

Durban to get first  
Islamic youth  
development centre

Page 3



UKZN's Dawah  
table playing  
important role

Page 4



Cape Town all  
set for Qur'aan  
Recital Awards

Page 7



## SA activists on global flotilla not afraid of obstacles

By Ismail Suder

As the Global Samud Flotilla of 50 boats sail towards Gaza, one prominent South African media personality, Yusuf Omar, is overcome with seasickness – it's the least of his worries as he and others face an uncertain fate in the face of Israeli aggression.

Ten other South African Palestinian activists – two from KZN – are sailing with the Global Samud Flotilla, carrying symbolic food aid to Gaza, said to be the most powerful attempt to break the Zionist siege of the enclave whose 2.2-million are being starved to death.

After throwing up overboard, Omar says: "Seasickness is not going to stop our Flotilla to Gaza." On his social media platforms, Omar is posting blow-by-blow accounts of life on the boat which he is sharing with famous Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg.

The other South African activists on the flotilla are

Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, Dr Fatima Hendricks; Zahheera Soomar; Jared Sacks Elham Mouaffak Hatfield; Zukiswa Wanner; Irshaad Ahmed Chotia; Fazel Behra; Nurain Saloojee and Reaz Moola.

The fleet, carrying hundreds of activists from around the world, received a rousing send-off from the Spanish port of Barcelona, with another Flotilla expected to sail on Sunday from Tunisia. The 3000km journey would take about eight days to reach the shores of Gaza.

According to a statement from the Global Movement for Gaza (South Africa), the participation of the South African delegation "have chosen to act in solidarity with Palestinians living under siege.

"Their participation reflects the conscience of a nation whose struggle against apartheid was made lighter by the solidarity of the world. Today, that solidarity is returned to Gaza. From Cape Town to Johannesburg, Durban to Pretoria,

South Africans are rising to say with clarity and conviction that what is happening in Gaza is genocide, that silence is complicity, and that action is necessary."

The ANC has backed the Global Samud Flotilla and praised the South Africans taking part.

"We salute their principled stand, which aligns with the ANC's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and our government's courageous action at the International Court of Justice. The Flotilla is a vital, non-violent act of defiance against the illegal blockade of Gaza and a powerful statement against the ongoing injustices faced by Palestinians.

It continued: "We trust and expect that the government of South Africa will provide the necessary consular support for the South Africans that are part of this Flotilla."

Cape Occupational therapist, Dr Fatima Hendricks, who is on the Global Samud Flotilla, is the daughter of the former editor of *Al-Qalam*, Faud Hendricks. In an

interview from Tunis where she boarded a boat of the Global Samud Flotilla, Hendricks told *Al-Qalam* that her attire on the board to Gaza will be white clothing.

"My white clothing is symbolic for many reasons. It is the colour worn by the noble Prophet Muhammad and the colour of the ihram, worn in the purest state during both minor and major pilgrimages. White is also the colour of shrouds. In the midst of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, these shrouds appear in all sizes and forms, each representing a life cut tragically short. The pervasive presence of these white shrouds in this live-streamed genocide urgently underscores the magnitude and brutality, compelling us to confront the human cost of those who have been unjustly taken from their families. The seemingly endless procession of these shrouded beautiful human beings highlights an urgent call for intervention, and justice".

Hendricks said it was important for her to join the Flotilla. One story that really moved her was that of



journalist Mariam Abu Dagg who sent off her young son Gaith to the UAE before she was martyred.

Hendricks said, as a mother, Mariam's Will to her son was heart-wrenching. In her Will, Mariam wrote: "Gaith the heart and soul of your mother, I want you to pray for me, don't cry over my death"...My dear son, I want you not to forget me. I used to do everything so

that you would be happy and comfortable, so that you would grow up, get married, and have a daughter named Mariam after me."

It concluded: "You are my love, my heart, my support, my soul, and my son who lifts my head high. It is a trust on your shoulders, Gaith – your prayers, then your prayers, then your prayers. Your mother, Mariam."

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LOCAL NEWS

Call to host National Mosque Open Day to ‘build connections’ with community

By Al-Qalam Reporter

Once again, the South African Muslim Network (SAMNET) is urging mosques across the country to host National Mosque Open Day on September 24 (Heritage Day) as a means of promoting Dawah and to dispel negative myths about Islam. By hosting a National Mosque Open Day, masjids can promote a greater understanding of Islam, build connections with the local community and foster a spirit of inclusivity and respect.

The South African Muslim Network (SAMNET) initiated and has facilitated National Mosque Open Day (NMOD) in South Africa since 2017. It now includes various participating Mosques in Southern Africa.

National Mosque Open Day (NMOD) has been held on South Africa’s Heritage Day Public Holiday (24th September) to recognise the contributions of Muslims to South Africa’s heritage, development, culture, politics, and our national values and beliefs. NMOD has grown from

a few participating Mosques in South Africa to over 60 across Southern Africa, including countries like Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Tanzania, Zambia, Swaziland and Malawi. SAMNET said NMOD is an opportunity for participating mosques to showcase the beauty of Islam to “members of our community who belong to other cultural and faith groups.

