover led by Prof. Wilhelm Shulze (read side story).

Animal welfare organisations such as RSPCA Australia and Animals Australia are locking horns with the Muslim and Jewish communities over the right to stun an animal before slaughter. The situation came about after a recent complaint made to the RSPCA regarding Midfield Meats, a leading Halal meat abattoir in the region, for breaching the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act by slaughtering their livestock without prior stunning as required by Australian law.

They feel that the act of slaughtering without stunning is "unconscionable" as it causes unnecessary pain and suffering to the animal.

The Muslim and Jewish communities are challenging such allegations by asserting that stunning increases, rather than reduces an animal's suffering.



Ikebal also took a swipe at the double standards practiced by the animal rights movements and urged the federal government to also show equal commitment to animal welfare by gauging public sentiments to events such as the running of the bull in Spain, or other forms of animal sports like the Australian horse racing industry and the greyhound racing fraternity.

"Halal and Kosher slaughter are for useful purposes of food consumption and economic trade. The inherent virtues of each should also be open to public scrutiny, as well as the animal welfare issues of live animal export trade, which should also be part of the debate," said Ikebal.

In most cases of Halal slaughtering, the livestock are stunned beforehand but the highly lucrative Middle East market does not accept this as a process of Halal and as a contract supplier to that specific market, Midfield Meats must adhere to their Halal standards and requirements. Midfield Meats and three other Victorian domestic abattoirs claimed to have made previous arrangements with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) to allow them to carry out this "traditional" method of Halal slaughter on their premises.

To settle the row between animal rights groups and Halal and Kosher meat producers, Federal Agriculture Minister, Peter McGauran plans to initiate a scientific review, as well as a review of standards under which abattoirs operate for Halal and Kosher slaughter. "We'll look at whether or not the science proves or establishes that it's a cruel and inhumane practice, and whether or not the standard overseeing abattoirs should be changed," he said. He also states that while he does not have the power to stop the practice while the review is being done, he is able to halt any new approvals for the time being.

Many believe that the battlelines have been drawn as McGauran says his final decision following the review will be guided by public opinion. He believes that the public always decides these matters and the outcome will be very much what are considered as community standards. "They will listen to the science on this issue and we'll take a guide from them in making a final determination," he said.

Ikebal remarked that what the Australian Muslims and Jews were seeking was nothing more than being allowed to carry on with their

religious requirements within the bounds of the present legislation. "And if this in fact supports the Australian economy in the areas of export meat trade, then surely it will be in the interest of the Australian people to support this, especially if this was backed up by scientific studies which helped in taking out the emotion of animal cruelty out of the debate," he concludes.

Box:

Case In Point # 1:

The Hanover Study, as published in the German Veterinary Weekly, volume 85 (1978), pages 62-66. W. Schulze, H. Schultze-Petzold, A.S Hazem & R. Gross

A group of German scientists headed by Professor Wilhelm Schulze, et al from the University of Hanover in Germany have examined the claims put forward by concerned animal welfare organisations through the use of Electroencephalography (EEG) and Electrocardiography (ECG) results during the act of Halal and non-Halal slaughtering.

In the study, several electrodes were surgically implanted at various points of the skull of the animals used in the experiment, which were then were allowed a couple of weeks to recover. Some of the animals were subsequently slaughtered the Halal way by making a swift, deep incision on the neck region with a sharp knife. This meant cutting the jugular veins and carotid arteries of both sides together with the trachea and esophagus but leaving the spinal cord intact. The remaining animals were stunned with a captive bolt before slaughter using the captive bolt pistol method which is customary practice in Western slaughterhouses. The EEG and ECG recordings allowed the scientists to monitor the condition of the brain and heart throughout.

Results from the Halal method of slaughter showed that there were no changes in the EEG graph for the first three seconds after the incision was made, indicating that the animal did not feel any pain from the cut itself.

The following three seconds were defined by a condition of deep sleep-like consciousness brought about by the draining of large quantities of blood from the body. After that, the EEG recorded a zero reading which means there was no trace of pain found even though at the time the heart was still beating and the body was convulsing vigorously as a reflex reaction of the spinal cord. This is the phase most onlookers without proper understanding of the scientific findings would be falsely convinced of the animal's state of suffering. At this point, the animal's brain no longer records any messages from the body's sensory system.

Case In Point # 2:

2006 German Constitutional Court Ruling

On 23 November 2006, the judges of Germany's federal administrative tribunal rejected the demands of animal rights groups to outlaw Halal slaughtering under the basis of a previous German court ruling in 2002 by the German Constitutional Court that protects Halal slaughtering under religious freedom.

