



SUMMER 2005

Partnership

The Official Newsletter of Islamic Relief

FIVE MILLION PEOPLE AT RISK OF STARVATION IN NIGER AND MALI

Islamic Relief is urgently responding to the escalating hunger crisis in Mali and Niger, where food shortages have left millions at risk of starvation. Islamic Relief has begun emergency relief projects in both countries.

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Dr. Ahmad El Bendary and Naeem Muhammad in Mali, where Islamic Relief is implementing projects to help the victims of the food crisis.

OVER 5 MILLION PEOPLE IN WEST AFRICA AFFECTED BY SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGE IR-USA REPRESENTATIVES RETURN FROM AFFECTED REGIONS

"The number one forgotten and neglected emergency in the world."

Jan Egeland, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, referring to the food crisis in West Africa.

Niger, a dry, landlocked nation was hit by drought and swarms of locusts last year. About 15% of the West African nation's average cereal production and almost 40% of the country's livestock fodder was lost, resulting in the death of many livestock animals. Although Niger is prone to suffering from a food shortage, this year has been particularly severe, and as a consequence, the government of Niger has implored the international community to act and assist them in this 'silent crisis.' Mali, which neighbors Niger is also suffering from the same hardships of drought and a severe food shortage.

Current Humanitarian Situation

In Niger, estimated figures indicate that there are 3.6 million people in need of critical food aid. 800,000 of these are children, out of which 150,000 are already showing signs of severe malnutrition. Before the onset of the present crisis, 40% of the children were already suffering from shortage of food. The total number of people affected by this crisis exceeds 5 million, as there are over 1.5 million people suffering in Mali.

The severity of the food crisis is beyond what most people have imagined. The district of Ouallam, for example - in which the three villages that received aid from Islamic Relief are based - has a population of 290,000 people, of which 230,000 are badly affected. The population needs a minimum of 73,000 tons of food to survive before the next harvest (due in three months). So far, they have received less than 7,000 tons (less than 10% of what is needed).

Islamic Relief's Response

- Islamic Relief's initial emergency aid budget is estimated at \$5.4 million, of this, \$1.8 million has already been allocated.
- Islamic Relief is aiming to assist over 1 million people through food distribution and medical aid.

Mali

In Mali, Islamic Relief has:

- Distributed 95 tons of food aid in the Gourma Rharous (Northern Mali) district as part of an emergency intervention project.
- The distribution covered over 5 villages, with a total of over 30,000 beneficiaries.

Niger

Islamic Relief is working to provide food and medical aid to the worst-affected areas of Niger. The following are some developments regarding Islamic Relief's work in Niger.

- Blanket Feeding Program with the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) in areas identified by the Early Warning System in Niger as the extremely and critically affected zones.
- Distribution of 130 kg food packs consisting of rice, pulses and cooking oil that lasts a family for one month.
- A team of qualified nutritionists is now carrying out a needs assessment survey to help prepare and implement the Nutritional Feeding Program (NFP) for the most malnourished young children.

see FOOD CRISIS, next page

FOOD CRISIS *(continued from page 2)*

- UNICEF has donated 6 tons of food to Islamic Relief for distribution.
- A mobile monitoring team will be put in place to go out for regular weekly monitoring missions to health centers in the different locations/villages for the purposes of nutritional monitoring and disease surveillance. The severely malnourished and sick persons will then be referred to the main hospital in Tillaberi, Niger.

- Islamic Relief has distributed 10 tons of food in the Ouallam district as part of its initial emergency intervention. The distribution covered three villages, providing urgent aid to over 5,000 beneficiaries.

Medical Aid

- Islamic Relief, in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has identified several sites in Niger for creating therapeutic nutrition centers. Islamic Relief is also looking to work with UNICEF and Plan International on a project to treat severe malnutrition at the central hospital in Tillaberi, Niger.

- Islamic Relief is providing much needed medical equipment to the main hospital in the region of Tillaberi.

- Islamic Relief will provide free medical aid to the most vulnerable who cannot otherwise afford to receive such help.

- The British Department for International Development (DFID) has awarded Islamic Relief over \$430,000 for healthcare projects in Niger.

Other Activities

The Islamic Relief team in Niger has produced a preliminary report describing the proposed activities:

1. Emergency Food Aid Until October

- Free distribution of 50 tons of food per month to vulnerable women,

children and disabled persons in the areas of Tillaberi and Tahoua, and 30 tons of food per month to Wallam and the surrounding villages.

