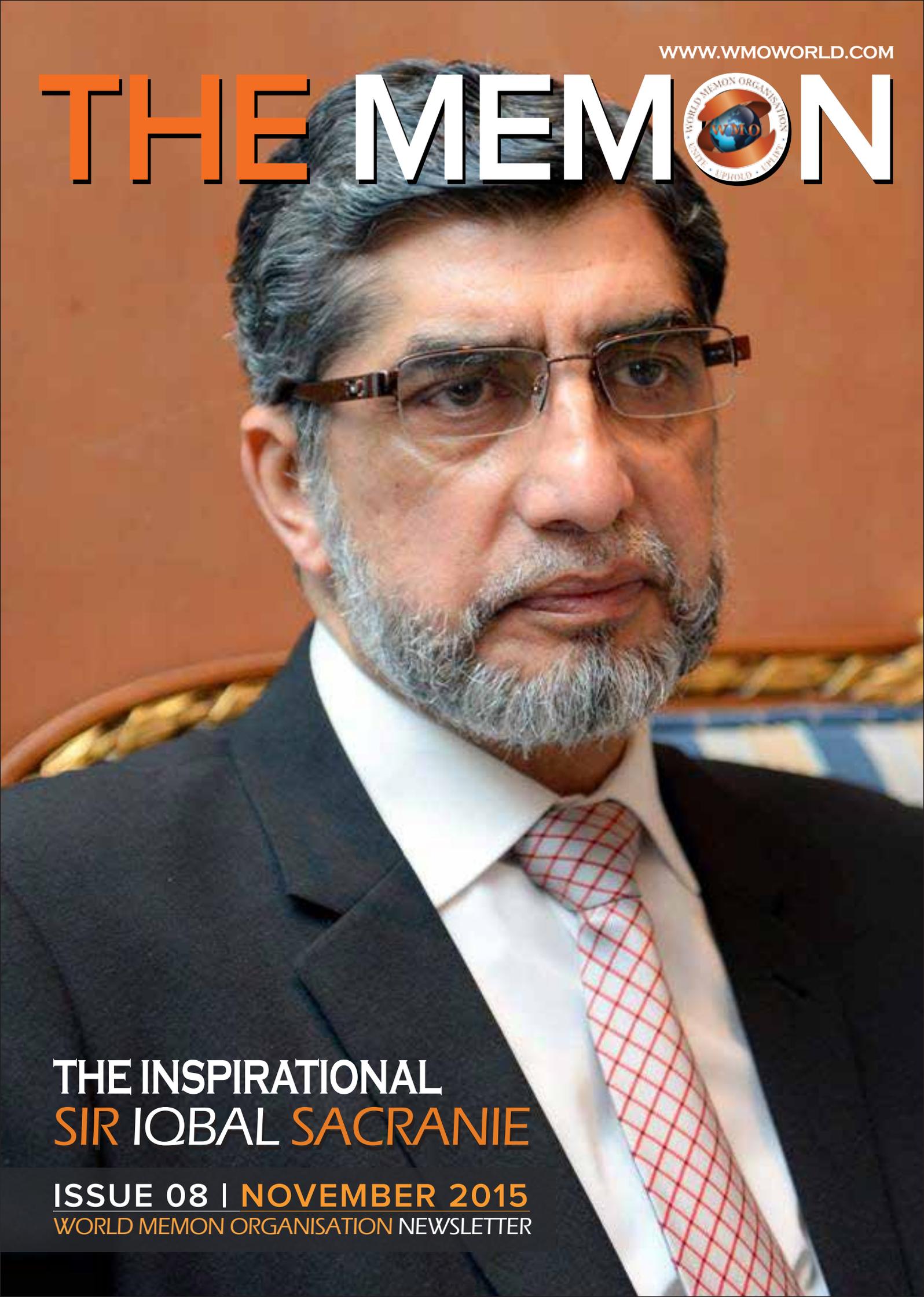


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THE MEMON



THE INSPIRATIONAL
SIR IQBAL SACRANIE

ISSUE 08 | NOVEMBER 2015
WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION NEWSLETTER

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MEMO

THE

INTRODUCTION

A Tribute to my Father.

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

- Rabindranath Tagore

An ordinary man with extra ordinary courage.

A freedom fighter, a visionary, a humanitarian.

My teacher, my friend, my father.

- Sir Iqbal Sacranie
Former Senior Vice President
World Memon Organisation



Late Abdul Karim Mussa Sacranie



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WMO in conjunction with Eazi-Apps are proud to launch their New Mobile App!

As part of our digital programme to reach out to our global community, we are excited to launch our new mobile app for iOS and Android. Stay connected with the World Memon Organisation through your own mobile device.



With the digital age changing the way we communicate and access media content, it has become increasingly important for the World Memon Organisation to embrace new technology.

Our new a mobile app allows members and the wider public to access content, stay updated and make contributions directly from their own mobile device.

Khalid Jussab introduced Zakir Daud, CEO of Eazi-Apps as a potential partner to help mobilize the WMO and spread the word through mobile.

Khalid comments:

"Mobile technology gives us the opportunity to reach out to a wider audience in a time when speed of communication becomes increasingly important."

The journey from conception to our live app has been pain free. Eazi-Apps have clearly understood the requirements of WMO and delivered an excellent mobile solution.

We hope you are pleased with our new mobile app and welcome your comments.

About Eazi-Apps

Eazi-Apps is an established mobile marketing company with strategic partners globally. As part of its international roll out, the Eazi-Apps license opportunity provides entrepreneurs from all walks of life the opportunity to build their own successful Mobile App Business, without any technical experience.

As part of the license package, Eazi-Apps provides the technology, training, branding, marketing materials and dedicated support. You can find out more by visiting: www.eazi-apps-business.co.uk

Zakir Daud, the CEO of Eazi-Apps comments:

'Global smart phone sales have broken the 1 billion barrier for the first time in history. This offers huge opportunity to help businesses engage their customers via their mobile devices.'

