

Al - Qalam

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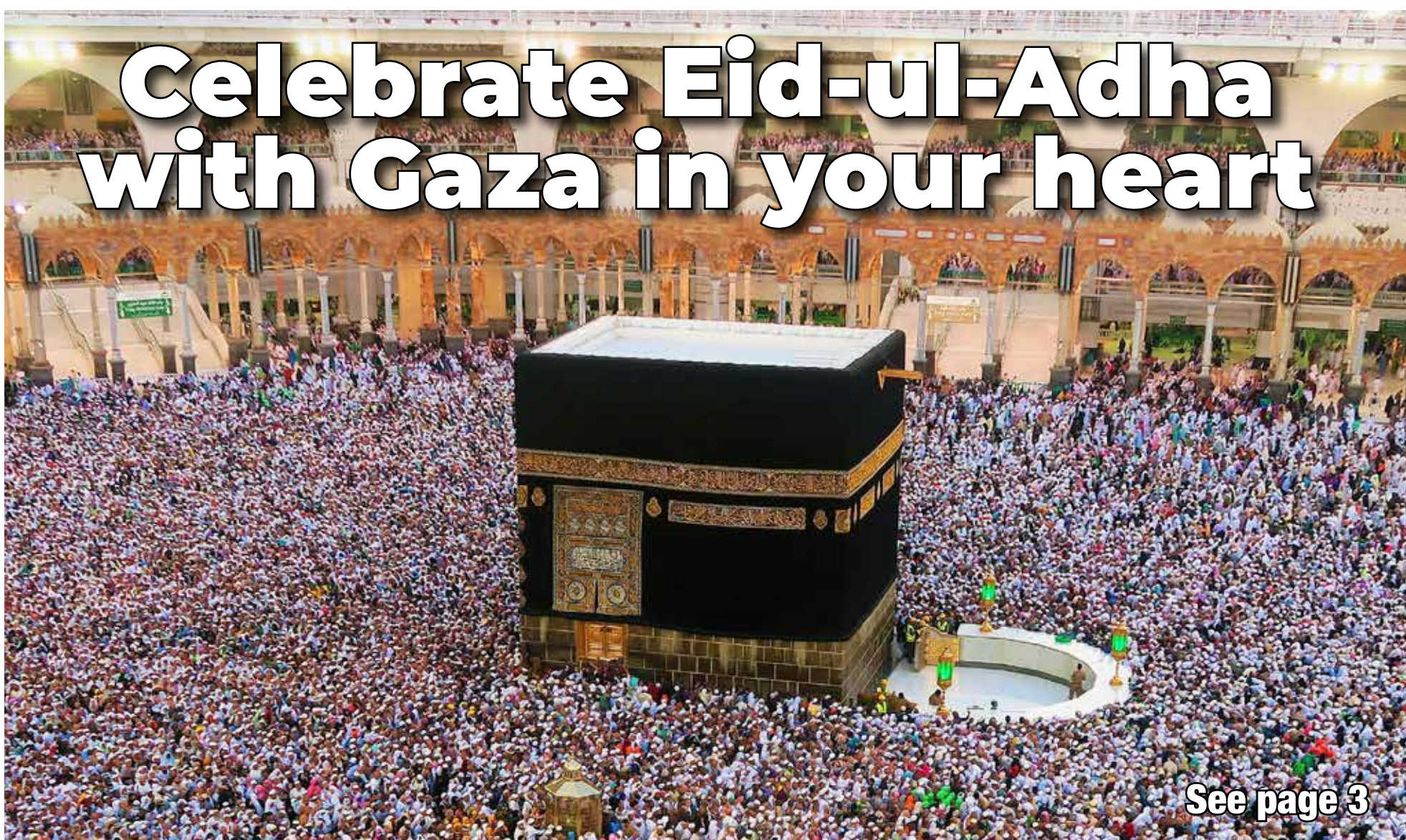


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LOCAL NEWS

Durban siblings graduate as doctors - with distinctions

By Nabeelah Shaikh

In an inspiring moment for KwaZulu-Natal’s medical community, siblings Dr Mohamed Hoosen Suleman and Dr Naeema Suleman have both graduated with distinction from the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine.

The siblings, celebrated for their academic brilliance and unwavering dedication, walked the graduation stage together, an achievement that has resonated with their family, mentors, and peers alike.

Dr Naeema Suleman was awarded her medical degree summa cum laude, the highest academic honour, while her brother, Dr Mohamed Hoosen Suleman, completed his degree cum laude, a notable academic distinction in its own right.

“This moment is more than a personal milestone. Graduating with these honours is the culmination of years of hard work, late nights, and an insatiable thirst for knowledge. It’s about pushing the boundaries of excellence, not just for ourselves, but for those we hope to serve as future doctors,” said Mohamed. Naeema shared similar senti-

ments about their shared journey through medical school. “Being part of a medical programme is challenging, but having Mohamed by my side made all the difference. We have been each other’s pillars of support, motivating one another to strive for excellence. Medicine is not just about treating illnesses; it is about understanding humanity, and that is what has driven us to work so hard,” she said.

Their academic excellence has been matched by a trail of prestigious accolades. Naeema, who was among the top five students at UKZN since her first year, received the Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship, one of the university’s most selective academic awards. She also credited her personal support system, particularly from her husband.

