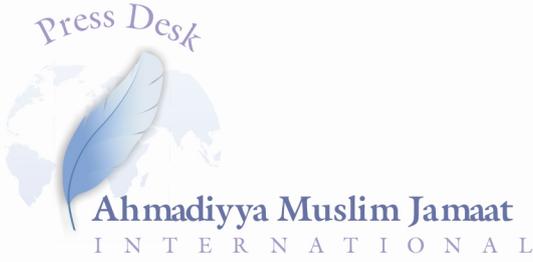


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful



London, 27 February 2012

PRESS RELEASE

NEW AHMADIYYA MOSQUE INAUGURATED BY WORLD MUSLIM LEADER IN LONDON



Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad says that Holy Qur'an is a book of peace

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat is pleased to announce that on 24 February 2012, its world leader, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad inaugurated the new Baitul Wahid Mosque in Feltham, London. The mosque was officially opened by His Holiness as he led the Friday Prayers at the Mosque with a sermon that was broadcast live across the world on MTA International.

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This was followed by a formal evening reception attended by a number of dignitaries and guests, including Mary Macleod MP, Seema Malhotra MP, Councillor Amrit Mann and Lord Eric Avebury.



Mary Macleod, MP for Brentford & Isleworth congratulated the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat on the opening of the Baitul Wahid Mosque. She offered her support for the many peace initiatives undertaken by the Jamaat and praised the community's role towards building a peaceful society. She also spoke of her concern at the continued persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan.

Seema Malhotra, MP for Feltham & Heston, said that the Ahmadiyya community was constantly striving to bring people of all faiths and beliefs together. She said the values of the community made it an 'example' for others to follow and said she was sure the new Mosque would educate and bind the local community together.



The Mayor of Hounslow, Councillor Amrit Mann, called the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat in Hounslow 'a model community'. He praised the community's motto of 'Love for All, Hatred for None' and its commitment to humanitarian efforts. Mr Jagdish Sharma, MBE, Leader of Hounslow Borough Council, said Ahmadi Muslims had the distinction of being 'law abiding and tolerant'.

The function was concluded with an address by the Fifth Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, in which he addressed various issues based on the true teachings of Islam.

At a time when people are being killed in Afghanistan due to the alleged burning of Holy Qur'an, His Holiness made it clear that Islam did not permit arbitrary violence or revenge in any form. He said:

“The Qur’an calls for the establishment of peace. It calls on Muslims to act compassionately towards all of mankind.”



His Holiness also referred to potential concerns of local people about the construction of a Mosque. Alleviating all such apprehensions, He said:

“This Mosque has been built only for the worship of God, and as a means to develop love, affection and peace. We have no other purpose, and we never will. Any true Muslim can never desire injustices or suffering for any other person because that would run entirely contrary to what the Qur’an and the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) have taught.”

His Holiness spoke about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat's continued efforts to promote peace and to help serve humanity. He said:

“Whenever and wherever we have been called to help and assist in good endeavours or in service to humanity, we have always heeded the call and come running to partake in those good acts. We do so, not due to any vested interests, but only due to our desire to seek God’s Pleasure and Nearness.”



The Khalifa also spoke about his admiration for British values of justice and equality. Speaking about how planning permission for the mosque was granted upon appeal, His Holiness said:

“Ultimately we were granted permission to build this mosque and this was because, as I have said many times, that here in the UK the system of governance is just and one which affords citizens their due rights. We, who are Ahmadi Muslims, always pray that God Almighty enables just and fair governments to be established throughout the world.”



His Holiness concluded by speaking about his concerns for the current state of the world. He said:

“The world today is fraught with danger and turmoil. We sit at an extremely critical juncture and so there is an urgent need for us to all recognise our Creator and to fulfil the rights of His Creation. As we stand on the brink of disaster, we must all join together in an effort to prevent such a huge catastrophe from befalling us.

Every individual in a society, irrespective of his background, has a role to play. We need to warn our leaders and governments to the dangers of this time. Otherwise if we fail in this task, and are led to a Third World War, then the horrific destruction that will befall us is apparent to all and lies in front of us. We must care for our future generations and not be consumed only by our own personal interests.”



During the course of the day, His Holiness also unveiled a commemorative plaque and planted a tree to further mark the inauguration of the mosque. His Holiness also held a private meeting with a number of the dignitaries.

End

Further Information: press@ahmadiyya.org.uk