We help our licensed partners to prosper by offering powerful mobile marketing services whilst we take care of all the heavy lifting.'

Stay Updated and Download Our App!



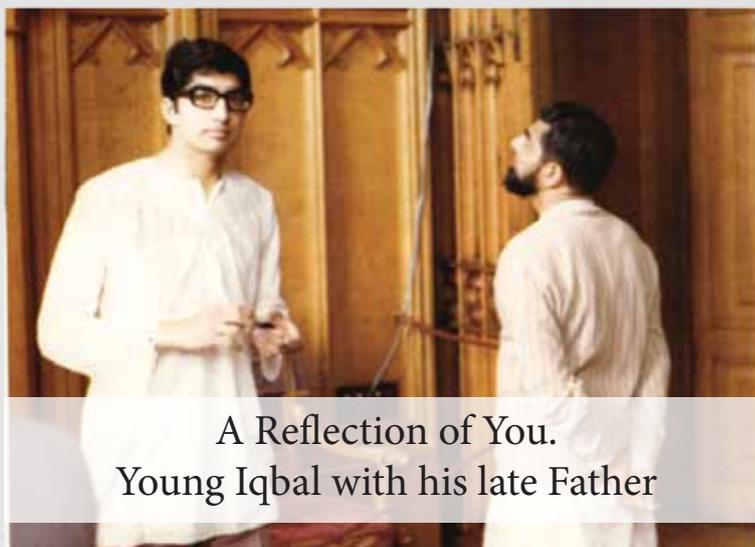
- Read the monthly edition of 'The Memon'
- View and register for events
- Make donations and Zakat payments
- Stay updated with instant notifications
- Become a member of WMO



The Man I Strive to be

"Stand up for what you believe in, seek consensus whenever possible and pursue the task vigorously. God willing you will be successful."

'To do good, nothing can stop you. The only pre-requisite is clean intention, perseverance and ability to face the adversity.'



A Reflection of You.
Young Iqbal with his late Father

For as long as he can remember, his father's words have guided him through his life. To this day Sir Iqbal Sacranie misses the warm camaraderie they shared, "My father was my inspiration. His unwavering belief and trust in Almighty Allah aspired me to emulate him in all walks of life. His constant reminder to us was that the most ideal and perfect role model for every Muslim is our beloved Prophet Muhammed (PBUH)." Sadly, Abdul Karim Mussa Sacranie passed away peacefully at the age of 58 years in 1982 after a bypass operation in London. He left behind his dear wife Mariam Bai, their eight children and ten grandchildren. She was the pillar of strength reminding us always of the charismatic and dynamic personality which had left us for a better place. She passed away peacefully on the 22nd of Ramadan in 2008 at the age of 80 years.

The early life of Late Abdul Karim Mussa Sacranie (known as AKMussa)

"My father lost his mother in Malawi at the mere age of eight. My grandfather decided to return to India with his two sons and daughter. They left Malawi for Beira, Mozambique where they were to take a ship to India. At that time my father was aged 10, his brother Osman was 7 and his sister Zubeidah was 5 years old. Whilst waiting for the ship to sail, my grandfather began to feel unwell and he tragically passed away in my father's arms. The young boy was obviously shocked, being in a foreign country and not knowing anybody, but he still had the courage and presence of mind to ask the hotel manager for the nearest Mosque. At the Mosque, he sought Allah's help and guidance in his hour of desperate need. In the Mosque he recalled his Mother's advice and teachings of the Holy Quran that Allah will always protect you. The locals took pity on the three orphans and assisted with funeral arrangements. The 3 young orphans were sent back to Malawi where they were dispersed amongst their relatives. My father took a job as a shopkeeper's assistant earning one pound fifty pence a month. He sent 50 pence each to his brother who was in an orphanage in India and sister for her education and maintenance, and spent the remaining 50 pence on himself."

"The only education he had received, at the tender age of 5, was from his late mother who taught him to read the Quran and basic Gujarati. He was never educated within a school but took keen interest in educating himself by paying a private tutor to teach him basic English. Later he was offered a job in one of my maternal grandfather's shops where he excelled. His honesty and business acumen impressed my grandfather. During that time he saw my mother and asked one of his elder relatives to take a proposal to her father. My grandfather was in agreement, but the rest of the family were not happy due to his social status and the fact that he had not attended school. But my grandfather recognised the good qualities in the young man and so the marriage went ahead."

He grew up having built his own successful business. He commanded the respect of the local community. Until his death he played a key role in the affairs of the community. His success in life was primarily due to his strong belief and Imaan. His dear wife Mariam Bai supported and stood by his side throughout the trials and tribulations he faced in life.



Late Abdul Karim with Muslim leaders of Malawi and Late Gayur Khan Ambassador of Pakistan

The Lessons for Life

Sir Iqbal was born in Zomba, Malawi in 1951. He is the fourth of the eight children and the eldest of four brothers. The children had a decent upbringing and were brought up in a conservative but loving home. In 1960's there was great civil and political unrest across Central Africa.

Indian Muslims unfairly treated Africans including African Muslims because of the colour of their skin and social status. Sir Iqbal's father detested racism and prejudice. He fought hard against it. He funded the education of many poor African Muslims and encouraged them to play their role in the fight for Independence. He would go out of his way to invite and welcome visitors into his home, especially the poorer ones, and made sure they would eat at the dinner table with his family. He constantly reminded us of his very own poor upbringing and never to look down on persons who are less fortunate than us. His affection and high regards for the poor was unquestionable.

Late Abdul Karim lived by his convictions and strong moral principles. In countering the prejudices of the Asians against the Africans, he enrolled Iqbal into an all African secondary school run by missionaries known as Zomba Catholic Secondary School. He also sent his two daughters to an all African girls secondary school. When asked if it was right for him as a Muslim to send his children to Christian schools his reply was that he was confident on the children upbringing to remain good Muslims.

