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**PRESS RELEASE**

**OVER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE JOIN AHMADIYYA MUSLIM  
COMMUNITY IN PAST YEAR**

**Day 2 of Khilafat Centenary Jalsa Salana takes place at Hadeeqa-tul Mahdi**

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, today addressed twice the tens of thousands of people present at Hadeeqa-tul Mahdi in Hampshire, as the Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) of the Community entered its second day.

During his morning address, His Holiness spoke of the importance of women in Islam. He said that it was a total misconception to suggest that Islam violated the rights of women in any way. In fact Islam had led the world by being the first religion to give women the right to divorce and the right to inherit. Furthermore the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had always taught that women were to be treated as equals and with love and kindness.

In the second session of the day, His Holiness presented the Annual Report of the Ahmadiyya Community. He said that due to the blessings of God Almighty the Community was succeeding in countless ways. The Community had spread to four new countries over the past twelve months which meant that it had

established itself in 193 countries. Furthermore the Community had made great effort in re-establishing contact with Ahmadi Muslims who had lost touch. In this way tens of thousands had renewed their oaths.

Excluding Pakistan, the Community had over the past year established 593 new local communities in different countries of the world. This included 15 new communities in Indonesia, a country in which the local Ahmadis had faced grave persecution during the past year both from the state and from the extreme clerics.

His Holiness went on to report about the continued effort of the Ahmadiyya Community to build new mosques. Each of the mosques built by it were built with the purpose of spreading peace. This year the Community had opened 351 new mosques of which 149 had been built from scratch. A new mosque had been built in Calgary which was the largest mosque in North America. His Holiness reported that such construction was an ongoing project and that later this year a large new mosque was being opened in Bradford. In addition to the new mosques the Community had built 135 Mission Houses for the purpose of spreading its message of *'Love for All, Hatred for None.'*

With regard the vast number of Ahmadi texts, the Community had developed full printing presses in eleven countries which worked under the supervision of Raqeem Press in England. These included printing presses in African countries such as Ghana and Nigeria. In the past year the Holy Qur'an had been translated into four new languages including the Bosnian and Thai languages.

His Holiness then spoke of some of the special incidents that had taken place over the course of the year. He mentioned how many people had written to him to say that they had joined the Ahmadiyya Community on the basis of dreams in which they had seen the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Community, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him). Others had joined by watching MTA, the Community's worldwide satellite television channel.

The system of Waqf-e-Nau continued to flourish. This was the system set up in 1987 whereby Ahmadi parents would dedicate the lives of their children for the service of Ahmadiyyat. His Holiness said that during the past year 2325 children had joined this scheme which brought the total number of children dedicated to over 37,000.

The 'Nusrat Jehan' Scheme was a programme that begun in 1970 as a means for the Ahmadiyya Community to help the African Continent develop. Under this scheme the Community had built many hospitals and 510 schools. The Community was also helping to develop the agricultural produce of the African countries. Further it was producing clean water for many villages and providing means for solar energy in a number of different countries.

The climax of the annual report was the announcement by His Holiness that through the sheer Grace of God a total of 354,638 people had joined the Ahmadiyya Community during the past year. These people were spread across 101 countries of the world. Upon hearing these glad tidings the audience began to spontaneously raise slogans of joy.

The second day's proceedings concluded with a silent prayer led by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad in which Ahmadis around the world joined together through the medium of MTA to thank God Almighty for his continuous blessings.

**End of Press Release**

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