Jalsa Salana Guatemala 2010

Report

November 23rd to 25th 2010

**Guests Arrive**

Alhamdolillah, the guests of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) started arriving in Guatemala from different parts of the world on Tuesday Nov. 23, 2010. The first to arrive from New Jersey, United States were three members of the family of Mr. Jalaluddin Latif, his wife Naima Latif and daughter Aliya Latif followed by Mr. Khadim Shah of Baypoint, California, Maulana Zafrullah Hanjra from Houston, Texas. Already present at the mosque were various members of the Guatemalan Jamaat, busy ensuring food, accommodation, and overall preparations for Jalsa Gah were going smoothly.

**On Wednesday, November 24, 2010**, Maulana Daud Hanif Sahib arrived from Brooklyn, New York, USA as a representative of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V (may God strengthen his hand). He was accompanied by Mr. Waseem A Sayed from Los Angeles, California. They were met at the airport by Maulana Abdul Sattar, Ameer Jamaat Guatemala and taken to the Baitul Awwal Mosque in Mixco, Guatemala.

**Press Conference**

**On Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010**, at 10 am, Maulana Daud Hanif held a press conference at the Holiday Inn, in downtown Guatemala at which Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan, Ameer Jamaat Guatemala, Maulana Zafrullah Hanjra, Mr. David Gonzalez, General Secretary Jamaat Ahmadiyya Guatemala, and Waseem A. Sayed, who acted as translator, also participated. Maulana Daud Hanif sahib spoke about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community’s 2009 goals for Guatemala that were met in the areas of Tabligh and humanitarian relief. He introduced ambitious plans for 2011 for both jama’at and Humanity First. Reporters asked numerous follow up questions and the conference lasted until noon, followed by refreshments and networking. Other press conference attendees included Mr. Jalaluddin Latif, Mr. Khadim Shah, and Ms. Aliya Latif, who acted as writer/videographer and greeted press.

Reporters from [AFP](http://www.afp.com) and CidNews Mediacom covered the event. [View…](http://www.christiansinamericas.org)

AFP report was widely printed in the Latin media news outlets.

**Afternoon Sightseeing Tour & Tabligh**

Immediately following the press conference, Ameer Guatemala Abdul Sattar Sahib, arranged a tour of Guatemala city for the international jama’at guests. Mr. Khadim Shah, longstanding tabligh secretary of Baypoint California, used this opportunity to hand deliver over 100 flyers in Spanish about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community as they toured the city. Mr. Shah also distributed a number of flyers at the downtown airport, the previous day.
Dinner with Governor Marvin Francisco Barrios de León and Congressman Sergio Leonel Celis Navas

On Thursday evening, a dinner was held in honor of the Governor of the State of Sacatapequez and its respective Congressman at the Casa de Santo Domingo Hotel in Antigua Guatemala.

Present at the dinner were Maulana Daud Hanif, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan, Maulana Zafirullah Hanjrah, Mr. David Gonzalez, Lic. Samuel Cabrera, Mr. Jalaluddin Latif and Mr. Waseem A. Sayed.

The evening was memorable. Apart from the excellent atmosphere of the surroundings and the enjoyable food, the discussions were quite engaging and lasted for some three hours. After the customary introductions, the dignitaries both spoke very highly of the services rendered by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and by Humanity First in Guatemala. Maulana Daud Hanif Sahib thanked the dignitaries for their kind appreciation of the humble efforts made in the service of Guatemala and its people. The Governor responded by saying that the sincerity, devotion and love that permeated the actions of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community were unique and something he felt compelled to mention. The Congressman added that he is so convinced of the purity of Imam Abdul Sattar Khan’s heart and intentions that he always cites him as an example of sincerity, whenever he gets a chance.

The Governor described the 470 year history of the city of Antigua Guatemala and mentioned its importance as a tourist center and that of the 100 tourists who visit Guatemala 80 visit this town and that it has a rich history of craftsmanship and tapestries etc. He then presented us with charming, hand-painted boxes with traditional Guatemalan sweets that he said everyone who visits Antigua has to taste to prove that he-she had in fact visited this beautiful town.

The discussion then moved to the works of Humanity First and what the plans were in the coming year. The numerous contributions of Mr. David Gonzalez were recognized by the Governor and he commented that he was amazed by the talent and exemplary qualifications of all the Ahmadi Muslims he met here and in the US during the Jalsa in Washington, DC in July 2010.

The statesmen were told of the emphasis Islam, the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) placed on education and the need for Muslim men and women to gain knowledge despite having to make huge efforts. The Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him) had only this purpose - to re-establish these pure teachings of Islam and as a result, our Community lays great emphasis on education and the pursuit of knowledge.

Imam Daud Hanif went on to explain that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community believes love of God and mankind, along with belief in absolute justice is the only way to secure peace in the world. In addition, one’s race, creed or religion should not determine whether one helps his fellow man. the Governor and Congressman were visibly impressed and nodding enthusiastically in agreement.

During the discussion, mention was made of the concentration of wealth in the hands of just 10 families in Guatemala and that change to this economic structure was often resisted. The similarity with Pakistan was startling. The dignitaries stated that here the powerful economic interests react by withholding taxes whenever governments like the one in power attempt to change the status quo, resulting in a severe economic crisis for the Government.

Then the subject changed to the persecution of the Jamaát members and it was difficult for them to understand how such things could be going on in the world of today. Mention was made of establishing a
consulate of Guatemala in Pakistan and vice-versa and Congressman mentioned that we should discuss this further.

During the lengthy meeting we noticed their cell phones ringing yet neither official stopped to answer a single call. Their friendship, genuine feelings of love and admiration made the event memorable and require we pray for their welfare in the future. May God bless them to guide and safeguard the interests of the people of Guatemala. Amen!