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In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

The HOPE Bulletin

Health, Ongoing Projects, Education

Editor: Nasir Ahmad B.A. LL.B.



Worldwide Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement (AAHL)
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BERLIN CONVENTION 2017

Vol. No. 12, Issue No. 10

IN MEMORY OF JALAL-UD-DIN AKBAR IBN-I ABDULLAH, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

1ST EUROPEAN LAHORE AHMADIYYA ANNUAL CONVENTION
15-17 SEPTEMBER 2017
[AHMADIYYA ANJUMAN ISHA'AT-I-ISLAM LAHORE, GERMANY]



MOTTO ISLAM: I SHALL LOVE ALL MANKIND



Berlin Mosque 1924-1927

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We are sorry that the monthly Hope for August, September and October are late. The present issue will be October 2017 issue. It is publishing mainly an overview of the First European Convention of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam held on 15th to 17th September, 2017 at the Berlin Mosque, Germany. Due to limited space, this issue will publish photos only of the speakers who participated in the Peace Demonstration held on 16 September. The remaining photos relating to the three-day events will be published in the issues for November and December 2017. We are starting from this issue a regular feature of "What the readers Say". Our special guest in this issue is Mr. Salman ibni Tufail, son of our very learned and dedicated scholar, author and *muballigh*, the late Maulana Sheikh Muhammad Tufail. We hope our readers will enjoy his thoughtful writing and of others in its future issues in this column. We will welcome all our readers to contribute their valuable thoughts - Editor.

* * *

A SURPRISE NEWS FROM DAILY NEWSPAPER, "DER TAGESSPEIGAL", BERLIN

THE GREAT NOBLE PRIZE-WINNER AND SCIENTIST ALBERT EINSTEIN AND OTHER RENOWNED LAUREATES OF GERMANY VISITED THE GUEST HOUSE OF THE BERLIN MOSQUE IN MARCH 1929 ON ITS INAUGURATION

[We are pleased to publish below a letter from one of the staff editors, Ms. Andie Pohlars, of the daily „Der Tagesspiegel“ of Berlin. She asked Dr. Zahid Aziz, webmaster of our website lahore.ahmadiyya.org permission to reproduce a photo of the Berlin Mosque from the website. Mr. Amir Aziz, Imam of the Berlin Mosque further communicated with the staff editor in this connection. It led to the most exciting discovery that the world-renowned scientist and Nobel Prize Winner Mr. Albert Einstein and other renowned novelists and laureates attended the inauguration of the Guest House of the Berlin Mosque in March 1929. We are giving below English translation of the news Report and names of two other books where this visit has been reported:

1. *Islam in Deutschland (Islam in Germany)* by Faruk Şen and Hayrettin Aydın, published by Verlag C. H. Beck, Munich, 2002.
2. *Jahrbuch Stadterneuerung, 2008 (The Urban Renewal Year Book 2008)* published by Arbeitskreise Stadterneuerung an deutschsprachigen Hochschulen (German-speaking Universities Working Group for Urban Renewal) in collaboration with the Institut für Stadt- und Regionalplanung der Technischen Universität Berlin (University of Berlin Institute for Urban and Regional Planning), published, Berlin 2008.

We are thankful to Dr. Zahid Aziz and Mr. Selim Ahmed for helping us in the English translation of the German text and locating the names and publishers of the two books referred to in this note. Ed.]

* * *

Ms Angie Pohlens
Der Tagesspiegel
Askanischer Platz 3
10963 Berlin
9.10.2017

“Dear Sir ,

In our edition (of the paper) from October 1, we have started a special feature about the 1920s in Berlin - all (news) items in the four columns had been written in view of that time. So to speak,(it will) be a little journalistic experiment. Now we would like to put the article online and need for the text at least one photo. On the homepage of (your website) I have found this photo of the Mosque: <http://berlin.ahmadiyya.org/hist-photos/mosque1.htm>

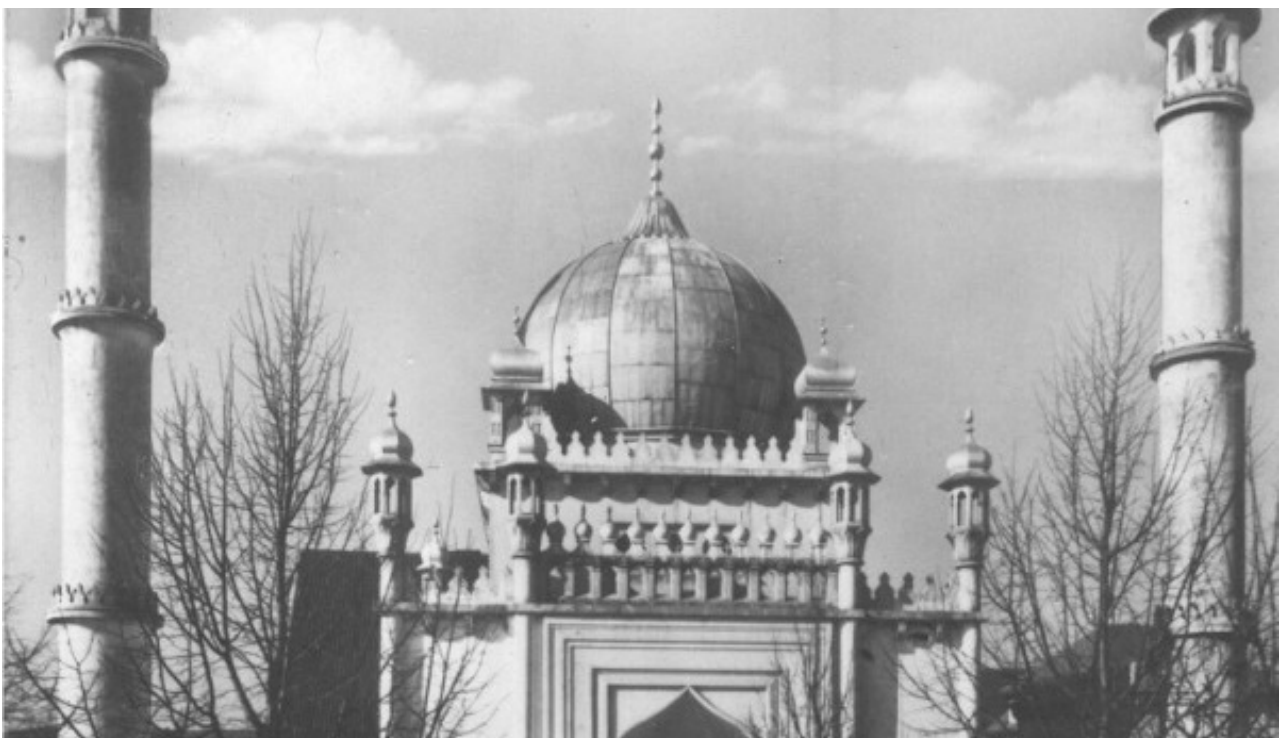
I want to ask if we could use this picture for online publication. The accompanying article that my colleague Johannes Laubmeier wrote, is available on the lower (extreme) left (of the page) under the caption: „Crescent over Wilmersdorf“.

