

# Quarterly Newsletter



Imam holds first Nariya Khatam held in Dakar, Senegal.



3rd Nariya Khatam in Freetown, Sierra Leone attendees: 700 people !

**“The best Islam is that you feed the hungry and spread peace among people you know and those you do not know.”  
Prophet Muhammad (SAW)**



Imam delivers Pre-talk Jumah in-Masjid Plateau: Abidjan, Ivory Coast

## Spreading Peace. In the Footsteps of the Greatest Exemplar: Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

**O Prophet! We have sent you to be an exemplar unto others and bearer of glad tidings and a warner. One who summons people to God by His Command and is a radiating light...” (Q 33:45)**

Born into a society governed by feudalism, tribal dissension and war-mongering, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) demonstrated by example the pathway of Peace as the best model for the security and advancement of society. Beginning his mission of Tawhid in an environment thriving in idolatry, he chose the most practical and pragmatic way of explaining the new Faith to his community.

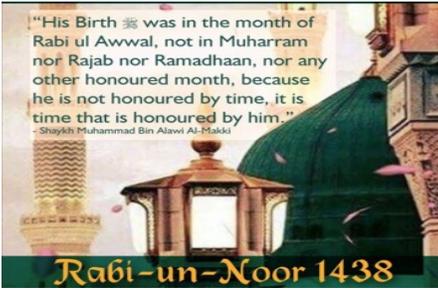
History testifies to the degree of opposition, humiliation and isolation he suffered from his own community. Despite all this, he never once conceded to retaliation or violence for these acts—an action customary in his time. Rather he chose the way of high moral and ethical behavior, placing his trust in Allah and giving the Message to all. These 13 years of persecution in Mecca proves the Peaceful nature of his

Mission and an example for us Muslims today as we live in a world that is darkened by violent images attributed to Islam. The true essence of Islam is lost as we are hurled with negative and degrading images of Islam splattered on the media.

Imam Ashraf has provided a source of comfort in the Daroode Nariya Khatam held every Thursday nights after Esha at IIT. This began over 20 years ago in Australia. It was then introduced in South Africa. As it's success is becoming known for the fulfillment of desires/needs, Imam gets regular requests from all over the world for special Dua in the Nariya. Inspired by the aforementioned Hadith, Imam Ashraf decided to take this gift of Peace and Healing to West Africa.

He introduced and held Nariya Khatams in Dakar, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The requests for Iberia and Gambia could not be fulfilled because of time restraints. He was hosted by Claude Zaho (Hon. Consul) in Ivory Coast, where he met the Grand Mufti and was invited to give the Jumah pre-talk in the largest mosque in Abidjan. Please join us every Thursday.

## Moulood-un-Nabi



The auspicious month of Moulood-un-Nabi has visited us again, and a new opportunity has arisen for Muslims and lovers all around the world to pay tribute to the personality of our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW); the inspiration of every Muslim and the “heart” of Islam.

Throughout the world the Muslim world globally acknowledges the life, teachings, wisdom and actions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as they congregate in mosques, community centers, halls and homes— singing his praises and renewing their Faith and Love.

IIT begins the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal with daily recitation of Sura

Yaseen for 11 consecutive nights, culminating in it’s Annual Moulood Celebration and Baal Mubarak on Saturday, 10th December. The celebration was attended by a large crowd who had the honor of viewing the Holy Hair of Rasulallah (SAW). This was followed by Naqshabandi Zikr and Salatul Tasbeeh.

IIT also hosted Sheikh Faisal from Toronto, Canada, on Friday, 9th of December. On Friday, 16th December, IIT hosted Sheikh Douda Sy from, Senegal, who held Hadrah Zikr. On 31st December, Imam Ashraf led the Baal Mubarak at Musallah Tawhid’s Moulood Celebrations. Imam also attended various Moulood celebrations by invitation in Los Angeles.

## 30th Interfaith World Peace Day Service



Saturday December 31st 2016 : 4am  
Peace Service held at Center for  
Spiritual Living, Redondo Beach.

