



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL  
**YOUNG MEN'S MUSLIM  
ASSOCIATION**

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PIETERMARITZBURG

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## Time Of Crisis - Muslims' Duty

The events in our country in the past three months give rise to grave concern to all who have the welfare of the country at heart. Many Muslim organisations have already voiced their concern and commented upon the crises. It is evident that at the moment there is a great ferment among the black people of South Africa.

For decades now the underprivileged and the dispossessed have patiently waited for meaningful change in our society i.e. South Africa. They have yearned for nothing more than a decent life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the land of their birth. At last, it would appear that the younger generation can contain its frustrations no longer and the result is the tragic prevailing situation.

It becomes pointless at this critical stage to indulge in the exercise of apportioning blame to wherever it may rightly belong for this tragic state of affairs. Thinking people have, no doubt, formed their own opinion of the causes of the present unrest. What is more important at this juncture is for us Muslims to reiterate and continue to emphasize certain basic tenets which to all true Muslims must remain articles of faith. These are:

- 1) Islam teaches and demands the brotherhood of ALL men.
- 2) Discrimination against any man because of the colour of his skin is an anti-religious concept alien to Islamic principles.

In our country the brotherhood of man as propagated in Islam can never be attained until the dignity of all men, black and white is

among those detained are men and women, some of them youths (one from our own Pietermaritzburg community) who are greatly loved and respected by vast numbers of people (even though they be mostly black people). This love and respect has been earned by these courageous people simply because they have done no more than articulate the very thoughts that cry out for expression from the hearts of millions of black people. If there is any crime that they have committed they should be brought to trial and their crime proved. Their continued detention without trial surely strengthens the belief that the authorities do not wish to listen to grievances despite their claim that they are prepared to.

There is hardly a person who is not aware of the crisis in our midst. Hundreds of people, some of them children have lost their lives. Thousands have suffered injury, perhaps worse of all, race-relations have been damaged, it is to be hoped, not irreparably. Thousands live in fear and the danger of further conflict looms ominously on the horizon. Who is there amongst us who does not desire PEACE and goodwill towards all men of all colours? Surely each one of us fervently does. But the only guarantee for PEACE in our land is a society based upon justice for all.

To strive towards a society in which there is social justice for each and every individual is a duty none can ignore. To ignore this is to compromise one's spiritual self. The least one can do is to proclaim again and again

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In our country the brotherhood of man as propagated in Islam can never be attained until the dignity of all men, black and white, is fully recognised. In effect this amounts to the total eradication of all forms of discrimination against black people.

No just society can exist when suppression and intimidation replace the rule of law. It is a matter of gravest concern that so many good are silenced through banning orders and detention without trial. It is common knowledge that

among those detained are men and women, some of them youths (one from our own Pietemmaritzburg community) who are greatly loved and respected by vast numbers of people (even though they be mostly black people). This love and respect has been earned by these courageous people simply because they have done no more than articulate the very thoughts that cry out for expression from the hearts of millions of black people. If there is any crime that they have committed they should be brought to trial and their crime proved. Their continued detention without trial surely strengthens the belief that the authorities do not wish to listen to grievances despite their claim that they are prepared to.

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To strive towards a society in which there is social justice for each and every individual is a duty none can ignore. To ignore this is to compromise ones spritual self. The least one can do is to proclaim again and again ones total commitment to the realisation of the ideals of justice, equality and brotherhood.

Now is the time for each one of us to proclaim our commitment to the noble cause. Now is the time to bring comfort and cheer to those in our community who suffer hardships and privations visited upon them because they strive for equality for all.

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