"In those days the British enforced a system of educational apartheid. So white kids went to all-white schools; Asians to Asians-only and African children to African-only schools (these were usually the most under resourced schools.) My father decided he would send me to an African Catholic school." Sir Iqbal was one of the first Indians in Malawi that went to an all African school in Zomba, known as Zomba Catholic Secondary School. Many Indians followed suit and thereafter the schools were fully integrated.

Late Abdul Karim was a great supporter of the Independence movement in Malawi. He fought hard for freedom and against injustice and discrimination.



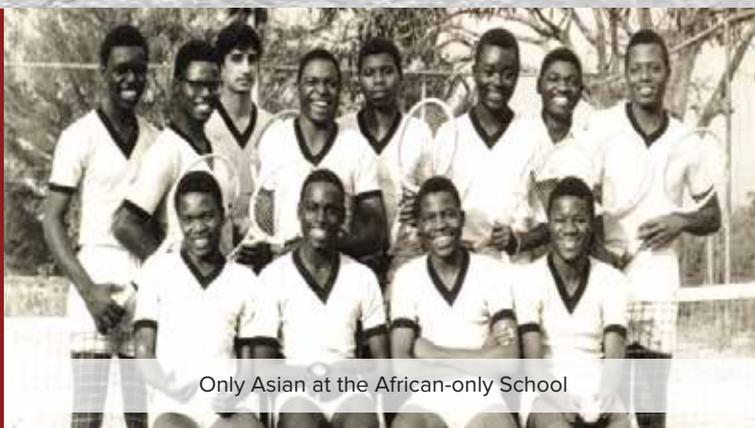
With President Banda, the First President of Malawi after Independence

"Freedom fighters would meet in our house late at night to plan the end of British colonial rule. My father supported both financially and in an advisory role. He advised them to maintain unity amongst their various groups and tribes. He was well acquainted with the the leaders of the Independence movement which included Banda; the first President after Independence in 1964, and then Bakili Muluzi; a Muslim who succeeded Banda."



Late Abdul Karim Mussa with first African Muslims from Malawi going for Hajj in 1961

Late Abdul Karim Mussa was instrumental along with the two prominent African Muslims E A Mussa and Lali Lubani in setting up Muslim Association of Malawi. This required permission from a strong Christian President whom the three of them met. This was the first representative organisation of Muslims in Malawi. Unofficially, Muslims were approximately 45% of the population but official statistics always show around 30%. In later part of his life he devoted much of his time in helping to establish mosques, schools and Madrassah's in Malawi for the benefit of poor African Muslims. He facilitated and financially supported the first Hujajj of African Muslims from Malawi.



Only Asian at the African-only School

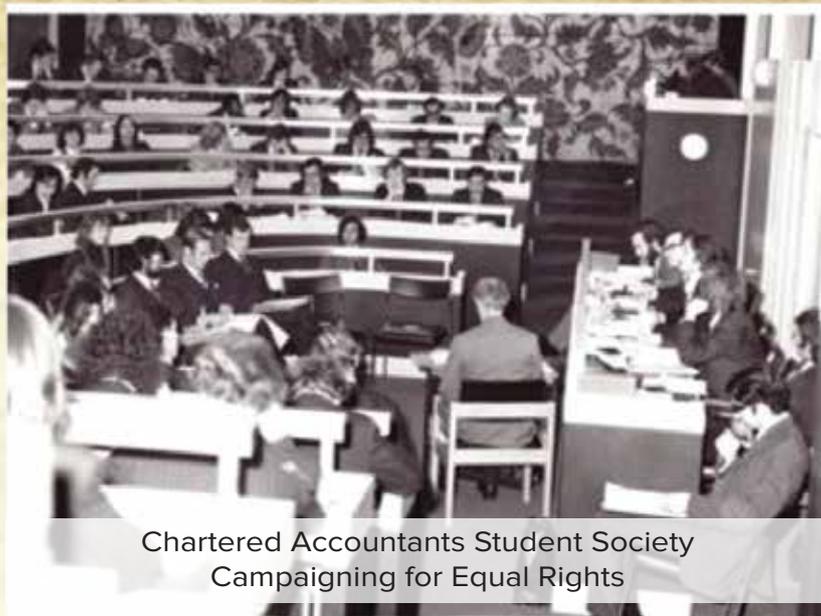
The Crusader

Following his father's footsteps from a very young age, Iqbal has been representing one cause or another almost all his life. At the age of 10 years he was made a school prefect and then later Head Prefect of the primary school. He recalls, whilst at secondary school in Malawi, aged 16, approached the headmaster to be allowed time off for Friday prayers. No one had done that before. The headmaster was furious: "Prayers, boy! What Friday prayers? This is a Catholic school." Iqbal persisted and explained the importance of the prayers, the headmaster relented. Gradually, other boys joined him.



Distribution of Gifts at the Orphanage in Sarajevo

"The following day we visited the Orphanage centres, damaged hospitals, the mosques and cemeteries that were destroyed by the Serbs. After seeing such unprecedented damage and loss suffered by a community just because they happened to be Muslims, I was determined to ensure that the Muslim community in the UK provided the necessary moral and financial support to help rebuild the destroyed infrastructure and the lives of the innocent children and widows. Alhamdulillah through Muslim Aid in the following year we built houses for more than 200 families so that they could return back to Sarajevo. We further established orphanage centres to take care of thousands of innocent children who had nowhere to go.



