

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association U.K.

(ESTABLISHED 1914)

PRESS RELEASE

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for immediate release

Mosques Risk Being 'Devoid of Faith'

Preachers of hate are among 'worst of creation' says Ahmadiyya Muslim leader

Convention Dates: July 25-27, 2008

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A world Islamic leader is urging fellow Muslims to preach lessons of love and harmony in mosques to honour their sanctity and not leave them devoid of faith.

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Caliph (Khalifa) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, said examples of hate-filled sermons delivered in mosques and exposed by the media reveal the morally bankrupt state of the preachers.

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad will address the largest annual gathering of Muslims in UK at the 42nd annual convention of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK. 30,000 people are expected to meet at a site near Alton, Hampshire July 25-27.

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

"The dues of a mosque are paid when congregational prayers are offered in a mosque and when in addition to worship of God there is love and harmony between people. A mosque is truly useful when in it the dues of Allah and the dues of people are paid. Otherwise there are many mosques around the world which do not serve these purposes. They are mosques devoid of the lessons of love and peace.

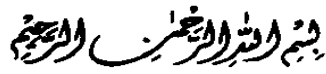
"This is in line with the prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) who had said that a time will come when Islam will remain but in name and the Qur'an will be nothing more than mere words and mosques will be apparently populated but they will be devoid of faith and their Imams will be the worst of creation. Evil will rise from among them and will rebound on them.

"The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had said that there will be a time when lofty mosques will be built but they will be devoid of guidance."

The Caliph urged Muslims worldwide to constantly engage in self-reflection in order to purify their hearts and to love humanity.

He reminded Muslims that the purpose of mosques and devotion was to bring about peace and that mosques should be built on the objectives of the Abrahamic prayers.

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Citing a verse from the Holy Qu'ran:

“And remember the time when We made the House a resort for mankind and a place of security; and take ye the station of Abraham as a place of prayer.”

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad is the Caliph (Khalifa) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, the most dynamic denomination in modern Islamic history with branches in 190 countries in a century.

NOTE TO EDITORS

This is the 42nd Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Convention to take place in Britain. It will be held over three days (July 25-27, 2008) at a site near Alton, Hampshire, where a temporary village of marquees is to be set up to host the 30,000 visitors.

We are open to interviews, filming and photography before and during the convention. To obtain a press pass for the convention, email or telephone Dr Basharat Nazir, National Press & Media Secretary.

Ahmadiyya Muslim branch offices in all major towns and cities of Britain are also available for direct media contact.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community represents the renaissance of Islam.

Our Motto: Love for All, Hatred for None

Our Beliefs:

- In Islam as the final and complete religion and in Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the greatest prophet who brought Islam, the final and complete religion for mankind.
- In peace, good citizenship and loyalty, tolerance, interfaith dialogue, justice and service to humanity
- In freedom of religion - there should be no compulsion in religion and that Jihad is a struggle to purify oneself and is not a means of violence on others: to believe in One God and do good deeds is the greatest Jihad

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community is distinct from other Muslims in the belief that Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) died on earth after completing his Divine mission and that he did not physically ascend to the heavens. Other Muslims believe that he is still alive and await the return of the same Jesus from 2,000 years ago.

Ahmadi Muslims believe the second coming of Christ was fulfilled in the person of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him), who had the spiritual qualities of Jesus as a Messiah of Peace.

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Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, currently based in South West London, will host the annual convention and address the gathering on all three days.

Ahmadi Muslims are active in their local communities; they raise tens of thousands of pounds for charities, have their own charity Humanity First that is serving humanity locally as well as in all parts of the world irrespective of colour, race or religion.

Ahmadi Muslims are the pioneers of interfaith dialogue. The community built the first mosque in London in 1924. In 2003 they opened the largest purpose-built mosque in Western Europe in Morden Surrey, which can accommodate more than 10,000 people. The community also operates its own 24-hour satellite TV station, MTA International, on Sky 787.

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