



الاتحاد الاسترالي للمجالس الاسلامية
**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF ISLAMIC COUNCILS INC.**
AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANISATION
A.R.B.N. 002 757 155

HEAD OFFICE

932 Bourke Street, Zetland
Sydney NSW 2017
PO BOX 7185 SSBH,
Alexandria NSW 2015
AUSTRALIA
Tel: (02) 9319 6733
Fax: (02) 9319 0159
admin@afic.com.au
www.afic.com.au

27 August 2008

Dear brothers and sisters in Islam
Assalamo alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Re: Disinformation regarding the AFIC Executive and Recent Events

MELBOURNE OFFICE

66-68 Jeffcott Street West
Melbourne VIC 3003
AUSTRALIA
Tel: (03) 9329 1228
Fax: (03) 9329 1677
aficmelb@bigpond.com

Unfortunately, the usual suspects are again trying to destabilise AFIC by spreading disinformation about the recent events and the court case that followed. I am not going to spend the remainder of my term as AFIC President responding to all these outrageous claims. I am however happy to speak personally to anyone who has questions as to these events.

AFIC SCHOOLS

Malek Fahd Islamic School
Tel: (02) 9642 8766
Fax: (02) 9642 5479

All I will say is that the Congress at Malek Fahd was clearly a setup. Ignoring any questions as to who was or was not allowed to be there, the simple fact is that I adjourned the meeting for 20 minutes and when I tried to reconvene the meeting, Br Haset Sali had me thrown out by the security guards.

Islamic School of Brisbane

Tel: (07) 3841 3645
Fax: (07) 3841 4320

During the adjournment Brs Rahman Deen, Shafiqur Rahman Khan and Haset Sali claimed that I had abandoned the meeting and therefore they could then continue in my absence. This was a preposterous lie and one quickly brought undone by the fact I re-entered the hall to reconvene the meeting after the 20 minutes had expired. If they had issues or concerns with my adjournment, or any other matter regarding the meeting, all they had to do was to wait until the meeting was reconvened and then deal with the issues in the proper and civilised manner.

Islamic College of SA

Tel: (08) 8340 7799
Fax: (08) 8340 9988

Langford Islamic College

Tel: (08) 9458 5206
Fax: (08) 9258 5661

All of this is clearly shown on the video taken in fact by Br Sali's associates. I do not need to tell lies or "spin" the facts. You can each see for yourself what really happened.

Islamic School of Canberra

Tel: (02) 6241 9554
Fax: (02) 6241 5448

When Br Sali and his so-called "Interim Committee" forced their way into the AFIC Offices on the Monday morning and refused to leave, I felt I had no choice but to act. If this sort of thuggish behaviour was allowed to go unchecked, then AFIC as an organisation would be effectively destroyed. No-one would pay any further attention to the rule of law and AFIC would become a laughing stock both within the Muslim community and in the wider Australian Community.

- Halal Certification & Accreditation
- Muslims Australia Magazine
- Islamic Schools Projects
- Zakat & Charitable Services
- Imams & Religious Services
- Dawah Work
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Political Advocacy

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Muslim Council of NSW
Islamic Council of VIC
Islamic Council of QLD
Islamic Council of WA
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Islamic Council of TAS
Islamic Council of
Christmas Island

It was for this reason and the fact that I could not use the same thuggish behaviour, I was left with no option but to seek to remedy the situation under the law. I went to court and thankfully for us all, my stand was vindicated and my committee was reinstated. Do not for one minute let Br Sali and his associates convince you that they agreed to the settlement to save AFIC money. The settlement was reached on the third day of the case, with all the legal costs already spent. They only agreed to the

MEMBER SOCIETIES

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settlement when it became clear to them that they had no defence or justification for their actions and that they were about to lose.

Present in court were Sheik Shafiqur Rahman Khan, Sheik Shady Alsuleiman, Br Munir Hussein, Br Adnan Sert, Br Rahman Deen and Br Haset Sali.

If Br Sali and his associates were really caring about the cost to AFIC, they would have agreed with their own Barrister's offer to settle by mid June 2008. They had so many opportunities to settle but they did not. The video of the Congress showed beyond any doubt what had happened exactly. Instead, they persisted and not only cost AFIC a significant amount in legal costs, but also the outrageous costs being demanded by the Receiver and Manager appointed by the court. The issue of costs never crossed Brs Shafiqur Rahman and Haset Sali because they were running before the Court for all sorts of demands and each time they failed. These brothers also not only hired a Barrister but also had the services of a Senior Counsel (SC) and replaced one set of Barrister and Senior Counsel with another new set of Barrister and Senior Counsel one day before the main trial commenced. They never cared about AFIC's money.

The past however is the past. One of few positive things to come out of this case is that we now have an opportunity to resolve the festering sore that is the membership of AFIC. I proposed as part of the settlement the establishment of a Membership Sub-Committee to review all claims for membership of AFIC and to make recommendations to the next Congress on each claim. I was pleased to see that Br Sali has accepted this opportunity, so hopefully there can be a bipartisan resolution to what has been an ongoing problem.

We are currently working through the terms of reference for this sub-committee to ensure that there are objective criteria for membership. This should remove any factional arguments that might otherwise break out. Hopefully, the first meeting will occur in the near future and the work will be complete by the next Congress, InshaAllah. More will be announced on this shortly.

As we now have an opportunity to move forward, I ask that people cease spreading the unsubstantiated rumours and allegations that are so destabilising to AFIC. The time has come for the organisation to get beyond egos and petty politics. Let us grasp this opportunity and move forward, not dwell on the past. We have wasted enough positive energy, credibility and opportunity to do good, let alone the millions of dollars.

In closing, I would like to repeat that I am happy to speak personally to anyone who has questions as to these events, or for that matter anything to do with AFIC and the work of the AFIC executive. Please simply call me or write to me.

Brotherly yours in Islam



Ikebal Adam Patel
AFIC President