Chartered Accountants Student Society
Campaigning for Equal Rights

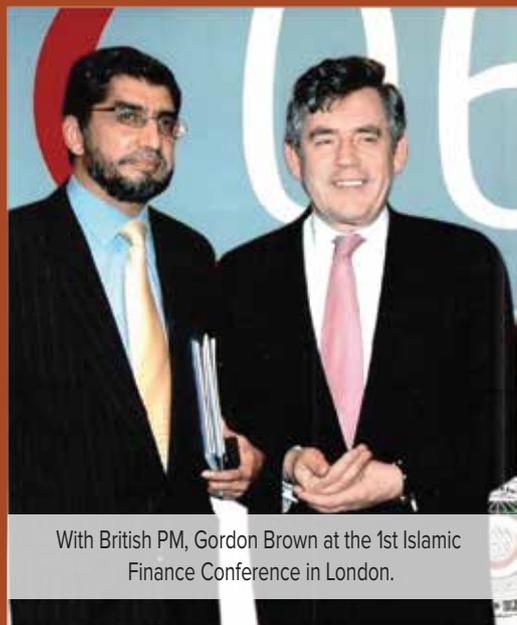
Another 'representative action' Iqbal remembers is during his days as an articled clerk with an Accountancy firm in London. The foreign clerks (those from overseas countries) were paid much less than their fellow white British clerks. "I couldn't accept that as it was most unfair, I took it up with the student society and was elected on their Executive Committee. After a period of campaigning, the Institute of Chartered Accountants agreed and ensured there was parity in pay for all article clerks irrespective of their race and ethnicity."

Volunteering for responsibility seems to be Iqbal's personal destiny. He recalls once in Hajj he was with a group of friends from Malawi. "There was an elderly man with us with his wife and daughter. He was quite sick. I kept reassuring him that he would be fine. On the day of Hajj, as we entered the tents on the plains of Arafat, he died. We couldn't bury him without his passport, which he had left in the hotel in Makkah. The head of the group asked for volunteers to go to Makkah to collect the passport. Taking one look at his distraught widow and daughter, I and my friend volunteered to retrieve his passport. It was an almost impossible task: more than one million pilgrims streaming in one direction and two of us with the taxi driver going the other way! Eventually, thanks to God, we made it to Makkah. The whole city was deserted, not a soul in sight. Arriving at the apartment I despaired at seeing the gates padlocked. We searched around and found an iron bar, and with the words Bismillah I broke the chain. Imagine that – on the holiest day of Islam, there I was, dressed in two pieces of white cloth, breaking and entering the locked premises! We found the passport and hurried back to Arafat, where the elderly man's burial was carried out."

He recollects visiting Bosnia in the winter of 1995 with some Eid supplies of food, clothes and gifts. "This was the first Muslim delegation consisting of Heads of Organisations from the UK just after the truce was signed. We had to enter Sarajevo through Croatia. The Croatian police were abusive - they would stop us, every few miles, board our coach and start to intimidate us. They rummaged through our luggage and spitefully threw out some of the gifts. We had to cross this particular bridge in the Serbian sector before sunset; otherwise the snipers would shoot at us. However, when we reached the river it was dark and the driver refused to cross. We could not turn back due to the heavy snow. Someone was required to go by foot to the nearest UN camp and seek help. Two of us volunteered and we reached the Malaysian Army Post who managed to establish contact with the Bosnian Army. It was 29th of Ramadan and all of us were fasting. The object was to reach Sarajevo and celebrate Eid with Bosnians. Thank God, Bosnian military vehicles transported us through convoluted paths across mountains and forests – which was also fraught with danger. We later found out that another similar coach that crossed the bridge a short time later was shot at and there were fatalities. In the end, however, our predicament melted into insignificance when we saw the plight of thousands of orphaned Bosnian children for whom we had brought the presents. We celebrated the day of Eid with President Izetbegovic, Mufti of Bosnia and the army commanders."

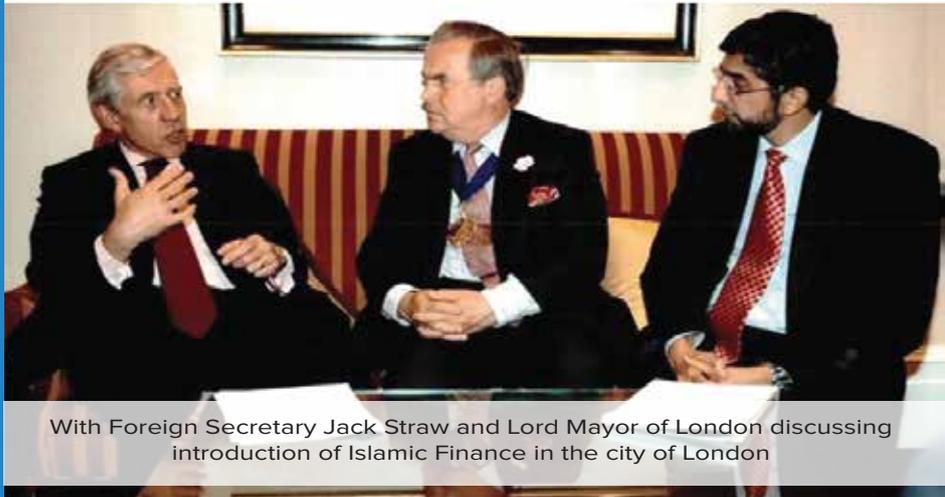
The Voice of the Muslim Community

Sir Iqbal was the founding Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), a national umbrella and the foremost body representing UK Muslims. He was re-elected as the Secretary General in 2001 and completed his 4-year term in June 2005. Sir Iqbal led this organisation to much acclaim and widespread recognition. He worked tirelessly with likeminded individuals who believed the only way to remove the injustices and discrimination against Muslim was if we had a united voice.



With British PM, Gordon Brown at the 1st Islamic Finance Conference in London.

True to his father's advice, Sir Iqbal has always stood up for what he believed in. He displayed strength and courage to voice his opinion on both domestic and international issues. Whether it was the war on Iraq, killing of the innocent in Palestine or illegal detention of prisoners in Guantanamo. He was equally vocal in condemning the acts of terrorism on the World Trade Centre in New York and the spate of bombings in London. On the domestic front too Sir Iqbal vociferously fought to change the archaic laws that discriminated Muslims on the basis of religion, achieving significant success.



With Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Lord Mayor of London discussing introduction of Islamic Finance in the city of London

It was one of the greatest challenges to bring such a diverse community of different nationalities, cultures, ethnic origins and above all different school of thoughts on one platform. This was the desire for many community activists and leaders over many years in fact since the arrival of Muslims in the UK.

Through the grace of Almighty and the fantastic team of Muslim leaders across the spectrum, we managed to establish a unique umbrella body of Muslims called MCB. It is democratically elected and is guided by the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet (PBUH). Today MCB has more than 500 affiliates across the country.

It is noteworthy that Sir Iqbal never pushed himself for the top job, nor did he stand for election. He was forced to take up this entirely voluntary but challenging position. After completing his second term in 2003, due to family pressures, particularly from his late mother, he declined to complete his final term of 2 years. The senior community leaders had a meeting with his late mother and young brothers and tried to convince them that he was an integral part of MCB and was needed at this most difficult time. She very reluctantly agreed with the condition that it would be his last term as SG.

Sir Iqbal currently is the Senior Advisor to the Council.

Below are some of the well-documented quotes of Sir Iqbal during his time as Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain.

”

Iraq war:

'A military victory against Iraq and subsequent celebrations will be short-lived as the peoples of the region begin to resist what will be seen as the start of a new colonial enterprise that will not be limited to Iraq. The true cost of this war will only be apparent in due time'

Israeli aggression in Palestine:

'The Muslim Council of Britain denounces with the utmost force Israel's criminal slaughter of Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Territories. We have time and again warned that Israel's murderous leadership would exploit the US presence in Iraq to escalate its ethnic cleansing of Palestine. Now the evidence is incontrovertible. What we are seeing is a creeping genocide of the Palestinian people.'

Outlawing Religious Discrimination:

"The Government's proposal to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of religion and belief in the same way as on the grounds of race, gender and disability will make a huge and positive contribution to the lives and perceptions of many disadvantaged communities. We do applaud the Government's commitment to the equality agenda. The proposed law will enable and further encourage Muslims to play a full and active part towards the creation of a just, fair and cohesive society in the United Kingdom." **This was the most significant achievement of the MCB where discrimination was outlawed against the Muslims.**

9/11 attacks:

"The Holy Qur'an equates the murder of one innocent person with the murder of the whole of humanity. We, the Muslims of Britain, wish to offer our deepest sympathies to the families of those who have been killed or injured following the atrocities committed in the United States."

7/7 attacks:

"We utterly condemn these indiscriminate terrorist attacks against innocent lives. The perpetrators of these atrocities, regardless of their religious, ideological or political beliefs, stand outside the pale of civilised values. The Muslim Council of Britain utterly condemns today's indiscriminate acts of terror in London. These evil deeds make victims of us all. It is our humanity that must bring us shoulder to shoulder to condemn, to oppose and to overcome those who would spread fear, hatred and death. We must and will be united in common determination that terror cannot succeed. It is now the duty of all us Britons to be vigilant and actively support efforts to bring those responsible to justice."



Receiving OBE Award from Prince Charles

When Sir Iqbal spoke the establishment and media took notice. His voice soon became the voice of Muslims around the globe. Cabinet ministers, Prime ministers and Heads of State gave him private hearings. They respected his valued opinions, which laid the ground work for making significant changes in foreign and domestic policies. Sir Iqbal was a true champion for the Muslim cause and played an enormous role in maintaining a cordial relationship between the community and the State. He was instrumental in maintaining peace and harmony during difficult times and was the perfect mediator in volatile situations.

He supported causes relating to diminishing poverty and the fight against injustice and discrimination around the world. He took to the streets and addressed a huge gatherings at Trafalgar Square and other places to wipe out third world debt. He continues to make a difference to the global economy by promoting Islamic Banking and Finance as a member of the International Advisory Panel of the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF). He played a key role as a member of the Board in bringing WIEF to the UK in 2013 with the record attendance

of 18 Heads of States and Governments and more than 2,500 people attending from different part of the world. It was truly a momentous occasion in building relations with Muslim countries and the West.

He recalls a major incident in Bangladesh where the government were intending to close Muslim Aid office because of its relief activities in supporting Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Muslim Aid was one of the very few agencies that established hospitals, vocational centres and orphanages to assist the Rohingya community who had suffered most appalling acts of brutalities in Burma and were fleeing from the atrocities. Sir Iqbal sought an urgent

The Humanitarian.

Sir Iqbal has been actively involved in voluntary capacity with community and charitable activities for the last four decades in the UK and overseas. His main interest has been to ensure that faith and ethnic communities are treated fairly, equally, justly and given due recognition of their contribution to the society.



Distribution of Sewing Machines under Micro Finance scheme in Bangladesh

meeting with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to convince her of Muslim Aid's work which was to support both the refugees and the underprivileged Bangladeshis. The discussions with the PM and her officials were intense but with the grace of Allah, she understood and allowed the relief activities to continue.

He has been involved with Memon Association UK since its inception in 1974. He served as President of the Association for few years and currently Chairs the Board of Trustees. With the untiring support of his dedicated colleagues, the Committee raised £1.5 million to build a community centre called Memon Centre in Balham. He inspired the community to donate and be self-reliant and not to be dependent on government and institutional support.



Building homes for the Tsunami victims in Aceh, Indonesia

He was appointed a Trustee of Muslim Aid in 1994 and was elected Chair in 1997 for a term of four years. He was re-elected as Chair in 2008. Muslim Aid is one of the most prominent international relief agency serving in more than 70 countries with field offices in 13 countries. He has visited many field offices including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Bosnia and spent time with refugees and the poorest of the poor in villages and shanty towns



With HRH Prince Charles at the opening of The Memon Centre

He was actively involved in setting up of the World Memon Organisation (WMO) where with colleagues they drafted the first Constitution of WMO. Sir Iqbal was elected Deputy President of WMO in 2002 and served as Senior Deputy President until 2013. He recalls the immense pleasure and the experience he gained by working closely with the Founding President, Late Haji Abdul Razzak who was truly a great human being and an inspiration to all. He also served under President Sattar Dada and was truly motivated by his commitment, sincerity and respect for humanity.

