

## A HOME FOR A HOME IN PARADISE

Abdullah ibn Jahsh (may Allah be pleased with him) was among those who were the first to accept Islam. When the persecution of the Quraysh got severe, the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) gave permission for his companions to emigrate to Madinah. Emigrating was not a new experience for Abdullah. He and some members of his immediate family had migrated before to Abyssinia. This time, however, his migration was on a far bigger scale. His family and relatives, men, women and children, migrated with him. In fact, his whole clan had become Muslims and accompanied him.

Abdullah's clan were not long gone when the alerted Quraysh leaders came out and made the rounds of the districts in Makkah to find out which Muslims had left and who had remained. Among these leaders were Abu Jahl and Utbah ibn Rabi'ah. Utbah looked at the houses of the Banu Jahsh through which the dusty winds were blowing. He banged on the doors and shouted: "The houses of the Banu Jahsh have become empty and are weeping for its occupants." Abdullah bin Jahsh had the most beautiful and expensive house. He sacrificed this house for the pleasure of Allah. Seeing it abandoned, Abu Jahl entered the house and took all its contents.

Later, when Abdullah ibn Jahsh heard what Abu Jahl had done to his house, he mentioned it to the Prophet, peace be upon him, who said: "Aren't you satisfied, O Abdullah, with what Allah has given you instead, a house in Paradise?"

"Yes, messenger of Allah," replied Abdullah. From that moment he never had any regret for that house and became completely satisfied with the beautiful palaces that are awaiting for him in Paradise.

Source: Partially taken from "Companions of The Prophet", Vol. 1, By: Abdul Wahid Hamid.

## LOCAL AID AGENCYS KEY WORKER ASSASSINATED IN IRAQ

Human Relief Foundation (HRF) an international aid agency which has been consistently working in Iraq since 1991 (straight after the first Gulf-War) has lost one of its primary workers in Iraq at the brutal hands of the militia.

Mr Mohammad Hazim Abdul Razaq leaves behind a family of 5 including his wife and 4 young children. Mr Razaq who was in his mid-30s acted as a full-time 'Store Manager' looking after all the goods that were donated from around the world to HRF for distribution to the needy and destitute in Iraq. A graduate, with a degree in Engineering; Mr Razaq joined HRF's humanitarian mission 3 years ago in Baghdad.

On the morning of 3 October 2006, his home was raided by uniformed and non-uniformed Iraqi Police - he was drugged and taken. The family went to the police - they denied any kidnapping. The 'militia' demanded the sum of \$300,000 US DOLLARS as ransom for Mr Razaqs release.

After tough negotiations with the militia, the figure was lowered to \$20,000 US DOLLARS. The family found it very

difficult but managed to raise the funds required to release the husband/father. Just like a movie scene - the money was dropped at a nearside kerb where it was picked up by an old-man acting for the militia. The militia acknowledged receipt of the money and advised the family that Mr Razaq would be released within the hour - 4 days later and there was still no sign!

The family, panic-stricken went searching and ended up at the local morgue. The morgue showed a photograph of Mr Razaq shot in the head. The morgue claimed that any body not identified within 72 hours was picked up by local-contractors and taken to Najaf in Iraq to be buried. It had been 4 days - Mr Razaq had been murdered on 6 October 2006 and buried! The family have now fled to the North of Iraq for their own peace and security and to avoid the internal sectarian conflict and violence.

Dr Nabeel Al-Ramadhani - Director of HRF advised "I send out my sincerest condolences and sympathies to both Mr Razaqs family and his friends. This has been a shocking and a very upsetting episode for the whole team at HRF. Mr Razaq was one of the most humble and hard-working men I had ever met in my charity experiences".

Dr Al-Ramadhani also stated that "it has become very very dangerous for our offices and for our workers to work in Iraq due to the recent climate and vicious atrocities that are taking place everyday. On average 200 innocent individuals are being murdered on a daily basis".

## STOP FORWARDING WEBSITES

Sadly in recent times there are many websites dedicated with the sole purpose of providing propaganda and lies against Islam. One such example is using domain names for websites, which are Islamic in nature i.e. WWW.ISLAM----- but in fact have nothing to do with Islam.

The whole ethos of such websites is to create animosity and hatred towards Muslims by providing misleading and offensive information. (However it is worth noting that such hateful behaviour is not shared by all Non-Muslims).

As a result many Muslims in good faith (best intentions intended) highlighted these sites as ones to avoid by circulating the dubious nature of its contents. Inadvertently they don't realise they are advertising these sites. For example I was unaware of some of the sites until someone emailed me the various names. Human nature being what it is - I decided to visit the sites to witness what all the fuss was about. (Had I not known about the site I would not have visited them).

Hence as a precautionary measure avoid sites you are unsure about and do not advertise them. Furthermore play safe by sticking to bona fide and credible sites and seek advice before accepting the contents as being authentic.

Please remember internet sites can be a useful tool for acquiring both good and dangerous information.