A SAMNET spokesman added: “The primary objective of NMOD is to present a positive image of Islam, Muslims, and our common humanity, and to establish Muslims as equal citizens and contributors to the community. This is crucial to counter prejudice, racism, hate and Islamophobia.”

Some of the benefits of hosting National Open Day are the following:

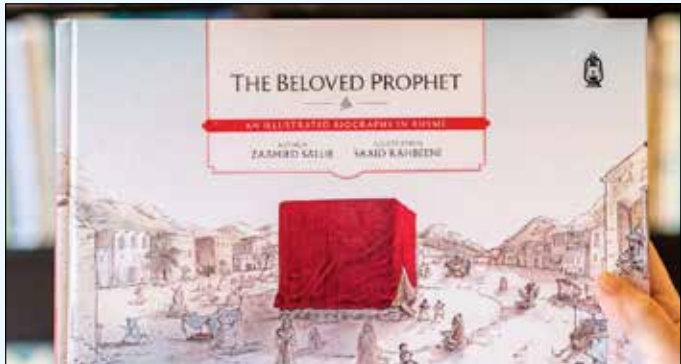
- 1. Promotes interfaith understanding: Fosters dialogue and builds bridges between Muslims and non-Muslims.
- 2. Breaks stereotypes: Challenges misconceptions and myths about Islam and Muslims.
- 3. Encourages community engagement:

ment: Strengthens relationships between the mosque and local community.

- 4. Educational opportunities: Provides a chance for people to learn about Islam and its practices.
- 5. Cultural exchange: Showcases Islamic art, architecture, and culture.
- 6. Fosters mutual respect: Encourages understanding and respect among different faiths.
- 7. Addresses misconceptions: Clarifies Islamic teachings and practices.
- 8. Builds trust: Helps to establish trust between Muslims and non-Muslims.
- 9. Promotes social cohesion: Encourages unity and inclusivity.
- 10. Supports community integration: Helps Muslims to integrate into the wider community.

Contact SAMNET to volunteer, support, contribute or donate to this and other SAMNET projects on info@samnet.co.za or visit their website www.samnet.co.za

CMRM & Red Kufi Books host Prophetic Biography Course



In celebration of the blessed lunar month of Rabī- al-Awwal, the Claremont Main Road Masjid (CMRM), in partnership with Red Kufi Books, will host a four-week course on the life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The course, entitled The Beloved Prophet: The Makkan Period, will be facilitated by Zaahied Sallie, author of

the internationally acclaimed The Beloved Prophet (ṣallā Allāhu alayhi wa-sallam): An Illustrated Biography in Rhyme. Sessions will be held at CMRM, 42 Main Road, Claremont, on 14, 21, 28 September and 4 October 2025 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

The course will also be available online for registered participants. According to Imam Dr. A. Rashied Omar, the program

offers Muslims a unique opportunity to reconnect with the Prophetic model during Rabī-al-Awwal: “This is the month in which we must rededicate ourselves to studying the life of the Prophet so that we may better embody his noble example in our daily lives.”

Registration costs R400. For more information or to register, visit the belovedprophet-book.com/course, email courses@redkufi.com

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# Durban to get first Islamic youth development centre

An innovative project to shape young Muslim minds is gaining traction, writes Ismail Suder

Durban entrepreneur and humanitarian, Nazir Malek (66) may be physically blind, but he sees a dire need for an Islamic youth development project – and is doing something about it – he is launching his Youth Development Academy at a special Nasheed event in about two weeks.

Malek told *Al-Qalam* that his grand plan for the multi-million-rand Youth Development Academy (YDA) would be officially launched during a Nasheed show by internationally-acclaimed Saudi/Egyptian artist, Mohamed Tarek, on September 26 at the NMJ Hall in Overport, at 8pm.

The trustees of the proposed YDM are prominent community personalities: They are Nazir Malek (travel agent); Iqbal Khan (CEO - building contracting firm);

Dr Shabier Omar, educator (ex-principal); Afzal Razack (CEO of engineering company); Naeem Agjee (accountant) and Hoosen Agjee (accountant).

Malek said the aim of YDA would be to capacitate the next generation of confident, capable, and principled youth leaders by fostering the full potential of each child holistically within a nurturing environment grounded in Islamic values.

“We are committed to providing a comprehensive and balanced platform where young individuals are encouraged to excel in different fields. Through various academic interventions and a variety of different codes of sport, we aim to develop well-rounded individuals equipped with critical thinking skills, discipline, and emotional intelligence.

“Central to our vision is the integration of faith into daily life. While being inclusive to people of different faiths, Islamic spiritual practice and guidance will ensure

that our young leaders advance in secular knowledge and skills which are grounded in spiritual values such as good character, service to mankind and reverence to God. Our regular competitions and community events will foster teamwork, resilience, and a healthy sense of community.