An excerpt from the talk given by Athia Carrim on Peace : An Islamic Perspective. Allow me to take you on a journey through the lens of Islam and its people. Where does the global Islamic family stand today? At this present moment the Middle East is on fire, millions of Muslims are displaced from their homes & their cities are constantly bombarded, thousands of Rohingya Muslims are being expelled from their homes in Myanmar, North Africa is crippled by drought & famine, Indonesia reels from an earthquake, all over Europe Muslim communities are experiencing constant raids and interrogations— Mosques & individuals are continuously attacked.. Yet when we Muslims look at our communities around the globe we turn to the advice & prayer of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who taught us how to deal with such adverse despair and turn it into hope with this prayer which is recited daily after each compulsory pray

**Oh Allah,  
You are peace.  
From you comes peace,  
To you returns peace.  
Revive us with a salutation of peace,  
And lead us to your abode of peace.**

Now let’s do some Math. It is estimated that 5% of Muslims pray 5 daily prayers. This is a total of around 300 million people who recite this prayer of peace 5 times daily – that is 1.5 billion times a day Muslims pray for Peace! Now calculate this by 365 for a year! It’s mind boggling. And yet we are accused of being a community that does NOT want Peace!

## IIT Updates

- IIT conducts Adult Quran class every Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. Please join us.
- On Oct. 2nd & Nov. 6th IIT held the monthly Ladies Mouloud from 2-4 pm.
- On 6th Oct. S. Athia represented IIT at a meeting at Del Aire Baptist Church for feeding children in Hawthorne.
- On 11th Oct. IIT celebrated Lailatul Ashura ushering in the Islamic New Year.
- Sunday 16th October IIT had its Community Eid Potluck Picnic at Alondra Park
- On 25th Oct. & 15th Nov. IIT attended the Faith Council Meeting at DCFS Regional Office in Torrance.
- On 26th & 27th Oct. S. Athia presented Islam at the Bishop Montgomery High School- a yearly event that IIT is invited to.
- On 20th Nov. IIT held its Interfaith Potluck Dinner at 7pm.
- On 22nd Nov IIT participated in the South Bay Interfaith Thanksgiving Service hosted by Temple Menorah. Thanks to all who supported this event.
- On 23rd Nov. IIT was invited by LA Mission to participate in their Interfaith dinner.
- On 7th Dec. IIT participated in the City of Carson Human Trafficking event.
- FDH 1st & 4th Sat. every month.



Imam & Rabbi Silver



IIT Interfaith Dinner

## JIT Goes Live

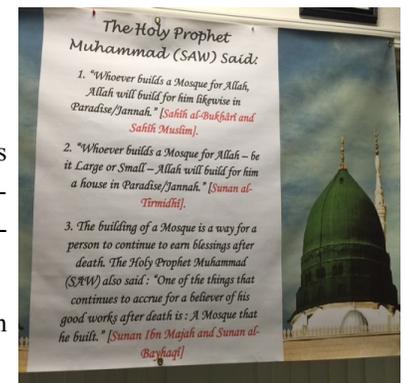
IIT realizes the importance of disseminating information on Social media. As such IIT live streamed the Mouloud-un-Nabi celebration held at IIT on Saturday, December 10th. The event was viewed in South Africa, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and England. To view this please visit the following links: IIT 2016 Meelad un Nabi & Baal Mubarak Program by Imam Ashraf Carrim Part 1 : <https://youtu.be/vFliB6Xi s> and Part 2: <https://youtu.be/1xNsNni 1xM>. Imam's address at Mouloud in Cal Poly Pomona was also streamed live. Please visit our website iitusa.org and join our Facebook page for further information. On Sunday, 8th of January IIT will be commemorating the Life & Achievements of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani, Egyarwie Sharief which will also stream live. Please check email for further information. On Monday, 9th January IIT will be hosting Human Trafficking Information Night at 7pm which will also be live streamed. Please join us with your families for these important events.

