

Excursion to Spots of Islamic African Networks in Berlin

Tuesday, 13th of August, 5.15 p.m.

On Tuesday, we will visit the Islamic Multicultural Center (IMZ) in Berlin. It is a mosque association, founded in 2010, catering especially to the needs of the African Muslim population in Berlin.

The center provides religious services such as Friday prayers in German, English and French language, courses about Islamic religion for children and adults, religious ceremonies such as weddings, funerals and naming ceremonies. They are aiming to enlarge their services further into the field of social services, thereby wanting to tackle social problems that many Africans face in Germany.

The association is completely financed by donations of its members.

They also serve as a kind of umbrella organization for several other, often smaller groups, who meet in their rooms and partake in activities of the association itself, such as the African Murid community, the African Tigani community, a Tabglihi circle or national groups such as the Togolese community.

The center is directed by Mouhamed Miftah Ogbone, an Azhar graduate from Togo.

Message of the Director:

(to be found on the association's website: <http://www.islamulticult-center.org/Director.html>)

Islam is only the last ring of the religious chain of monotheism. Neither these religions nor their prophets are ever contradictory. Their messages complete and support each other. If Moses, Jesus and Mohammed (peace be upon them) met today, they would be in harmony because for them the most important question is not who is the best or right. They all serve the same God, pursue the same goals, and they share the same vision for humanity: Equality, human rights, peace and prosperity for everybody.

But the problems we are experiencing today are simply due to the failure of the followers of these religions to stay faithful to their prescription and goals. Many people are only thinking about their personal interests and use their religion to lobby for their own goals. If political, economic or other interests of particular individuals or groups are put above the common public interest, we can witness the development of conflicts like social uproar, wars and terror in the name of a religion.

In order to achieve a harmonious society where everybody enjoys all of his rights, our "Islamic Multicultural Center" wishes to contribute to the efforts of the German government and the individuals and groups of civil society who are striving for this goal.

Islam has taught and promoted equality between human beings and women rights, fought wisely and peacefully against slavery, and introduced or promoted many values that we all support today. Islamic faith believes that God is the creator of the earth and that one should treat well His property and other human beings in particular. Therefore Islam preaches freedom, including freedom of the faith, equality, tolerance and acceptance within society.