He Chairs the Board of Trustees of Balham Mosque and Tooting Islamic Centre, the major Islamic Centres in London. He had the privilege and honour to serve the noble cause from its inception in 1971 when he was appointed as the joint secretary of the first management committee.



With President of IDB (Islamic Development Bank)

He is a firm believer that the voluntary community work he has carried out over the last 40 years would not have been possible, first and foremost, without Almighty Allah's blessing and guidance. But also the fantastic team which consisted of brilliant colleagues whose commitment to the cause was steadfast. Without their unconditional support, very little could have been achieved by an individual.

He Chairs the Al-Risaala Education Trust, which runs two government funded primary schools and 3 independent primary and secondary schools in London. One of the schools, Gatton School was the first purpose built Muslim school to be awarded the Outstanding Status by Ofsted (Government Inspection Agency.) He recalls with admiration, the fantastic team he has worked alongside over the years which helped to gain Voluntary Aided Status.

He has served on the Advisory Council of the previous four Home Secretary's advising on race relations and equality.

The Sternberg International Prize was withdrawn from him after he accused Israel of ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Palestinian people. The Sternburg Foundation found his remarks 'unhelpful, and even counter productive.'

Iqbal was invited to retract the comments or even suggest that it was a 'slip of the tongue'. "I wasn't having any of that," he says defiantly. "We cannot shy away from injustice and oppression."

"It is through God's bounty and grace that I have the opportunity to serve the community. We expect our reward only from Him and He is most Bountiful."

Awards and Recognitions

Sir Iqbal has received numerous awards and recognition across both national and international spectrum for his unselfish humanitarian and community work over four and half decades. He has always believed that the real award or reward would be the acceptance of your work by your Creator. He once said " Whilst doing the work that pleases your Creator, if it is recognised by mortals in this world then Alhamdulillah." He feels deeply humbled when asked about his various awards ranging from the most highest prestigious civil award in the UK of Knighthood to a shield from a refugee camp in Bangladesh. He mentioned once in an interview " you can receive loads of shields , trophies, medals and certificates which can be placed on the mantle piece to remind you and your family of the wonderful work you have done. But when you leave this world these temporary glory is all left behind with little or no value. What you carry with you is your deeds (Amaal) which will determine whether you have been a success or failure!!"

For purpose of record see below some of Sir Iqbal's awards for his service to community and humanity.

- He was awarded OBE in 1999 Queens New Years Honours List.
- He was the recipient of Muslim News



Award for Excellence - Good Citizenship presented by the former Prime Minister Tony Blair.

- The renowned Guardian newspaper named him in 2002 as 'The most influential Muslim in the UK'
- In 2005 the GQ magazine produced a list of 100 Most Powerful Men in Britain and he was ranked at number 10 as the voice of Muslims in Britain, who plays a vital role as mediator in multi-cultural Britain.



He was honoured with Knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2005.

- He was honoured with Knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2005. **He is the first Muslim to have been given this honour for services to Charities and community.**
- In July 2006, Leeds Metropolitan University bestowed on him an Honorary Doctorate of Law in recognition of his services to Charities and community.
- Sir Iqbal was last year appointed as a Patron of the Commission on Multi- Faith Britain. The other two patrons are the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord William Rowan and the former Chief Justice of United Kingdom Lord Woolf.

Family

In all community and charitable work family and business suffer most. " I was blessed to have a patient wife who has borne the brunt of a husband who has hardly been at home. Leaving home when children are asleep and arriving late at night after attending meetings when children have gone to bed. Yasmin has been an exceptional women, source of great comfort as she took the double burden of taking care of the kids upbringing. Thanks to my dear mother who used to console her when she used to get irritated and could not tolerate the frenetic life I lead.



With My Mother, Wife and Daughter at Buckingham Palace

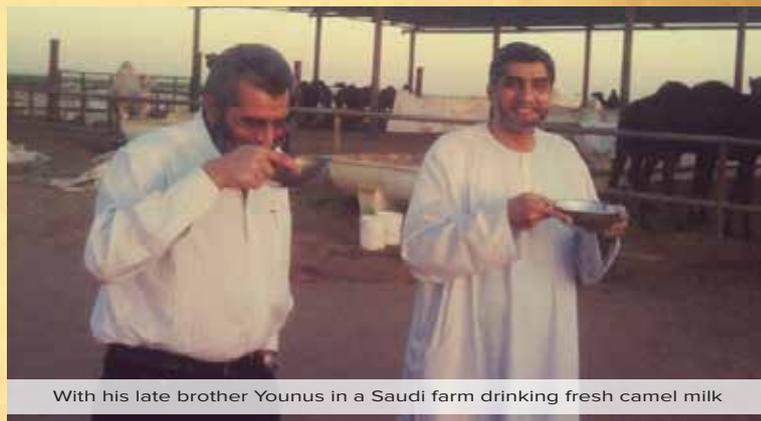


Yasmin with daughters Sameena and Raheena

My five children are far more critical. Always questioning "is this really what Islamic life is all about, daddy? How can you justify this? You never have time for us" I did feel guilty then, more so now, but always reassuring them that I will have more time for them all. Sometimes my mother chips in " your father was a busy man too, but he always maintained a balance between family, work, and the community. I was also extremely fortunate to have brothers who were my business partners but supported and encouraged me to spend considerable time in community work.