## IIT Services

IIT offers a variety of programs, religious, educational, and social, to advance the well-being of our community. These programs include Jumah Salah/ Friday Khutbah, daily congregational prayers, Taraweeh, observance of all Big Nights, Nazira classes, **Saturday Islamic classes**, Adult Qur'an reading classes, Professional Counseling, and fortnightly Qadri Khatam and Zikr. , Funeral rites and arrangement, performance of Marriage, Darud Nariya every Thursday night after Isha prayer, Spiritual nights, and participation by invitation of the community to various events. **Professional Tajweed classes offered Tues/Wed. 4-5:30 pm.**

## Community Billboard

- DO not forget to Contribute to IIT's Building Fund . Earn your Castle in Jannah & become part of the Masjid Program.
- For all your Tax contact Mohamed Jalloh at E-Tax Resolutions at (310) 502-2174
- For all Real Estate needs please contact Ameena Haseeb at 310-972-0387.
- For Individually Tailored Suits & Italian Fashion contact Jaffer 310-539-8788 at Facia Facia.



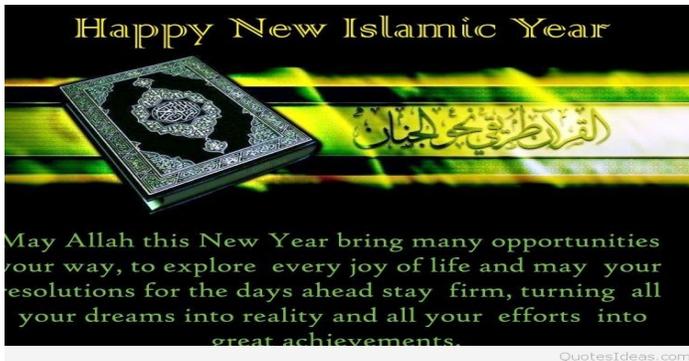
**As the New Year approaches we humbly appeal to your Generosity for the year ahead to continue our work. Thanks for ur Support**



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**The International Institute of Tolerance was founded on the principle of Justice and Equity. Its services are religious and charitable, and grounded in the Islamic faith. One of the principle aims of the Institute is to integrate Muslim Americans into our pluralistic American society. The Institution is focused on working in harmony with other faith groups and civic organizations to enhance our collective futures. The Institute provides religious, educational, and social services to advance justice and promote compassion. Outside its religious services, the Institute's charitable intent can be found in its outreach program. This is the essence of the Islamic value system which drives the Institute's role and functions.**



*“They alone are believers whose hearts thrill with the thought of God whenever His Name is mentioned, whose , & whose Faith in Him increases as His Revelations are recited, & who place implicit trust in their Lord, who observe the prayers, & who give to others out of what We have provided them with. Such indeed are the true believers; their due place of honor lie with their Lord as well as His Forgiveness, & generous means of sustenance.” (8:2-4)*



## Message from the Imam

*Do not grow neglectful of exercising good will towards others. For an offering of goodwill is indeed an offering of prayer to God. (Tabarani)*

### Message of Hope in a Time of Turmoil

Today we live in a very volatile world, and are constantly confronted with images of war, suffering, oppression, torment and loss. We often wonder what is the world coming to, and often we question our own faith. However, this is the mistake we make– to bring Faith into a situation created and executed solely by man. It is precisely in these situations that we turn to Faith to make sense or put our own lives into perspective.

Allah reminds us of this type of thinking in Sura Asr: “By Time. Indeed , mankind is at a loss, except for those who believe and do righteous deeds and advise each other to truth and patience.” This verse provides us the necessary tools to deal with the present situation. We are directed firstly to have Faith– this is a

very important requirement because it involves Trust in Allah -especially today as we confront the world we live in. Second, we should become involved in righteous deeds, the abovementioned verse of the Qur’an: we need to participate in community and outreach projects that help those less fortunate than ourselves. This aspect of service to humanity is the essence of Islam called Huququl Ibad. The third aspect calls us to display goodwill and tolerance towards one another, and to communicate and build bridges of understanding that cultivate two vital values that promote healthy relations– truth and patience.

As the new year 2017 ushers in, it gives us an opportunity to renew our Faith, revisit our goals, and re-evaluate who we are and where we stand in our lives today. I pray this year be full of blessing for all.