“I consider myself truly privileged and blessed to have the unwavering support of my husband, Yaseen. His steadfast presence, particularly during challenging periods such as examinations, has been invaluable. I deeply admire his positive outlook on life, and I am profoundly grateful for the role he has played in my academic journey,” she said. Mohamed’s list of recognition spans local and international platforms. Among his many accolades,

he received the World Health Organisation’s Prestigious Changemaker Scholarship in Geneva during his fourth year of study.

He has since been invited to deliver talks at conferences in Denmark, Switzerland, Oman, Austria, and Vietnam, covering a range of medical disciplines.

Additionally, Mohamed was named one of the Mail & Guardian’s 200 Young South Africans, and received honours such as the Inside Education Foundation’s 100 South African Shining Stars and the 2023 South African Health Excellence Rising Star Award, which celebrates emerging leaders in the healthcare sector.

Despite their individual accomplishments, both Mohamed and Naeema remain deeply committed to serving their communities. Throughout their academic careers, they actively participated in health outreach initiatives and mentoring programmes, living out the principle that medicine is not simply a profession, but a mission of service.

Currently, the siblings are completing their internship at Victoria Mxenge Hospital in Durban where they are gaining hands-on experience in

the Paediatrics department. “It’s one thing to study medicine in the lecture halls but another to apply that knowledge in a hospital setting. Internship is where you truly learn the art of medicine, how to think on your feet, how to communicate with patients, and how to provide care with compassion,” he said.

Naeema spoke of how working with children has shaped her perspective. “Children are incredibly resilient, and working with them has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of our internship so far. It teaches you patience, empathy, and the true meaning of healing,” she said. At the heart of their success is a strong family foundation. Their parents, Solly and Ayesha Suleman, shared their joy at witnessing both of their children achieve high honours.

“From the time they were little, we knew they were destined for greatness. They were always inquisitive, always striving to be the best versions of themselves. To see them both graduate with such high honours was overwhelming,” said Solly Suleman. Ayesha Suleman added: “As parents, you always hope that your children find their path and excel in it. But to have them both achieve at this level, it’s beyond what we could have



ever imagined. It’s a moment of immense pride, not just for us but for our entire community.”

UKZN’s College of Health Sciences praised the siblings’ accomplishments, noting that they embody the institution’s core values of Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Client-Oriented, Honesty, and Trust.

The School of Clinical Medicine also commended their achievements, calling their success a reflection of UKZN’s commitment to developing world-class medical professionals. As for the

future, the Suleman siblings have big dreams. Mohamed, with a keen interest in research and public health, aspires to influence healthcare policy in under-resourced settings. Naeema is passionate about internal medicine and obstetrics, fields she believes allow for deep patient connections and meaningful impact.

Their journey, from medical school to hospital wards, is far from over, but already, it stands as a shining example of what can be achieved with resilience, purpose, and the right support. For Mohamed and Naeema Suleman, this is just the beginning.

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Cries of Baby Isma'il to the Cries of Gaza



As we approach Eid al-Adha Imam Dr. A. Rashied Omar makes the call for a Sacred Solidarity

On Eid al-Adha, we honour the sacred sacrifices of Prophet Ibrahim, his noble wife Hajar, and their blessed son Isma'il (peace be upon all of them). Their story is etched in our collective memory, not as a distant legend, but as a moral compass, illuminating the path of faith, sacrifice, and unwavering trust in Allah.

At the heart of the hajj rituals lies the anguished yet hope-filled cry of a mother searching for sustenance for her child. Hajar, left alone in the barren valley of Bakkah,

did not despair. In one of the most sacred reenactments of devotion, we remember her running between the hillocks of Safa and Marwah, driven by the desperate cries of her infant son, Isma'il. With each step, she embodied faith in motion: striving, searching, and trusting in the mercy of Allah.

As we prepare to mark Eid al-Adha, those cries echo hauntingly through the devastated streets of Gaza, where Palestinian mothers cradle their emaciated, trembling children amidst rubble, beneath the relentless roar of Israeli bombs and the suffocating grip of an inhumane food blockade.

The desperation of Palestinian mothers mirrors that of Hajar. Like Hajar, they run, not between hillocks, but between aid centres and bomb shelters, hospitals and ruins, seeking not just water, but the basic dignity of life, bread, safety, sleep without fear. Yet, unlike Hajar, they are met not with the mercy of Zamzam, water gushing forth from beneath their children, in response to their plea. Instead, they encounter blockade, bombardment, starvation, and the calculated

cruelty of genocide. The Zionist Israeli regime's brutal siege has turned Gaza into a living graveyard. Babies are born into the dust of demolished homes.

Mothers search in vain for clean water and a morsel of bread. Children cry out from hunger, fear, and unspeakable trauma. Yet, their tears do not fall unnoticed. Allah is al-Sami' - the All-Hearing. As we gather in safety and sufficiency to celebrate Eid, we are compelled to ask ourselves: have we truly heeded the spiritual call of Eid al-Adha? Have we internalized its call to moral courage, to sacrifice, and to solidarity with the oppressed?

This sacred commemoration is not merely about the ritual act of animal sacrifice. It is about a call to cultivate hearts ready to sacrifice for the sake of truth, righteousness and justice. It summons us to surrender not only our comforts, but also our silences, to break them in order to speak for those being silenced by tyranny and oppression. The Glorious Qur'an reminds us: "It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is your piety (taqwa) that

reaches Him." (Surah al-Hajj, 22:37). True qurbani or udhiyya begins when we set aside our apathy and embrace our moral responsibility. It is to walk in the footsteps of Prophet Ibrahim, who was prepared to sacrifice everything for Allah, and to remember that every act of devotion must be infused with compassion, justice, and an unwavering commitment to the oppressed.

