

# ZFI's Darul Hijrat Rohingya Camp in New Delhi

1. For the rehabilitation of Rohingya Refugees in June 2012, Zakat Foundation of India dedicated its plot of land measuring 1,100 square yards located in Madanpur Khadar, New Delhi. This land was bought by and is officially registered in the name of Zakat Foundation of India since 08 August 2010.

2. By so dedicating this land for Rohingya Refugees, Zakat Foundation of India has set an example not only in India but in the whole world. Thousands of persons do support the refugees across the world, but usually it is limited to provision of food, clothes and temporary shelter for a limited period.

3. But making permanent endowment of landed property for the refugees has been unprecedented in world history since after the blessed era of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). The ZFI has named this facility as '*Darul Hijrat*' that was positively mentioned in Rajya Sabha (the upper house of Indian Parliament) in 2012 by the Union Minister for Home Affairs.

4. During June 2012, Dr Najmus Salam Jalali, the then ZFI Secretary, used to selflessly spend hours on this plot of land persevering, facilitating and administering the shelter for Rohingya refugees. The Almighty accepted his uniquely noble service and called him back after a few days at a

comparatively young age. May God raise his rank in paradise, Amen !

5. At that time Zakat Foundation of India had supplied them even three daily meals - for several months. Currently in 2018, ZFI pays (a) the school fees of 67 children of Rohingya families as well as (b) the tutors' remuneration for imparting tuitions in the camp - mundane as well as spiritual.

6. Quranic verses 8 and 9 of Surah al-Hashr exhort us to help those migrants who are expelled from their homes and properties while they are seeking God's grace and pleasure. The commentators say, the first *Darul Hijrat* actually was the Prophet's city of Madinah but other places may also be called *Darul Hijrat* where one has freedom to follow and practice faith; loving the refugees is high virtue.

7. It is imperative to note that the UN Summit of September 2016 had unanimously passed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. All the 193 Member States of UN came together and reached agreement by consensus on a powerful outcome document.

8. The Declaration contains bold commitments for the rehabilitation and settlement of refugees treating them with love and sympathy and providing land and medical aid to them.

9. To implement this Declaration they formed the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). This sets out the responsibility of Member States to protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants - regardless of their status, religion, and faith.

10. General V. K. Singh, the Minister of State of External Affairs very actively represented India in preparing and passing this Declaration.

11. Precedence thus needs to be accorded to human interest even though it may not squarely mesh with a given political ideology at a given point of time. Thus, like it has done in the case of Refugees from many other countries, the Indian government would do well to grant long term visa to Rohingya refugees too. The UNO as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have appealed to the Government of India on these lines. The UNHCR Delhi closely monitors the goings on in *Darul Hijrat*.

12. The people of India are known for their philanthropic disposition and shall surely take care of and guard *Darul Hijrat*. Hordes of individuals and representatives of several organizations have shown interest in this noble cause - time and again; many others are expected to follow suit.

13. In the wee hours of April 15, 2018 the bamboo huts in *Darul Hijrat* unfortunately caught **fire** . By the grace of

God, there was no casualty and none got injured. But the hutments and the refugees' belongings got burnt to ashes.

14. A media person asked ZFI 'who set the huts on fire?'. We told him that no proof was found nor any circumstantial evidence suggested that there was a sabotage. The urgent work was to make alternate arrangements for the refugees' shelter and food which the ZFI did. And, in the long run - if the government grants special permission - ZFI would happily construct multi-storied buildings on this plot so that, like other human beings, the Rohingya families and their generations have basic facilities of life.

15. Here it is important to note that since after 2012 some persons have been casting an evil eye on this plot of land owned by ZFI. They harbor a vested interest in ensuring that no regular facility is created there by ZFI for the refugees.

16. In 2017, when ZFI wanted to construct separate toilets and bathrooms for male and female refugees and a multipurpose hall on the roof and the civil work had begun, these antisocial elements obstructed the work; they even lured some imprudent refugees within the camp. Rumor was spread that ZFI wants to get the land vacated which is totally untruthful.

17. ZFI would like the government authorities to intervene and deal with such nefarious designs as per law - outside the

campus and inside. Any refugee who violates an Indian law is unwelcome.

18. But, obviously the innocent, well intentioned, charitable individuals and representatives of charitable organizations who visit *Darul Hijrat* for seeking divine pleasure are not aware of these **unholy intrigues** of vested interests. They hand over their charity in cash and kind to such kleptomaniac pirates and thus the benefit does not reach the genuinely suffering, needy Rohingyas.

19. In order to deal with such situation and preempt piracy, ZFI has set up its office in *Darul Hijrat* and has deployed **Dr. Abdul Rahman as its Administrative Officer Incharge of the camp**. His photo is given here at the bottom. He is available in *Darul Hijrat* daily throughout the day. His phone numbers are as follows: +91 8009815842 & +91 8586919671. Email: [info@zakatindia.org](mailto:info@zakatindia.org).

