

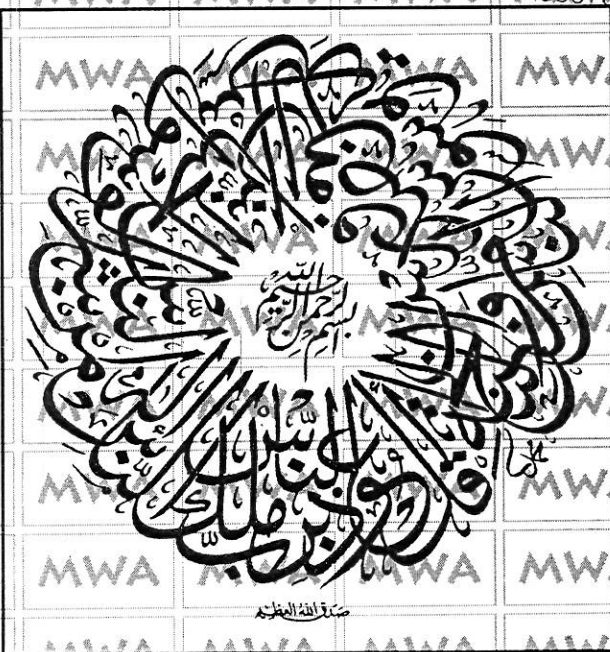
The Muslim Woman

The MUSLIM WOMAN

VOLUME XXVIII - No 5/6

July/August 97 - Muharram/Safar 1418

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Guloffettstr. 35
Postfach 170427
60078 Frankfurt/Main



OUR NEW ADDRESS

All Correspondence should be sent to our new address
The Muslim Women's Association
P. O. Box 6119, LONDON SW20 0XG



A monthly journal published by The Muslim Women's Association (Regd. Charity)

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Membership of The Muslim Women's Association is open to all Muslim Women.
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UK £10.00 Abroad £15.00
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THE EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1995 TO NOVEMBER 1997

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**NEXT
MEETING**
SUNDAY 12th Oct 1997
at The Islamic Cultural Centre
146 Park Road, London NW8 7RG
Time: 4.00 pm

ALL CORRESPONDENCE
should be sent to our new address
The Muslim Women's Association
P. O. Box 6119, LONDON SW20 0XG

Articles, letters and other matter appearing in this publication do not necessarily express the official views of the Executive Committee of The Muslim Women's Association.

Meetings of the MWA take place on the second Sunday of each month

CIBEDQ
Guillotetstr. 35
Postfach 17 04 27

60078 Frankfurt/Main

EDITORIAL

Dear Sisters السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

This month brings a light of happiness in the otherwise dark world of pain and conflict. We are coming together in small and large groups to celebrate the coming of the beloved Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him). He was sent to this world with a glorious message, the Holy Qur'an. This is the word of Allah which comforts the hearts of those who listen to it and read it with understanding.

Allah speaks to mankind through the Qur'an. He teaches us to pray to Him as in surah Fateha.

"Praise be to Allah: Lord of the worlds, the Beneficent, the Merciful, Lord of the day of Judgement. Thee alone we serve, thee alone we ask for help. Keep us on the right path. The path of those whom thou hast favoured, not the path of those who earn thy anger nor of those who go astray."

Allah chose the Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon Him) to teach us to pray, when the world has turned against us. Allah comforts us with this prayer:

"Allah does not impose upon any soul a duty but to the extent of its ability; for it is the benefit of what it has earned, and upon it is the evil of what it has wrought."

To anyone who is suffering hardship, hunger, pain and sorrow it is comforting to know that Allah has not abandoned us but through these trials He is testing our strength. He knows our ability to face these difficulties in our lives, and to overcome them by learning to pray as the beloved Prophet Muhammed has taught us.

"Our Lord, do not lay a burden on us as thou didst lay on those before us. Our Lord, do not impose upon us that which we have not the strength to bear, and pardon us and grant us protection, and have mercy on us."

Your are our Patron so help us against those who do not believe.

Dr. Zubeda Osman

MAWLID AL-NABI

Speech delivered by Sheikh Mohamed Ewais at MWA's
Mawlid al-Nabi Function

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam:

Our topic today is about the Birth of Rasul Allah (PBUH).