Hajar's perseverance gave birth to Zamzam, a spring that nourishes the world to this day. Her striving was not one of passive waiting, it was an active resistance rooted in tawakkul, deep trust in Allah. We are likewise called to strive, not only spiritually, but also ethically, to stand in solidarity with the oppressed in our time.

As long as Palestinian mothers are denied food and safety, as long as babies are bombed and starved, and buried beneath rubble, we cannot celebrate Eid without our hearts breaking in sacred solidarity and safety, as long as babies are bombed, starved, and buried beneath rubble, we cannot celebrate Eid without our hearts aching in sacred protest and our

spirits moved to compassionate action. Eid al-Adha, then, is a profound call to moral courage. It confronts us with searching questions: what are we truly willing to sacrifice in the pursuit of justice? What comforts, silences, or privileges are we prepared to relinquish in order to uphold the dignity of the oppressed? Just as Prophet Ibrahim was tested with the ultimate offering, so too are we tested, daily, with choices that reveal the sincerity of our faith and the depth of our solidarity.

In light of such profound ethical demands, how can we proclaim "Eid Mubarak" with full hearts while babies in Rafah cry out for milk, while mothers mourn their children in the rubble, and while Israel continues to flaunt its contempt for international law and the sanctity of human life?

In the face of such suffering, lamentation alone is not enough. Our faith demands principled action. As a global Ummah, we must raise our voices, in our masajid, our homes, and our streets. We must support urgent humanitarian relief, divest from and boycott complicit corporations, engage in sustained

nonviolent resistance, and pressure upon our leaders to end their complicity with apartheid and genocide.

Let us transform our du'as into deeds, our rituals into resistance, and our mourning into a movement for liberation. Let our takbirat rise not only in praise of Allah, but also in protest against injustice. And let our qurbani and udhiyyah be offerings that please Allah not merely in form, but in meaning. A sacrifice that makes room for prophetic action, ethical resistance, and global solidarity.

In this spirit of sacred responsibility, we raise our hands and our hearts in humble supplication: May Allah accept our worship, deepen our compassion, bring healing to the wounded, sustenance to the hungry, and liberation to the oppressed people of Palestine. May Allah make us worthy heirs of the legacy of Ibrahim, Hajar, and Isma'il. And may Allah answer the cries of every Isma'il, not with bombs, but with mercy, with justice and with flowing water.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SA Palestine supporters heading to Egypt to protest at Rafah border

Twenty five delegations from around the globe including from South Africa, will descend on Egypt to participate in the “Global March to Gaza”, *Ismail Suder* reports.

A number of South African supporters of Palestine are expected to descend on Egypt next month to join scores of fellow solidarity activists from around the world for a “Global March to Gaza” which takes place on June 15.

The activists are hopeful that Egypt would offer them safe passage to make their voices heard.

The proposed dates of travel are June 12th to June 21st.

The march will begin from the town of Al Arish to the Rafah border with a demand that Egypt open the gates to allow aid convoys into Gaza to alleviate starvation

and disease in the Gaza Strip’s 2.2-million people. Israel is using starvation as a weapon of war to force Hamas to surrender, and to ethnically cleanse Gaza of its 2.2-million population.

Thousands of participants from 25 countries will gather at the Rafah border for around two to four days, depending on authorisations from the Egyptian Government. The group has made it clear they are not a political group, but a peaceful citizens-driven movement.

Palestinian organisations in Gaza and in the region have welcomed this initiative.

Basheerah Soomar, the SA delegation coordinator of the Global March to Gaza campaign, told *Al-Qalam* that this was not just any trip, “this is a civil society peaceful protest to confront genocide and to challenge the complicity of our own countries and forcing them to intervene while we are on the ground.” Many people have registered to join

the peaceful campaign, but she bemoaned the fact that those who expressed interest in the solidarity trip so far were mainly women – 81% to be exact.

“It is extremely disappointing given that this should be a mission for the men of the ummah,” she added.

But what are the objectives of the International March to Gaza? *Al-Qalam* asked.

“We are calling for an immediate and permanent opening of the Rafah border crossing; Safe passage for all aid to be let in; complete withdrawal of Israeli forces in Gaza; reconstruction of Gaza under international supervision and end the illegal Occupation of Palestine,” Soomar said.