“YDA strives to raise a generation of morally grounded, socially responsible, and forward-thinking young adults who are prepared to lead with integrity, contribute positively to their communities, and face the future with purpose and faith,” he added.

He said many young people lack motivation to work towards a better future possibly because of underlying factors: the YDA aims to address all those concerns including helping to shape their career paths. Malek pointed out that when word spread about the proposed Youth Development Academy, he received overwhelming interest from possible funders who were keen to

“ We are committed to providing a comprehensive and balanced platform where young individuals are encouraged to excel in different fields.”

be part of the innovative project.

Malek, a well-known community leader, chef and travel agent, recently lost his sight in both eyes caused by retinal detachment which led to partial blindness. He underwent 12



procedures to save his sight, but unfortunately none were successful. In January last year, he went completely blind, however this has not deterred him from accomplishing his community projects and charitable work. The Youth Development Academy is his long-time

dream. “The establishment of YDM would be a dream come true. I’ve been quietly working on the project, long before I lost my sight, but I am thankful to Allah Ta’Ala for my other faculties. I want to SEE this through, InshaAllah,” he said, matter-of-factly.

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LOCAL NEWS

# UKZN's Dawah table 'playing important role informing students on Islam'

By Azra Hoosen

The Dawah table at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) Westville campus – initiated by the Muslim Students Association (MSA) with guidance from the Islamic Propagation Centre International (IPCI) – has become more than just a point of contact for curious students. It has evolved into a space of genuine dialogue, reflection and growth drawing in not only students but also staff and passersby.

When the initiative was first set up, the MSA's goal was clear: to correct misconceptions and provide a welcoming space for students to learn about Islam. Months later, the results show both the challenges and opportunities that come with Dawah on a diverse South African campus.

MSA Head Abdullah Khan told *Al-Qalam* about the initiative's transformation: "The Dawah table has played

a huge part in informing the non-Muslim masses about Islam. It also has had a very strong impact on the Muslim students, who are now learning about the Deen to help in the Dawah efforts. We even have members of the cafeteria staff getting involved in spreading the teachings of Islam," he said.

Muslim students who once stood by quietly now step forward confidently, engaging in conversations and answering difficult questions. For many, this has been their first experience of taking Islam beyond just personal practice and sharing it publicly.

Moulana Ismail Moosa from IPCI, who has been guiding the project, told *Al-Qalam* that the focus is on building long-term capacity. "Our plan this year is to develop a sustainable model that can be expanded nationally. It would include Dawah days, training sessions, classes and ultimately, a whole culture of Dawah on campus – a system that can

be sustained," he said.

The IPCI has already visited twelve campuses in Durban, Pretoria, and Johannesburg, with close to 20 outreach programmes conducted. The aim is to finalise this model so that by 2026 or 2027 it can be rolled out to universities across the country. "In Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth, and the major universities in Johannesburg and Pretoria, IPCI is already assisting students in different ways. Insha'Allah, once this model is in place, it will spark great change across campuses," explained Moulana Moosa.

As with any public initiative, there are voices of caution and concern about young Muslims taking such a visible role. Moulana Moosa encourages a balance. "There is merit in worrying and being hesitant. Of course, we want to protect our students. But the reality is that they are already out there in the world. They are already interacting on public platforms in many other

aspects. If the responsibility of Deen is placed on their shoulders, Insha'Allah, this will assist them and make them take the Deen more seriously. We should be there to support them rather than hold them back," he said.

For Moulana Moosa, one of the most inspiring aspects of the Dawah table has been witnessing the determination of students as they step into unfamiliar spaces. "For most of them, this is something completely foreign. Going up to a non-Muslim and starting a conversation is not something that comes naturally. Yet, despite that, they are still willing to try, or at the very least, to support the initiative," he said.

He added that what sets these students apart is their conviction: "The majority of Muslim students we work with are ready to firmly preserve the Islamic identity. They are motivated by the desire for others to accept Islam as a reality."

For the MSA, the Dawah



table continues to be both a service to others and a means of strengthening their own faith. For IPCI, it is a model of how grassroots Dawah can thrive on campuses reaching the youth at the most pivotal stage of their lives. "This work is about planting seeds. Even if someone doesn't embrace Islam, they walk away with

respect, with clarity and with questions answered," said Moulana Moosa.

He believes that is a victory in itself.

Khan prays that Allah accepts everyone's efforts and continues to use Westville campus for the work of Deen. [Ameen]

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*Ibn Umar (r.a.) narrates the Nabi (SAW) said: "The place of prayer (salah) in religion is like the place of the head in the body."*  
*Tabarani*