We would be happy for allowing us. For questions, contact or to call me. I will be in the newsroom tomorrow at 11 am.”

* * *

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE GERMAN TEXT

BERLIN'S FIRST MOSQUE ATTRACTED (ALBERT) EINSTEIN



Crescent over Wilmersdorf – THE BERLIN MOSQUE

HOUSE OF GOD IN WILMERSDORF OPENS IT WELCOMES PROMINENT GUESTS (AND MEMBERS OF ALL FAITHS) (A REPORT FROM SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 1929).

BY JONNES C. BOCKENHEIMER

On the occasion of launching of "Babylon Berlin" ventured on October 13th, we have to undertake a 'thought experiment' and wrote articles from that time. We noticed that many topics - housing shortages, anger around the airport, wild parties - were then, as today, (important issues) for Berlin.

For a year now, the sight of this exotic, magnificent building has delighted the eyes of the Berliners. The talk is, of course, about the Wilmersdorf Mosque in Brienner Strasse, (Berlin) which opened in March last year - after four years of construction. The preacher of the Mosque, Imam Sadr-ud-Din, wants to tell the people that the place is a meeting place for believers of all denominations: "Our Mosque, I hope, will speak in eloquent language of the Unity of God and brotherhood of mankind. This Guest House (adjacent to the Berlin Mosque) is to proclaim that there is only one God above all of us, Who is also God of all peoples. "

The Imam is therefore also convinced that his faith in Berlin will bring good to others, and will also find new followers: "Islam is not only one of the five great world religions, but it is the religion of mankind par excellence. It does not belong to any particular people, nor to any particular country," he says.

"Christians, Jews and Freethinkers are welcome."

But even those who do not wish to carry out the transition to the oriental faith are likely to be interested in the events of the Muslim community. "The focus of our meetings is on lectures on Islam, its religious and cultural significance and on subjects of comparative religion," says Hugo Marcus, the writer, who (as president of the German Muslim Society) runs the business of the Mosque (Society).

And (Mr. Hamid) Marcus, who converted from Jewish faith to Islam, promises: "The membership and the cordial visit are also open to members of all faiths, all races and (all) classes. Christians, Jews, Freethinkers and (others) are as welcome as our Muslim brethren. We do not restrict anyone (from joining our meetings and taking part in the discussions) . "

Thomas Mann and Hermann Hesse were also visiting

Many Berliners have already followed the invitation of the community and have attended events in the House of God - such as Albert Einstein, Martin Buber, Martin Niemoller, Thomas Mann and Hermann Hesse.

The Muslim community asks for political activities of all kinds. The meetings take place every first Friday of the month at 8.30 am in the house next to the Mosque, [Brienner Straße 7](#).

Marti Niemoller

Friedrich Gustav Emil Martin Niemöller was a German anti-Nazi theologian and Lutheran pastor. He is best known for a widely-paraphrased statement which he made in different versions.

Thomas Mann

Paul Thomas Mann was a German novelist, short story writer, social critic, philanthropist, essayist, and the 1929 Nobel Prize winner in Literature laureate.

Hermann Hesse

Hermann Karl Hesse was a German-born poet, novelist, and painter. His best known works include *Demian*, *Steppenwolf*, *Siddhartha*, and *The Glass Bead Game*, each of which explores an individual's search for authenticity, self-knowledge and spirituality.

Martin Buber

Martin Buber was an Austrian-born Israeli Jewish philosopher best known for his philosophy of dialogue, a form of existentialism centred on the distinction between the I–Thou relationship and the I–It relationship.

Here is the link to the original:

<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/zwanziger-jahre-berlins-erste-moschee-zog-auch-einstein-an/20400226.html>

* * *

OVERVIEW OF THE THREE-DAY CONVENTION

FIRST EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE LAHORE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

HELD ON 15-17 SEPTEMBER 2017

AT THE BERLIN MOSQUE, WILMERSDORF, BERLIN (GERMANY)

* * *

Besides members from USA, Trinidad, Suriname, Holland, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Sweden, Ukrain, Pakistan and different parts of Germany

Presidents of FOUR major Jama'ats of Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement from Indonesia, Suriname, Holland and United Kingdom specially came to take part in this historic CONVENTION

* * *

Main Features of the Convention:

Friday 15 September

- Fajr congregational Prayer led by Hazrat Ameer
- Dars-e Qur'an by Mr. Shahid Aziz (UK)

Morning session

- Friday sermon by PROF. DR ABDUL KARIM SAEED

HEAD and President of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam

- Summary in German and Arabic by Mr. Amir Aziz, Imam, the Berlin Mosque.

