

PRODUCTIVE ACTIONS

We **MUST** engage in activities to help those detained for the sake of our families, our future generations and ourselves. These include:

- Making dua for the imprisoned and their families for indeed the Messenger of God (SAW) said "The supplication of a Muslim for his brother without his knowledge is an accepted supplication and will be rewarded by the presence of an angel at his side. Every time he supplicates for his brother the angel will say: Ameen and the same for you too", (Muslim).
- Raising this concern to your local mosques
- Conveying this message to your friends and family
- Writing to your local councillor and MP
- Writing letters to the media to raise the profiles of these cases

CONTACT

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FURTHER INFORMATION

www.lutonmuslims.co.uk
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"Those who help a Muslim in hardship in this world, will be protected by God from suffering hardship in the Hereafter. God will help his servants as long as they help their fellow Muslim brothers" (Narrated by Muslim and Abu-Dawud)

It has been narrated by Saeed from Hibban bin Jabalah, that the Messenger of God (SAW) said: "Indeed it is obligatory upon the Muslims to free their captives or to pay their ransoms."

22nd January 2004

DENIAL OF JUSTICE

"You find the Muslims in their mutual love and compassion, like one body, should any organ feel harm, the rest of the body will share in the fever and sleeplessness that ensues" (Hadith collected in Saheeh al-Bukhari)

The continued and indefinite incarceration of two members of Luton's Muslim community (held under Part IV, Anti Terrorism Crime & Security Act) is a continuing scar on our collective consciences. These men have been held now for over 2 years along with 14 other internees in Belmarsh prison.



- No specific charges have been laid out before them, nor have they been provided with any evidence relating to their imprisonment in order that they may prepare adequate defence for their case.
- They face an uncertain future without recourse to normal judicial process including a trial that would see them acquitted.

The imprisonment of these men is not an isolated event. More than **500** unjustified arrests of Muslims have taken place across the country under the guise of combating terrorism although less than 1% have ever been convicted of any crime.

ISLAMOPHOBIC PREJUDICE

- These arrests have seen instances of threats to family, intimidation, beatings and recently a case where police forced a man into a position of prostration and then taunted him with the words 'Where is your God now?'
- These circumstances point to a mindset clouded by Islamophobic prejudice and have left communities across the country concerned, angry and bewildered.
- All of these actions have taken place in a country that prides itself in equality and justice yet these cases highlight a denial of these fundamental rights. Even paedophiles and rapists have recourse to trial and a hearing. Ironically, the media and political process have shown more concern for persecuted animals than these individuals who have been victims of an unjust law!

'BARBARIC' CONDITIONS

- How can we remain muted when numerous International Human rights Organisations have been severely critical of the British authorities? Even the Home Offices own medical experts describe the conditions faced by many of the imprisoned as "barbaric"!
- The internees have been subjected to:
 - Impeded access to legal advice for up to a week after arrest.
 - High security isolation in small cells for 22 hours a day.
 - Inadequate health care with instances of denial of hospital examination and physiotherapy as well as facing delays up to 5 months for treatment on a colon condition.
 - Restricted contact with the outside world
- The government has effectively created a shadow justice system devoid of any accountability or safeguards.



SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION

- Continued silence regarding these persecutions is unacceptable, serving only to fuel the policy makers intimidating the Muslim community in this country.
- Indeed, nothing the government does could have a greater negative impact on the situation than this continued cowardice on our behalf, condoning the status quo and further compounding the situation.
- Many of these men have children and families who are being deprived of their rights to family life. In one case, a father has been kept apart from a newborn child since birth.

How can we allow these flawed and Islamophobic policies to be the cause of such mental anguish and torture?

BROADENING POWERS

- The scope of the anti-terrorist law is being expanded daily, allowing arrests based on speculation and creating an atmosphere of fear and prejudice.
- At the moment, the arrested may be our neighbours but what is there to prevent the next raid occurring within our homes, bringing with it trauma and shame, only to culminate days later in release with no charge or apology.

Who will come to you and your families' aid?

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- Authorities are using intimidation and fear to silence the Muslim community.
- An objective study of these cases will conclude that the authorities clearly have no evidence indicating terrorist activities in the overwhelming majority of the cases.
- Muslims should have nothing to fear about raising their concerns over such oppression via relevant channels.

- The Holy Quran and Prophetic Example contain many examples commanding speaking out against oppression and injustices.
- Current policies are intended to alienate the Muslim Community and consequently force a re-shaping of Islamic practises and values overall.

Can we stand by and watch this happen before our very eyes?

How can we remain unconcerned over the mental and physical torture placed upon these men and their families bearing in mind the uncertainty and apprehension surrounding their future?

How can we stand by and ignore the plight of our fellow Muslims in bringing these cases to a satisfactory conclusion?