2. Nutrition and Primary Health Care

- Establishment of 30 supplementary feeding centers in the areas of Tillaberi, Tahoua, and Wallam. Also, the establishment of one referral therapeutic center in Tillaberi and Tahoua.

3. Water

- 10 water sources in each of the three regions.

In July 2005, Islamic Relief Executive Director and Chairman of the Board Dr. Ahmad El Bendary, along with Islamic Relief Development Coordinator Naem Muhammad visited the affected areas in Mali and Niger to assess the humanitarian situation and attend meetings with officials. Muhammad, in a statement about his humanitarian mission noted, "The poverty level in Mali is staggering alone. But when you add to that a food security crisis and water shortage the problems seems insurmountable."

On the trip, Dr. El Bendary had meetings with the U.S. Ambassador to Mali, the Minister of Solidarity, and representatives of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Program (WFP) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Cost of Helping Victims of the Food Crisis in Niger and Mali

- Cost of feeding one person per day: \$1.21
- Cost of supplementary feeding for a malnourished child for a day: \$7.27
- Cost of primary healthcare for a family of six persons per month: \$12.12

Islamic Relief is urging its donors to respond to this very important emergency. Please donate online at www.irw.org/foodcrisis. In addition, please call our office at (888) 479-4968 to volunteer to organize fund-raising events in your area to assist the victims of this crisis. •

below: Dr. El Bendary, meeting with Islamic Relief representatives in Mali regarding projects to assist the victims of the food crisis.





PBS Newshour reporter Fred de Sam Lazaro speaks to Islamic Relief representatives Youssif El Tayeb and Dr. Mohamed Abulmagd in one of the camps for displaced people in Darfur, Sudan.

PBS PROFILES IR PROJECTS IN DARFUR, SUDAN

TWO NATIONALLY-AIRED TELEVISION PROGRAMS SHOW ISLAMIC RELIEF'S WORK IN THE WAR-TORN REGION

The crisis is as severe as ever. Despite recent steps toward peace, more than one million people in the Darfur region of western Sudan remain homeless, hungry, and vulnerable.

Islamic Relief, with a 21-year history of working in Sudan, was one of the first aid agencies to respond to the crisis in Darfur. Current projects to help the affected population include management of camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), healthcare, water and sanitation, and education.

In addition, Islamic Relief is training 500 women on production of fuel efficient stoves in the Kerinding II camp. The aim of this project is to keep women safe from the recent waves of violence against them when they go out and collect firewood. Using these fuel efficient stoves will dramatically minimize the time spent in the field collecting firewood.

This past April, a television crew from the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) visited Darfur, Sudan with Islamic Relief General Manager Dr. Mohamed Abulmagd. To help give their viewers insight into the situation in Darfur, PBS profiled Islamic Relief projects to help displaced people in Darfur. In addition, interviews were conducted with staff members from Islamic Relief Sudan, as well as with Dr. Abulmagd.

PBS used the footage taken in Darfur and aired two specials on the nationally

aired television programs *Newshour* with Jim Lehrer and *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*. Fred de Sam Lazaro, who has served *Newshour* for twenty years on various domestic and international assignments, reported for both stories.

Some quotes from the reports are as follows:

"Some 10,000 aid workers have come to Darfur, from dozens of agencies. One of the earliest was Islamic Relief. It is funded largely by Muslims in the West. And because many staff are called as much by faith as professional skill, Islamic Relief works in places many secular groups find too dangerous."

"The group Islamic Relief alone, using sophisticated equipment, is creating up to 35 safe wells every week. Relief organizations say they've had reasonable luck finding water underground here in Darfur. The challenge is to secure these facilities once they're up and running."

Islamic Relief is grateful to PBS for covering such an important issue, and we hope for a long, mutually beneficial relationship with the organization. •

Both reports are available for viewing online at the PBS website. To view them, visit the following two links:

www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/africa/jan-june05/darfur_4-27.html
www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week837/cover.html



Eldin (center, wearing glasses) with some of his friends.

WAR CHILD OF SARAJEVO

A remarkable story of Eldin, a boy from war-torn Bosnia. Separated from his parents at birth, he was taken to Germany by a foster family. Now 13, he has three women looking after him - one he calls mother, the other "Aunty," and a third, who he has never met.

When Eldin was born, he was two months premature and weighed only 4 pounds. He had to be kept in an incubator, but there were none available in Srebrenica. It was April 12, 1992, and the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina was escalating. The nearest incubators were in Sarajevo Hospital, three and a half hours away. Eldin's father took his baby to Sarajevo but was not allowed to stay with him. He returned home to Srebrenica and almost as soon as he did, war broke out.