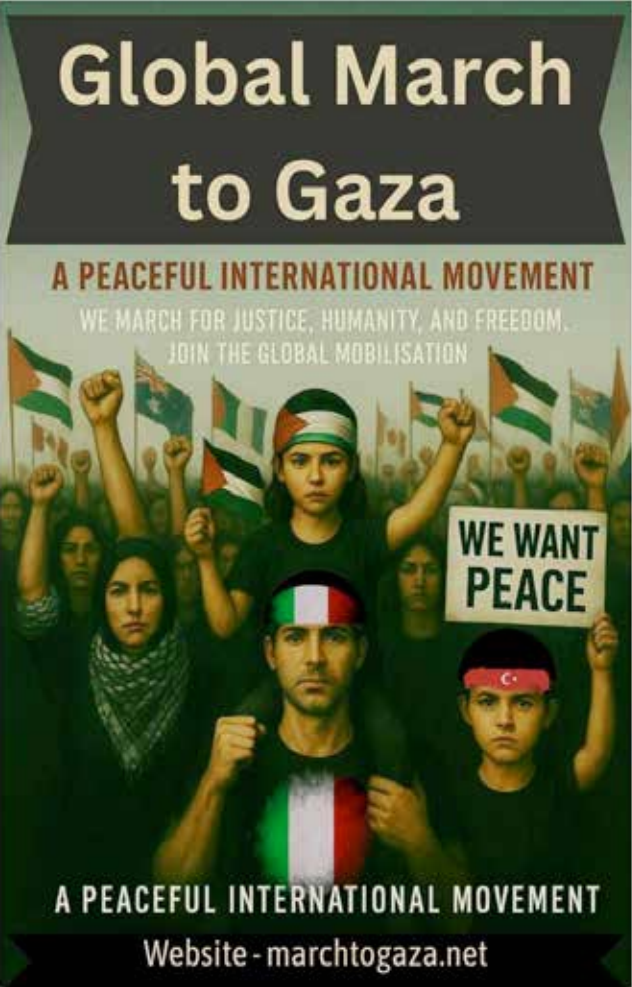
The march will take place on 15 June where delegations will arrive at the Rafah border and set up a rally. They will be supported on the same day by the Freedom Flotilla that will attempt to break the

siege by sea, as well as the Overland Convoy that will attempt to break the siege by air.

Ambulances will follow the march towards the Rafah border and provide medical support when needed. There will also be dedicated vehicles to carry water, food, tents and other logistically needed items.

So far, 25 countries, including South Africa, have formed delegations and will send representatives to the march.

To join the South African delegation, go to marchtogaza.net, scroll down to ‘South Africa’ and click on the link to join the group where participants are securely being screened and provided with all necessary information to make a decision on whether they’d like to join. All expenses are to be covered by individuals and we estimate that the total trip will cost around R20 000 per person, all inclusive.



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Hoomer to launch political party

A former terror accused says his party will be based on Sharia Law, writes Nabeelah Shaikh

Businessman and former terror accused, Farhad Hoomer, has formally announced the formation of a new political party, the Islamic State of Africa (ISA), marking a bold and controversial entry into South Africa's political arena.

Driven by frustration with what he describes as decades of corruption, mismanagement, and moral decline in the country's leadership, Hoomer says the time has come for a new political movement, one built on strong moral principles, religious values, and pan-African unity. His party is based on the principles of Shariah Law.

"Shariah Law is the solution to mankind's problems. Look at what's happening in Palestine and Ukraine. All the wars that have happened in the past 20 years have cost millions of lives. The only reason these wars have happened is because

of the resources of the land. People are dying under the name of democracy, with leaders saying they are here to free people. But the reality is they are only here to steal from people," said Hoomer.

He believes Shariah Law will free mankind.

"The first thing we will do under Shariah Law is abolish the Riba (banking) system. The second thing we will do is abolish all drugs and alcohol. This is what contributes to 90% of crime. We also want to cut taxes. Tax is a killer, and it's enslaving mankind even more," said Hoomer.

He also wants to give free electricity, free water, free education, and free health-care.

"Our top three priorities are to cut down taxes, create jobs, and make SA into a tax-free haven for all foreign businesses. We want to create five million jobs in the next five years and get all the youth employed," said Hoomer.

The party is currently in the process of registering with the Independent Electoral

Commission (IEC) and has its eyes set on contesting the 2026/27 local government elections, with eThekweni (Durban) as its first target metro. "We want to start where the people need help the most, where local governance has failed. Bread and butter issues, service delivery, safety, and dignity. These are our immediate priorities," Hoomer said.

Despite its name, the Islamic State of Africa is open to all South Africans, regardless of religion. Hoomer emphasises that the party's mission extends beyond religious lines, with supporters from both Islamic and non-Islamic communities already backing the cause. The core message, he says, is one of values: honesty, justice, and the end of systemic oppression.

"Our vision is a united, prosperous Africa. Shariah law, as we understand and promote it, is about justice, community cohesion, and freeing people from the economic and moral decay they're trapped in," said Hoomer. ISA, he says, does not advocate for theocracy or exclusion but sees its interpretation of Shariah principles as a moral compass to

guide governance and community development.

Long-term ambitions include expanding to other provinces and cities, with the ultimate goal of establishing what Hoomer calls "a free, fair and just society for all."

As the founding leader, Hoomer is funding the party's early activities from his own business ventures. He promises full transparency once official registration and donor contributions begin.

The party has also been receiving backlash, and multiple objections from the public have been lodged. Hoomer was previously accused of terrorism in October 2018. Addressing past controversies and legal troubles, Hoomer says all charges against him were withdrawn and do not reflect on his character or leadership.

"The community knows who I am and what I stand for. My track record is helping people, not harming them," he said, brushing off concerns about public perception.

He said he was already operating as an NPC doing community work, and this is just



the next step for him. Some critics have also raised concerns over the party's name, Islamic State of Africa, fearing associations with extremism. But Hoomer is quick to defend the branding.

"How can a name rooted in peace and unity invoke fear? We're not terrorists; we're community builders. Section 19 of our Constitution protects the right to form political parties and express our values. If slogans like 'kill the boer' are legally protected, then surely a name like ours isn't a threat," said Hoomer. In a final message to citizens, he urges voters to

look critically at their living conditions and the promises that have repeatedly gone unfulfilled.

He says he genuinely wants to make a change and create a better South Africa for all.

