

Muslim Council of Britain Weekly E-Newsletter

3 Thw al-Qi`dah 1422 Friday 18 January 2002

Weekly Updates on Reports, Committees and Events: Issue IX

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Reports and Committee updates

'Building Bridges - Overcoming Obstacles in Muslim Christian Relations'

Dr Fatma Amer, Chair of the Women's and Families Support Committee of the MCB today (January 17th) attended the 'Building Bridges - Overcoming Obstacles in Muslim Christian Relations' conference hosted by The Archbishop of Canterbury, DR George Carey, at Lambeth Palace.

Reception for Faith Community Representatives

MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok will this evening attend the reception for Faith Community representatives at No.10 Downing Street.

Target 2015 Booklet Launch

The Rt. Hon. Clare Short MP, Secretary of State for International Development joined the MCB, Islamic Relief and Muslim Aid to launch 'Target 2015: Halving World Poverty' on Wednesday January 16th.

The booklet launch took place at Portcullis House in London. MCB Secretary General Yousuf Bhailok, DR Hany El-Banna, Managing Director of Islamic Relief and Chowdhury Mueenuddin, Vice Chair of Muslim Aid, all attended the launch.

Target 2015 is a new collaboration between the British Government and British Muslim charities to realise the common good. It is an attempt to turn a shared vision of reducing global poverty into reality by working together.

Clare Short speaking at the event said that 'the duty now was not one simply of charitable donations, or moral giving, but a matter of justice'. She stated that Target 2015 was the international system's operationalisation of recommendations and agreements forged at UN conferences on how to alleviate abject poverty.

The MCB Secretary General commended Clare Short and the Chancellor, Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, for their leadership in combating world poverty through debt reduction and foreign aid. He also commended them on their approach in promoting consultation with faith communities.

Target 2015 sets seven objectives agreed by the governments of the world that the UK Government and British Muslim charities will work towards in their campaign to cut by half the proportion of people who live in abject poverty.

To join the campaign against global poverty and to learn more about how you can help hit Target 2015 contact the MCB office on media@mcb.org.uk for your free copy of the booklet.

MCB Central Committee Meeting

The MCB's Central Working Committee met on Saturday January 12th.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the MCB Secretary General, Yousuf Bhailok and MCB committees to inform and update the Central Working Committee on work carried out in the last quarter.

International Affairs Committee

Meeting with the Foreign Secretary

An MCB delegation met with the British Foreign Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP, at his constituency on Saturday January 12th. The delegation expressed their concerns on the stand-off between India and Pakistan and the future of Kashmir.

Meeting with Bosnian PM, Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the UK

Tanzeem Wasti, Chair of the International Affairs Committee, met with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bosnia and the Bosnian Ambassador to the UK at the Royal Institute for International Affairs' meeting on 'Bosnia and Herzegovina: new policy, new image' on Monday January 14th.

Media Committee

ITN Apologises to MCB for 'Terrorist Capitals' phrase

The MCB media committee wrote to ITN News in late December 2001 to complain of a TV news report by their reporter Terry Lloyd who had described the movements of the alleged shoe-bomber Richard Reid. Terry Lloyd had said that Mr Reid had visited various 'Terrorist capitals' during his travels and mentioned Islamabad, Cairo and Istanbul in the same sentence.

The MCB have this week received a letter from the Deputy Editor of ITV News, Robin Elias, dated 10th January 2002 in which he has apologised to the MCB and has agreed "that the phrase 'terrorist capitals of the world' was inappropriate."

London Task Group

Meeting with the Met.

DR Abdur Raheem Khan met on January 9th with the Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Authority, David Veness. The meeting continues the close co-operation established between the Metropolitan Police and the Muslim community since September 11th. The MPA, Muslim community representatives and police authorities across the UK have been working closely since Sept. 11th to address any incidents of religiously motivated abuse/ assault against Muslims.

British Hajj Advisory Group

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office with the assistance of the MCB, has published a leaflet 'Advice to British Hajjis'. The leaflet offers advice on how to prepare for Hajj and outlines the services the British Hajj Delegation can provide British pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. For a copy/ copies of the leaflet email davids.burton@fco.gov.uk. Alternatively, write to David Burton, Community Liaison Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Old Admiralty Building, London SW1A 2AF.

Events

London Charity Concert for Afghanistan

The London Charity Concert for Afghanistan will take place at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday January 19th. The concert will draw together Afghan, British, European and Middle Eastern artists in a musical collaboration to raise funds for the Afghan people.

Association of Muslim Professionals Annual Dinner 2002

The Association of Muslim Professionals will hold their Annual Dinner on Saturday January 19th at the City Hall in Cardiff. Lord Elis-Thomas, the Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales will be the chief guest.

Visual Islamic & Traditional Arts (VITA) Interim Show

The Visual Islamic & Traditional Arts project of The Prince's Foundation will be holding an interim

show on Monday January 21st.

Miscellaneous

The Farm Animal Welfare Council this week publishes a report on 'Foot and Mouth Disease 2001 and Animal Welfare: Lessons for the Future'. For a copy of the report contact Charlene Hull at Charlene.Hull@defra.gsi.gov.uk