Sarajevo came under heavy bombardment and the city was besieged. Baby Eldin was trapped in the hospital, far away from his anxious parents. The hospital staff moved all the babies to the basement for safety, but food began to run short and water and electricity supplies were cut off. In desperation, the hospital appealed for temporary foster families to look after the babies.

Meanwhile in Srebrenica, telephone lines were cut off, making it impossible for anyone to contact the hospital. Eldin's mother, Ifa, heard no news about her baby and was terrified of the danger he faced. She felt completely helpless, having not seen her baby since the day he was born. She had not even been able to give him a name.

It was two months into the siege that Ifa first had news of her son. She heard the hospital's appeal for foster families on a radio broadcast and was reassured that her baby was safe. By that time, a Sarajevo couple, Merho and Elija, had also heard the appeal and decided to help. They took the stranded baby into their family, named him 'Eldin,' and cared for him as if he were their own. They had no idea how long he would be with them.

As the war in Bosnia continued, Eldin's foster family decided to seek refuge in Germany. They wanted to take Eldin with them but could not leave the country as they did not have legal custody. The only way they could do so was to locate Eldin's parents and get their permission. Eldin's fate once again depended on a radio broadcast and sure enough, they managed to contact his parents and gain their consent. Eldin moved to Germany with his foster family and meanwhile, his parents in Srebrenica had another baby boy.

A few years later, in July 1995, over 7,000 men and boys were killed in the Srebrenica massacres. Eldin's father became one of many missing Muslims who were presumed dead. Ifa fled to Sarajevo after the massacre with her younger son but she still does not know what happened to her husband. Ten years later, the authorities are trying to identify victims found in mass graves using DNA samples.

In Sarajevo, Ifa was able to exchange messages with Eldin's foster family in Germany through the International Red Cross. She asked them if they could bring Eldin back to Bosnia and they agreed. After four years of separation, mother and son were finally reunited. When Ifa saw her child she felt so overwhelmed that she fainted. Eldin, on the other hand, was confused about the new person in his life. He could not sleep that night and woke Ifa, begging her, "Aunty, please take me back to my mother!"

Eldin now has two mothers, Elija and Ifa. During the week he lives with Ifa and his younger brother in a single room in a Refugee Collective Center just outside Sarajevo. Every weekend, he visits his foster family in Sarajevo. It is a practical arrangement that suits everyone but the emotional adjustment is far more difficult. Ifa is grateful to Eldin's foster parents for saving his life but she worries about how much Eldin misses them. Even today, Ifa dreams of a time when Eldin would rather turn to her than to his foster mother.

Now thirteen, Eldin is a sensitive boy who loves both of his families and makes a conscious effort to give them each enough love. His mothers have developed a good relationship and make sure he is given all the care and attention he needs. But even with two families looking after him, Eldin's life is not entirely stable. Growing up in a refugee center in post-war Bosnia is not easy for any child, let alone one who has already had such an eventful childhood.

In September 2003, Eldin joined Islamic Relief's Orphan Sponsorship Program and was put in touch with a woman from the United Kingdom who wished to sponsor him. Eldin now receives regular money for schooling, clothes, food and medical care, and his sponsor also sends him letters and gifts. Once again, a stranger has taken an active interest in Eldin's life and offered to take care of him. It seems that after all the uncertainty of his early years, Eldin finally has some stability in his life. For the first time since the day he was born, all those who love him have a reason to feel optimistic about his future. •

Visit www.irw.org/orphans for more information on the Orphan Sponsorship Program.



Seven-year-old-Nola.

ORPHANED BY THE TSUNAMI

NOLA'S STORY

Seven-year old Nola used to live with her mother, father and two younger sisters in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. When the tsunami struck on December 26, 2004, Nola lost her entire family. She now lives in a camp for homeless people with her grandmother - and thousands of others.

Nola was watching television with her family when a great earthquake shook their home. They ran out of the house in panic but the earthquake passed without damage and the family returned inside. Then, ten minutes later, cries of "water is coming!" filled the streets and a vast wall of water surged through their house. Nola's mother held onto her tightly, struggling to keep her grip against the force of the waves. But the force was too great and Nola was taken from her mother's arms.

