



Muslims in South Africa called upon to endorse Cape Accord

Imam Dr. Rashied Omar of The Claremont Main Road Masjid (CMRM) said that it is now most important and urgent for Muslims in South Africa to take a stand and speak out loudly against anti-Shi'a sectarianism.

He said: "Among the concrete ways in which this can be done is to embrace and endorse the Cape Accord. This is a document that was collectively drawn up and signed by prominent Muslim organizations, including CMRM, in December 2017.

"The Cape Accord embraces the spirit of the Amman Message signed in 2005 by more than 500 leading Muslim scholars worldwide, which aimed to capture Islam's core values of compassion, mutual respect, tolerance, acceptance and freedom of religion. The Cape Accord calls on Communities to Unite Against Hate Speech and Discord, and to promote intra-Muslim tolerance and cooperation. This document, and the sentiments that it holds, needs to be circulated and popularised in our communities.

"Ordinary Muslims need to familiarise themselves with the content of the Cape Accord and the direction it offers towards greater tolerance and good-neighbourliness amongst and between differing Muslim groups. At the same time, other prominent Muslim institutions and leaders must be encouraged to also sign and endorse the Cape Accord.

"South African Muslims can in no way allow themselves to go down the path of hatred, intolerance, violence, and brutal attacks on Shi'a Muslims as has been the case in several other parts of the world. We must recognize that the fomenting of anti-Shi'a sectarianism has fuelled the many geo-political conflicts we see in the Middle East today. Let us stop this now, and never allow such sectarianism to blight our local community. We call on the South African Police Services (SAPS) to apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice. We call on local communities to assist SAPS in doing so speedily," he said.

Outrage at attack on Imam Husain Mosque in Ottawa

There was outright condemnation of the violent attack on the Imam Husain Mosque in Ottawa which claimed the life of one man, Abbas Essop and left another two injured on Thursday night. Imam Ali Nchinyane survived the ordeal and is still in hospital recovering from his injuries.

Deputy Mayor, Mrs Fowzia Peer blamed the attack on locals and said that the Hawks were investigating and that arrests were expected soon. Meanwhile, communities and leaders expressed outrage at the attack, including

Spokesman for the The Islamic Unity Convention, Mr Magboeba Davids called for serious action to be taken in response to the senseless killing, attempted murder of the Imam / mussallees and the burning of the mosque in Verulam, KwaZulu-Natal. "The slashing of throats, and the burning of the mosque, can only mean that the intention was to kill and to destroy a place of worship. The IUC calls upon government to step in and take charge of the situation, as it has the potential to destabilise the country. This kind of random killing needs to be nipped in the bud For our local Ulama to call upon others to condemn these heinous crimes upon Muslims and places of worship will not be just, as it is them who have been spurring on this animosity among Muslims; between the Sunni and Shia brethren for some time now," he said.

The IUC has warned the local leadership of the consequences of spreading such sectarian hatred among the Ummah in the past and they must take full responsibility for their actions. This is not a situation of Muslim killing another Muslim, or the violation of the sanctity of the mosque, but it is the importing of similar operations, conducted by America and its allies, like the Saudi regime in countries like Iraq, Syria and the rest of the Middle East. The Islamic Unity Convention extends its sincere condolences to the families of the



deceased, the injured victims, musallees of the mosque, and the Verulam community.

Dr Faisal Suliman of The South African Muslim Network condemned the arson and violent attack at the Imam Hussein Centre. "We urge law enforcement agencies to spare no effort in tracking down and arresting the perpetrators. It is essential that the exact reason for the attack is discovered during their interactions with the criminal justice system. We appeal to the media and public not to speculate about the attack as it may not necessarily be religious, nor political, nor sectarian. Speculation and innuendo may have dangerous unintended consequences and is unwarranted. The South African Muslim community abhors this sort of violence perpetrated at any religious institution. Our condolences to the family of the deceased and we wish a speedy recovery for the injured. No reli-

gion preaches nor condones harm to innocents and perpetrators of such violence must not claim nor be given any religious legitimacy," said Dr Suleman.

Moulana Aftab Haider, national co-ordinator of the Ahlul Bait Foundation of South Africa lashed out at the "evil" behind the attack. "We are not fighting against anybody, any sect nor any religion, but against evil."

The Diakonia Council of Churches, which represents religions across the city, condemned the attack. In a press statement, they said: "We are shocked by the terrible attack which disregarded the sanctity of a place of worship. "As an ecumenical organisation which has long worked with the interfaith community for justice and peace, we share the pain of loss and pray for the speedy recovery of the two injured men. To the bereaved family we offer heartfelt condolences on this devastating loss. The council also called for community dialogue between religious leaders, community leaders and local businesses to help the Muslim community "to get through this difficult period", as well as calling for the "full force of the law to bring the perpetrators to justice".



Chilli Chocolate Chefs Zainab, Faatimah & Ashraff

Chilli Chocolate Chefs, Zainab Kadwa and Faatimah Paruk are causing a sensation with their culinary inventions and are fast establishing themselves as the "Caterers of Choice" for leading companies, corporates and home based functions.