In these same days, since more than fourteen centuries Rasul Allah (BUM) was born and Allah (SWT) sent him to the whole world as a mercy and guidance.

In the time of pre Islamic age, the whole world was living in darkness and mankind lived worse than animals, man used to cast different statues and worshipped it, sacrificed for it.

Other people worshipped fire, stars even trees. Apart from their idolatry, even people of the book, Jews and Christians, diverted their books changed their belief.

They used to drink, intoxicate their minds, commit adultery, gamble, run clubs for their corruption, fight for no good reasons, kill each other, the strong slaved the weak, the rich oppressed the poor. The Oppression was the law among the people, and the whole world at that time divided between two powers - Persians and Romans - and war between these two powers never ended, small countries followed either Persians or Romans.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam:

In such state of corruption Allah (SOOT) wants guidance to his slaves, free them from slavery of human beings to be surrender to Allah SWT and to live in the light of guidance rather than living in darkness of ignorance.

Therefore Allah SWT sent His Prophet Mohamed PBUH with the message of Islam, this religion brought back to man his humanity, dignity and freedom.

Prophet PBUH came with religion to teach people to worship one god,

and to believe in Him only as the Sustainer, the creator and the Only God Allah. The Eternal, Absolute he begetteth not, Nor is he begotten.

Prophet PBUH came by Islam to correct and respect lineage and forbade adultery which mixes lineage, to respect man and free it from toxication and respect man's properties by forbidding gambling and usury.

Islam came by just which makes all people equal before Allah SWT no favour of a rich over a poor, or a strong over a weak but by piety.

Allah SWT says in surat A1 Hojoreat verse 13:

"O mankind we created you from a single of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that ye may know, each other. The most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is the most Righteous of you."

Islam spreaded peace among people in every aspect, it made rich people brothers to poor, it regulated zakat, and forbade usury.

Dear Muslim Brothers and sisters:

The birth of Rasul Allah PBUH was a mercy to all man kind, because it guided people to the path of truth, light and justice, these elements will last forever as long as Islam is practising among people, because Islam exposes the value of human being, and his dignity in life, and what we nowadays in this century is even worse than the time of pre Islamic age, because people ignore their belief and the remedy is to come back to Islam.

Dear Muslim Brothers and Sisters in Islam:

The celebration of the birth of the prophet Mohammed PBUH is not when the date of his birth is due, but all the year around, and more over all our life time by practising his Sunnah, and if we really love him we have to pass this love to our families, and children by teaching them Quran and Sunnah.

May Allah SWT make us from those who listen to the talk and follow its best.

LADY AYESHA BINT ABU BAKR AL-SIDDIQ

Swadeka Ahsun

Ayesha was born in the month of Shawwal, four years after the conferment of the Prophethood on the Noble Prophet (S.W.A)

She belonged to the Banu Taim clan of the Quraish. Her mother's name was Umm Rumman, who was also a companion of the Prophet, enjoying an extremely high rank among his devoted companions. Aisha's title was Humaira and she was given the surname of Umm Abdullah.

She grew up as a child under the benign guardianship and care of her father, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, a man of exceptional qualities and a trusted companion of the Noble Prophet, who was held in high esteem by all the people. Aysa was a very intelligent and responsible and remembered all the happenings of her childhood.

The prophet (S.W.A) was given the glad tidings of his marriage to Aysa in a dream. He saw that a person was showing him something wrapped up in silk and saying "It is for you, so take it." When the Prophet (S.W.A) opened it, he found Ayesha in the silk wrapping. The marriage ceremony was very simple.

Ayesha was very dear to the Prophet. Musnad Abu Dawud relates that the Prophet (S.W.A) used to say: "O Allah! I treat all my wives equally. But I have no control on my emotions and I am more inclined to Ayesha. Please forgive my heart for this."

When nine years of Ayesha's married life had passed, the Prophet fell ill - and on the 9th or 12th of Rabi-alAwwal, in the Hijra year, the Prophet left for his heavenly abode. At the time of his death, the Prophet's head was resting on Ayesha's chest and her room got the unique honour of serving as his final resting place.