Nola managed to survive by clinging onto a piece of driftwood but her mother and the rest of her family died in the disaster. Nola was rescued by a stranger and now lives with her grandmother in one of the camps set up for people who lost their homes in Banda Aceh. "My grandmother is very old, but I help her with the cleaning and I fetch water from the Islamic Relief tanks," she said.

Nola attends school in the mornings and then visits the graveyard with her grandmother to pray for her family. In the afternoon, she goes to the mosque to learn the *Qur'an* (Islam's sacred text). When asked about her life in the camp, Nola answers bravely, "I like it here; I have lots of new friends and a good teacher too. I want to be a doctor, and my teacher says I am very clever."

There are an estimated 400,000 people living in camps who, like Nola, lost everything in the disaster. Islamic Relief is helping thousands of people by providing food, water, clothes, sanitation facilities, hygiene kits and other essential items. Islamic Relief is also planning to provide durable shelter, build a number of health clinics and rehabilitate schools in Aceh. Programs to support orphans are also underway and long-term initiatives to help people earn a sustainable livelihood once again are being set up.

In the tsunami aftermath, Islamic Relief has expanded its Orphan Sponsorship Program to Indonesia. To sponsor an orphan in Indonesia, call our office at (888) 479-4968 or email orphansupport@irw.org.



Mohabbar Ali and his wife in tornado-stricken Gaibanda, Bangladesh.

OVER 25,000 LEFT HOMELESS IN DEVASTATING BANGLADESH TORNADOES

ISLAMIC RELIEF RESPONDS WITH EMERGENCY AID FOR VICTIMS

Over 50 people died and at least 25,000 were left homeless by a devastating tornado that hit Bangladesh's northern districts of Gaibanda and Rangpur on March 20, 2005. Many people were forced to live in the open without any food, shelter, or adequate clothing after thousands of homes were completely wiped out across a 3-mile stretch of land. Over 200 shops and 60 acres of rice and wheat crops were destroyed. The tornado also tore down power lines, blocked main roads with fallen trees, and killed 300 livestock and over 80% of all poultry stock.

The local government, working in partnership with a local aid agency immediately sent out rescue teams to help the victims. Islamic Relief also arrived in the Gaibanda district soon after the disaster and brought emergency food and medicine to the affected population. Over \$27,000 was allocated to support 20,000 people with food and hundreds of people were treated by a team of Islamic Relief medical staff.

Islamic Relief Worldwide has been working in Bangladesh since 1991, and currently operates a wide array of projects in the country, including vocational training, water and sanitation, education, orphan support, and micro-credit loan programs.

Case Study: Mohabbar Ali

Mohabbar Ali is 60 years old and lives with his wife in a village in Gaibanda, Bangladesh. A father of four, he struggled to make ends meet by working as a laborer and earning a meager income. His wife also worked as a housekeeper, but the money was not enough. Mohabbar was forced to sell his house in order to meet the needs of the family.

When Mohabbar thought his economic situation could not get much worse, a devastating tornado hit his village causing widespread destruction. Mohabbar and his family lost everything they owned. The disaster also left them injured but they were unable to go to the hospital. Fortunately, an Islamic Relief emergency medical team arrived in the area and treated them, as well as other victims of the tornado.

Islamic Relief's Bangladesh team also assessed the damage and reassured victims of the tornado that their immediate food needs would be met. Within a week of the disaster, Islamic Relief gave Mohabbar and his family food supplies consisting of rice, lentils, salt and soybean oil, in keeping with the local diet. For Mohabbar and his family, this was a great help. He thanked Islamic Relief for helping him during what he described as the most critical stage of his life.



Islamic Relief General Manager Dr. Mohamed Abulmagd, visiting beneficiaries of the post-tsunami temporary shelter project in Sri Lanka.

IR-USA REPRESENTATIVES RETURN FROM SRI LANKA; RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UNDERWAY

ISLAMIC RELIEF BUILDING 400 PERMANENT SHELTERS FOR TSUNAMI SURVIVORS

In early July, Islamic Relief General Manager Dr. Mohamed Abulmagd and Government Relations and Washington, D.C. manager Rizwan Mowlana visited Sri Lanka to evaluate the post-tsunami reconstruction projects. In their visit, they surveyed the good progress Islamic Relief was making in the areas of rebuilding structures, providing employment and psychosocial and livelihood needs among other projects. They also met with government officials and obtained their approval to start building permanent shelters for tsunami survivors.

The tidal waves from the December 26, 2004 tsunamis devastated the lives of hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans. The tsunamis killed more than 31,000 people, damaged or destroyed more than 100,000 homes, and displaced more than 600,000 people.