"In 31 years of democracy, what real change have the people seen? People are still waiting for houses, still living in shacks, still enslaved by broken systems. As a God-fearing person, I believe it's my moral duty to step forward and offer an alternative rooted in integrity, justice, and service," said Hoomer.

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EDITORIAL



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We would like to thank all our respected readers for sending in your comments, views and opinions to our 'Letters to the Editor' column. We value your thoughts on the various aspects affecting the Muslim community. Keep them rolling in.

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Why Israel’s latest offensive in Gaza is codenamed ‘Gideon’s Chariots’

For some historical context, Gideon was a biblical figure who led the Jews in their battle against the Midianites who were connected to the Amalekites.

To make things clearer, Palestinians are identified as contemporary Amalekites, which means that according to the twisted logic of Israel, the killing of Palestinian women, men and children is somehow justified.

Just as Jehovah sanctioned the killing of all Amale-

kites by the ancient Jews, it appears that Israel feels obliged to do the same. Whether or not the name of the military assault is simply an attempt at dark humour, it doesn’t really matter.

At the time of writing this, Gideon’s Chariots has begun, albeit with tanks instead of chariots. Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed over the past 48 hours and all functioning hospitals in Northern Gaza are out of service.

The details of the latest offensive lack the power to

evoke any more shock or surprise. The military wishes to carve up Gaza into military zones. Over 300 000 Palestinians have been forced to evacuate their homes. For over 75 days, only five aid trucks have entered Gaza.

Mainstream media is not showing people the bloody and heartbreaking images streaming out of Gaza and thus many people are left in the dark. For many Palestinians, hope has never been fainter.

Bisan Owda, award win-

ning journalist from Gaza appealed to the people of the world to lobby their governments and the public to put pressure on Israel and its allies to end the war. ‘We need to keep up with the protests, the boycotts and the pressure on our government. The Israeli embassy must be shut down and we must not allow any person entrance into our country if they hold an Israeli passport. For over 18 months the calls have been getting louder and louder. Soon, there will be silence; it will be too late.’

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Trump Jamboree in Gulf sheikdoms, Saudi Arabia – Shameful betrayal of Palestine



Arab despots fell over themselves to appease trump but unwilling to leverage their trillions to demand a halt to Netanyahu's genocide in Gaza, writes Iqbal Jassat

The Trump extravaganza was thus not merely an affirmation of subservience to US power by his hosts, but a glaring reminder that they have no appetite to cross him, nor the desire to “leverage” their trillions to immediately and unconditionally demand a halt to Netanyahu’s satanic onslaught in Gaza.

In sharp contrast to the humiliating subservience of unelected Arab despots who raced

with each other to shamefully bow down to American imperialism, Iran and Yemen stood out as firm, committed allies of Palestine's freedom struggle. The spectacle that unfolded in Riyadh, Doha and Abu Dhabi where each one of these reactionary autocrats shamefully opened the vaults of their loot to hand over trillions of dollars to the world's most unpredictable leader Donald Trump, while down the road in Gaza millions lack food, water and medicine due directly to America's complicity in Israel's genocide, has been shocking though not surprising.

Whether it's Mohamed bin Salman (MbS) of the Saudi dynasty or Mohamed bin Zayed (MbZ) of the UAE, who with the possible exception of Qatar's Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani known to be engaged in so-called "hostage negotiations" with Hamas's leadership, they have proven to be hostile to Palestine's quest for freedom. At a time when the entire world is aware that the genocide has reached frightening levels of annihilation of the entire population in Gaza, unparalleled in all wars and conflicts in history, akin to the holocaust if not

worse, Arab despots smugly entertained Trump and his entourage in the most lavish fashion imaginable. That the genocide is worse than the holocaust has been argued by Alon Mizrahi who describes himself as an “Anti-Zionist Arab Jew” in his latest “Mizrahi Perspective”:

“The Nazi Holocaust was committed in the dark, and most of humanity did not see it or know about it in real time,” he tweeted, adding that the Gaza Genocide is broadcast live for the whole world to see. Does it not raise questions about the levels of suppression or free speech within the Arab regimes as to why their respective populations, despite being aware of the bloody slaughter of their kith and kin, yet remain muted and unmoved? As client-states of the US empire, these regimes may reflect superficial trappings of “independence”, but the reality is that they are nowhere close to claiming sovereignty without the approval of America.

That the security of their gold-plated thrones is outsourced to the Pentagon, is borne out by the fact that the US has fortified military bases

across at least nineteen sites - eight of them considered to be permanent by many regional analysts - in countries including Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the UAE, cited by sources such as the Council on Foreign Relations. Its military tentacles are not confined to these regions only. The US also uses large bases in Djibouti and Turkey, which are part of other regional commands but contribute significantly to American operations in the Middle East, according to the American Security Project.

It thus lays bare the conundrum facing Gulf Sheikdoms carved out during the colonial era, that notwithstanding unbridled power, wealth and prestige, they remain shackled to US dominance. The Trump extravaganza was thus not merely an affirmation of subservience to US power by his hosts, but a glaring reminder that they have no appetite to cross him, nor the desire to “leverage” their trillions to immediately and unconditionally demand a halt to Netanyahu’s satanic onslaught in Gaza. Standing as a beacon of hope for Palestine, in direct contrast to the collective of

Arab despots including Egypt and Jordan, is of course the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ansarullah of Yemen. Despite decades of isolation and severe sanctions, Iran refused to buckle under US pressure to discard support for Palestinians and its resistance led by Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

This past Friday, Iranian Speaker of Parliament Mohammed Baqer Qalibaf made an urgent appeal to the Muslim world to strengthen unity and echo the voice of the oppressed Palestinians. Speaking at Friday prayers at the Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia, Qalibaf reminded the congregation that it is a duty and an imperative to not allow “global arrogance” to continue the biggest genocide in history.

