

# THE CALL OF ISLAM

## BACKGROUND TO ISLAM

We as Muslims in South Africa find ourselves in a unique situation in that our society is one dominated by apartheid, i.e. the division and economic exploitation of the people on the basis of race and colour. This is the one reality that is most pervading in our country amongst the majority of the population.

Of course, to us in The Call of Islam, this is totally against the concept of tauhid and against the Quran and Sunnah. It has become apparent to us that for Islam to make any impact amongst the population of South Africa — which is overwhelmingly non-Muslim — then the preaching/teaching of Allah's tauhid will have to address this basic form of evil. This is a 'definite challenge we face.

The Muslim community makes up only 1, 3% of the South African population. Since the first arrival of muslims 333 years ago, Islam has been preserved through the dedication of illustrious personalities. Over the last few decades, however, the adherence of Muslims to the Deen of Islam has waned with the more concerted Westernisation of South Africa. This is the second challenge that we face in South Africa.

But we have seen in 1985 that muslims have found new meaning in Islam (particularly in Cape Town) with the assertion of Islam by The Call of Islam and others as a definite force politically, as well as in all other spheres of life. A basic understanding of Islam

*"The unity of the oppressed which is vital can only be achieved by engaging the enemy in all possible ways — where true Moslems, true Christians and all progressive organisations stand*

*shoulder to shoulder to break down the granite wall of apartheid and open the doors of freedom to each and every soul in this country".*

*(Iman Hassan Solomon)*



## THE CALL OF ISLAM

The Call of Islam was formed in 1984. It was formed to fulfil our tasks as outlined in the first part. To summarise:—

- To spread an understanding of Islam amongst non-Muslim especially as it relates to the way in which the tauhid of Allah is violated in South Africa.
- To bring Muslim back on to the path of Allah by making them conscious of their duties, especially in so far as it concerns the establishment of a just society.

The Call of Islam was formed by prominent members of the community, including members of the ulama in Cape Town. From Cape Town The Call of Islam spread to other parts of South Africa. The way in which we organise is to form halaqat in different

towns and suburbs. These halaqat are at the same time the basic unit of Islamic Education and training as well as the working units in the community. To co-ordinate the work of The Call of Islam in a region, we have a regional shura, with a national co-ordinator facilitating national contact.

Alhamdulillah, in the short lifespan of The Call of Islam, we have been able to achieve much of our objectives. The challenge we now face is to build on this and to deepen our work so that ultimately Islam may triumph in this part of the world.

We see ourselves taking on these challenges, Insha-Allah.



Go forth lightly prepared and well-equipped. And strive in the path of Allah with your wealth and your selves. (Quran)



# LETTER TO ISLAMIC COMMUNITY

Shaik Gabier

Dear Brother/Sister,  
Assalaamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh!

I pray that this letter reaches you whilst you are in the best of health and imbued with the determination to work for Islam, Insha Allah.

I am writing this letter to you from Lusaka, the Headquarters of the African National Congress, the vanguard of our struggle for justice and for the liberation of our country. You may find it strange that an alim should be writing to you from the HQ of the ANC. This is because so many of us are victims of a deliberate campaign of distortion against the ANC. We are tired of being warned against imaginary communists threats whilst our children are being killed on the streets of South Africa.

The Muslims inside South Africa are, Alhamdulillah, increasingly becoming active combatants in the struggle for justice and have in greater numbers identified with the ANC. We have done so because of the ANC track record, and because the Freedom Charter to which the ANC is committed, provides the surest guarantee of the preservation of our Din and culture in a liberated South Africa.

Above all, we have done so because the masses of South Africa recognises the ANC as the custodian of their aspirations and there is no way that Islam is going to survive in South Africa if does not identify with the oppressed. It is only through *being united with the 'mustadafin fil ard' i.e. the oppressed on the earth, that we will be able to bring about the downfall of the white racist regime. In their destruction lies the hope of our people and the future of Islam.*

We enclose a copy of the Freedom Charter to which the ANC and all of us are committed, and it has met with acceptance by a number of senior ulema inside South Africa. We appeal to you to support our struggle as commanded by Allah in the Quran:

O' You who believe! stand up firmly  
as witness bearers for Allah in  
*Justice, though this may be against  
yourselves . . .*

We assure you of our commitment to bring about a solution where justice and the noblest of our Islamic traditions shall prevail. Please write to us for further information and offers of support.

We pray for the Guidance from Allah at all times for indeed 'the only true guidance is the Guidance of Allah.'

Wassalaam.  
Your Brother in Islam.  
Shaikh Abdul Hamid Gabier  
(Former Chairman, Muslim Judicial Council)