With them in their growing business is Zainab's husband, Ashraff who is spearheading one innovative marketing campaign after the as the trio are "cleaning up" with their halaal only foods. "Our food is all about taste. We innovate our own dishes and develop menus to suite our clients whether it is major corporates to a single meal. We offer what we call fusion food. We take ingredients from various countries and using Indian spices develop dishes which are different. We specialize in creating new tastes, sensations and meet the demand for discerning customers who want something totally different," said Zainab.

The trio spoke about their trials, tribulations and successes during an interview on Radio Al Ansaar's talk show, 90 Minutes. She pointed out that there is an ever-growing demand for halaal food and at one time, companies ordered maybe one or two halaal meals. But now they are asking for all meals to meet Islamic requirements.

Faatimah is the baking expert and her specialty is creating exotic desserts, cakes, sweets and biscuits. "But this does not mean that we change the traditional treats, like the Nan Khatai which I believe is a creation all of its own. Maybe, I can reshape, change sizes and display differently. But the Nan Khatai, remains just that. But there are other creations which I develop and when it is presented to the diner, the taste is always something which they find different," she said.

This is what it's says on their website: "Our distinctive cuisine is glamorous, playful, comforting, cosmopolitan and always supremely delicious. It is uniquely created from the freshest ingredients and presented with earthy panache and a contemporary twist. Our food reflects our commitment to exceptional quality.

"All meals are prepared under the guidance of chefs, Zainab and Faatimah. Our funky and creative vision of taking traditional dishes and adding some zing and a dash of difference in every dish has served us well. The uniqueness of our company is that taste and appearance both matter and we take great care in selecting only the best and freshest ingredients and in ensuring that the product tastes as good as it looks! We are an optimistic duo that constantly strives to improve our offerings and place quality, service, customer satisfaction and value to clients as our core priority."

The sisters embarked on a new project, writing cookbooks after receiving a flood of requests for their special recipes. First came, "Entertain" which contained some of the most popular creation from their kitchen. The demand for copies came



In the studio, (from left to right), Ashraff Kadwa, Zainab Kadwa and Faatimah Paruk.

fast and with great enthusiasm. They were flattered by the requests for a book, which they felt, was their debut into the printed word. But that prompted them to write another book, "Let's Cook" and they hit upon a grand idea. If children are to be taught to eat healthily, why not teach them to cook. Zainab and Faatimah got to work and worked on what would be the best recipes which children would find attractive. "We then launched special classes to teach children to cook and before long we were running very busy four hours sessions. The classes were scheduled during the school holidays," said Faatimah.

Copies of this book were snapped up, especially since parents also found it useful in preparing meals for their families. This led to their third book; "Feast" which turned out to be an instant success and the demand has virtually forced the sisters to consider a second run. Zainab explained that cooking has joined the realm of entertainment for many families, it is no longer a mundane chore, as lifestyles demand a healthy eating culture.

Speaking about Chillie Chocolate's success, he said that it is somewhat unique in that the sisters were moved out of secular schools around standard 2 (Grade 5) to pursue Islamic studies. "After completing Islamic studies they taught religious classes at different primary schools, such as Berea West Primary. Eventually they decided to "go back to school via correspondence and completed Matric at the age of 21 and 22. (With 5 and 6 distinctions respectively). They then went to chefs school, both financed through their now late grandfather," he said.

Zainab went to the once prestigious Christina Martin School of Cooking. She performed excellently finishing the year

in 2nd place and was asked to stay on to teach at the school. Zainab then left to further her career by working and running many smaller cafes and restaurants, such as F-tv ,Fashion Tv which was located in Umhlanga.

Faatimah went to the Fusion School of Cooking.. Also performed excellently and had several small stints at restaurants and cafes. "It was at this point in time, that they started to cater for friends and family whilst juggling work. The pair soon decided to quit their jobs and launch their own company - calling it: Chilli Chocolate Chefs. A name which symbolises: Their Indian Heritage; Sweet and Savoury fusion food BUT also their personalities," said Mr Kadwa.

Being a Startup company (home Industry) they have had numerous challenges which they have overcome and pursued excellence to the extent that their brand now has "major status."

Chillie Chocolate has: Featured as guests on Google Startup Grind Durban. Hosted demonstrations such as shows like Decorex and House & Garden. At leading stores like Hirsch and featured in several blogs, such as the Daily Vox (1 of 10 Muslim Creatives You Need To Know), featured in several newspapers such as The Post, Mercury, Sunday Tribune and Business Report.

The sisters write a monthly piece for the Al Ummah Magazine. Occasional features on radio stations such as: Al Ansaar, Radio Lotus, Salaam Media and Channel Islam. They have launched a confectionary range, which is commanding an ever-growing share of the market. Among their accolades, the sisters have won the Roshgold Young Business Achievers Award 2017.

Farook Khan -90 Minutes - Radio Al-Ansar - 11 May 2018