Afternoon Session

- Qur'anic recitation: Nasir Ahmad (UK)
- Opening speech: Hazrat Ameer Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed
- Ms Katja Weise M. Sc. Architecture, Supervising Architect, Mosque Repairs Project.
- Dr. Zahid Aziz: Author of several books and
- Webmaster : www.lahore.ahmadiyya.org (UK)
- Bro Sattar Dost Mohammed, president, Stichting Ahmadiyya Anjuman, Hague, Holland
- Poem: Sister Galida Badeolla, Suriname
- Bro. Farias Rodjan, (Engineer) Hague, Holland.
- Dr. Robbert Bipat, president SIV., Suriname
- Mr. Inshaal Ahmad B.A. Hons., Nottingham University(UK)
- Sister Phoel Ramkisoensing, Hague, Holland recited a poem of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement
- Dinner hosted by Mrs. Nasma Nasrullah, Rotterdam, Holland.
Conducted by Dr. Jawad Ahmad (UK)

* * *

Saturday 16 September

- Fajr congregational Prayer led by Hazrat Ameer
- Dars-e Qur'an by Mr Nasir Ahmad (UK)

MORNING SESSION

PEACE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST TERRORISM

[On 19 December 2016, a truck was deliberately driven into the Christmas Market next to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church at Breitscheidplatz in Berlin, leaving 12 people dead and 56 others injured a total of 68 people that were involved in this incident. A golden crack in the ground in front of Berlin's Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church is planned to commemorate the victims of the December 2016 terrorist attack.

A jury of the Berlin city council decided to form a memorial which was officially inaugurated on December 19, 2017, the first anniversary of the terror attack.

An inscription on the memorial reads:

"In memory of the victims of the terror attack on the Christmas Market on December 19, 2016. For the peaceful coexistence of all people."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau paid their respects at the site of the Berlin terror attack].

MEMBERS OF THE LAHORE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY FROM GERMANY AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND FRIENDS OF THE MOSQUE LED BY HAZRAT AMEER PROF. DR. ABDUL

KARIM SAEED, HEAD AND PRESIDENT OF THE MOVEMENT STAGED A DEMONSTRATION TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK IN FRONT OF GEDACHTNISKIRCHE CHURCH, BERLIN.

It was addressed by:

Deputy Mayor of Berlin, Mr Carsten Engelmann

Dr. Hamid Jahangiri MD (California, USA) in English. Lord Shahid Aziz, president of the UK Jama'at in English.

Mr. Abdul Aziz (Ex- Asstt. Imam of the Berlin Mosque) from Frankfurt in German.

Mr. Muhammad Ali (Ex-Imam of the Berlin Mosque) from Cambridge, UK in German.

Dr. Katharina Stifel Priestess of the Church, Berlin (in German).

Dr. Gerdien Jonker, well-known author and research scholar, Berlin (in German).

Mr. Emmanuel Luther Ratiq, well-known writer, Journalist and Interfaith promoter, Sweden (in English).

Mrs. Roline Twahira Samsodien, Minister for Planning, Suriname (in English).

Mr. Inshaal Ahmad, B.A. (Hons) from Nottingham University, UK (in German).

Mr. Amir Aziz M.A., organizer and Imam of the Berlin Mosque (in German).

Mrs. Galida Badeolla (Suriname) and Mr. Wahid Omardeen (Trinidad) presented poem of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad from "Songs of Islam".

Delegation from Suriname led by Mr. Ishaq Rosan, District Commewijne (Suriname), sang National Anthem of Suriname (in Dutch).

Mrs. Barbara Klehr, a proficient Actress, singer and founding member of the Berlin Improv Theatre "Die Gorillas", sang a scintillating song with music (Lyrics and music by the performing Artist: Alex Diehl. Song title: Nur ein Lied). It was composed in memory of the Paris attack.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed concluded the Demonstration with a strong note of condemnation about the barbaric Terrorist attack and offered prayers for those who lost their lives and expressed sympathies with the bereaved families. He also laid wreaths to register his respects for the victims.

* * *



Hazrat Ameer Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim (Pakistan), Head of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, with Mr. Azhar-ud-Din Ahmad (Woking, UK) at the Demonstration



Hazrat Ameer speaking at the Demonstration



Hazrat Ameer offering prayers for the victims of the Terrorist attack near the Church



Hazrat Ameer with Mr. Amir Aziz (Imam) and Mr. Carsten Engelmann, Deputy Mayor of Berlin.



Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church at Breitscheidplatz in Berlin. The Peace Demonstration was organized by the members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Community, Berlin who came from the Berlin Mosque in Wilmersdorf and held the Demonstration in front of the Church.



Mr. Muslich Zainal Asikin MBA, president, Lahore Ahmadiyya Organization Indonesia (GAI) and Mrs Dr. Hj. Ida Rochani SU learned wife of the president at the Demonstration.



Mian Umar-e Farooq (Managing Director, Hussain Textile Mills, Multan), vice-president, Central Lahore Ahmadiyya Anjuman (Pakistan) and his wife Mrs. Ghazala Farooq at the Demonstration.



Mrs. Rowlina Twahira Samsodien, Minister for Planning (Suriname) speaking at the Demonstration.



Dr. Hamid Jahangiri MD (USA) speaking at the Demonstration (with Mr. Muslich Zainal Asikin MBA (Indonesia) and Mr. Reza Gafoerkhan (Imam and author) Holland).



Lord Shahid Aziz, president UK Lahore Ahmadiyya Association speaking at the Demonstration.



Mr. Carsten Engelmann, Deputy Mayor of Berlin speaking at the Demonstration.



Dr. Gerdien Jonker, Author and Research Scholar, speaking at the Demonstration. With her are (standing) Mr. Amir Aziz (Imam, Berlin Mosque) and Mr. Carsten Engelmann, Deputy Mayor of Berlin.



Mr. Amir Aziz (Imam and organizer of the Peace Demonstration) speaking on the occasion. With him is Mr. Muslich Zainal Asikin MBA (president of Indonesia Jama'at, (GAI).



