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PRESS RELEASE

WORLD HEAD OF AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY SPEAKS OF GLOBAL PERSECUTION

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad states that no Ahmadi could ever countenance changing their beliefs

Speaking during his weekly address, His Holiness, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at¹ has spoken of the discrimination faced by members of the Community in various countries throughout the world.

His Holiness began his sermon by reminding members of the Community that at times of difficulty a person with true faith does not despair but in fact becomes closer to God Almighty.

The Ahmadiyya Jama'at has suffered persecution since its inception but recently it has been observed that in certain countries the maltreatment of the Jama'at has amplified. Speaking regarding this issue, His Holiness said:

“The reason we are persecuted is due to the burning jealousy within our opponents. Non-Muslims cannot bear to see Islam succeed whilst in the wider Muslim community the Mullahs are fearful that their followers may realise the truth of Ahmadiyyat and subsequently turn away from them.”

It is an irrefutable truth that the Ahmadiyya Community has prospered in the face of great adversity throughout its history. The strength of the Jama'at has always been in its unity. Indeed His Holiness compared the Community to a physical body whereby if even one person suffered then the whole body was affected. Through this perfect unity the Ahmadiyya Jama'at has always flourished and consequently the various obstacles positioned by the oppressors have been unable to break through the united walls of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at.

The Jama'at has suffered persecution in Pakistan since the very beginning and this despite the fact that the Ahmadiyya Community played a very prominent role in achieving an independent Muslim State. His Holiness mentioned how the cruelty is

¹ Community

continuing to this very day, he said:

“Whenever the opportunity arises false allegations are made against Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan. Just recently a thirteen year old boy was arrested on the spurious grounds that he had physically beaten a Maulvi²! How senseless is such a claim? That a young boy could injure a fully grown man to such an extent that he was hospitalised! The purpose of their cruelty is to frighten our young generation to such an extent that they may give up the practice of their faith. However I have received many, many letters from youngsters who swear by God that they are willing to sacrifice their time, their wealth, their dignity and even their lives for the sake of the Ahmadiyya Jama’at.”

His Holiness spoke also of persecution in India and in the Arab world. In India representatives of the Community are regularly subjected to various threats. Whilst in the Arab world the Governments of certain countries, unable to stomach the success of the Ahmadiyya television channel ‘MTA Al-Arabia’, closed it down. However, this incident actually turned into an avenue of success for the Community because as a result of the ban contact was made with another company and now the satellite coverage is much greater and has spread to countries such as Morocco.

The Ahmadiyya Jama’at has also suffered in Indonesia for a number of years. Houses and Mosques have been burnt or destroyed and members of the Community have been attacked. Recently a move was made to try and ban the Ahmadiyya Jama’at from the country however this move was ultimately not sanctioned by the Government. Nevertheless a local newspaper printed a story which suggested that the reason the Government had chosen not to ban the Jama’at was because it had changed some of its core beliefs. This was a totally unfounded allegation made against the Community. Commenting upon this His Holiness said:

“The Ahmadiyya Jama’at believes that Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian was the true Promised Messiah and Mahdi (Guided One). We could never stray from this conviction because the beauty of the Jama’at is based upon its belief that the Founder of the Community was the true Promised Messiah and Mahdi as foretold by the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saws}”³

Following the aforementioned newspaper article certain non-Ahmadi Muslims and members of the Lahori sect celebrated what they perceived to be a change in the beliefs of the Community. However the content of the article was immediately rejected by the Jama’at and to its credit the said newspaper printed a statement clarifying the issue on 23 January 2008.

His Holiness concluded by stating that any suggestion that the Indonesian Jama’at had

² Term used to denote Islamic clergyman

³ represents an Arabic phrase which translates as: ‘peace and blessings of God be upon him’

weakened in the face of persecution was wholly unjustified. No member of the Community ever entertained the slightest doubt regarding the status of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. As the Promised Messiah himself wrote, his status as a non-law bearing Prophet was bestowed upon him by God Almighty and thus no person or organisation could ever take this mantle away from him.

It is a basic teaching of Islam that religion is a matter for each and every individual to determine freely and without coercion. The practice of one's religion, so long as it does not interfere with the rights of others, is a fundamental human right. It is this right that is being denied to Ahmadi Muslims however members of the Community should always remember that such cruelty will never harm the prosperity of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at.

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