

THE MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN

A step towards greater consultation, cooperation and coordination on Muslim Affairs in the UK.

The Muslim Council of Britain Weekly E-Newsletter *24 Thw al-Hijjah 1422 Friday 8 March 2002*

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Reports and Committee updates

Muslim World League Delegation Visits London

A senior delegation from the Muslim World League (Rabita al-alam al-islamia) arrived in London on Sunday 3rd March on a one week visit. The delegation is led by H.E Dr Abdullah bin Abdul Muhsin Al-Turki, Secretary General of the Muslim World League. A welcoming reception was held at the Islamic Cultural Centre, London, where the Director General, Dr. Ahmad Al-Dubayan, welcomed the delegation. Iqbal Sacranie, Vice-Chair of the MCB Media Committee, welcomed the delegation on behalf of Muslim organisations.

A reception and seminar, hosted by Lord Ahmed was held in the House of Lords. Amongst the guests present were the MCB Secretary General, Yousuf Bhailok, Deputy Secretary General, Mahmud Al-Rashid and Chair of the International Affairs Committee, Tanzeem Wasti.

An evening reception was held at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, where a number of MCB members were also present.

Scotland Yard

Yousuf Bhailok and Chair of the Membership Committee, Dr. Abdul Raheem Khan, attended a meeting at New Scotland Yard on Tuesday 5th March. They met with senior officers from all over the country and among matters discussed were misconceptions held about the Muslim community. After a short introductory lecture a question and answer session was held and police officers were allowed the opportunity to ask questions about Islam. They were informed that Islam is a non-violent, peaceful religion which does not approve of terrorism. The MCB was complimented by the police for its role in the community.

Pride of Britain Awards

Yousuf Bhailok and Chair of the Families and Womens Support Committee, Dr Fatma Amer, attended The Pride of Britain Awards on Monday 4th March at the London Hilton. The event was hosted by Carol Vorderman and honoured individuals who have shown courage and achievement in everyday life.

International Affairs Committee

Palestine

Tanzeem Wasti, Chair of the International Affairs Committee met with a Palestinian delegation on Wednesday 27th February at the UK Islamic Mission Office. The delegation acknowledged the efforts of the MCB and there was discussion on unfolding events in Palestine.

Gujarat

Yousuf Bhailok organised a meeting with Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and the High Commissioner of India. He met with colleagues from The Indian Muslim Federation and the Council of Indian Muslims and condemned the recent carnage in India. MCB officials have been in touch with both organisations and have supported the stance taken on the recent tragic events. Yousuf Bhailok has been in daily contact with people in Ahmedabad and the Baruch district and has also been liaising with Muslim Aid in an attempt to send funds to the region.

A press release has been issued by the MCB which can be viewed on the [website](#).

Community Affairs Committee

Dr. Jafer Qureshi, Vice-Chair of the Community Affairs Committee, Mr Saleem Akhtar, Chairman of the Confederation of Sunni Mosques in the Midlands and Dr. Naseem, Chair of Birmingham Central Mosque and Iqbal Sacranie, met members of the recently set up Coroners Review Group in Birmingham on 21st February. They conveyed their concerns on issues relating to Post Mortems and the procedures relating to Death Certification.

Dr Jafer Qureshi, took part in a discussion on Sunday 3rd March on the subject of Stem Cell Research on Radio Southampton.

Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWRC)

Shiban Akbar, Vice Chair of the Social Policy, Welfare and Regeneration Committee (SPWRC) attended a meeting at Cowley Police Station, Oxford on Wednesday 27th February.

This was at the invitation of Sergeant Paul Hembury, Community and Race Relations Officer. Issues discussed included the logistics, programme content and delivery of Community and Race Relations training for local police.

Legal Affairs Committee

In the past year the Legal Affairs Committee has been meeting to discuss how best the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the Muslim Council of Britain can reflect and meet the changing needs and demands of the community. At its special meetings held on 24 November 2001 and 5 January 2002 to which the Chairs of all the MCB Committees together with a number of special guests had been invited, a consultation paper prepared by Khurshid Drabu was discussed in detail. As Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee and Adviser to the MCB on Constitutional Affairs, Khurshid Drabu was requested to prepare and submit a report to the Central Working Committee setting out all the changes that were proposed to the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

The Secretary General convened a special meeting of the Central Working Committee at the ICC on 16 February 2002 to consider the recommendations in relation to the Constitution and the Standing Orders. The meeting was well attended. The recommendations made were approved and these will now be put to the Annual General Meeting on 28 April 2002.

Media Committee

The MCB Media Consultative Committee - a new initiative first announced during the launch of Islam Awareness Week last year - chaired by Lord Weatherill, met for the first time on Tuesday 5th March 2002 in the House of Lords.

The attendees included representatives from The Times, The Guardian, BBC, Press Complaints Commission, ITC, Broadcasting Standards Commission, Diversity Network - Carlton Television, as well as members of the MCB Media Committee. The group is looking into the contentious issues surrounding the use of offensive terminology and the representation of Muslims in the media.

Letters to the Independent and the Daily Mail

Inayat Bunglawala, Secretary of the Media Committee wrote to Peter Popham of The Independent expressing the MCB's appreciation for recent articles in The Independent describing the VHP-led carnage in India. Their reporting lifted the deceptive public mask of the BJP government in the

Gujarat State.

The Media Committee also wrote a letter of complaint to the editor of the Daily Mail regarding Matthew Kalman's one-sided articles on the 3rd and 4th of March. While reporting the death of Israelis at length, the fact that Palestinians were also killed by Israeli troops seemed to warrant only one line at the bottom of his articles.

Events

For more information please contact:

CRE Parliamentary Reception

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) is holding a Parliamentary Reception in order to celebrate the production of their Statutory Code of Practice following the passing of the new Race Relations Act and CRE's 25th Anniversary. The event will take place on 12th March at the House of Commons.

Simon Hughes, MP will be acting as host and the guest speaker will be the Minister for Community, Race Equality and Europe, Angela Eagle, MP. Mahmud Al-Rashid, Deputy Secretary General, will be attending on behalf of the MCB.

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/>

Public Meeting in Batley

On Saturday 9th March there is a meeting of Gujarati people from throughout the UK at the Al-Hikmah Centre in Batley, West Yorkshire and Yousuf Bhailok will be participating. For further details please contact Musa Kazi at the centre on 01924 500 555.

Course for School Teachers

The MCB is holding a one day course for school teachers entitled "Understanding Islam". It will be held at the MWL on Saturday 9th March. The course will include presentations by Muslim educationalists and researchers and examine challenges and opportunities inherent in delivering education in a multi-faith society.