Mr Muhammad Ali (Cambridge, UK) former Imam of the Berlin Mosque speaking at the Demonstration.



Mrs. Barbara Klehr (Berlin) renowned singer and founding member of the Berlin Improv Theatre "Die Gorillas", contributing a heartfelt song in memory of the victims of the terrorist attack.



Mr. Abdul Aziz (Wetzlar, Germany), former Asstt. Imam of the Berlin Mosque, speaking at the Demonstration.



Mr. Inshaal Ahmad, BA (Hons) from Nottingham University, UK, youngest speaker addressing the Demonstration.



Dr. Kathrina Stifel, Priestess of the Church, speaking at the Demonstration



Mr. Saadat Ahmad Chaudhry, Chartered Accountant UK (Pakistan), Financial Secretary, Lahore Central Ahmadiyya Anjuman, and Wing/Comd. (R) Ahmad Nawaz (USA) at the Demonstration.



Rev. Emmanuel Luther Ratiq (Sweden) with his placard



Group from Suriname led by Dr. Robert Bipat, president, Lahore Ahmadiyya Anjuman (SIV) Suriname and Mrs. Roline Twahira Samsodien, Minister for Planning (Suriname) with their National Flag.



Hazrat Ameer (2nd from left) with Dr. Hamid Jahangiri MD (USA), Rev. Emmanuel L. Ratiq (Sweden) and Amir Aziz (Imam of the Berlin Mosque) with the Church building at the back.



Members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya community from various countries paying homage at the Memorial.



World Alliance of Religions for Peace (WARP) based in Korea, its Berlin Branch participated in the Demonstration with their big Banner.



A son and a daughter of Dr. Robert Bipat, president of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Organization (SIV) Suriname at the Demonstration with placards.



A view of participants from Ukrain, UK, Suriname and Sweden taking part in the Demonstration.

Afternoon Session: INTERFAITH CONFERENCE
Subject for discussion: “Future of Mankind in view of Radicalism”
 Qur’anic recitation: Nasir Ahmad (UK)

Opening Remarks:

- Hazrat Ameer Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed

Other participants:

- Dr Gerdien Jonker (Berlin), Author and Research Scholar, Berlin
- Rabbi Prof Dr Walter Homolka Ph.D. (Berlin)
- Dr Thomas M. Schimmel, Head, Religious and Cultural Dialogue (Berlin)
- Mr Emmanuel Luther Ratiq, Journalist and Interfaith Promoter (Sweden)
- Mrs. Roline Twahira Samsloedien, Minister for Planning (Suriname)
- Conducted by Dr Jawad Ahmad GP (UK)



L to R: 1. Mrs. Roline Twahira Samsloedien, Minister for Planning (Suriname). 2. Dr. Thomas M. Schimmel, Head, Religious and Cultural Dialogue (Berlin). 3. Dr. Gerdien Jonker, Author and Research Scholar (Berlin). 4. Rabbi Prof. Dr. Walter Homolka Ph.D. (Berlin). 5. Rev. Emmanuel Luther Ratiq, Author, Journalist and Interfaith Promoter



Audience at the Interfaith Conference at the Berlin Mosque, Berlin.

Sunday 17 September

- Fajr Congregational prayer was led by Hazrat Ameer
- Dars-e Qur'an by Dr. Zahid Aziz, author of several books and webmaster: www.lahore.ahmadiyya.org (UK)

Morning Session

Qur'anic recitation: Mrs. Galida Badeolla (Suriname)

Poem of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad presented by Bro Wahid Omardeen (Trinidad)

[*Qur'aan khudaa numaa hai, Be us ke ma'rifat kaa chaman naa-tamaam hai*].

(The Qur'an unfolds to us glorious face of God as it is the word of God. Without it the orchard of the spiritual knowledge is desolate)

Sohaila Omar Deen, Chartered Accountant (UK),

Director, Omardeen School of Accountancy, (Trinidad).

Mr. Aslam Khan of Fiji (Switzerland)

Dr Hameed Jahangiri MD (USA)

Afternoon Session:

Group/Captain (R) Ahmad Nawaz (USA)

Mr. Ishaq Rosan, District Commewijne (Suriname).

Word of thanks: Mr. Amir Aziz, Imam and Organizer of the Convention

Conducted by Dr Jawad Ahmad (UK).

Monday 18 September

Fajr Prayer led by Hazrat Ameer

Dars-e Qur'an: Dr. Zahid Aziz (UK)

1. Meeting held in the Berlin Mosque with the Architect and Director of Denkmalpflege to assess completion of 3rd Phase of Repairs and also to discuss in detail plans for the next phase and stipulated cost and other financial aspects.

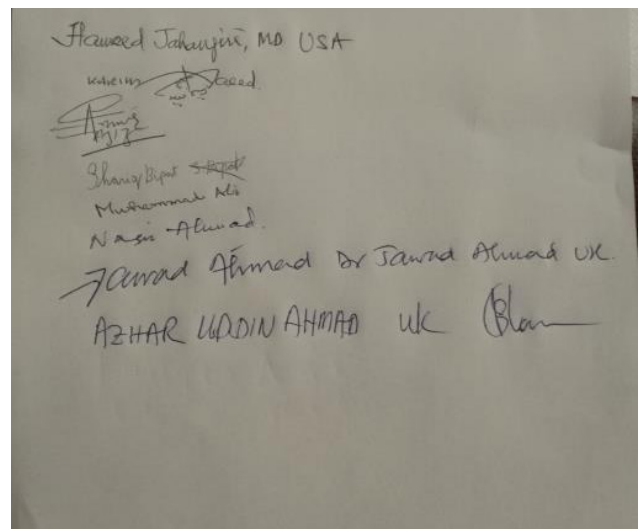
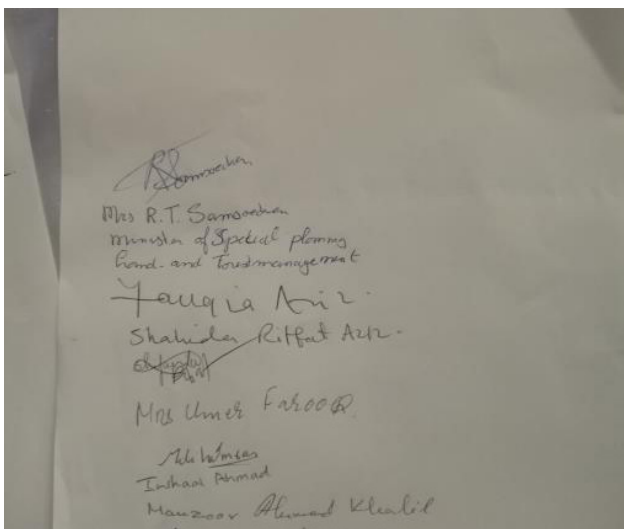