Islamic Relief has been involved in the tsunami recovery since the first days of the devastating tragedy. One of the many reconstruction projects Islamic Relief is implementing includes the building of 400 permanent shelters for

families. Structurally more sustainable, these permanent shelters will have two rooms, better security yet sufficient ventilation, durability, better climatic protection, thermal insulation, and a more dignified living space. The cost for this project is estimated at \$3 million.

Due to the large number of homes destroyed and people displaced from the tsunamis, providing such housing shelters is a major necessity for tsunami survivors. The participation of the local community will be an important aspect of this project. In building these shelters, skilled local workers will be utilized, which generates income, boosts the local economy, and provides employment to the displaced population.

Islamic Relief is committed to helping the survivors of last year's tsunamis, which was one of the greatest natural disasters of our time. Please visit www.irw.org/tsunami to learn more about our tsunami reconstruction projects, as well as to donate to help the survivors rebuild their lives. •



Mother and child in south Sudan.

ISLAMIC RELIEF JOINS GLOBAL 'MAKE POVERTY HISTORY' CAMPAIGN

- Twenty of the poorest countries in the world are in Africa.
- Every three seconds a child dies of hunger or from a disease that could have been easily prevented.
- In the past twenty years, every continent in the world has grown richer, except Africa.

Even in the 21st century there are shocking disparities between people who live in Africa and those who live in every other continent.

In 2001, some of the world's wealthiest nations promised to halve world poverty by 2015. Their commitment was seen as a breakthrough, but four years later, many of their targets have not been met. Now in 2005, a Global Call to Action Against Poverty is campaigning for world leaders to use 2005 as an opportunity to fulfill their promises.

If the goals are met, 500 million people will be lifted out of extreme poverty. Fewer women will die in childbirth and fewer children will die needlessly from killer diseases that can be prevented or more expertly fought. The campaign is also calling for fair trade to be developed between rich and poor countries and for the colossal amounts of debt that poor countries are in to be dropped. As part of the campaign, over 300 charities, trade unions, faith groups and celebrities have united to help 'Make Poverty History' by promoting 2005 as an opportunity for global change. At the G8 Summit in the United Kingdom this past July, important steps were taken in this direction - steps that will bring hope to millions.

More action, however, is urgently needed if these nations are to play their role in bringing about real change for the world's poorest people and consigning extreme poverty to the history books.

Islamic Relief joined the campaign in January 2005, and its President, Dr. Hany El Banna, took part in a publicity video featuring prominent celebrities. Islamic Relief has been committed to tackling poverty in Africa since 1984 and has established field offices in Mali, Ethiopia, and throughout Sudan.

In Mali, where over 70% of the population live in poverty, Islamic Relief provides healthcare for women and children, helps those who are able to work become self-sufficient and meets the needs of vulnerable orphans.

In Sudan, with the ongoing conflict in Darfur, Islamic Relief has provided emergency relief including food, water and shelter for the many thousands of internally displaced people. In the North and South of the country, Islamic Relief has been tackling the causes of poverty for over 20 years and helped develop entire communities.

In recent years, Islamic Relief has also been working in Kenya and Ethiopia and aims to expand its activities in Africa over the next three years. By addressing the needs of each community and designing projects tailored to suit them, Islamic Relief will continue to help communities work their way out of poverty. It is an ambitious aim but with the right support and commitment, Islamic Relief can help make poverty history. •



Islamic Relief staff and volunteers from the New York/New Jersey area pose for a picture at the 'Walk the World' event in New York City on June 12, 2005.

IR STAFF, VOLUNTEERS IN NY, DC 'WALK THE WORLD' TO FIGHT HUNGER

ANNUAL EVENT RAISES AWARENESS AND FUNDS IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT TO END CHILD HUNGER

On June 12, more than 200,000 people made history in the global fight to end child hunger. The annual Fight Hunger: Walk the World event was coordinated in 266 cities, 87 countries, and all 24 time zones, including 52 events in the United States.

Fight Hunger: Walk the World, coordinated by the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) is a global annual event to raise awareness and funds needed to help end child hunger. The funds collected were used to benefit the WFP's School Feeding Program.

Islamic Relief works extensively with the the WFP in the field in several countries across the world to help alleviate hunger and poverty, and our staff and volunteers participated in two of the largest walks in the United States, Washington, D.C. and New York City.