The remaining 40 years of Ayesha's life were spent in widowhood. During all this period, she remained a great source of guidance and inspiration, a radiating beacon of knowledge and learning and an everlasting fountainhead of blessing. Ayesha has related in all 2210 sayings of the Prophet. According to some scholars, at least one-fourth

of Sharia injunctions are traceable to her as source.

Many renowned companions would ask her questions on all topics. Abu Musa al-Ashari says that the people didn't face a problem to which Ayesha didn't offer a solution. She knew personally the precedents of the Prophet for every eventuality. Urwah bin Zubair says that he never saw anyone who could equal Ayesha in the knowledge of the Qur'an, Hadith, Fiqh, History and science of genealogy, Ahnaf bin Qais and Musa bin Talha narrate that they never found anyone as eloquent as Ayesha. While Muiawiyah says that he never came across a more eloquent, a more flowery, a more consummate orator and a writer person than Ayesha.

The books of biography relate many narrations which prove that besides religious knowledge, Ayesha had the knowledge of medicine, history, poetry as well as literature. She has such a lofty status in the domain of religious learning and moral excellence that thousands of pages would not suffice to describe it. Suffice to say, there was no one to equal her in so far as intellectual attainments, service to the religion of Islam and dissemination of the teachings of the Prophet are concerned. There would be no exaggeration, if she is called the 'benefactress of the community'.

Ibn Abdul Barr quotes the Prophet in his book "Instiaab" thus: "Superiority of Ayesha over other women is comparable to the superiority of the bread dipped in gravy (a favourite dish of the Arabs) to other dishes. During the period of Umar bin al-Khattab Caliphate, all the wives of the Prophet were allotted ten thousand dirhams annually. However Ayesha was assigned twelve thousand dirhams. Umar explained the reason that he had done so as Ayesha was very dear to the Prophet.

When Umar was at his death-bed, he sent his son Abdullah to Ayesha to ask her if she could give him the permission to be buried beside the Prophet. Ayesha replied: "I had kept the place for myself, but for Umar's sake, I forsake it". It is by dint of Ayesha's exceptional sacrifice that Umar is resting in his grave next to the Noble Prophet.

After Umar, Uthman became the third Caliph. During his Caliphate, there emerged many conspiracies and disputes which finally led to the grievous martyrdom of Uthman. Uthman remained without food and water for three days and while he was reciting the Holy Qur'an, the miscreants killed him mercilessly. This dastardly assassination greatly pained Ayesha.

Concerning Ayesha's great erudition and scholarship it is said that Ayesha had nearly 200 students, some famous names among whom are: Qasim bin Muhannad, Masrooq Tabii, Ayesha bint Talha, Abu Salmah and Arwah bin Zubair. Whenever Ayesha narrated a Hadith, she would relate its reason, context and background. Whatever explanations she offered would require a far-fetched interpretation.

She disliked blind imitation and always tried to go deep into the real spirit behind the sayings and deeds of the Prophet. Abu Saeed al-Khudri was a companion of the Prophet of a very high rank. When he was approaching death he bought a new cloth and wore it. He said: "The Prophet says that a Muslim will be resurrected in the same dress which he might be wearing at the time of his death." Hearing this, Ayesha said: "May Allah have mercy on Abu Saeed. By clothes the Prophet meant one's deeds."

In terms of moral excellence, Ayesha stands on a high pedestal, faultless. She was very generous, hospitable and would look after the poor and needy. Once Abdullah bin Zubair sent her one hundred thousand dirhams. She immediately distributed them among the poor and the destitute. She happened to be fasting on that day. In the evening her maid-servant told Ayesha: O Mother of the Believers! Wouldn't it have been better if you had bought some meat with that money for Iftar" She replied: You should have reminded me.

Urwah bin Zubair says that once Ayesha received a gift of 70 thousand dirhams. She gave away the entire money then and there in the cause of Allah and swept her shawl clean (that had the money).

Imam Malik says in "Muwatta that once Ayesha was fasting and there was nothing in the house except a piece of bread. A beggar woman came and asked for some food. Ayesha ordered her maid to give that piece of bread to the beggar. The maid asked: What will you have for Iftar (breaking the fast at sunset)" Ayesha replied: "You give away this to her". In the evening someone sent her some mutton as gift. She said to the maid: Look! Allah has sent something better than bread.