2. Meeting of the Executive Committee Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i Islam Germany chaired by Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed (President) and attended by its members: Mian Umar-e Farooq, Managing Director, Hussain Textile Mills, Multan (Pakistan), vice president, Central Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore (Pakistan), Mr. Saadat Ahmad Choudhary, Chartered Accountant (London), Financial Secretary of the Central Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore (Pakistan), Lord Shahid Aziz, member (UK), Mr. A. S. Santoe, member (Holland), Mr. Nasir Ahmad, member (UK) and Mr. Amir Aziz M.A., Imam and secretary of the Association.

* * *

Most important feature of the CONVENTION was that HAZRAT AMEER PROF DR ABDUL KAREEM SAEED concluded his long and arduous journey – starting from UK travelling through Holland, Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname down to Norway, Sweden – to collect funds for the repairs of the Berlin Mosque. It was one of his most lengthy, hectic and tiring journeys, which he undertook to meet the enormous target for the repairs of the Berlin Mosque. By the grace of Allah and due to the untiring passion of Hazrat Ameer his efforts were responded generously by men, women and children of the Jama'ats in all the countries he visited and it enabled him to collect, large and small amounts,

The following are the images of signatures of members who remained for the Sunday meeting on 18th September 2017. These are followed by list of names of members who came from Rotterdam, Holland in a coach but had to leave earlier on Sunday. The list has been kindly provided by Sister Nazma Nasrullah of Rotterdam who organized the trip.



from each and every one, for this noble cause. In a special issue of the Hope we will try to give you an overall picture of the tremendous results of response to the call of the AMEER in meeting the staggering amount, which at the start appeared impossible.

Major repairs of strengthening the foundations, almost complete renovation of roofs around the Mosque four walls, dome, ornamental small minarets at the front of the Mosque. Essential plastering of the walls and the foot of the walls, and painting of walls, doors and windows will be hopefully completed by the end of March 2018. The last two phases of repairs undoubtedly show hard work and keen interest of the architect company and is praiseworthy. We are thankful to the hard-working, able and responsible staff of the company specially its supervising architect of the project Ms. Katja Weise who are doing the work with commendable keenness and utmost care.

* * *

NEWS AND VIEWS

Here are some views of speakers and participants about the Peace Demonstration and the Convention:

Mr. Muhammad Ali, Cambridge, UK

“God bless you. I greet you on behalf of the community of the oldest Mosque in Germany, I mean, the Berlin Mosque. Today we have gathered here to register our protest against terrorism and haters. The word Islam means peace, and a Muslim is a person who makes peace with God, peace with other fellow beings and peace with his own self.

As human beings we should develop in ourselves the divine characteristics. And the love for all is the most important divine characteristic. God loves all human beings, no matter if they believe in Him or not.....

Prophet Muhammad said: “The best among you is he, who is most beneficial to other people.”

Further on in Chapter 5, Verse 32, it says: “Whoever kills a soul – it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one – it is as if he had saved mankind.”

Today our special thoughts go out to the victims of the last year terror attack on Christmas Market, that happened here in the surroundings of Breitscheidplatz, Berlin . As Muslims and as believers in the God of Islam, we have gathered here to support the Peace Demonstration condemning terrorism and for that matter any kind of violence in the name of Islam.

When the terrorists kill people in the name of Islam and spread terror, it has nothing to do with Islam. I, as a Muslim living in Germany, feel it my responsibility that we should keep distance from these terrorists and all such people who are responsible for such acts. We should take a clear stance against such people in our communities and should not tolerate or connive at any such activities. We are here together for peace and wish to demonstrate that we are against any act of terrorism and racial hatred.”

* * *

Mr. Inshaal Ahmad, Milton Keynes, UK

“We are here today not only Muslims but also non-Muslims and people from various communities. We are here for one goal, all of us here have one goal, and that is peace. Peace which would generate good will and fellow feelings. We are thankful to the Government for extending all sorts of facilities and measures to maintain and promote peace. We want peace in Berlin, in Germany, in Europe -- everywhere. Here in Europe in the last few years we have seen a number of terror attacks. In Barcelona this year, in Berlin last year and in Paris previously. There is definitely a problem - reaction to the inter-play of big powers in the world. Unfortunately, a small minority of youth misled by religious clerics who misguide them for their own brand of religious beliefs and political agenda and create mistrust and hatred among different peoples. We condemn them out rightly. Dialogue and understanding are the only way to mutual understanding and harmony.

We as Muslims, and I as a young Muslim, would like to say to you all that these things obviously have nothing to do with Islam, and it also has nothing to do with this community. We always want peace and we hope that the young generation who are well integrated with the Germans and the non-Muslims will spread the message of peace amongst their friends, their communities and their neighbours.

So we are against all forms of extremism. Terrorists have no religion and we want to pass on the message of peace to the people of Germany.”

* * *

Mrs. Sohaila Omardeen Chartered Accountant (London), Director, Omardeen School of Accountancy, Trinidad.

