

REPORT FOR JALSA SALANA NO. 23

Guatemala

On Thursday November 29th a press conference was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Guatemala City, Guatemala. During this conference the topics included the expansion of Islam in Latin America and the work of Humanity First in Guatemala. Below are links on the press conference:

- http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/Islamismo-pretende-llegar-varios-paises_0_820118010.html
- <http://noticias.terra.cl/mundo/latinoamerica/guatemala-elegida-para-expandir-comunidad-musulmana-ahmadia-en-latinoamerica,0cfc7ba3d7c4b310VqnCLD200000ec6eb0aRCRD.html>

From November 30th to December 2nd 2012 the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Guatemala had their annual convention *Jalsa Salana No. 23*. Among the attendees were members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Guatemala, Ahmadis from Panama, United States, and the representative of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V, Maulana Mubarak Nazir, Vice President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Canada and Missionary in charge of Canada.

On Friday November 30th, after the Friday Sermon, was the flag hoisting ceremony of the Jama'at Ahmadiyya flag and the Guatemalan flag by Maulana Mubarak Nazir and Abdul Sattar Khan respectively. The afternoon session started off with recitation of the Holy Quran and a poem by the Promised Messiah (as) followed by the translations in Spanish. Then Hudhur's representative, Maulana Mubarak Nazir, read in English Khalifatul Masih V's message for Jalsa Salana Guatemala, which was then read in Spanish by Abdul Sattar Khan, Amir of Guatemala. This was followed by the inaugural address given by Hudhur's representative. The session ended with a question and answer component with the audience.

Saturday December 1st started off with Tahajjud prayer, Fajr prayer, and reading of the Holy Quran. The first session started at 9:30 a.m. with recitation of the Holy Quran and a poem of the Promised Messiah (as). The topics discussed were *The Importance of Tabligh* by Dario Samayoa, *Proofs of the Veracity of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community* by David Gonzalez, and *The Life of the Promised Messiah (as)* by Abdul Sattar Khan. This session was concluded with a short question and answer component, which was followed by Zuhur and Asr prayers.

Saturday's second session started at 3:30 p.m. with recitation of the Holy Quran and the topics included, *The 10 Conditions of Baiat* by David Gonzalez and *The Importance, Necessity and Blessings of Khilafat* by Maulana Mubarak Nazir Sahib. This session ended with some questions and answers from the audience, followed by Maghrib and Isha prayers.

The third day of Jalsa started off with Tahajjud prayer, Fajr prayer, and reading of a selection of the sayings of the Promised Messiah (as). This session was open to the public and started promptly at 9:30 a.m. with recitation of the Holy Quran by Fazal Rahman Quraishi of the United States. The topics discussed were: *Islam A Religion of Peace and Love* by Abdul Sattar Khan, Amir and President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Guatemala; *Humanity First* by David Gonzalez; and *The Prophet Muhammad (saw) Prince of Peace* by Maulana Mubarak Nazir Sahib.

Among the participants at Jalsa Salana were intellectuals, professors, doctors, lawyers, etc. making up approximately 120 people. This final session was concluded by a series of questions and answers, followed by a prayer for peace.

On December 3rd Maulana Mubarak Nazir, Abdul Sattar Khan (Amir of Guatemala), and David Gonzalez (General Secretary of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Guatemala) met with the ex-president and current Mayor of Guatemala City, Mr. Alvaro Arzu. During the meeting some jama'at publications and books were given to Mr. Arzu, which he accepted graciously. He was also given a brief introduction of the community and the different development projects and humanitarian assistance being carried out through Humanity First, all of which was looked upon with admiration and appreciation.

On December 4th this same delegation met with the Mayor of Antigua, Guatemala, who was also given a series of books. He was also appreciative and interested in the community and its development programs and humanitarian efforts.

During Jalsa Salana, by the Grace of Allah, 4 young Guatemalans embraced Islam and the message of Jama'at Ahmadiyya. We pray that Allah bless them and make them faithful to our beloved Khalifa. Ameen.