His message was loud and clear and hopefully reached the inner chambers of Trump's Gulf allies:

“Today, the people of Gaza, including children, women and patients, expect us to be by their side. They want us to be the voice of the oppressed and not leave them alone in these difficult days.” Today, he noted, the world’s Mus-

lims and freedom-seeking people believe in a call by the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini to stand against the “cancerous tumour” of Israel.

He also emphasized that Iranians have always supported the Palestinian people and that they will never stop doing so despite pressure and threats. While Hezbollah in Lebanon has made supreme sacrifices in defending and advancing the cause of Palestine, including the devastating loss of its revered leader Syed Hassan Nasrallah, it deserves admiration and respect for not wavering in its principled position despite these setbacks.

The unhidden glee and joy that many Arab despots shared with Israel during the carpet-bombings of Beirut and South Lebanon, is a record of shame, not honour. Indeed the dignity associated with Ansarullah's bravery - again at huge cost given Yemen's own humanitarian needs - stands in sharp contrast to the cowardice on display during the Trump jamboree.

**Iqbal Jassat is an Executive Member of MEDIA REVIEW NETWORK*

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We go beyond the mere distribution of meat... AMA provides training to local farmers and purchases livestock from them to empower local communi-

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In Africa, Imams travel between villages, teaching the rites of Hajj and Udhhiyyah to communities gathered at AMA masaaqid. Beneficiaries are educated on the Qurbani process and participate in the slaughtering to inculcate the Sunnah of Nabi Ibrahim (AS). In Afghanistan, animals are brought to the AMA office premises where families can participate in and observe the days of Eid, and in countries like Lebanon and Syria, slaughterhouses are carefully selected and booked for AMA's Qurbani to be performed in accordance with all Islamic requirements on the days of Eid.

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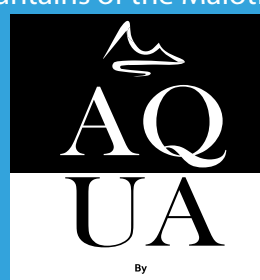
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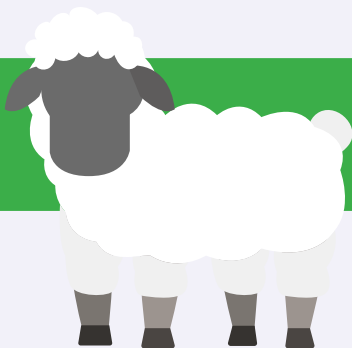
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Qurbani of Mercy



This Adha season, we reflect on the legacy of Ibrahim AS, his sacrifice and Allah (SWT)’s mercy on him.

Why Donate with AMA

AMA’s Qurbani programme is designed to bring the true essence of Adha to the communities within which we work.

Empowerment

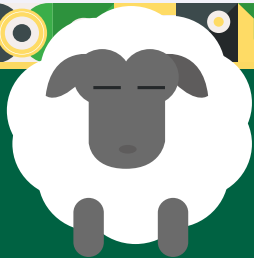
We go beyond the mere distribution of meat...AMA provides training to local farmers and purchases livestock from them to empower local communities and provide them with a sustainable income even beyond the days of Eid.

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The rites of Hajj and Udhiyyah are taught to communities at AMA masaajid. Where possible, beneficiaries are educated on the Qurbani process and participate in the slaughtering to inculcate the Sunnah of Nabi Ibrahim (AS).

Distribution

Families, widows, orphans and those most in need receive meat and come together as celebrations are held in various countries, allowing communities to fully experience the spirit of the day of Eid-ul-Adha.



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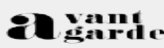


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Refugees’ & Envoys Land in US

Who Has The Cards?



By Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool

President Cyril Ramaphosa entered Washington to meet US President Donald Trump within days of 49 other South Africans having entered. Trump’s ‘asylum’ of SA’s Afrikaner ‘Refugees’ allegedly suffering ‘persecution’ was ostensibly timed to show President Ramaphosa’s delegation that they will negotiate both economic and geo-political issues and deals on terms determined by Trump. The most notable term being that the lies about democratic South Africa’s treatment of its white community are the foundation of the USA’s relationship with

South Africa. The first group of white South African Afrikaners boarded a chartered plane for the United States. US President Donald Trump says they are the victims of ‘terrible things’ being done to them in SA:

Firstly, they allegedly, face a genocide in which 4000 white farmers were killed since 2018 at a rate of 60 per day. The truth is closer to 630 tragic farm murders since 2014, according to the Transvaal Agriculture Union, with police statistics showing 32 killings in the last year. Ironically, farm killings may include black farm workers killed by those who qualify as Trump’s victims turned refugees. But facts apparently don’t matter.

Secondly, they allegedly face massive confiscation of their land and property. The truth is that while white people are about 7% of the population, they own 72% of agricultural land, and black people who have been dispossessed of land through the 1913 Land Act and Group Areas Acts, among others, black people at best have access to 24% (inclusive of land on which even their RDP houses stand



of all land acquired patiently over 30 years of freedom without forced expropriation and often acquired at market value. But today truth yields to power.