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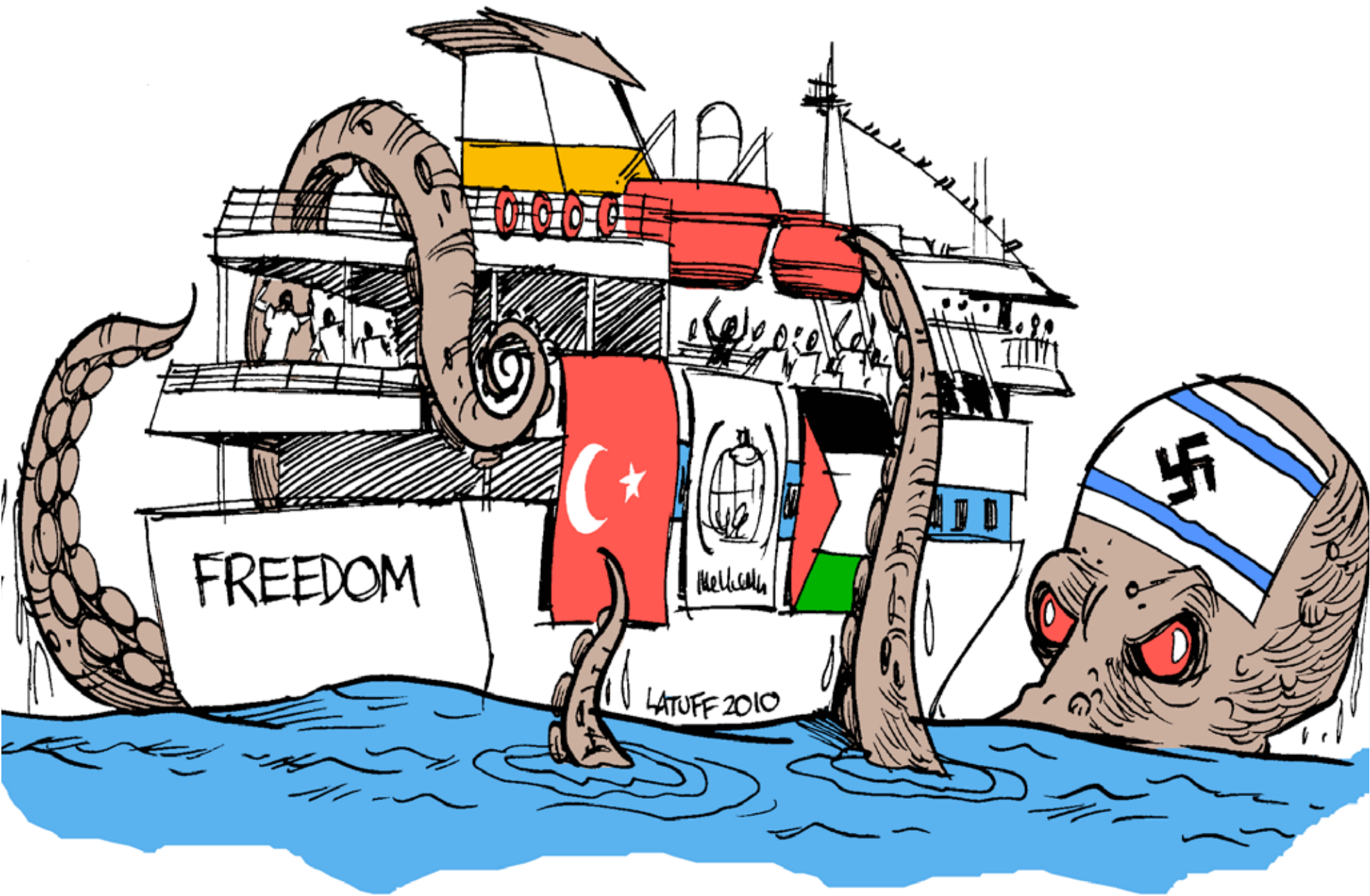
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EDITORIAL





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NB. All views reflected in this column are the opinion of the writer and do NOT necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

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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# Report on ‘ Hamas in SA’ an attempt to silence voices of solidarity – MRN

*The Media Review Network (MRN) strongly condemns the recent report titled Hiding in Plain Sight: A Playbook for Combatting Hamas in South Africa (August 25, 2025), authored by Max Meizlish, Melissa Sacks, and David May.*

**M**RN asserts that the report is a politically motivated attempt to delegitimise South Africa’s sovereign foreign policy and criminalise its principled support for Palestinian liberation. South Africa’s engagement with all Palestinian actors, including Hamas, reflects its commitment to inclusive dialogue and peace, rooted in its own anti-apartheid legacy.

The report’s framing of such an engagement as “terrorist collaboration” is misleading and undermines international diplomatic norms and the UN’s recognition of Palestinian self-determination. MRN highlights the misuse of the “terrorism” label to silence dissent and impose extraterritorial political pressure.

The report ignores Israel’s documented violations of international law, including apartheid practices and collective punishment, while unfairly targeting Palestinian resistance. The report also defames respected South African civil society organisations such as Gift of the Givers, Al-Quds Foundation, and MRN itself, falsely branding them as “terrorist fronts.” These groups have long histories of humanitarian aid and human rights advocacy. Targeting them violates international humanitarian law and endangers legitimate aid efforts. Furthermore, the report’s call for U.S. sanctions and FATF grey-listing reveals its intent to punish South Africa for its independent stance, not to combat terrorism.