She was an extremely pious and God-fearing lady. She should inconsolably cry whenever she came across an incident or a verse of the Qur'an which would evoke Allah's fear and wrath. Once she said that whenever she ate to her fill, she would cry. Asked by her pupils about the reason, she replied "I remember those days when the Prophet left

this world. By God! He never had a proper meal of bread and mutton even twice a day."

Ayesha died in Ramadhan 58 Hijra, at the age of 67 years.

As per her will, she was buried in Baqi at night after the witr prayers. Abu Huraira led her funeral prayers. Such a huge gathering had never been seen at any other funeral.

People from all over the then Muslim world felt bereaved and experience a great loss.

Ayesha had no children, and after the consent of the Prophet she preferred to be addressed as Umm Abdullah after her nephew Abdullah bin Zubair.

WORLDLY WISDOM

Sadaqah is the best benefaction.
- Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.)

If a man deceives me once, shame on him.
If he deceives me twice, shame on me.
- Arab proverb

He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes.
He who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.
- Chinese proverb

"I don't believe in God!" said a man, boastfully, to the German poet, Heinrich Heine.
"That's not surprising," said Heine. "In Switzerland I met a watch who did not believe in the existence of watchmakers."
- anonymous



”لَنْ تَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّى تُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ شَيْءٍ
فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ“

“You shall not attain righteousness unless you spend on others of that which
you love, and whatever you spend, verily God has knowledge of it.”
(The Qur'an 3:92)

MADINA HOUSE

دار المدينة



From

Name

Address

Telephone

I would like to make a donation/Zakat and enclose a cheque for
the amount of £ payable to Muslim Women's
Association 'Account Madina House'.

To be send either to:

THE PRESIDENT,

MWA, P. O. Box 6119, LONDON SW20 0XG

or direct to:

The National Westminster Bank, Royal Garden Branch,
Kensington High Street, London W8 5EQ (Acc no 25941364;
Sort Number 50-30-10).

MADINA HOUSE

**A Muslim Home for Children
in Need of Care in London**

AN APPEAL

MADINA HOUSE is a Muslim home for children in need of care,
established in 1981 under the auspices of the Muslim Women's
Association (a registered charity which has been functioning since
1962).

From its inception the organisers worked closely with the Department
of Health and Social Security and all other Social Services Agencies
in order to comply with the current guidelines on the running of
Children's Homes. Subsequently Madina House was registered by the
Department of S.S.I. under the Child Care Act.

Aim - The main aim of Madina House is to provide an alternative
home for children who for whatever reason, are temporarily unable to
live with their parent/s. At Madina House we provide a stable, caring
background, founded on Islamic principles and practices. Since its
founding we have cared for over 400 children.

The present home does no longer comply with today's regulations and
we have been asked to find more suitable accommodation. Thus, we
are in desperate need of finance to buy an appropriate building. Failing
to do so, the future of Madina House is in question.

Please help us by giving generously to continue to care for our children
in need.

Donations, whether by Cheques or Banker's Orders would be greatly
appreciated.

The Muslim Women's Association (U.K.)

Headquarters London

Registered Charity No. 264608

P. O. Box 6119, London SW20 0XG

Date:

RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dear

Your yearly MWA-Membership (which includes the subscription to "The Muslim Woman") will be/was due for renewal on

We trust you have enjoyed the past meetings/functions and reading "The Muslim Woman". We look forward to your renewal of membership and request you kindly to pay the annual fee of £10.00 within the next thirty days (Life Membership £80.00).

Please fill in the form below and send it together with your payment to our Membership Secretary. *(Please ignore this form if you are a life member, or if you have already paid this year's subscription).* Thank you for your continuous support.

----- Cut and Post -----

To:

Membership Secretary

Miss Shirin Hassan

In order to renew my Membership of the Muslim Women's Association (U.K.) and the subscription to "The Muslim Woman", I enclose a crossed cheque/postal order for £ payable to the "Muslim Women's Association (UK)".

