

## **IFTAR as a Joyous Inter-Faith Prayer for Peace, Harmony and Solidarity in Mumbai**

17 July 2015- Mumbai:

Yesterday was a happy day for me and all my colleagues and friends associated with the Observer Research Foundation(Mumbai), Minhaj-ul-Quran International headed by Shri Rafeeq Ahmed Khan and Indialogue foundation headed by Mr. Suat Canan.

We jointly organised an Iftar inter-faith prayer and dinner at the Mumbai Cricket Association Club. It was attended by over 100 prominent personalities from the city representing almost all faith communities, who adopted a PEACE DECLARATION at the end of the function.

Among the distinguished participants were:

- 1) His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay and President of Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.
- 2) Swami Sarvalokananda ji, President, Ramakrishna Math, Mumbai
- 3) Maulana Sayyed Athar Ali, Nazim e Ala, madrasah Muhammadiya, Minara Masjid
- 4) Dr Zahir Abbas Rizvi, General Secretary, All India Shia Personal Law Board
- 5) Maananeeya Rajyogi Brahmakumar Shri Nikunj ji
- 6) Dr Zahir Kazi, President, Anjuman-I-Islam
- 7) Shri Qaiser Khalid, Additional Commissioner of Police
- 8) Maulana Abdul Rahman Milli (President of United Muslim Front, Ex Gen Secretary of Ulema Council)
- 9) Maulana Burhanuddin Qasmi, Director, Markazul Ma'arif Education and Research Centre,
- 10) Dr. Zeenat Shaukat Ali - The Wisdom Foundation, Mumbai
- 12) Dr Bhadant Anand Mahathero, Buddhist scholar
- 13) Dr. Kamini Gogri, Jain scholar
- 14) Dr. Homi Dhalla, Head of the World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation
- 15) Yezdi Panthaki (Ex District Chairman of Communal Harmony and Peace-Lions Club Int.)
- 16) Irfan Engineer. Director, Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution
- 17) Feroze Ashraf, educationist and social activist
- 18) Dr. Supriya Rai, Director, Centre for Buddhist Studies, Somaiya Vidyavihar
- 19) Dr. Rajesh Sarwadnya, President, Vivekananda Youth Connect
- 20) Aamir Idrisi, President, Association of Muslim Professionals
- 21) M.A. Khalid, social activist
- 22) Maulana Anees, Minhaj-ul-Quran
- 23) Firoz Mithiborwala, Social Activist
- 24) Sajeed Shaikh , Modern Youth Association
- 25) Mrs. Uzma Naheed, Director of Iqra Education Foundation Mumbai
- 26) Mr. Mark Pierce, Consul General of Australia

Shri Sajid Sheikh conducted the proceedings of the function.

For the phenomenal success of this important event, I heartily appreciate the tireless efforts of all my colleagues and friends, especially Ms. Radha Viswanathan, Dr. Sumedh MK, Ali Mohammed Chisty, Zubair Ansari, Dr. Yaqub (Director, Indialogue Foundation, Mumbai), Shri P.G. Darji and Mr. Rizwan, the artist who prepared all the designs for the function.