

TACKLING RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Saturday 20th October
2007

Comfort Hotel,
George Street, Nottingham,
NG1 3BP
1.30pm to 4.30pm

No one can deny the devastating impact of the London Bombings on British society. The loss of innocent life is unjustified, painful and tragic.

For many experts the London events were entirely predictable - waiting to happen - and the danger signs were present if one acknowledged the genesis of religious hatred or extremism, not only in the UK but globally.

Ironically many of the UK's ethnic minority have continued to witness and challenge the dramatic emergence and acceptance of religious fundamentalism or communal violence entrenched in the

political, social and cultural fabrics in their countries such as Iran, Pakistan and India. Yet that expertise is rarely acknowledged by policy makers.

The forum will examine the growth of the Religious right in the UK and abroad, explore the viability of the Human Rights agenda to change the problem, and attempt to frame a common agenda so that a more inclusive and pluralistic society can be developed.

The forum brings together a rare collection of academics, community activists, and victims to discuss the burning issue.

Dr Chetan Bhatt
London University

Suresh Grover
The Monitoring Group

Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui
Muslim Parliament

Yusef Dawood
Dawood Family Campaign

The Monitoring Group (East Midlands) are holding an open forum to discuss the rise of religious fundamentalism nationally and the challenge in tackling religious extremism both nationally and in the East Midlands.

SUPPORT THE DAWOOD CAMPAIGN

In February 2002 Sakil and Saeed Dawood went to India with their childhood friend Mohammed Aswat and their 18-year-old nephew, Imran.

Whilst returning from an excursion trip to the Taj Mahal, a roadblock, manned by a well-organised mob fuelled by religious hatred, stopped the British tourists. The mob circled the jeep and demanded to know from the occupants their religious identity, the tourists answered that they were British citizens and were indeed Muslims.

The hired driver was then dragged out of the jeep and attacked with sticks and killed on the spot. His body was then thrown back into the vehicle and set alight. In the meantime, the British tourists were chased to a nearby farm.

Mohammed Aswat and Imran were stabbed and left for dead. Imran miraculously survived and he recalls Saeed and Sakil pleading with the mob to spare all their lives.

For the past 5 years, the Dawood family have led a campaign to bring charges against those responsible for the murders.

For further information go to www.dawoodcampaign.org

TMG (East Midlands)
278-290 Huntingdon St.
Nottingham

NG1 3LY
0115 993 4243

TMG (Head Office)
020 7636 6000

e mail
admin@monitoring-group.co.uk
website
www.monitoring-group.co.uk

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Chetan Bhatt teaches sociology at Goldsmiths College, University of London. He is the author of Liberation and Purity (UCL Press, 1997) and Hindu Nationalism: Origins, Ideologies and Modern Myths (Berg, forthcoming 2000). He was a founder member of AWAAZ - UK-based secular network of individuals and organisations committed to monitoring and combating religious hatred in South Asia and in the UK. For further information visit www.awaazsaw.org

Suresh Grover has led the Monitoring Group for over 25 years. He has been involved in some of the key changes for black communities in the criminal justice system, including the early campaigns after the Southall riots and death of Blair Peach, the Bradford 12, Lawrence campaign and more recently the Zahid Mubarek Campaign.

Yusuf Dawood is speaking on behalf the Dawood Family Justice Campaign. The Dawood family lost two members of their family when they were attacked by a fanatical Mob in the Gujarat program of 2002. Since then, Yusuf has been heavily involved with helping to co-ordinate the Dawood Family Justice Campaign. The Campaign has had considerable political support and have launched civil suits against the main perpetrators of the Genocide, including the Chief Minister and Chief of Police. Nonetheless, despite a high profile Campaign and representations from the UK Prime Minister, there has been no justice.

Dr Ghayasuddin Siddiqui is the leader of the Muslim Parliament. He was one of the first Muslim leaders to work with and urge cooperation with groups concerned with justice, civil liberties and respect for the environment. In the aftermath of 9/11, when harassment of the Muslim individuals and groups created a wave of sympathy for what was widely perceived as a persecuted minority. Dr Siddiqui was closely involved in the formative stages of the Stop the War Coalition, which brought together Muslims and opponents of the war from different parts of the British political spectrum. For further details go to www.muslimparliament.org.uk