Title (Miss, Ms., Mrs., other) First Names

(Block letters please)

Surname

Address: Street

Town County Postal Code

Country Telephone number

Signature Date

The Muslim Women's Association (U.K.)

Headquarters London

Registered Charity No. 264608

P. O. Box 6119, London SW20 0XG

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE AND YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION TO
"THE MUSLIM WOMAN"

U.K. £10.00

Overseas £18.00 (airmail)

Life membership in U.K. £80.00 Overseas £100.00

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to our Association. We are looking forward to working together for the cause of Islam.

----- Cut and Post -----

Date:

To:

Miss Shirin Hassan

I wish to become a member of the Muslim Women's Association (U.K.) and receive "The Muslim Woman". I enclose a crossed cheque/Postal Order in the amount of £ made payable to "The Muslim Women's Association UK".

Title (Miss, Ms., Mrs., other) First Names

(Block letters please)

Surname

Address: Street

Town County Postal Code

Country Telephone number

Signature Date

POETRY

BELOVED MESSENGER OF ALLAH

Although I never saw your face
 So beautiful, bestowed with grace
 My heart doth yearn to be like you
 In thoughts and hopes and actions too
 You loved the children and the old
 And gave your hart to every soul
 You nursed the sick and served the poor
 And fed the hungry at your door
 You loved the creatures - tame and wild
 And comforted the orphan child
 You bid men peace, cared for the youth
 God's Messenger in truth.

So with devotion I do read
 Your life of which I try to lead
 No deed is mine except is yours
 My prayers upon you every pour
 The good tidings you brought to me
 And for mankind, we'll ever be
 In humble praise of our Good Lord
 Fir bringing His great Message forth.

Now to my Lord I turn to pray
 'O Allah! Your last Messenger's way
 Lit the earth whereso he went
 This truthful, gentle soul You sent
 O Allah! Your last Messenger's life
 Was the perfect sacrifice
 To bring Your people to Your Garden
 In hope he prayed for our pardon
 Guiding, steady and forbearing
 Patient with us for not caring
 O Allah! Our love for him cannot sever
 Peace and blessings on Muhammad for ever.'

Above poem was recited by Aysha Ilyas, aged 8, and Sumayyah Jeelani, aged 8, at the Milad un Nabi function.

KITCHEN TALK

FOODS THAT FIGHT CANCER Part II

Research suggests that garlic compounds may even interfere with cancer progression. A recent German study found that ajoene, a garlic compound, is toxic to malignant cells. Garlic may also antagonize existing cancer by boosting immune functions, according to researchers at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Their study, done on mice, found that garlic's sulfur compounds increased the activity of microphones and T-lymphocytes, two of the components of the immune system that destroy tumor cells.

Citrus Fruits

"Eat oranges, grapefruits, lemons and limes as often as possible," says toxicologist Herbert Pierson, a former project officer with the National Cancer Institute. He calls citrus fruit an all-round cancer package because it possesses every class of natural substances (carotenoids, flavonoids and others) that individually have neutralised powerful chemical carcinogens in animals.

Citrus fruit may be particularly effective in reducing the risk of pancreatic cancer. One study found that in a group of Swedes, those who ate a citrus fruit almost daily reduced the risk of pancreatic cancer by one-half to more than two-thirds, as compared with eating citrus fruit less than once a week.

Cruciferous* Vegetables

Such as cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, kale, mustard greens and turnips, may reduce the risk of breast cancer. In fact, researchers at Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases at the University of Nebraska at Omaha found that feeding animals cabbage and collard greens (also a cruciferous vegetable), along with a low-fat diet, reduced the incidence of mammary cancer. Eat crucifer vegetables raw or lightly cooked. Overcooking may destroy the indoles, compounds found in these vegetables that may protect against cancer.

Cruciferous vegetables may also work to head off stomach and colon cancer. Research conducted in Utah revealed that men who ate the most cruciferous vegetables had a 70% lower risk of colon cancer than those who ate the least of such vegetables.

From: Mahjubah, volume 16.

