



# HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS AND RELIEF UGANDA (HEAR UGANDA)

Plot 3, Mirembe House, Kibuye - Masaka Road, P.O. Box 8511 Kampala Uganda  
Tel: +256 - (0)772 - 425838, Fax: +256 - (0)414 - 250854, Email: hearuganda@yahoo.com, hamedcontact@yahoo.com

Martin Palmer  
Secretary General  
ARC

27<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Dear Mr. Palmer,

## MUSLIM FAITH STATEMENT ON WILDLIFE TRADE FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN FAITH LEADERS

From the Qur'an Allah says that He is the creator of all life on Earth and indeed in the Universe (Sura 4:171; 21:19). In the Qur'an again, Allah made it clear that He placed humanity in the role of *Khalifa* - Vice Regent on Earth (Sura 2:30; 6:165). We know that on the Day of Judgement we will have to answer before Allah (SWT) as to how well we conducted ourselves as *Khalifas* for life on Earth (Sura 6:73). We know also from the Qur'an that all creatures live in community (Sura 6:38) and we know from the Hadith, where the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) stopped people tormenting a mother bird by taking her young that Allah forbids the infliction of unnecessary pain and suffering on other living creatures (**Anas**). As *Khalifas* we have the right to use nature but not to abuse it.

When we look with eyes of faith at the wonders of all that Allah has created: at the strength of the lion, the beauty of the gazelle, the swirling patterns of the birds of the air and the fish in the waters. When we see the colours and smell the sweet scents flowers of the field we should rejoice that Allah has placed us in the midst of such a glorious world. Therefore, when we see this glory diminished by our sin, greed and foolishness, we should be horrified and speak out against this wanton destruction of the wonder that Allah has created. We should both repent and seek to do all in our power to protect all that God has created and placed within our care.

In the light shed by the Qur'an and by the Hadith we call upon all the *Ulamah* of the faithful to remember that on the Dreadful Day of Judgement, we must answer for any wasteful use of creation, any destruction of a part of nature that was not necessary.

We therefore ask all the faithful to protect those species in our own lands that are most threatened, such as the elephant, gorilla and rhinoceros, and to assist in the prevention of poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in order that on the Dreadful Day of Judgement, when the community of creatures stand before Allah, we will not be condemned by their words.

The richness of this world is a gift and a blessing from Allah. May we in turn be a blessing to all that Allah has made and given to our care *Inshaalah*. May Allah be pleased with and accept our efforts in this endeavour. Ameen.

  
Mugulumu Hamed  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HUMANITARIAN  
EFFORTS AND  
RELIEF UGANDA  
(HEAR UGANDA)

DATE: 27/07/12

  
UGANDA MUSLIM BUREAU COUNCIL  
SEC. RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Sh. Muhammad M. Mweemba  
Sec. Religious Affairs  
UMSC