MRN views this as a continuation of apartheid-era tactics used to suppress liberation movements. MRN reaffirms South Africa’s moral and legal duty to support the Palestinian struggle and rejects all attempts to intimidate or silence voices of solidarity. The organisation remains committed to justice, international law, and human rights.

**Dr Ahmed Haroon Jazbhay**  
Executive Member  
Media Review Network



Memo  
**Hiding in Plain Sight**  
A Playbook for Combatting Hamas in South Africa



# Cape Town all set for 2025 Qur'aan Recital Awards

By Azra Hoosen

The sound of the Qur'aan, recited with beauty and precision, will once again take centre stage as Cape Town prepares to host the finals of the International Qur'aan Recital Award (IQRA) from 12 to 14 September at Masjidul Mubarak, Belhar.

Now in its 20th year, IQRA has become one of South Africa's most respected platforms for nurturing Qur'aan recitation talent. What began in 2005 as a small regional competition in Cape Town has transformed into a national and international event drawing participants from across South Africa and beyond.

Sheikh Muntahaa Kenny, chairperson of the South African Qur'aan Union and coordinator of IQRA, told *Al-Qalam* about their journey: "When we started in 2005, it was only Cape Town reciters who partic-

ipated, with maybe one or two from outside the city. Over the years, it became truly national, with regional competitions in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape feeding into the finals."

Today, IQRA accommodates reciters of all ages, with junior, intermediate, senior, open and even a Champs of Champs category for past winners. Up to 50 contestants are expected at this year's finals, representing Cape Town, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Zambia, Tanzania, Zanzibar and even the USA.

Unlike a Hifdh competition, IQRA focuses on the art of recitation: Melody, Tajweed, eloquence and mastery of tune. Contestants are assigned passages to prepare and recite before a panel of judges. "The essence of this competition is not how much Qur'aan you know by heart but how beautifully, accurately and eloquently

you can present the passages that are given to you," said Sheikh Muntahaa.

Running a competition of this scale requires immense dedication. "The preparation is year-round. As soon as one event ends, we begin with prelims and developmental programmes so that by the time the reciters reach the finals and later represent South Africa abroad, they are fully prepared," he explained. According to Sheikh Muntahaa, Masjidul Mubarak was chosen as the venue after attempts to host the event outside Cape Town were unsuccessful. The masjid carries significance as part of a strong Muslim community with experience in hosting large programmes.

This year, an online female prelim attracted participants from various provinces. "Generally, in South Africa, when it comes to female reciters, you mostly find them in Cape Town. But this year, we were quite encouraged, most of the contestants ac-

tually came from Mpumalanga and Gauteng. That shows how much the culture of recitation is spreading nationally," he said.

This development marks a significant step towards greater inclusivity and representation. "Over the past decade, KZN has steadily produced a growing number of talented reciters, many of whom have excelled in the local competition," Sheikh Muntahaa noted.

The competition has also embraced technology to improve accuracy. Last year, organisers introduced an electronic judging system, replacing manual scoring. Judges now input scores on devices, ensuring greater precision. "We moved away from manual marking to a digital system, which reduces mistakes and standardises judging," Sheikh Muntahaa said.

Each contestant is assessed by four judges specialising in Tajweed, voice usage, presentation and Waqf



(stopping and continuing), with oversight by a judge president to ensure fairness. When asked what separates a world-class reciter from the rest, Sheikh Muntahaa told *Al-Qalam* that it is about presentation, articulation, Tajweed, voice control and knowing exactly where to stop and continue. "Understanding meaning is critical, without that, the recitation loses its soul," he added.

IQRA's impact stretches far beyond South Africa. Over the years, South African reciters trained through the competition have achieved notable success internationally. The model itself has gained recognition abroad, with other countries repli-

cating the approach.

But sustaining an event of this scale comes with challenges. Sponsorship remains a pressing concern. "A programme of this magnitude needs financial and community support to keep the event alive," he said.

At its heart, IQRA is about more than a competition. It is a celebration of the Qur'aan, of the power of its sound to uplift and inspire. "Whoever goes on to represent South Africa internationally carries the voice of the Muslim community with them. Our duty is to nurture, prepare and celebrate those voices," Sheikh Muntahaa said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Hamas: ‘Cowardly assassination attempt’ in Qatar will not change our demands

By Al-Qalam Reporter

After the failed attempt by Israel to assassinate Hamas political leaders in Qatar, Hamas put out a statement saying it will not rest until the “Occupation is ended and our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is established.”

The Hamas leaders had just ended a meeting in Doha to discuss the latest ceasefire proposals when Israeli jets bombed the venue. Hamas leaders survived the attack, but five of its members, including the son of senior leader Khalil al Hayya, were killed. A member of the Qatari security team was also killed.

Here is the Hamas statement in full.

\*The Zionist occupation’s treacherous attempt to assassinate the Hamas Movement’s negotiating delegation in the Qatari capital, Doha, today is a horrific crime, a blatant act of aggression, and a flagrant violation of all international norms and laws.