Thirdly, white people allegedly face DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) discrimination in the workplace and apparently no longer have access to professions, man-

agement, and economic ownership. The truth is that whites earn an average annual income of almost R700,000 as opposed to working Africans earning about R150,000 per year; whites occupy 66% of management positions versus blacks’ 14%; and the proportion of white-black ownership reflected in the JSE is around 70-30, with black ownership often being through institu-

tional funds. But a nefarious agenda trumps honesty.

Pointing out facts like these in the face of persistent and deliberate lies can be deemed as ‘undiplomatic’. But how do you respond when SA is punished by the USA revoking R8 billion of aid based on that lie. This shifts the untruth to an act of power-based supremacy, to support SA’s

erstwhile white supremacists who now invoke victimhood under a ‘black’ South African government.

Contrast the importation of such white ‘refugees’ with the deportation of black and brown people, among others to inhumane mega prison in South America.

Continued on page 12



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When South Africa must endure such punitive measures, including trade tariffs, then what should its government do?

Of course, the President must explain and present the truth about the alleged treatment of white Afrikaners, and for this he even has to rope in white billionaires and golfers to offset any race-based assumption that a black president will not tell the truth, and that such truths would be more acceptable from those of Trump's own race.

The SA delegation, however, may have to eat such humble pie to get through the door. But once in, they must play Trump's favourite game of cards. He often as-

The reality is that Americans pay for tariffs, not the exporter; that American stores will have empty shelves and higher prices; that counter tariffs from other countries close markets to American farmers; and that others also hold cards, sometimes more valuable than Trump's, like China withholding critical and rare earth minerals from the USA. SA has fewer and less valuable cards than China.

But it has cards like platinum, 600 US companies thriving in SA, SA companies creating jobs in the USA; and SA being the gateway for American goods into Africa. We hope President Ramaphosa will be able to play his cards – his leverages – deftly.

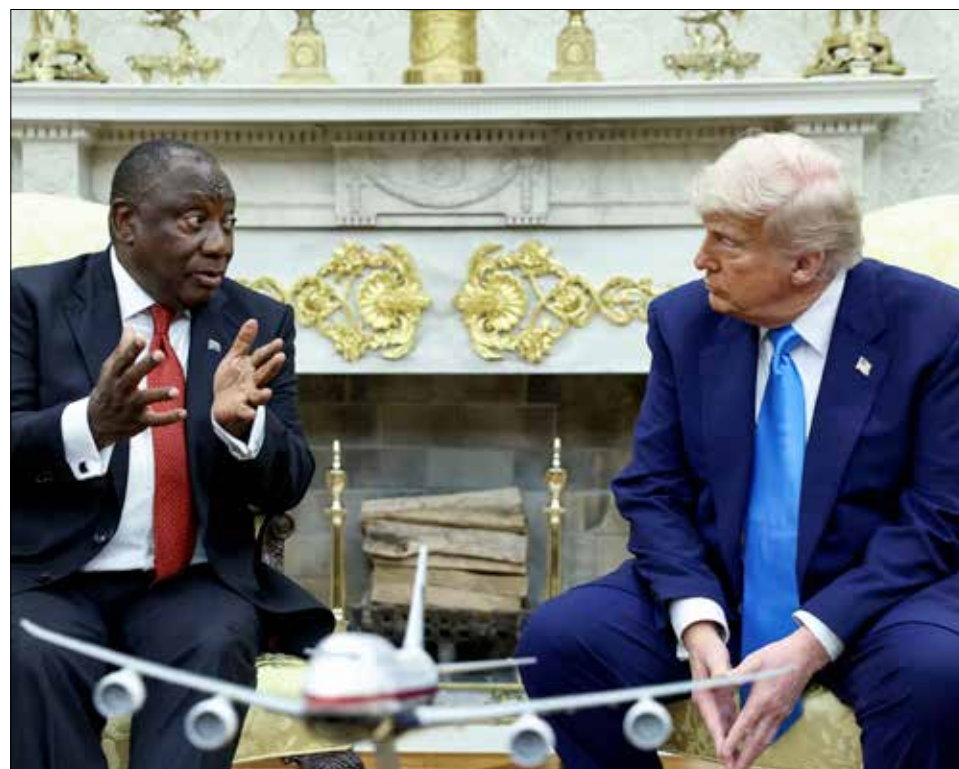
But the President must also

It is reasonable to assume that any attempt to seek redress from a foreign power, especially based on blatant untruths, and especially that results in punitive measures in aid and trade, must be repudiated and prevented.

Therefore, should we not consider that:

Firstly, whoever has assumed the notion of 'refugee' must be assumed to forfeit all property and assets in SA, given that refugees are down and out, and should any such possible assets not be redistributed to the real victims as identified in the TRC?

Secondly, that 'refugees' have no right of return to stay or visit given that the alleged oppressive conditions are unchanged and they



have forfeited all ties of citizenship in SA in exchange for such in the USA?

Thirdly, if SA is already being punished for 'horrible land confiscation' without any actual and significant punitive or retributive land reform, is this not a signal to the government to actually accelerate redistribution efforts given that partially, that which we fear, is already ma-

terializing?