“My husband Wahid Omerdeen and I attended the *Jalsa* held at the beautiful Berlin Mosque from 15th to 17th September 2017. We were the only persons from Trinidad and Tobago in attendance.

Our trip which was just for one week was wonderful. We enjoyed the *Jalsa* very much. Taking part in the Peace Demonstration was a novel experience and provided an opportunity to express our stance publicly on this sensitive issue in a practical way.

We met Ahmadi Sisters and Brothers from Germany, Pakistan, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Indonesia and Suriname. There were also friends and well-wishers of different faiths. We were especially pleased to be able to spend time with our Hazrat Ameer and to get to know him a little better.

My husband Wahid’s rendering of Songs of Islam was very much appreciated. This made him very happy. In my short impromptu message on the last day of the *Jalsa* I quoted two verses from Chapter twenty-four of the Holy Quran. These were verses thirty-five and thirty-six.

Verse thirty-five says that Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth. In verse thirty-six the Quran states that the light of Allah is in houses which Allah has permitted to be exalted and in which His name will be remembered. I prayed that our Masjid in Berlin will be such a house of Allah that it will be a brightly shining star, a beacon, so that our message of peace, love and harmony will illuminate Europe and the world.

The *Jalsa* was indeed a very special experience for us. We wish to express our gratitude to the Imam of the Berlin Mosque Imam Amir Aziz and all the other organizers for their warm hospitality.”

* * *

Group/Capt. (R) Ahmad Nawaz: Visit to Berlin and Woking

Early this year, I received an invitation from Mr. Amir Aziz, Imam of the Berlin Mosque, Germany to attend the first European Lahore Ahmadiyya Convention in September 2017. In fact, it was an open invitation to members of all the Jama'ats. At the same time, Mr. Nasir Ahmad and his son Dr. Jawad Ahmad were kind enough to ask me to visit London and then proceed with them to Berlin for the Convention. It was something too tempting for me. I decided to undertake this trip as 'a journey of faith'. My trip started with arriving at the Heathrow Airport in London on the evening of 10th September where I was warmly received by Mr. Nasir Ahmad and Dr. Jawad Ahmad. After a two-day rest in Milton Keynes, I proceeded with the Ahmad family to Berlin where our stop was at the Enjoy Hotel, which was at a walking distance from the historic Berlin Mosque. The first sight of this magnificent building was a joy to my eyes and heart. I had always desired to visit this monument that was built by our ancestors who made great financial sacrifices for it after the First World War when Europe was in recession. On entering the Mosque, I visualized the efforts and hard work put in by its builder and first Imam, Hazrat Maulana Sadr-ud-Din. His efforts were directed to fulfil the vision of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam for the service of Islam in the West. Further, I was reminded of the difficulties faced by the Imams of this mission and their hard work in taking across the message of Islam to the intelligentsia of the German nation. During his stay in Germany, Hazrat Maulana Sadr-ud-Din was able to attract many renowned writers and authors of the time. One such stalwart was Dr. Hamid Hugo Marcus.

During my five-day stay in Berlin I felt and witnessed the renewal of spirit of brotherhood among brothers and sister who had come from as distant a country as Indonesia to other extreme places like Suriname and Trinidad, not to mention about Holland, Sweden and Ukrain etc. Thanks to the leadership of late Hazrat Ameer, Dr Saeed Ahmad Sahib whose frequent visits to different Jama'ats in USA, West Indies, Europe etc energized members who were dormant for some time. I would also like to mention that our present Ameer Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha has followed in the footsteps of his esteemed father and has further cemented unity among members of various Jamaats all over the world. Present Imam of the Berlin Mosque Mr. Amir Aziz has in a short period been able not only to see the repair work of the Mosque proceed satisfactorily but has done commendable work in reviving the Mosque its prestige as centre of building bridges with centres of other faiths in creating better understanding and cordial relationship. All praise be to Allah the Mosque has been able to regain its structural beauty as the 'Mini Taj Mahal' but also as a centre for Muslims as well non-Muslims to learn about Islam as embodiment of peace and peaceful coexistence for a better and peaceful world. It was amazing for me to see German students from schools and universities, and groups from churches and public institutes coming to the Mosque and have exchange of ideas about Muslims and Islam.

To my surprise when we gathered before the Central Church at the Europa Centre in Berlin on 16th September to register our protest and sympathies for the victims of the terror attack, members from the public also joined us.



Mr. Ahmad Nawaz at the Berlin Airport with Ahmad Family



Mr. Ahmad Nawaz at the grave of late Dr. S. M. Abdullah, Imam of the Shah Jehan Mosque, Woking in Brookwood Cemetery, Woking.



Mr. Ahmad Nawaz at the grave of Dr. G. W. Leitner, builder of the Shah Jehan Mosque, Woking at the Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, England.



Mr. Ahmad Nawaz at the Shah Jehan Mosque, Woking, UK.

On the 18th of September while I was leaving Berlin for London, Hazrat Ameer desired that I should visit the Woking Mosque. At first, time did not seem to be on my side to make that stop as I was to reach London late in the afternoon that day and then leave for U.S. by mid next day. However, God has his own ways of making things happen. Mr. Azhar-ud-Din Ahmad who was in Berlin with us and luckily was travelling from Berlin in the same flight as me, kindly offered me to take me to Woking instead of my staying in London at Mr. Hamad Ahmad's house. This made things very easy for me. He took me to his residence in Woking. Next morning, we had two hours at our disposal. So we visited the Woking Mosque. As it was closed at that time, so we took some pictures of this great historical Mosque which was centre of Islam in the West through Woking Muslim Mission and the monthly *Islamic Review* from 1912 to 1968's. We also visited Brookwood cemetery the last resting place of number of prominent Muslim and non-Muslim personalities like, Dr. G. W. Leitner, Mr Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall, Mr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Dr. S. M. Abdullah, Mr. S. M. Tufail, Maulana Abdul

Majid (Editor, monthly *Islamic Review*) and in particular the late Lord Headley Al-Farooq. May Allah bless these noble souls. However, most of the graves have not stood the test of time and need repairs specially the one belonging to the great British Muslim Peer Al-Hajj Lord Headley al-Farooq.