\*This crime represents an assault on the sovereignty of the State of Qatar, which - along with Egypt - plays a vital and responsible role in sponsoring mediation and

efforts to halt the aggression and reach a ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement, exposing once again the criminal nature of the occupation and its desire to undermine any opportunities for reaching an agreement.

\*We confirm the failure of the enemy’s attempt to assassinate our brothers in the negotiating delegation, though a number of our brothers were martyred. They are:

\*Martyr Jihad Lubbad (Abu Bilal) – Director of Dr. Khalil Al-Hayya’s Office.

\*Martyr Hamam Al-Hayya (Abu Yahya) – Son of Dr. Khalil Al-Hayya.

\*Martyr Abdullah Abdul-Wahid (Abu Khalil) – security escort.

\*Martyr Moumen Hassouna (Abu Omar) – security escort.

\*Martyr Ahmed Al-Mamlouk (Abu Malik) – security escort. We also mourn Martyr officer Bader Saad Mohammed al-Humaidi, a member of the Qatari Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya).

May Almighty Allah bestow His mercy upon them and grant them the highest place in Jannah (Heaven). “The targeting of the ne-

gotiating delegation, at a moment it was discussing the latest proposal from US President Donald Trump, confirms beyond any doubt that Netanyahu and his government do not want to reach any agreement and are deliberately seeking to fail all opportunities and international efforts, disregarding the lives of their prisoners held by the Resistance, the sovereignty of states, as well as the security and stability of the region.

We hold the US administration jointly responsible with the occupation for this crime due to its constant support for the aggression and the occupation’s crimes against our people.

This crime has proven that the Zionist occupation is a grave danger to the region and the world, and that Netanyahu is seeking to erase our national cause and the rights of our people, and to push them toward forced displacement while continuing his criminal plans of genocide, ethnic cleansing, starvation, and expulsion. We, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), call on the countries, the UN, and all living forces worldwide to condemn this criminal aggression against the State of Qatar and to take urgent action to pressure the occupation to stop the genocide and ethnic cleansing, to uphold



justice for our Palestinian people, and to support their legitimate right to freedom and self-determination.

This cowardly assassination attempt will not change our clear positions and demands, which are: an immediate end of the aggression on our peo-

ple, the complete withdrawal of the occupation army from the Gaza Strip, a genuine prisoner exchange, and the relief and reconstruction for our people.

We affirm that these terrorist crimes will not undermine the determination

of our Movement and its leadership, nor will they divert us from adhering to the national rights of our people and continuing the path of resistance until the occupation is ended and our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is established.”



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# National Wills Week 2025: Get your free copy of Islamic Will from Al-Baraka

Al-Qalam Correspondent

National Wills Week is observed annually across South Africa and this year, it takes place from 15 to 19 September 2025. The initiative serves as a crucial reminder for every South African to put a valid Will in place.

A Will is more than a legal document, it is an act of responsibility, care, and foresight. It provides certainty, prevents disputes, and ensures that your last wishes are honoured.

For Muslims in particular, having an Islamic Will is not only a matter of good planning, it is a matter of faith. It is narrated that the Prophet (SAW) said: “It is the duty of a Muslim who has something to bequeath not to let two nights pass without having a written will regarding it” (Sahih Muslim, Book 13: Hadith 3987).

Without a valid will, your

estate may be distributed under the Intestate Succession Act of South Africa, which does not take into account the principles of Shariah. This can result in outcomes that are contrary to Islamic obligations and may deprive rightful heirs of their inheritance.

### Why is it important to have an Islamic Will?

#### Certainty and Clarity:

Without a Will, your estate will be distributed in accordance with the laws of the Intestate Succession Act, which disregards Shariah principles. An Islamic Will ensures that your rightful heirs receive their due share in accordance with the Islamic laws of inheritance.

#### Preventing Disputes:

Family disputes over inheritance are painful and often prolonged. A written Will reduces uncertainty and conflict among family members and brings peace to loved ones by clearly outlining

your wishes ensuring that your assets are shared and distributed in accordance with Islamic laws of inheritance.

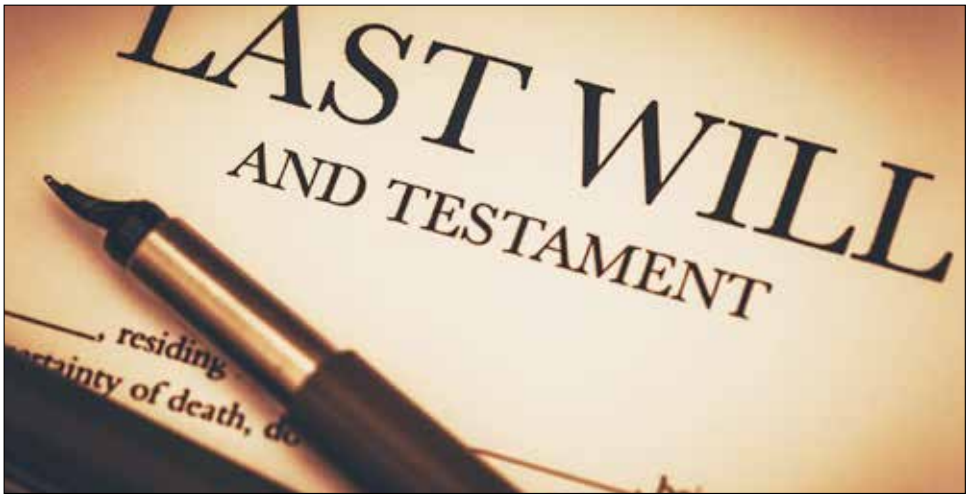
### Compliance with Shariah:

An Islamic Will ensures your estate is distributed in strict accordance with the Islamic laws of inheritance, thereby fulfilling your religious duties even after you have passed on. This not only provides peace of mind but also safeguards your legacy.

#### Executor Appointment:

Your Will allows you to nominate an executor you trust. Without it, the Master of the High Court may appoint someone unfamiliar with the Islamic laws of Inheritance or the needs of your family, creating unnecessary difficulty.

As South Africans embrace National Wills Week during 15 to 19 September 2025, many legal practitioners will



be participating in this initiative by offering free Will drafting services to all members of the public, thanks to Al-Baraka which is facilitating the event.

An Al-Baraka Bank spokesperson said: “For Muslims, the week is a timely reminder that preparing an Islamic Will is not something that should be postponed. It is both a legal and religious responsibility that provides dignity and clarity to your loved ones at a time of loss.

“As South Africa’s pioneer of Islamic banking, Al-Baraka Bank understands the importance of protecting your family’s future in line with Shariah. In support of National Wills Week 2025, the Bank is making its Shariah-compliant Will freely available to the community.

Clients and members of the Muslim community may download the Islamic Will directly from the Bank’s website or collect a free copy from any Al-Baraka

Bank branch. “Preparing a valid Will is one of the most meaningful and responsible acts you can undertake.

It provides peace of mind, protects your heirs, and ensures that your final wishes are respected”, the spokesman added.

This National Wills Week, “make it your priority to prepare an Islamic Will. Safeguard your legacy. Honour your faith. Protect your family’s future”.

## Tomorrow isn't promised

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“It is the duty of a muslim who has anything to bequeath to not let two nights pass without writing a will about it.”

Prophet Muhammad (SAW)  
Sahih Muslim

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LAST WILL AND TESTA  
OF

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
and declare that this be my Last Will and Testament.

ARTICLE I  
IDENTIFICATION OF FAMILY

I am married to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_

The names of my children are \_\_\_\_\_  
children and any children born to me or adopted by me after \_\_\_\_\_

ARTICLE II  
PAYMENTS OF DEBTS AND EXPENSES

I direct that my just debts, funeral expenses and expenses of my \_\_\_\_\_ be paid from my \_\_\_\_\_

ARTICLE III  
DISPOSITION



# Here's a list of the 10 SA heroes aboard the boats to Gaza

By Al-Qalam Reporter

Despite two suspected Israeli drone attacks on the Sumud Flotilla vessels in Tunis this week, organisers are upbeat about sailing towards Gaza before the weekend – along with the 10 South Africans on board whom *Al-Qalam* can now name. Over 300 pro-Palestinian activists from around the world are now in the Port of Tunis, ready to sail to break the siege on Gaza. The 40 vessels are carrying food aid, medicine and medical equipment. The Global Movement of Gaza (RSA) has released the names of the 10 South Africans who are on board. They are:

(1) Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela: a leading South African advocate for Palestinian liberation. He has marched to Gaza, spoken out against Israel's apartheid policies, and consistently called for boycotts and sanctions. He continues his grandfather Nelson Mandela's legacy of solidarity. His leadership in the formation of the Global Sumud Flotilla, and his active participation in this historical mission is an inspiration to all South Africans and the global solidarity movement.

(2) Zukiswa Wanner: an award-winning writer and cultural activist. She received the Goethe Medal in 2020 and later returned it in protest against Germany's support for Israel. Her travels to Palestine inspired her essay "Vignettes of a People in an Apartheid State", translated into multiple languages. She has spoken globally on Palestinian solidarity, including as Africa4Palestine's spokesperson and as part of a UN expert panel on the Question of Jerusalem. Zukiswa is at the forefront of the growing movement calling for an academic and cultural boycott of genocidal Israel.

(3) Nurain Saloojee: a 22-year-old audiologist with a deep passion for human rights and social justice. For the past five years, she has been an active member of the Palestine Solidarity Alliance Youth League, working to amplify youth voices and

advocate for meaningful change. Her commitment to activism is rooted in her faith and inspired by a proud family legacy of resistance and advocacy. She strives to combine her professional knowledge with her values to make a tangible impact on the communities she serves. Nurain together with the majority of the youth in South Africa are the leading voices that are putting the values of liberation and human rights front and centre in our everyday discourse.