It was a great triumph, at least for a single Muslim butcher, Rustem Altinkupe, who had been allowed to carry out Halal slaughter between 1988 and 1995 but was denied his right to perform this method of slaughter by a 1995 court ruling. He fought that decision with a case which has presented before the Constitutional Court by arguing that the expertise statement was dated in the 1980s when Muslim abattoirs were non-existent in Germany.

He won the case under the basis that Federal Constitutional Law (BVG) grants minorities the right to live according to their faith amongst themselves if they otherwise observe the law, as well as the right to freely exercise their chosen profession or trade. Germany's legislation on cruelty of animals says warm-blooded animals must be anesthetized, usually by electrical stunning before the slaughter itself, but allows exemptions under religious rules such as Halal or Kosher slaughter.

AFIC HALAL SERVICES INGREDIENTS: THEIR SOURCES AND USES

The following are some of the major ingredients. These could be Halal if the origin of is not animal or alcohol based.

Acetic Acid - Source: plant juices, milk, oil petroleum and sometimes muscles. It is the final product of many aerobic fermentations.

Agar Agar - Sources: seaweed. Use: a substitute for gelatin (cream and in confectionery items).

Albumin - Sources: blood (serum albumin), milk (dairy), eggs. Use: coagulant and stiffener in baked goods.

Alginates - Source: seaweed. Forms: calcium alginate, alginic acid, sodium alginate, propylene glycol alginate. Uses: thickening and stabilizing agent in pastry, jelly, ice cream, cheese, candy, yogurt, canned frosting, whipped cream, and beer.

Alpha Amylase - Source: hog pancreas. Use: in flour to break down any starches.

Ambergris - Source: whale intestines. Use: flavoring (also used in perfume).

Anise - Source: fruit of an herb (in the parsley family). Use: flavoring foods and beverages.

Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C) - Source: synthetic or corn. Use: nutrient.

Ascorbyl Palmitate - Source: synthetic and palm oil. Use: preservative.

Benzoic Acid - Source: synthetic. Use: preservative.

BHA (Butylated hydroxyanisole) - Source: synthetic. Use: as an antioxidant in beverages, desserts, cereals, glazed fruits, dry mixes for beverages, and potato flakes and granules.

Calcium Carbonate - Source: limestone. Use: tooth powder and in removing acidity of wine.

Calcium Chloride - Source: synthetic. Use: in canned goods and in cottage and cheddar cheeses as a preservative.

Look out for the next edition of Muslims Australia, InshaAllah when we present more ingredients for your consideration.

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SIMPLY TOMATOES from Australia and recently promoted at the 2007 MIHAS exhibition in KL Malaysia, is benefiting from a continuing lift of profile.

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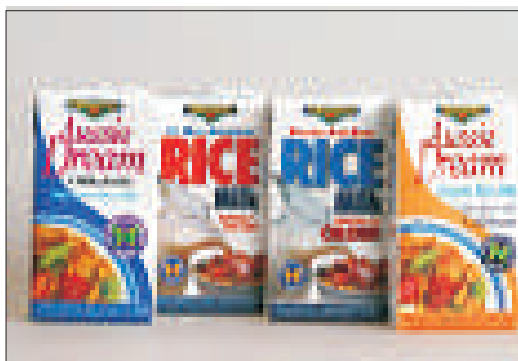


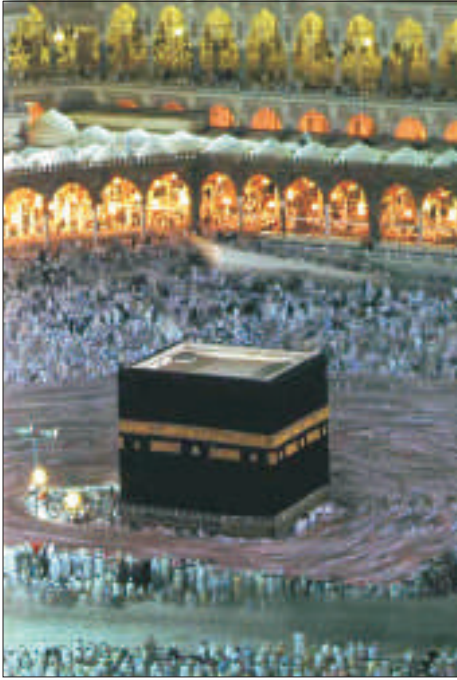
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HAJJ THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

“And anyone who honours the symbols set up by Allah shall know that, verily, these symbols derive their value from the God-consciousness in the believers hearts” **Al-Hajj 22:32**

“And make provision for yourselves but, verily the best of all provisions is God-consciousness; remain, then, conscious of Me, O you who are endowed with insight!” **Al-Baqarah 2:197**

The elements of pilgrimage are part of a glorious history and heritage of Islam, in addition to their being the keys to a treasury of effusive spirituality. For this reason the Hajj is counted among the five pillars of Islam.