At the end my deepest thanks to Mr. Nasir Ahmad, Dr. Jawad Ahmad, his wife Erum Ahmad and their son Inshaal Ahmad, a bright young man who knows German language quite well, for looking after me in London and Berlin. I am also grateful to Mr. Azhar-ud-Din Ahmad for taking me to the Woking Mosque, showing me around the town and dropping me off at the airport. May Allah reward them all for their hospitality and kindness. Ameen.

When I saw the beautiful Berlin Mosque in the heart of Europe and people coming to it to seek knowledge about Islam and how these days some Muslims with extremist views are using Islam as a licence for killing innocent people? It reminded me of a couplet of late Dr. Muhammad Iqbal:

*Mager woh 'ilm ke motee kitaabeyn apne aa-baa' kee
Jo dekhein unko yawroup mein to dil hotaa hai see-paarah*
“But the books of our ancestors which were treasure of knowledge and expertise
When we see them flourishing in Europe our hearts are shattered into pieces.

But when I saw the beautiful Berlin Mosque, read about its past history and observed present activities of disseminating Message of Islam to people coming to a Mosque – I felt an inner urge to slightly change the wording of Dr Iqbal’s couplet:

*Masaa-jid apne aa-baa' kee woh 'ilm-o deen key markaz
Jo dekhein unko yawroup mein to dil hotaa hai do-baa-laa*
“The Mosques of our ancestors which were once centres of knowledge and religion
When we see them now in Europe, our hearts are filled with extreme joy.”

Ameen!

* * *

Mrs. Samira Saleem, Frankfurt, Germany

Thanks for sharing beautiful memories of the Peace Demonstration in the form of photos taken professionally by ‘the good friend of the Mosque’, Mr. Christian Fessel. We thoroughly enjoyed the melodious song sung by Sis. Barbara Christian at the Church. Me and my husband both enjoyed and learnt a lot from the impressive talks given during the three-day Convention. The Interfaith Conference gave us knowledge about those aspects of Islam which are not discussed in usual sermons and talks. It was as usual, wonderful, informative and full of knowledge *Jalsa*. I never attended any such *Jalsa* before in my life. We did not feel ourselves strangers among so many people from different countries. The atmosphere was friendly and hospitable. Every person was special. No one had any preferential treatment. It was a demonstration of real brotherhood. Please convey my regards and Salaams to Jawad Bhai and Erum Bhabi. It was a pleasure to meet your family.

* * *

What The Readers Say

MR. SALMAN IBNI TUFAIL, HARROWGATE, UK

IN DEFENCE OF THE BRITISH MEDIA

Recently my daughter related a conversation she had with her school friends during which she explained to them that we were Muslims, and in response to this, her friends who were horrified and expressed the view that it could not be true since our family were too nice to be Muslims and her mother did not wear the *hijab*. Therefore, it is clear to all that the media does create a very bias and prejudicial view of Muslims especially amongst the very young and impressionable.

There is no doubt that some Western are biased and Islamophobic, and article by the Jama'at regarding Islamophobia and the Western Media is important, especially since there has been a recent increase in hate crime committed against Muslims. Moreover, the emergence of the Far Right parties in Europe is of concern since, these parties rise to prominence has been on an anti-Islamic and anti-immigration rhetoric. In Austria, the Euro-sceptic and anti-immigrant Freedom Party (FPÖ) came close to winning the presidency in December last, which would have made its leader the European Union's first far-right President. In Germany, the openly anti-immigration and Islamophobic Alternative (AfD) is the third-biggest party in the Bundestag after the September election, a political earthquake for post-war Germany, and finally in the Netherlands, the anti-Islam Freedom Party (PVV) of Geert Wilders in March became the second party in the Parliament, with 20 seats in the 150-member Parliament.

However, election of Sadiq Khan as the Mayor of London has indicated that we here in the United Kingdom have not followed the European narrative completely, but the Brexit vote, which was partly won due to anti-Immigration platform, should be a warning.

Is all the British Media Islamophobic?

I have to confess that after I spend time listening to some Muslim view points on certain issues, I myself become 'Islamophobic.' For instance, some of these Muslim views regarding women, minorities and Islam in general does concern me. Then there is the anti-Ahmadi rhetoric that I hear in the North and the attempt by some of the Muslim clerics to prevent an Ahmadi being buried in the Muslim Cemetery particularly offends me. Is it a surprise that there is Islamophobia?

We only have to read about the blessed Prophet Muhammad's life to realise that, he would have not acted as these Muslims do and neither, would he have condoned these views.

Muslims themselves are in part, responsible for the anti-Islamic narrative which is rolled out by some elements within the press which are already primed with a biased and prejudicial view.

It is my view that all the press are not biased and prejudicial, and, one only has to examine the case of Mirza Beg, the Guantanamo Bay prisoner who was released after a concerted effort by some parts of the press who argued that it was against the British Legal System and Human rights to detain a British subject without trial indefinitely. I remember the pressure being exerted on the then Prime

Minister Tony Blair in the Parliament to explain to the American allies that this was unacceptable and that he Mirza Beg, should be released, and in time he was indeed released.

It was the British press who helped Snowden to release the sensitive material on surveillance and to some extent it was *the Guardian* who helped expose the human rights and war crimes being committed in Iraq, such as Abu Ghraib and the publication of the Wiki Leaks information of the murder of innocent Iraqis by a helicopter gunship. Who can really forget this video.

Recently, President Trump's anti-Muslim views have been exposed and dissected by the press and his third attempt to impose a travel ban has been defeated again as being unconstitutional and anti-Muslim, even though the Trump administration attempted to circumvent constitutional law by including other non-Muslim countries within the ban. However, it is my view that the Trump Administration will most probably succeed in the Supreme Court by altering the contents of the ban criteria again. What is clear is that the press called it a Muslim ban, which is what it is and did not try to dilute this issue and the courts have made it clear that President Trump's ban is anti-Muslim.