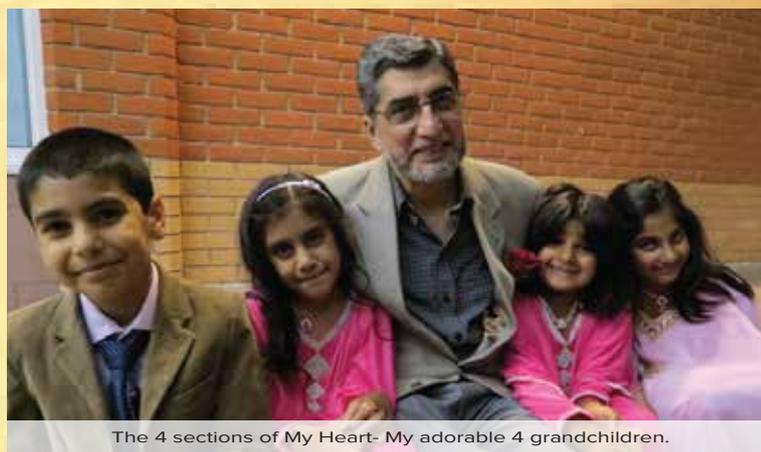


With my three sons after receiving Knighthood



With his late brother Younus in a Saudi farm drinking fresh camel milk

Huge tragedy struck me and the entire family in May 2011 when my dearest young brother Younus suddenly passed away peacefully in his sleep. Only 8 months after the passing of his dear wife Nasreen who had suffered from cancer. Late Younus basically ran my business and looked after the ailments and concerns of the family in my absence. He was a pillar of strength to the entire family always available round the clock whatever the needs of family and friends. They both left behind five most beautiful and intelligent children from the age of 14 to 25. Allah Almighty works in mysterious ways and his Will always prevails whereby I have now been blessed with the responsibility to take care of his own like he did for me.



The 4 sections of My Heart- My adorable 4 grandchildren.

The greatest happiness and joy is to be with my most beautiful and adorable four grandchildren who keep me young at heart! One cannot explain in words the comfort, joy, happiness and pleasure each one of them gives me and my wife. Each one of them has unique characteristics of conveying their love and affection. All the troubles in the world disappear from my mind the moment I hear their sweet voices and laughter.

A firm believer who has submitted himself to the Will of Allah. A selfless worker who has spent his life Serving Mankind. A fierce optimist who has utmost faith in Humanity and one who strives to make each day a better place for the World.

The worthy son of a worthy father - The Inspirational Sir Iqbal Sacranie.

Wonder of Women - WoW

WoW is an international initiative by WMO - Youth wing for women's empowerment. This initiative will take a three pronged approach in order to be effective.

Connect. Empower. Uplift.

Approach No. 1 - CONNECT

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together" - African Proverb

Networking is a key factor in any kind of organisation.

"I run a fashion accessories company that specialises in handbags and has its presence in India and the Middle East, in the midst of launching in Singapore. At the AGM in South Africa during the IYC networking session I met an extremely enterprising woman - Rafeeyah Hassim. Other than being an accomplished pathologist she always wanted to be an entrepreneur. She decided to become a representative of my brand in Johannesburg. Safe to say, it's been an extremely successful, ongoing, mutually beneficial relationship"- Sana Shakoor, Project Leader - WMO Women Empowerment

The only way to connect such a large community over such distances is through technology. WOW team will create a social platform through Instagram and Facebook, get data of all the women, publicise it so other women around the world can be aware of opportunities for collaborations and tie ups.

WOW Team will connect all the working women, social workers, professionals across all chapters of WMO. This will be an ongoing process of data collection, creating a network of enterprising women. It will also provide them with exposure for their own businesses and professions.

An entrepreneurship fund will be established for memon enterprising women. WMO may help in their business if they see fit. Also, at every AGM, a WOW award will be given to that one outstanding woman that has shown the most potential. The brilliant WMO marketing team will provide further exposure to this cause and all the participants.



Approach No. 2 - EMPOWER

WOW workshops will be held at least yearly (or more) in every chapter. This workshop can be localised according to the needs and opportunities of each of the chapters.

The workshop will provide training skills to a group of 25 underprivileged women. After discussion with them, they said they want to start a small set up of sewing and embroidery. The Youth Wing - India chapter will donate 3 machines to them along with a day of technical training. (A wmo centre is being set up in Vasai Village by the ladies team where these machines will be given; thus contributing to setting up a unit for longevity) One of these women is an expert at sewing and will continue teaching these groups of women at the centre and from home. Along with the training workshop WOW Team will even provide them with a basic understanding of creating business plans, government schemes related to empowerment of women, available loans for SME's and girl child education schemes.



Approach No. 3 : UPLIFT

If you get, give
If you learn, teach
- Maya Angelou

As women entrepreneurs and professionals, it is extremely important to give back to society in whatever way we can. Strong women empower other women. This is the mantra of their third approach.

Through this platform WOW will highlight many such abilities of groups of underprivileged women. Their products can be showcased worldwide and open up a whole new world of economic empowerment to them. Many women entrepreneurs can start outsourcing their needs. Not only are these women hard working and talented but also cost effective.

Professional women may hold teaching workshops and counselling programs.

This is the third way in which WOW can empower women through economic means.

"One woman can make a difference, but together we can change the world! "



THE KHALID JUSSAB DIARIES

14TH OCTOBER 2015



Tovarnik, a tiny village on the Serbian/Croatian border has changed my life forever. I have spent considerable time with my fellow brethren from Syria who are fleeing death, destruction and starvation in search of safety and an opportunity to live. We Memons, as a philanthropic community, more importantly as compassionate human beings need to do much more in order to make a difference in the lives of millions of refugees making their way into Europe.

As I travel home from Croatia, I promise to come back with greater resources and more volunteers.

16TH OCTOBER 2015

The World Memon Organisation has immediately answered the call and contributed one hundred thousand dollars towards the Refugee Crisis in Europe. The funds will help immensely, to alleviate the pain and misery of those who seek refuge under these tragic circumstances.



20TH OCTOBER 2015

According to reliable news coming in from various quarters along the refugee route we have received reports and numerous appeals for assistance from Slovenia. In particular, at four camps located along the Croatian/Slovenian border in Brezice, Dobova 1, Dobova 2 and Rignoce. Blankets, shoes, warm clothing, sanitary products, winter hats, gloves, thick socks and sleeping bags are amongst the many essentials we loaded on the truck which was later despatched for distribution at the refugee camps.