Fourthly, if we accept Trump's argument that Afrikaners are killed at a rate of 60 per day over a decade, and this is a 'genocide', should he not be subpoenaed as a witness against Israel at the ICJ to testify that if 4000 tragic white deaths constitute a genocide, then certainly almost 70 000 Palestinians killed in less than 2 years, is

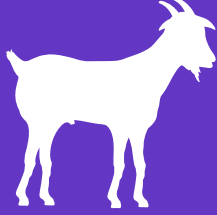
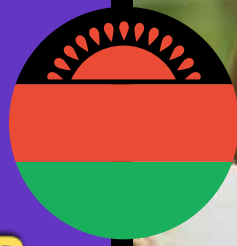
a genocide multiplied?

Finally, should we not be disturbed that this entire episode of 'Afrikaner Refugees' and their expatriation constitutes an egregious interference in the politics and internal affairs of a functioning democratic and rights-oriented society?

These would constitute an interesting public debate.

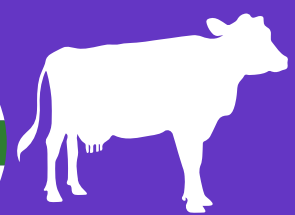
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Method

1. In a pot, add about 1/2 cup or more oil. Add onions, 2-3 peppercorns, 2 cinnamon sticks, 2 Elachi (cardamom). Cook till the onion is golden brown.
2. Add in mutton, 2 teaspoon ginger garlic, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon turmeric and water. Cook for 1 hour.
3. While meat is cooking in a separate dish mix: 2 1/2 teaspoon Dhana, 2 teaspoon Jiro (cumin), 1 teaspoon (or more) fine red chilli powder, 1 teaspoon coarse red chillies, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric, 2 teaspoon chilli garlic paste, 2 sachets tomato paste, liquidised tomatoes, grounded fresh coriander leaves, 2 table-spoon lemon juice.
4. Mix and cut potatoes into 3 or 4 pieces, depending on size, and add them to the masala mixture.
5. Once the meat has cooked for an hour in the masala, bring to a boil.
6. Preheat oven @ 180 degrees in the meantime.
7. Then wash rice 3 times and add to the meat and masala with 6-7 cups of water, salt, and red chilli powder.
8. Once this mixture is boiling and the oven is preheated, put the pot in and steam for an hour, stirring occasionally.



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LOCAL NEWS

Prof Karim elected to Fellowship of Royal Society

By Nabeelah Shaikh

In a groundbreaking moment for African science, Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim has been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society. The society is the United Kingdom’s independent scientific academy and the world’s oldest such institution, dating back to 1660.

Abdool Karim, a globally renowned infectious diseases epidemiologist, is the Associate Scientific Director and co-founder of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She has now joined an elite group of global scientific thinkers and pioneers that includes historical giants such as Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Stephen Hawking, and Albert Einstein.

She is only the seventh South African to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. Other South Africans in this

distinguished cohort include Wits Vice-Chancellor and physicist Professor Zblon Vilakazi, tuberculosis researcher Professor Valerie Mizrahi, her husband, epidemiologist Professor Salim Abdool Karim, chemist Professor Tebello Nyokong, physicist Professor Bernie Fanaroff, and theoretical physicist Professor George Ellis.

“Creating a platform for emerging young scientists in Africa, that’s our continent’s treasure chest,” said Abdool Karim following the announcement of her election.

Her vision has always been deeply rooted in social justice, scientific excellence, and the empowerment of the next generation.

Over a career spanning more than 40 years, Professor Abdool Karim has made pioneering contributions to global HIV prevention, particularly in advancing methods that protect adolescent girls and young women, one of the most vulnerable groups

to HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa. Her landmark CAPRISA 004 trial in 2010 demonstrated that antiretroviral medications could prevent the sexual transmission of HIV, laying the foundation for what is now known as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

In a CAPRISA video celebrating her election, Professor Abdool Karim reflected on the persistence that led to the 2010 breakthrough:

“It took 18 years, and eventually in 2010, we shared with the world that antiretrovirals used by uninfected people can prevent infection. And that really tells you about a very long journey, to get to game-changing science.” She said she wakes up every morning excited about what more we can do with science, and to see how science, and the influence of science on society, continues to grow.

“We can do excellent science, and we can innovate in Africa. Having done this for over 40 years gives me ener-

gy every day,” said Professor Abdool Karim.

Her scientific leadership extends well beyond her research. She has over 300 peer-reviewed publications and has mentored more than 600 African scientists, many of them women. She is a staunch advocate for using science to improve public health outcomes and tackle inequality.

“Who bears the greatest burden of AIDS? It is the poorest of the poor where we face a multiplicity of challenges. The burden of infectious diseases and social inequality go hand-in-hand,” she said. In addition to her role at CAPRISA, Professor Abdool Karim is a Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health in New York.

She also holds the John C. Martin Chair in Global Health at CAPRISA and serves as Pro Vice-Chancellor (African Health) at the University of KwaZulu-Na-



tal. She is the current President of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and as UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV, she continues to shape global policy and scientific strategies in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

“Healthy nations are wealthy nations, I see it every day. We remain committed to ending AIDS as a public health threat,” she said.

Her election to the Royal Society marks not only personal recognition for decades of scientific excellence but

also a broader moment of pride for African science and a reminder of the need for continued investment in the continent’s scientific talent and institutions.

“Becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society is a moment in a long journey of being a scientist. And an important reminder, as I pause to celebrate this moment, is an important reminder of how much more needs to be done,” said Professor Abdool Karim. She will be formally inducted into the Royal Society at a ceremony in London in July.



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