The Hajj is a loving and gentle form of worship consisting primarily of the standing at Arafat, the circumambulation of the Ka'bah and a handful of lesser rites easily performed without the least difficulty or worry. Indeed, Islam demands the individual believer's sincerity, the maturity of his character, and the excellence of his relationship with Allah and of His worship.

The pilgrimage shall take place in the months appointed for it. Whosoever undertakes the pilgrimage in those months shall, while on pilgrimage, abstain from lewd speech, from wicked conduct and from quarreling, and whatsoever good you may do, Allah is aware of it.

This journey to the Holy land undoubtedly polishes the soul, cleanses the heart, and engenders love for Allah and His prophet and for all believers. It is then not surprising that the Prophet PBUH said *“Whosoever undertakes the pilgrimage to the Holy land and abstains from lewd speech and wicked conduct, will shed his sins and become as pure as the day his mother gave birth to him.”*

Hajj Travel Tips

For more than a decade from the early 1980's to mid 1990's AFIC offered intending pilgrims administrative and travel support services to undertake this, most privileged journey's of a lifetime.

With the onset of numerous travel agencies specialising in Hajj travel packages and equally, almost every Mosque around Australia, today organises Hajj packages for their regular patrons, the choices available to the intending pilgrim, many and varied.

To those who intend, InshaAllah, to undertake this, once in a lifetime journey, we offer some recommendations, which we hope will be helpful.

1. As far as possible, make your Hajj arrangements as part of a Group, your local Mosque or reputable travel agent with experience in Hajj packages, which may include a Hajj guide who is part of the group and able to offer advice, guidance and the like.
2. Be prepared; do your homework before you travel. Familiarize yourself with the rites, rituals and requirements of Hajj.
3. Attend Hajj seminars and programs organised by your local Mosque, Islamic Society and/or travel agent to familiarize yourself with the steps involved in completing the Hajj.

4. Understand the physical and spiritual elements involved in the Hajj.

5. Be clear about the type of accommodation on offer remember, the Australian 3,4,5 star standard of accommodation may not be equivalent, over there. Be aware of the number of people sharing the sleeping areas and other facilities to avoid disappointment when you arrive at your destination. Check whether food is included in the package, the type of food on offer, if you have particular food requirements etc. Food is also readily available in Mecca and Madina. If food is not part of the package ensure some arrangements are made for food during your stay in Mina and Arafat.

6. If you have a particular medical condition and are on medication check with your doctor that you can safely undertake the journey and ensure you have adequate medication for the duration of your travel and stay.

7. As with all travel, remember to travel light. Clothing for Hajj is simple and readily available here and in Saudi Arabia. Footwear should be light and comfortable. Temperatures can vary, ensure you are prepared.

8. Above all else, bear in mind, you are embarking on a journey of a lifetime as a guest of Allah SWT as are the millions who will join you, so smile, be grateful to Allah, that you are able to make this journey when, so many others, for reasons beyond our pail

cannot make this journey. Be kind, show compassion to your fellow pilgrim and be patient. On this journey your patience will be tested on numerous occasions, be humble and resolve any differences calmly and with wisdom. Ask Allah to grant you good health, strength and help guide you through any difficulties you may encounter.

9. Remember the Muslim Ummah in your duas during your tawaf and at Arafat.

There is one dua which the Prophet PBUH, never tired of repeating, during tawaf of the Ka'bah and between Safa and Marwa:

"O our Lord! Grant us good in this world and good in the life to come, and keep us safe from suffering through the fire" Al-Baqarah 2:201

To all pilgrims we wish you a safe journey, May Allah accept your devotion and InshaAllah return you to your homes, full of motivation and inspiration that will inspire others to Inshallah undertake this journey of a lifetime.



