

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CREDIT CRUNCH COULD LEAD TO WORLD WAR –  
HEAD OF AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMAAT**



**AHMADIYYA PEACE CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY OVER 425 GUESTS**

The Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad last night delivered a severe warning regarding the current global financial crisis whilst delivering the keynote address at the sixth Annual Peace Conference hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat at the Bait-ul-Futuh Mosque in Morden. The event was attended by over 425 non-Ahmadi guests from all sections of society, some of whom were also invited to address the gathering.

Mr Rafiq Hayat, the National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat in the UK, opened the event by welcoming the guests. He said there was an urgent need throughout society for people to understand each other's faiths and beliefs, as it was only through mutual understanding that peace could be achieved.

Siobhain McDonagh, MP for Mitcham and Morden, spoke of how Islam was not just a religion but a '*way of life*'. Its core values, she said, were '*truth and justice*' and these were qualities epitomised by the Ahmadiyya Jamaat through its commitment towards the betterment of society.

The Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government, Justine Greeting MP, remarked that for peace to develop '*understanding, tolerance and respect*' were the key factors. She said different groups ought to focus upon their many similarities rather than their few differences. She concluded by stating that she was proud that the Ahmadiyya Jamaat was based in her constituency and that it had been a privilege for her to invite Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad to the Houses of Parliament last October.

The Shadow Home Secretary, Chris Grayling MP for Epsom and Ewell, brought with him the best wishes of the Leader of the Opposition, David Cameron MP. Mr Grayling spoke of his appreciation that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat '*looked outwards, not inwards*'. He commended its long standing commitment to humanity through its work with charities such as 'Save the Children' and 'Great Ormond Street Hospital'. He finished by expressing a desire that Muslims, Jews, Christians, Hindus and people of all other faiths be able to live together in peace and tolerance.

Baroness Emma Nicholson MEP spoke of her continued despair at the persecution faced by Ahmadis in countries such as Pakistan. She said that she regularly received news of Ahmadis who had been killed or arrested for their faith and that at such times she too

shared in the Community's grief. A long term human rights campaigner, Baroness Nicholson concluded by again referring to the persecution of Ahmadis. She said, *'It is an absolute abomination. We will try to root it out.'*

The keynote address by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph), of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat began at 7.45pm. During his thirty-five minute speech His Holiness commented upon obstacles impeding long lasting peace; the current global financial crisis; the failure of the United Nations and the increased conflict in various parts of the world.



His Holiness opened his address by stating that though there was a strong *'desire'* for peace, even politicians were limited in their ability to bring about sustained and widespread change. He said:

***“Though we have a desire for peace we do not have the ability to take practical measures. Though we wish for the world to be a peaceful abode, our limitations constrain us from making the world such a place.”***

He said that some people were restricted due to over-arching governmental policies or party politics. Others were constrained not by policy but due to their selfish natures that meant they only intervened where they had a personal stake or interest. This he said was an issue both in the East and in the West; and in the North and the South. Selfishness existed amongst Muslims, Christians and people belonging to other religions or those who did not profess any particular faith.

His Holiness went on to describe the means through which peace could be achieved according to Islam. He quoted Qur’anic references relating to patience being a foremost virtue. He said that an estimated 70million people died during the Second World War the majority of who were civilians. If only people had exercised patience much of the devastation could have been avoided. The same mistakes were being made in today’s world. He said:

***“Mankind should have learned its lesson but unfortunately today’s people are failing to learn from past mistakes. Even those who call themselves Muslims are shedding blood and so are those people who are working on the pretext of establishing peace... Despite our attempts to bury our heads in the sand we are compelled to view horrific scenes that shake a person to the core.”***

The United Nations, he commented, was a vast organisation whose founding principle was to establish and maintain peace and security throughout the world. It had largely failed to achieve these noble ideals due to a lack of justice and fair dealing between member states. Referring to Japan as an example of a seemingly well developed and prosperous nation, His Holiness said that despite the overt sense of freedom, at an individual level

people in that country had narrated a sense of frustration and restriction. Regarding the UN, he continued:

***“The United Nations was formed for the establishment of peace but its attempts at bringing about peace in any country where disorder exists, have never achieved the level of success that such a large institution ought to... The United Nations is failing due to the influence of superpowers and because of this the circle of unrest is escalating. We cannot simply close our eyes to this. The cause of the Second World War was such unrest and mini wars.”***



His Holiness concluded by analysing the ongoing global financial crisis and comparing it with the Great Depression of 1929. Many similarities between the 1929 crash and the current crisis were apparent. Both crises originated in the United States and their effects spread throughout the world. Industries were forced to cut production in 1929 and the same was true today. Such cuts had knock-on effects. At an international level trade was down; at a domestic level companies were going out of business or facing a marked reduction in profit; and at an individual level people were being made redundant and facing repossession of their homes.

The Great Depression of 1929 was followed almost immediately by the onset of the Second World War in which millions of innocent people lost their lives. His Holiness said that following the Depression whatever wealth was available was channelled into very few

hands leading to division and dissent. Furthermore conflicts at a smaller scale were erupting in Europe and Asia. All of these factors led ultimately to the Second World War. His Holiness warned that today the world was following a similar path. Though banks were being bailed out, hundreds of millions of dollars were being utilised to fulfil the bonus culture of the elite. Conflicts were emerging throughout the world, in particular in the Middle East, South Asia and in Eastern Europe.



His Holiness expressed a desire that the world learns from its past mistakes and thus avoid a future world war whose advent could only be horrific and devastating. He said:

***“Governments, providers of capital and the UN should understand their responsibilities. These are to fulfil the requirements of justice and to give due regard to the rights of each other. They should think, deliberate and find a solution based on justice. They should selflessly endeavour to establish peace. And most importantly they should fulfil the rights owed to their Creator and avoid His displeasure.”***



Following the main address the guests enjoyed dinner and then had an opportunity to meet with His Holiness. Many of the guests commented upon the high quality of his address and others sought his prayers. Another guest said that she was a practising Christian and commented that if the teachings of His Holiness were followed then the world would change for the better.

The event concluded as His Holiness met with assembled members of the Press and Media. Discussions took place regarding various matters, particularly the political and social instability currently engulfing Pakistan.<sup>1</sup>

**End of Release:**

Further Info: Abid Khan: [press@ahmadiyya.org.uk](mailto:press@ahmadiyya.org.uk) / (44) 07795490682

---

<sup>1</sup> Further details of this meeting will be provided separately