Even though the plight of ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims has not been reported as widely as was the ethnic cleansing of Christians in Iraq, nevertheless, the impact of these reports has had an effect, and Aung San Suu Kyi has been widely criticised for not addressing allegations of ethnic cleansing. Students at the Oxford College where Aung San Suu Kyi studied have voted to remove her name from its Junior Common Room. The JCR Committee at St Hugh's College said the de facto leader of Myanmar's response to reports of ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims was "inexcusable". The College has removed a portrait of the Nobel Peace Prize winner. Councils in Oxford and London are also seeking to strip her of the honorary freedoms of both cities.

In its motion, the St. Hugh's JCR Committee said its Junior Common Room would be "unnamed" with immediate effect. It has issued a statement:

"We must condemn Aung San Suu Kyi's silence and complicity on this issue and her condonation of the human rights offences in her own land.

"In doing so, she has gone against the very principles and ideals she had once righteously promoted."

The fall from grace of one of the most respected figures in the West has been swift and to some extent brutal, as were the Roman Catholic Church Priests in Ireland as a result of the child abuse scandal, also reported by the British Media.

Perhaps, more importantly, it could be argued that the consistent probing of the Saudi Islamic principles by the Western media may have led the Saudi Government's attempt to distance itself from the more radical elements of the Islamic clergy within Saudi Arabia and has meant that the Government now wants to 'adopt moderate' Islam. Moreover, questions have been asked about the funding of terrorist groups by some elements within the Saudi Kingdom and the press has also condemned human rights abuses both within the kingdom and via its foreign policy and significantly started to question the wisdom of the British policy of selling arms to the Kingdom.

Though the statement from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is welcome, I am not sure what a "moderate Islam" would look like under a Saudi model, and until action follows word, I

remain sceptical.

From an Ahmadi perspective, the question has to be asked; Will Ahmadi's be allowed to freely perform Hajj after Saudi declaration or now be regarded as 'Muslims'? Probably not. Furthermore, will the Pakistani Press or for that matter any Muslim press start to report the Human Rights abuse of the Ahmadi's on the basis of an unconstitutional amendment by Pakistan?

It is now left to the British press and media to initiate this discussion on the plight of the Ahmadi's and other minorities, albeit in a low key manner and it is imperative that we continue to publicise it, otherwise we may suffer the same fate as the Rohingya Muslims.

So what of the Muslim press around the world, and how does it compare to the British press?

The refugee crisis has been exploited and misrepresented by some of the press and far right ideologues in the West to further their agenda. And at times, it is my view that, some of the press coverage has been very much Islamophobic and racist.

However, if one takes the time to read the Lebanese press articles on the Syrian refugee crisis, and it is much larger than the current exodus to the West, there is a consistent theme which mirrors the sinister biased reporting that is seen here in some media in the West. Some of the Lebanese press reports demonise the refugees as rapist, criminals and undesirables and some of the reporting starts with the statement, *"We are not racist because we speak about the refugees"*.

This type of reporting has led to attacks on the refugees in Lebanon. Does all of this sound familiar?

Saudi Arabia has no independent media, the authorities do not tolerate political parties, unions, nor human rights groups, and the level of self-censorship is extremely high. The Internet is the only space where freely-reported information and views can circulate, albeit at great risk to its citizen journalists. Like professional journalists, they are watched closely and critical comments are liable to lead to arrest and trial under the country's terrorism or cyber-crime laws.

The **Bangladeshi** government does not take kindly to criticism of its Constitution or its state religion, Islam. Journalists and bloggers who resist censorship or self-censorship on these subjects risk life imprisonment, the death penalty, or murder by Islamist militants, who often issue online calls for the deaths of outspoken secularist bloggers and writers.

In Morocco, the Kingdom's authorities use political and economic pressure to deter local independent media outlets from covering highly sensitive subjects. Even the international media has become a target.

The **Pakistani** media are regarded as among the freest in Asia but are targeted by extremist groups, Islamist organizations, and the feared intelligence agencies. There are fatal attacks on journalists every year, though the number has dropped for the past four years.

In **Turkey** the witch-hunt waged by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government against its media critics has come to a head since the abortive coup of July 2016. The authorities have used their fight against "terrorism" as grounds for an unprecedented purge. A state of emergency has allowed

them to eliminate dozens of media outlets at the stroke of a pen, reducing pluralism to a handful of low-circulation publications. Dozens of journalists have been imprisoned without trial, turning Turkey into the world's biggest prison for media personnel.

Does Islamophobia provide an opportunity?

It is my view that Islamophobia can be a positive opportunity for all the Muslims in UK, in that it allows us to present the true picture of Islam through publications, interviews on television and general dissemination of information to nullify the gross misrepresentation of Islam. It is also an immense opportunity for the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement to disseminate the large wealth of material they have.

Articles written by us explaining our view must be published in the main stream press and media, so that the message reaches a much larger audience than it does at the moment. For instance, our friends in Harrogate are fully aware of the Ahmadiyya Movement not only from ourselves, but also from BBC Radio 4, which had recently discussed the discrimination against Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Of course some of the media here is bias, but we do have freedom of speech and expression and we must support the press freedom despite some of the press being prejudicial. Since, in my view, some of the freedoms are being eroded often in the name of national security, and this has resulted in the Parliament adopting the most extreme surveillance legislation in UK's history, with insufficient protection mechanism for whistle blowers, journalists, and their sources, posing a serious threat to investigative journalism.

Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement's role

It is obvious that as time progresses the Ahmadiyya view of Islam is being adopted though not in name, but this is of no concern to me or should be of concern to anyone in the movement, since the overreaching principle should be the propagation of the message. However, what must be done is that we make available all the material within the Jama'at.

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ISLAM stands for: I SHALL LOVE ALL MANKIND

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