MESSAGE FROM ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

My brothers and sisters in Islam,
Assalaam alikum wa rahmatullah was barakatahu

I would like to congratulate all Muslim brothers and sisters at the beginning of Eid Al Fitr Al mubarak, asking God to restore us and to keep us in the best way.

We farewell the holy month of Ramadan, during this month Muslims have been in worship and obedience to God and have sensed the meaning of fraternity and the suffering of the needy in the world by reaming for long hours without food or drink. It is important to keep these feelings even after the end of Ramadan, we should keep the sense of suffering of the weak and the poor wherever they are.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain, that since I've arrive in Australia I've noticed that, there are various genuine Islamic activities which are moderate, fair and significant related to various Muslim organisations. These various Islamic organisations deserve our respect and appreciation. These activities play a very effective role in guiding the community and also reflect the real bright image of Islam calling for harmony and coexistence. Hence, I call on my brothers and sisters to further brotherhood and coherence and communication with the Australian community and Government.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to thank the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils that gave me the opportunity to deliver this message to the readers of this magazine, calling on God to bring this occasion to everyone to be blessed and keep us in the best way.

Ambassador of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Australia

Hassan Nazer

27 September 2007



Masjid Nabi





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Hajj 2007 / 1428h



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HILTON PACKAGE 2007 / 1428h

NO.	DAY	DATE	HJRA	SCHEDULE
1	TUE	27 Nov	17 Dhul-Qadha	AUSTRALIA - SINGAPORE
2	WED	28 Nov	18 Dhul-Qadha	SINGAPORE - JEDDAH
3	THU	29 Nov	19 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
4	FRI	30 Nov	20 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
5	SAT	01 Dec	21 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
6	SUN	02 Dec	22 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
7	MON	03 Dec	23 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
8	TUE	04 Dec	24 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
9	WED	05 Dec	25 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH - MADRINAH
10	THU	06 Dec	26 Dhul-Qadha	MADRINAH
11	FRI	07 Dec	27 Dhul-Qadha	MADRINAH
12	SAT	08 Dec	28 Dhul-Qadha	MADRINAH
13	SUN	09 Dec	29 Dhul-Qadha	MADRINAH
14	MON	10 Dec	30 Dhul-Qadha	MADRINAH
15	TUE	11 Dec	01 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MADRINAH
16	WED	12 Dec	02 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MADRINAH
17	THU	13 Dec	03 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MADRINAH
18	FRI	14 Dec	04 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MADRINAH - JEDDAH
19	SAT	15 Dec	05 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
20	SUN	16 Dec	06 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
21	MON	17 Dec	07 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
22	TUE	18 Dec	08 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
23	WED	19 Dec	09 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
24	THU	20 Dec	10 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
25	FRI	21 Dec	11 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
26	SAT	22 Dec	12 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH - JEDDAH
27	SUN	23 Dec	13 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH
28	MON	24 Dec	14 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH
29	TUE	25 Dec	15 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH
30	WED	26 Dec	16 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - SYDNEY - AU

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- Zamzam in Madinah & Madinah
- Hajj
- English speaking Guide/Mustawfi
- Hajj Kit - Overnight Bag, Men's Ihram & Baki-Ladun Prayer capset, Pouch & Prayer Mat, Zamzam @ 10 litres per person
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ROYAL HAJJ PACKAGE 2007 / 1428h

NO.	DAY	DATE	HJRA	SCHEDULE
1	WED	28 Nov	18 Dhul-Qadha	MELBOURNE - SINGAPORE
2	THU	29 Nov	19 Dhul-Qadha	SINGAPORE - JEDDAH - MAD
3	FRI	30 Nov	20 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
4	SAT	01 Dec	21 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
5	SUN	02 Dec	22 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
6	MON	03 Dec	23 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
7	TUE	04 Dec	24 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
8	WED	05 Dec	25 Dhul-Qadha	MADRINAH - MAKKAH
9	THU	06 Dec	26 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
10	FRI	07 Dec	27 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
11	SAT	08 Dec	28 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
12	SUN	09 Dec	29 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
13	MON	10 Dec	30 Dhul-Qadha	MAKKAH
14	TUE	11 Dec	01 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
15	WED	12 Dec	02 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
16	THU	13 Dec	03 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
17	FRI	14 Dec	04 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH - JEDDAH
18	SAT	15 Dec	05 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
19	SUN	16 Dec	06 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
20	MON	17 Dec	07 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
21	TUE	18 Dec	08 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
22	WED	19 Dec	09 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
23	THU	20 Dec	10 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
24	FRI	21 Dec	11 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
25	SAT	22 Dec	12 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH - JEDDAH
26	SUN	23 Dec	13 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH
27	MON	24 Dec	14 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH
28	TUE	25 Dec	15 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH
29	WED	26 Dec	16 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - SYDNEY - AU
30	THU	27 Dec	17 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - SYDNEY - AU