* with four equal petals arranged crosswise.

ias

Independent Adoption Service
121-123 Camberwell Road
London SE5 OHB
Telephone (0171) 703 1088
Fax (0171) 277 1668

THIS IS AN APPEAL BUT NOT FOR MONEY

Independent Adoption Service
(IAS)
needs New Families

Please read and pass this Newsletter onto friends and help us make everyone aware of the need for adoptive parents from ALL races and religions to give homes to older children and groups of brothers and sisters.

If you would like to know more about becoming an adopter please ring: 0171 703 1088 or write to:

Gill Morris,
IAS, FREEPOST, 123 Camberwell Road
London SE5 OBP

Registered charity number 285510
Registered office as above
A company limited by guarantee
Registered in England number 1658017

MWA BUSINESS – July/August 1997

JULY - BAZAAR

The Bazaar was held in July. It was a hot day but still the attendance was good. The total amount raised, including donations, was £828 net.

AUGUST - Mawlid AL-NABI

On the 3rd August our Mawlid al-Nabi function was held at the Islamic Cultural Centre.

The Mawlid was opened by the Imam of the Islamic Cultural Centre, Sheikh Muhammed Awais. See his speech which is printed in this issue, on page

The main speaker was Begum Nusrat Riaz Samee, Chairperson of APWA, and wife of His Excellency, the High Commissioner of Pakistan.

Our president, Mrs Khanam Hassan, welcomed those assembled for the Mawlid function. A number of children delivered speeches on the Life of the Prophet. Salaam was recited by Dr Fatima, Miss Asma Siddiqui and Mrs Anwar. Prizes were given to the children who took part and sweets were distributed to all children present by Shirin Hassan.

The programme was introduced by Ms Kunza Shah.

The President and members of the committee thank all those who helped to make this function successful.

OTHER NEWS

- Congratulations to Mrs Gul Amin, one of our committee members, on the marriage of her son. The wedding was held at the Islamic Cultural Centre. Five members of the MWA attended.
- Congratulations to Misbah Arif on achieving 5A stars, 3As and 1 B in her GCSE exam. Well done!
- Congratulations to all our children who have done well in their GCSE and A level examinations.
- We send our best wishes to Mrs Soraya Youssef who has not been well recently, but has now fully recovered. She thanks all those

members who enquired after her health.

- We thank Mrs Sheikh for the computer and printer which she donated to Madina House via Mrs Amina Moinuddeen.
- Please note that at our December meeting, Mrs El-Droubie may talk to us on the handover of Hong Kong to China. Mrs El-Droubie was in Hong Kong at the time and met many interesting people. It promises to be an interesting subject, insh'Allah.
- A seminar, organised by QNews, was held at the Islamic Cultural Centre on the subject of human rights. Professors from 3 countries were present. The Conference was chaired by Meliha Malik (Lecturer at London University). The president and membership secretary attended the meeting.
- The UMO's 27th Annual Conference and Reception were held on Saturday 20th September at the Cavendish Conference Centre. Five MWA members attended.
- Many congratulations to Mrs. Karima Mustafa on the birth of her grandson. This is Shameem's second son. May Allah Almighty bless him and his family.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Please note that the November meeting, on 9th November at 4 pm precisely, is our Annual General Meeting, at which elections will be held. Please try your best to attend this very important meeting.

Our October meeting is at 4 pm on 12th October. Dr. Majid Khatemi may speak on this occasion on the right of children (unborn).

The following two letters were sent on the tragic death of
Diana, The Princess of Wales

Her Majesty The Queen
Balmoral Castle
Scotland

Your Majesty,
On behalf of the MWA, I am writing to you to express our deep shock and sadness at the tragic and untimely death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Our hearts go out to the Royal family, and our thoughts and prayers are especially with HRH Prince of Wales and Princes William and Harry at this very difficult time.

With our very best wishes and kind regards.

Khanam Hassan (Mrs)
President and Trustee

* * *

Mr. Mohamed Al Fayed
Proprietor of Harrods
Knightsbridge
London

Dear Mr. Al Fayed,
Assalaam Aleikum,
On behalf of the MWA, I am writing to you to express our deep shock and sadness at the tragic and untimely death of your son Dodi Al Fayed.

Our hearts go out to you and your family, and our thoughts and prayers are with you at this very difficult time.

With our very best wishes and kind regards.

Khanam Hassan (Mrs)
President and Trustee