



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful



THE CALL

JOURNAL OF THE AHMADIYYA ANJUMAN ISHA'AT-IL-ISLAM INC., TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Jumaadal `Oolaa 1, 1424 A.H.

Saturday June 19, 2004

Editor: Imaam Iqbal Hydal (B.Sc., Dip. Ed.)

Editorial

I.R.O. TO PRAY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ?

The upsurge of crime in our country has led to a national concern that is unparalleled in the history of Trinidad & Tobago. Despite all efforts of the Government, the Opposition, DOMA, the Chamber of Commerce, CMAC; the call for demonstrations, marches and the temporary closure of some business places; robberies, kidnappings and murders continue unabated. Crime mocks at the motto of our Police Service - "To Protect and Serve". There is such despair in the nation that the authorities have virtually thrown their hands in the air and are calling for Divine Intervention.

PASS THE "BUCK" TO GOD

When man fails in his effort, he "passes the buck" to God. He relinquishes his responsibility in solving his own problem and throws the responsibility in the hands of God. This is the general concept of God. God is to be used and abused. We use Him conveniently when our ego is so badly bruised, that we recognize that we are no longer "the master of all that we survey". We abuse him, by thinking that He was not there in

the first place, as He helps us to solve our problems and move on with our lives. The Qur'an admonishes ;

"God does not change the condition of a people until they change their own condition"
(Qur'an ; 13 :11)

I.R.O. DISCRIMINATION

The Prime Minister has met with the I.R.O. and requested prayers for the nation. The Leader of the Opposition has supported this call and extended it to include prayers against discrimination. Will God listen to the prayers of the I.R.O ? How can He, when the I.R.O itself practices discrimination? For years, it has discriminated against the Ahmadiyya Anjuman. For almost twenty years, its application to become a member of the I.R.O. has religiously been rejected. Letters of the I.R.O. are reproduced to substantiate the charges of discrimination against us. We have reapplied on more than one occasion but the discrimination continues. The Anjuman has used every avenue to present its case . It has even appeared before a Constitution Commission, headed by a former

Chief Justice of Trinidad & Tobago. The Anjuman asserted that the Constitutional rights of its members were being infringed by virtue that they did not enjoy the freedom of association. Similar to all other pleas we have made, the Anjuman was ignored.

POLLUTING I.R.O.'S PRAYERS

The fact that we are not part of the I.R.O. seems to have resulted in discrimination against us, in our application to acquire state lands, or to run primary or secondary schools. We receive no Ecclesiastical Grants from the state nor are we officially invited to participate at any national service. Thus when a National day of Prayer is called by the I.R.O., the Ahmadiyya Anjuman might be polluting the prayers of the I.R.O., should we participate. We are still awaiting an official response from our last letter of application dated April 5, 2004. Unofficially, we are told that the I.R.O.'s position has not yet changed.

"God does not change the condition of a people until they change their own condition".

The IRO Files



G/6/b/568/87

8th October, 1987

Mr. Iqbal Hydal,
Secretary,
Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-I-Islam Inc.,
213, Cacandee Road,
Felicity,
Chaguanas.

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you for the copy of your letter to Dr. the Honourable Brinsley Samaroo, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, with respect to the application of your organization to join the Inter-Religious Organization of Trinidad and Tobago (IRO).

I must also apologize to you for the delay in undertaking a very unenviable task which I had been requested to do by the IRO Executive i.e. to write to you concerning the said application.

It is perfectly true that your application was sent in more than a year ago but, for various reasons including absence from the Executive meetings when a decision was to have been made as well as contradictory information which had to be clarified, it was only within the last two meetings that a final conclusion was arrived at.

As you will surely understand, it is not without some embarrassment that I write to you with respect to Muslim business for the members of the IRO have always had a tradition of great respect for one another's religious traditions.

The IRO acknowledges that, according to its Constitution, there is nothing that prevents the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-I-Islam Inc. from becoming a member. However, it was clearly stated that:

- i) your group is not accepted as Muslims by other Muslim organizations. (You have yourself recognized this in your letter to Dr. Samaroo).
- ii) you are not granted visas to visit Mecca.
- iii) other Muslim groups will not sit around the same table with you for discussion. (The IRO was informed that the Government has been told this very clearly).
- iv) if you were to be accepted into the IRO and were called upon at an Inter-Faith Service to say a prayer, the Muslims in F&F would not consider that they had been represented at the Service.
- v) if you were to be accepted into the IRO, other Muslim groups would leave the IRO.

/Finally.....

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8/10/87

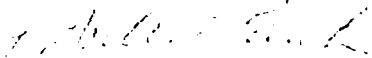
Finally, dear sir, the membership of the IRO belong to the Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Baha'i faiths and in view of the above, it would appear that the Ahmadiyya Anjuman does not come under any of the four headings.

I can appreciate the feelings of your group and I am sure you will also appreciate the circumstances in which the IRO finds itself.

This, then, is why your application for membership in the IRO cannot be accepted.

May I end by saying that this has not been an easy letter to write.

Yours sincerely,



+ Anthony Pantin
Archbishop of Port of Spain
1st Vice President, IRO.

c. Dr. the Hon. Brinsley Sararoo

AP/irw

Holy Qur'an ; 5 : 8

8 O you who believe, be upright for Allāh, bearers of witness with justice ; and let not hatred of a people incite you not to act equitably. Be just ; that is nearer to observance of duty. And keep your duty to Allāh. Surely Allāh is Aware of what you do.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوِّمِينَ لِلَّهِ
شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاةُ
قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا طَاعِدُوا أَقْرَبَ
لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٨﴾



The Inter-Religious Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago

Archbishop's House,
Port-of-Spain.
16th December, 1993.

Secretary,
Ahmediyya Anjuman Isha'at-I-Islam Inc.
Of Trinidad and Tobago.
Freeport.

Dear Sir / Madam,

The I.R.O. having received your application for membership into this Organization, have since received such, and in deliberation found you are not illegible for such affiliation with our grouping.

However, if you wish, you may re-apply in one year's time. It is disheartening to extend these words of negativity to you; but accept such in good faith.

Respectfully Yours,

Rohan
Mahant Rohan Sibransingh.
Asst. Sec. I.R.O.

88 Those who disbelieve and hinder (men) from Allāh's way, We will add chastisement to their chastisement because they made mischief.

الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوا عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ
زُودْنَاهُمْ عَذَابًا فَوْقَ الْعَذَابِ بِمَا كَانُوا
يُفْسِدُونَ ﴿٨٨﴾

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