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HAJJ 16 DAYS PACKAGE 2007 / 1428h

NO.	DAY	DATE	HJRA	SCHEDULE
1	SAT	09 Dec	28 Dhul-Qadha	AUSTRALIA - SINGAPORE
2	SUN	10 Dec	29 Dhul-Qadha	SINGAPORE - JEDDAH
3	MON	11 Dec	30 Dhul-Qadha	JEDDAH - MADRINAH
4	TUE	12 Dec	01 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MADRINAH
5	WED	13 Dec	02 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MADRINAH
6	THU	14 Dec	03 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MADRINAH
7	FRI	15 Dec	04 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MADRINAH - MAKKAH
8	SAT	16 Dec	05 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
9	SUN	17 Dec	06 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
10	MON	18 Dec	07 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
11	TUE	19 Dec	08 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH - MINA
12	WED	20 Dec	09 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MAKKAH
13	THU	21 Dec	10 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MINA
14	FRI	22 Dec	11 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MINA
15	SAT	23 Dec	12 Dhu'l-Hijjah	MINA - JEDDAH
16	SUN	24 Dec	13 Dhu'l-Hijjah	JEDDAH - SYDNEY - AU

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Trip: **A\$8950.00**
Quota: **A\$8550.00**

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PRESS RELEASES

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIMS IN THE DARK OVER BOMB SUSPECTS

6 July 2007

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils President, Mr Ikebal Patel said that Muslims Leaders are investigating whether one of the men being questioned by police in connection with bombing attempts in Brisbane was a member of their community. The person in question is not familiar to anyone and the locals are shocked to hear of the arrests and have no knowledge of the man.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils President, Mr Ikebal Patel had said that the wider Australian community should not blame the religion of Islam or the foreign doctors in the Medical fraternity for the actions of the few if indeed they are linked to the perpetrators of the UK bombing attempts. "The vast majority of Australian and indeed global Muslims are also innocent victims and therefore they should not be described with the label of Islamic terrorists and the like," said Mr Patel.

Mr Patel concluded by appealing to the international community to reconsider its so called war on terrorism as this has not reduced the threats of terrorism and violence but that such threats and incidences have continued and perhaps even increased just as the situation in Iraq has deteriorated. He said that there is a serious need to look at the root causes of terrorism and violence particularly those emanating from the Middle East which also has serious political overtones. It is also concerning that more and more educated and articulate young Muslims are being radicalised. Mr Patel said that the international community and indeed national governments must work with their Islamic and other communities in dealing with these issues. Governments by themselves cannot win the war against the terrorists just as the terrorists cannot be defeated with powerful weapons," said Mr Patel.

For further information contact

Mr Ikebal Adam Patel, President - 0419 418 237

JUSTICE FOR DR HANEEF

20 July 2007

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils President, Mr Ikebal Patel expressed concern that Dr Mohamed Haneef, the Indian doctor from Gold Coast arrested on terrorism charges has had his visa cancelled after a Magistrate in Brisbane granted him bail.

Mr Patel had urged the Australian Government to respect Dr Haneef's dignity and rights and to deal with any perceived threats from Dr Haneef in a fair and just manner. The Prime Minister has himself said that Dr Haneef is presumed innocent until a court finds him otherwise.

He offered comfort and sympathy to Dr Haneef's wife and family in India who undoubtedly are going through an extremely uncertain future.

He further added that as religious leaders espousing peace and harmony among the humankind, we express our on-going concern for national security and condemn any form of violence and terrorism. If Dr Haneef is found to be guilty of any complicity in the attempted London bombings then he must face the consequences. In the meantime, we appeal to the Australian Government to deal with him within the bounds of human rights. His visa should be reinstated and he should be provided with legal assistance to safeguard his rights.

Mr Patel said that we remind all Australians to work harder for peace and harmony in our society and to join hands in friendship and human brotherhood, respecting and acknowledging the rights of all for freedom and peace in this country of ours and beyond. May God give wisdom to our national leaders, and protect us all.

