

ICNA Announces Its 17th Annual Convention

"The Annual Convention will be a promising venture and a sparkling milestone for the Muslim community of North America." This was stated by Mr. Zahid Bukhari, the Secretary General of ICNA in a meeting with The Message International at Al-Markaz.

The Islamic Circle of North America has announced its 17th Annual Convention from July 17 through 19, 1992 in New York at C.W. Post Campus, Long Island University.

Mr. Bukhari was of the opinion that the dissemination of the message of Allah (SWT) is not an easy task. We have to make sure that the Annual Convention provides the true Islamic environment for each and every participant. We are to prove our claim that Islam is the only answer and the only solution for all socio-economic, political and cultural problems. After the practical failure of all "isms" we are to come up with an alternative — Al-Islam — the complete system of life.

He reiterated the importance of fighting all kinds of social diseases that plague the community. Negative journalism, fiery speeches, hostility and unrealistic scholasticism cannot resolve anything, rather our moral character, ethical values, refined behavior and positive attitude can bring requisite changes.

Many leaders and scholars from within and without are expected to attend the Convention. Topics related to modern day needs will be addressed and discussed at length.

According to Mr. Ashraf-Uz-Zaman, the chairman of the Convention, all arrangement for boarding, lodging, praying and parking etc. have been made for over 3,000 participants.

Assault on Dr. Turabi Widely Condemned

The brutal attack on Dr. Hassan al-Turabi in Ottawa is being condemned by many Muslim leaders and organizations across the world. Islamists felt pain and sorrow at the sad news.

"Dr. Hassan Turabi is a great asset and pride for many Muslims throughout the world and ICNA is very much grieved," says Dr. Mohammad Yunus, president of ICNA.

Muslim Student Association, University of Ottawa, ICNA Ottawa Unit, Muslim Arab Youth Association and ISNA in a combined statement said, "We were very upset upon hearing the dreadful news about the attack on our respected leader, Dr. Hassan al-Turabi. Our sympathies are with him. May Allah give him strength and health and may he recover soon. We strongly condemn the attack and our support is with Dr. Turabi."

Mandatory Respect for gays from 1st Grade

"All school districts of N.Y. City must teach first-grade students respect for gay families," Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez said in a letter to community school boards and superintendents.

In addition, schools must demonstrate how they will address the issue of discrimination and "sexual orientation at the elementary school level...to provide an education that is bias-free and respects differences," Fernandez wrote in a



recently circulated letter.

"For 6-year-olds, this is incomprehensible," said Ralph Fabrizio, superintendent of District 20 in Brooklyn.

Gay rights group hailed Fernandez' letter and praised the chancellor for making sure children are encouraged to respect gay families at a young age.

This trend clearly shows the nature of the problems and the approach of the policymakers how they tackle them.

Freedom of Press is Vital

"A free press promotes the freedom and the excellence of fine choices. It promotes the best tradition for people and opens up new approaches for broader and freer thinking," said Imam W. Deen Mohammed, Muslim American spokesman, in Dallas.

He used the experience of the Prophets of God as an analogy to illustrate the importance



of freedom of speech. Many of them were severely persecuted and killed, because they insisted upon freedom of expression to spread the word of God. "Freedom of the press is a vital part of the total meaning of freedom for us in America."

Muslims Demand Break In Parking Rules on Eidain

Members of Majlis Ash-Shura (Consultative Committee) of New York, attended a meeting in City Hall to discuss and press their demand that alternate side parking rules be suspended on two of their holidays i.e. Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha.

Alternate side regulations are currently suspended for 22 religious holidays regardless of their justification — primarily those observed by Christians and Jews — as well as 11 national holidays.

Muslims are being supported by a Jew, city councilman Noach Dear, who says, "If we have to send a message of inclusion and participation, then this is the message." Dear's bill would suspend the rules for six days altogether, if succeeded.

Mayor and deputy mayor tried to ridicule the issue saying, "since we have 178 separate ethnic identities, what happens if they all demanded same equity as everyone else?" ***

"Among lawful things, divorce is most hated by Allah." — Guidance from the Messenger.

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