

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

International Press and Media Desk

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PRESS RELEASE

LEADER URGES AHMADI MUSLIMS TO WIN HEARTS AND MINDS

Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad refutes allegation that Islam was spread by the sword

During his Friday Sermon on the occasion of the 2nd Day of the Khilafat Centenary Jalsa Salana in Ghana, the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad instructed his followers throughout the world to prioritise prayer and sacrifice for the sake of God Almighty above all else. If his instructions were heeded, then God's blessings would rain down upon the Ahmadiyya Community. His Holiness said, that the greatest example of prayer and sacrifice in the history of mankind, was the blessed life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and it was through the acceptance of his prayers that Islam spread far and wide.

For the benefit of the majority African audience the address of His Holiness was translated live into French and the local language of Twi. As the sun bore down on the event the tens of thousands of people in attendance sat silently listening intently to his address.

His Holiness spoke of the absolute importance of worship of God Almighty and thereupon instructed that the best form of worship was the five daily prayers that are fundamental to the life of every Muslim. Praising those attending the Jalsa, His Holiness said:

“In these days of Jalsa I see that great care has been taken in observing the five prayers that are offered in congregation. Men, women and children are seen at the prayers in vast numbers. However, it should not be that when you return home you forget this habit of regular prayer. When involved in your worldly affairs do not forget this fundamental obligation.”

The vast task faced by members of the Ahmadiyya Community was outlined by His Holiness. He explained that it was this Community alone that had understood the true teachings of the Holy Qur’an and so those teachings had to be promulgated to every country, to every city and to every town. The Community, he said, did not have any great worldly power, but that did not matter because this was a spiritual Community which was blessed with the Help of the Creator and Master of the Universe, God Almighty.

To bring forth a revolutionary change in mankind, first each individual Ahmadi had to purify his own heart and the fundamental way to do that was through prayer. His Holiness said that there were many people who alleged that Islam had been spread by the sword. But this allegation was wholly without any foundation. Islam’s teaching was of love for all and hatred for none. His Holiness said that whilst land could be conquered by virtue of violence it could never win hearts and minds. Thus the victory of Ahmadiyyat was dependant upon each Ahmadi becoming a beacon of virtue and thereby spreading the

message of love which is the true guiding principle of Islam. This could only be achieved if Ahmadis the world over were regular in their prayers and ever willing to make financial sacrifices for the sake of God Almighty.

Thereupon His Holiness spoke about the Khilafat Centenary. He said that the conventions and celebrations that were being held throughout 2008 were only a small part of what this year was about. He said the true purpose of the Centenary could only be achieved when each and every Ahmadi Muslim made an oath to be regular in his worship of God Almighty.

Upon the conclusion of the Friday Sermon, His Holiness returned to his residence by car. Along the way, his vehicle was flanked from both sides with thousands of Ahmadis who were there just to try and get a glimpse of the blessed leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Men, women and children sang songs praising God Almighty and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Most certainly the emotional attachment of the African people to the institution of Khilafat is an example to the entire world of what true devotion and true love really is.

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