For further information contact

Mr Ikebal Adam Patel, President - 0419 418 237

DR MOHAMMED HANEEF TERRORISM CHARGE DROPPED - TEST OF FAIRNESS FOR MIGRATION ACT

27 July 2007

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Adam Patel had expressed joy on hearing the news that Federal Director of Public Prosecutions Mr Damian Bugg, QC, had dropped the terror charges against Dr Mohamed Haneef as there was no reasonable prospect of him being convicted on the available evidence.

Mr Patel said that Mr Damian Bugg had an obligation as the DPP of this country to ensure that no person is prosecuted for an offence unless there is a reasonable prospect of conviction.

And in light of this case, it is also now a responsibility of all law enforcement agencies to take particular care in not only not impinging on the human rights and freedom of individuals, but in fact to make it their duty to safe guard these human rights of all Australian citizens and 'visitors' to this country.

Mr Patel had reiterated his call to Hon. Kevin Andrews for the reinstatement of Dr Mohamed Haneef's visa in the light of new developments and in the interest of fairness and justice.

He further said that any decision to the contrary would be a great injustice and against one of the cherished and internationally envied Australian values of "a fair go".

The world is watching with baited breath that this value is not also now going to be a casualty and sacrificed in trying to be seen to be tough in the fight against terrorism.

For further information contact

Mr Ikebal Adam Patel, President - 0419 418 237

STOP THIS PAULINE'S UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY

17 August 2007

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Adam Patel said that The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils and Australian Muslims at large are concerned that Ms Pauline Hanson, who is back in politics after she lost her own seat, is inciting hatred and fear amongst the wider community once again.

Mr Patel said that he is confident that the average Australian voter is much more astute than to fall for this ploy of hers. Islam like all religions evolves and adapts to its changing environment. It has a deep tradition in jurisprudence and Islamic scholars are constantly revising new issues as they arise. Islam teaches peace, tolerance and unity. Islam offers its adherents deep spiritualism and strong sense of justice and equity. Australians need not fear Islam as it is one of the great religions of the world but work with the willing Australian Muslims to foster religious and cultural tolerance in our nation.

Mr Patel said the statement issued by Ms Hanson to place moratorium on Muslim migration is irresponsible and unjustified. He added that when a Muslim migrates to Australia he brings with him hope of a new found future of peace, harmony and prosperity. His every basic value and norm is absolutely and unequivocally compatible with Australia's values, norms and notions of living.

He further said that Australia is a modern democratic country which has been built and prospered as a result of diverse migration from different parts of the world, including the pioneer and more recent Muslims. Instead of trying to cause fear, Ms Hanson is invited to a meeting with the leadership of Australian Muslims over kebabs and baklava where she can be briefed as to how Australian Muslims presence can be exploited to further enhance Australian economy in many areas. This is the only way to move forward in an enlightened manner.

MUSLIMS CALL FOR RELEASE OF KOREAN HOSTAGES

3 August 2007

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC), Mr Ikebal Adam Patel on behalf of the Muslims of Australia today called on the captors of Korean hostages in Afghanistan to free the innocent civilians who are there to help the rebuilding of this country.

Mr Patel vehemently condemned the killing of two hostages and added that no amount of excuse or reason can justify such an atrocious crime.

Mr Patel on behalf of Muslims of Australia offered his deepest sympathy to the families of the killed hostages.

Mr Patel appealed to the captors that such action was not supported by humanitarian principles and the teachings of Islam. "I appeal to you in the name of Muslims of the whole world to release the other innocent civilians without any further suffering that these innocent civilians had already been subjected to".

Mr Patel has urged the Australian Government to take a more active role in resolving the crisis in Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine which is threatening to embroil the world into a major conflict.

Mr Patel has also urged the Muslim community to campaign for peace and solidarity of the human society.

COURT OPENS WAY FOR DOCTOR HANEEF'S RETURN TO AUSTRALIA

21 August 2007

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Adam Patel has welcomed the Federal Court's decision to quash Mr Kevin Andrew's decision to cancel the former Gold Coast-based doctor's work visa.

"I sincerely hope that Mr Andrews will accept the court's decision and make it possible for Dr Haneef to return to Australia" said Mr Patel.

The international community is waiting with baited breath the Australian Government's response to this decision and this would be a good opportunity for the Australian people to regain some credibility again by putting this saga behind them and relish the exposure that APEC will bring to our land. The Australian Government could do this by simply allowing an innocent man to continue with his life by reinstating his visa.

He further said that any decision to the contrary would be a great injustice and against one of the cherished and internationally envied Australian values of "a fair go" and "fair play".



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