(4) Dr Jared Sacks: an activist, writer, and researcher. He has a PhD from Columbia University and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Johannesburg. He has long been involved in struggles for land, housing, and social justice in South Africa, including compiling the anthology *No Land! No House! No Vote!* by the Symphony Way Pavement Dwellers. His current focus is on Palestine solidarity, where he plays a leading role in South African Jews for a Free Palestine (SAJFP), contributing legal expertise, building boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaigns, and organizing protests and non-violent direct actions.

(5) Reaaz Moola: a community leader and Chairperson of his local welfare committee. He has extensive experience in international humanitarian missions and draws on decades of service and a faith-rooted commitment to justice. At 54, he speaks on the ethical imperative to aid Palestinians and mobilise community structures for meaningful impactful action.

(6) Elham Mouaffak Hatfield: a French-born humanitarian and member of the Global Movement for Gaza. She has stood in solidarity with Palestinians in South Africa, France, Brussels, and Cairo, where she focused on direct aid to displaced families. In Durban North, she leads a community disaster-relief initiative supporting families in crisis. As a mother of two, Elham grounds her activism in everyday life, working for a world where dignity, freedom, and safety are non-negotiable.



(7) Dr Fatima Hendricks: an Occupational Therapist, mother of two and cancer survivor. Dr Hendricks has three Masters degrees, a doctorate and 30 years of international experience in health and education programme development. Her work highlights the devastating impact of oppression on health, education, and family life, and has taken her to South Africa, Nigeria, the USA, Turkiye and the Syrian border. She is giving voice to the crime of Genocide as a 'mass disabling event' and is inspiring awareness of the Palestinian right to

live freely and peacefully. She is the author of *Please Forgive Me and Living Love*.

(8) Fazel Behra: a devoted father of four and grandfather-to-be, rooted in Actonville, where his family was relocated during apartheid. As a 54-year-old, he has endured the loss of both parents but continues to honor their resilience. A passionate entrepreneur and humanitarian, Fazel has engaged in relief work for Syrian refugees and now joins the Global Sumud Flotilla out of his deep faith and commitment to justice.

He is driven by love for his family, his community, and his belief in dignity and freedom for all.

(9) Dr Zaheera Soomar: Born in apartheid South Africa, Zaheera is an international social impact and humanitarian leader with over 20 years of experience across Africa, the Middle East, North America, LATAM, and Asia. She specialises in education, social development, and refugee empowerment. She holds a Doctorate on the Future of Work and an MBA in Strategy & Leadership. A mother of three and avid

explorer, she has travelled to more than 75 countries and climbed three of the world's Seven Summits. She currently resides in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

(10) Irshaad Ahmed Chothia: a devoted father of three from Johannesburg who owns a business in the wood industry, where he also practices as an artist. He is embarking on the Global Sumud Flotilla to stand against injustice, aiming to help end the blockade on Gaza, ensure the free flow of humanitarian aid, and work towards ending genocide and global apartheid.



# 'Give Israel the Red Card', demands Africa4Palestine

Al-Qalam Correspondent

**A**frica4Palestine has intensified its call on Danny Jordaan and the South African Football Association (SAFA) to take a principled stand and demand that FIFA expel Israel from all international football activities for its ongoing genocide, Occupation, and apartheid policies against the Palestinian people.

In a press statement, Africa4Palestine said it has launched a national campaign — including a petition, billboards, and protest actions — urging SAFA to stand on the right side of history and demand that FIFA give Israel the Red Card. Failure to act by SAFA and its president has left us with no choice but to publicly hold them accountable for refusing to stand against Israel's ongoing genocide.

Alie Komape, Communications and Campaigns

Manager said: "It is disgraceful that SAFA and Danny Jordaan remain on the wrong side of history.

Given South Africa's proud anti-apartheid legacy and the position our government has consistently taken, it is unacceptable that SAFA has not called on FIFA to act decisively.

This call forms part of the global #RedCardIsrael Campaign, which mobilises sports bodies, human rights organisations, and civil society to pressure FIFA to act against Israel's continued violations of international law and its breach of FIFA's own statutes on equality, dignity, and non-discrimination.

South Africa's own liberation history demonstrates the power of sporting isolation in dismantling oppression. Apartheid South Africa was suspended from FIFA until 1992 — a historic global stance against injustice that contributed to change.

Africa4Palestine calls on



Danny Jordaan and SAFA to:

- Publicly support Palestinian footballers and issue a clear call for FIFA to suspend Israel immediately.

- Table a motion at the next FIFA Congress demanding Israel's expulsion from FIFA

until it complies with international law.

- Mobilise the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and other football associations to support a united call for justice.

- Apologise for the wrong-

ful arrest of the Red Card Israel activists, during the South Africa vs Malawi match for peacefully showing their support for Palestine.

SAFA cannot remain silent while Palestinian footballers are being killed, stadi-

ums are being bombed, and the beautiful game is being used as a tool of oppression. South Africa's history obligates us to stand with the oppressed. We call on Danny Jordaan and SAFA to be on the right side of history and demand that FIFA give Israel the Red Card."

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