According to the WFP, a total of 6.5 million children each year never reach the age of five because hunger leaves them too weak to resist disease. One of these children dies every five seconds. Some 300 million children are chronically hun-

gry in the world today. About 100 million are out of school, most often due to poverty and hunger.

An estimated 17 million babies born every year are underweight, inheriting hunger from their mothers who are themselves undernourished. If they live long enough, their children will be hungry, too. The world's poor simply pass their hunger from generation to generation.

Today, 300 million children are not eating enough to ensure healthy growth. Hunger and the vitamin and mineral deficiencies it causes can even leave them blind, mentally retarded, and physically handicapped. Their immune systems are weakened, and ordinary diseases like measles and diarrhea can kill them.

Islamic Relief continues to remain committed to helping alleviate hunger throughout the world. We hope for a lasting and productive relationship with the WFP for any and all future projects. We commend the WFP for its efforts in raising awareness and feeding hungry children through this wonderful project. •



Islamic Relief Executive Director and Chairman of the Board Dr. Ahmad El Bendary, receiving CAIR MD-VA's Malcolm X Award.

CAIR MD-VA PRESENTS 'MALCOLM X AWARD' TO IR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Maryland and Virginia office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR MD-VA) presented its 2005 'Malcolm X Award' to Islamic Relief Executive Director and Chairman of the Board Dr. Ahmad El Bendary. In a statement regarding the award, which was presented on June 4, 2005 at their annual banquet, CAIR MD-VA said it chose to honor Dr. El Bendary's "...tireless work to ameliorate con-

ditions of disadvantaged people all across the world. Dr. Ahmad El Bendary's exemplary leadership of Islamic Relief USA and his dedication to bring a better life to the world's poorest people made him the ideal choice for the 2005 Malcolm X Award."

CAIR is America's largest Islamic civil liberties group, with regional offices nationwide and in Canada. •



From left to right: Dr. Mohamed Abulmagd, Napoleon, Iman el-Bahr Darwish, and Dr. Ahmad El Bendary.

FAMOUS EGYPTIAN SINGER TOURS COUNTRY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

World-renowned Egyptian singer, Iman el-Bahr Darwish, toured across the country, performing Islamic Relief benefit concerts in six cities across the United States in the months of April and May. The proceeds for most of the benefit concerts will be used to support Islamic Relief humanitarian projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in Palestine.

Audiences attending the concerts were delighted and felt uplifted after the inspirational performances. Joining Darwish on stage was Napoleon, a rap artist formerly of Tupac Shakur's Outlawz.

A popular Arabic singer in the Middle East, Darwish's tour of major U.S. cities included New York, Boston, Detroit, Milwaukee, San Francisco, and Anaheim, CA.

The Anaheim, CA event was held at the famous Disneyland Hotel. Over 500 people attended, and total donations exceeded \$108,000.

This tour was the first of its kind in the American Muslim community. Besides serving the purpose of raising money for the victims of the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, the concerts also served as a fun and exciting social event for the entire family. Islamic Relief looks forward to organizing more events of this kind for the community in the future. •



Over 500 people attended the Anaheim, CA benefit concert held at the famous Disneyland Hotel.

Islamic Relief in the News

Islamic Relief's work has been mentioned in several national and international media outlets, including CNN, the BBC, PBS, "ABC World News Tonight," the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, and many more. Some excerpts include:

"Islamic Relief, the aid group, has done a wonderful job in Darfur..."

- the *New York Times*, April 17, 2005

"Some 10,000 aid workers have come to Darfur, from dozens of agencies. One of the earliest was Islamic Relief. It is funded largely by Muslims in the West. And because many staff are called as much by faith as professional skill, Islamic Relief works in places many secular groups find too dangerous."

- PBS, May 13, 2005

"The group Islamic Relief alone, using sophisticated equipment, is creating up to 35 safe wells (in Darfur, Sudan) every week."

- *NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer, PBS, April 27, 2005

"Some Muslim charities, meantime, are redoubling their transparency efforts. One is the organization the Colorado Springs mosque singled out: Islamic Relief USA...the agency conducted a self-audit after Sept. 11, posts its financial records on the Web and advertises its four-star ranking from Charity Navigator, a group that ranks charities' efficiency."

- *Denver Post*, January 9, 2005



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For the second year in a row, Islamic Relief USA has been recognized as a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator, its highest rating. Charity Navigator is America's largest charity evaluator.



Islamic Relief USA is listed in the catalog of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area - a charity program for federal employees.

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