THE KHALID JUSSAB DIARIES

28TH OCTOBER 2015

I embarked on a flight with 6 colleagues on another humanitarian endeavour to Zagreb.

Upon our arrival in Zagreb, we headed to Brezice where we found that overnight the authorities had cleared the camps at both Brezice and Rignoce. There were less than a thousand people left in the camp, sleeping outdoors without food or shelter for the past few days. All this whilst surrounded by the Slovenian Army complete with tanks, armoured personnel carriers, backed by the Special Police. Not only was the weather miserable and cold but the atmosphere was highly intimidating with the presence of an imposing army.



Armed with the requisite permissions we headed to the open and exposed part of the camp and proceeded to assess the requirements of the people trapped in this hellhole. We rushed to the local supermarket to purchase food and water for distribution to these poor souls with the help of volunteers who were already on the ground.

30TH OCTOBER 2015



We had a meeting to discuss where we would be best equipped to assist and were informed that there was an urgent need in Macedonia. There were no aid agencies in the region and very few volunteers dealing with thousands arriving on a daily basis. We made a decision to proceed to Macedonia and the six of us drove through the night and arrived in Tabernovec at 6am. A train full of refugees pulled into the station and the entire camp was soon packed to the rafters. We were literally thrown in at the deep end and immediately set about assisting as best as we could bearing in mind that we had just arrived at the camp with nothing but our rucksacks and sleeping bags.



The best thing we could do in these circumstances was to try to speak with our brethren, assist them with their meagre belongings, help their children and the elderly. The main requirement we were able to fulfil at that particular time was to escort the refugees over the border into Serbia, traversing 'No Mans Land' between Macedonia and Serbia. The distance covering this area was around three kilometres over a bumpy track, cutting across a ploughed, muddy field, bridging a stream and through a marsh. Thereafter was a small hill which ascended into Serbian territory where the welcoming committee consisted of police dogs with their masters armed with enough military hardware to effect a coup in a small country whilst walking across the border assisting the families we heard their devastating stories. A few that will haunt us for the rest of our lives.

THE KHALID JUSSAB DIARIES

31ST OCTOBER 2015

It's 3 am. The biting cold is freezing us to our bones. But an unending tide of humanity surges across No Mans land into Serbia. It's safer for the refugees to bridge borders during the night.

We bought 2 wheelbarrows today to get the elderly and disabled across. Wheelchairs and pushchairs cannot get through. We have distributed blankets, gloves, hats, socks to fight the cold and more importantly provided torches to navigate across the border in the middle of the night.

May the Almighty make it easy for them and guide them all to safety and a better life.



NO MANS LAND

1ST NOVEMBER 2015

I am heart broken and emotionally shattered. Today, all six of us, grown up men cried like babies but we must continue till our time here comes to an end. Some of the people we met and the stories we heard are so gut wrenching that all six of us will take to our graves.

These people have been stripped of all dignity and respect. I have put an elderly woman in a wheelbarrow and taken her across the border. She was as old as my grandmother. I put a disabled man with no legs in another wheelbarrow and ferried him across.

Amongst the families we assisted was a young mother with four children. A small baby in her arms, no more than 6 months old, another toddler hugging at her clothes, no more than 2 and two older daughters 5 and 6. With them were her two elderly in laws, the father in law was cognitively ill with a lung disease and struggling to breathe. She told us that her husband had been killed back home in the war and they had no breadwinner in the house anymore. Her father in law sold what he could and with the money he gathered they managed to cross from Turkey to the Greek islands. The perilous crossing to Lesvos cost them their entire savings and on every stage from Greece to Macedonia they were extorted by criminal elements who controlled the means of transportation along the route. It had taken them 10 days from Lesvos to Tabernovec and they still had a long and arduous journey ahead. The story was the same as all the others. They were nearly out of money and didn't know what to do or where to turn. The father in law whilst taking a rest along the three kilometre trail told me that he only wanted to live until they got to Germany and was determined to get his grand children and daughter in law to a safe country so that they may have a future.

I think we all need to wake up. Ask ourselves the question. What have I done for humanity today? I am not asking you to risk life and limb pushing wheelbarrows across borders in the middle of the night. I am asking you to say a quiet prayer for our unfortunate brothers and sisters, maybe shed a tear and do your bit towards Serving Mankind.



THE WHEELBARROW MAN

THE KHALID JUSSAB DIARIES

2ND NOVEMBER 2015

We provided free meals to our brothers and sisters at the soup kitchen set up at the Refugee Camp and will continue this endeavour over a period of time. Aside from the supplies and essentials that we brought today to distribute over the remaining days, the more cherished and appreciated items were a helping hand, a small smile and some light to dispel the darkness while navigating a route to the border. We gave what little we could and I would like to think we offered them that mattered most which was HOPE for their journey ahead and our PRAYERS that they may reach their destination safely.

We pray that Allah accept our humble contribution and forgive our shortcomings and make it easy for the suffering.

A Special mention must be made for the Muslims of Macedonia. These men work regular jobs during the day, and at night, after work, they go to the border and spend hours doing everything they can to help. They have done this for months on end, sleeping only a few hours every night. Although the average wage in Macedonia is € 2000, they still pay their own toll and fuel costs to travel to the border every night with food and supplies. It is a sacrifice we must acknowledge and reflect upon when approached for assistance for the refugee crisis.



4TH NOVEMBER 2015



We drive back through the Balkan terrain with forests stretching along the road from Macedonia to Zagreb to catch our flight home. I once again make a firm resolve to return and continue my endeavours in this part of the world where they need us most. I cannot help but recollect the Robert Frost lines.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

My name is Khalid Jussab. I am a member of the World Memon Organisation. We serve Mankind.

Find out more: <http://wmoworld.com/wmo-refugee-aid/>



The World Memon Organisation - Watch The Khalid Jussab Diaries