



Celebrating the twenty fifth anniversary of The Ismaili Centre

The Ismaili Centre requests the pleasure of your company at a

Reception in the Roof Garden

followed by

The Milad un-Nabi Lecture 2010

to be delivered by

Dr Farid Esack

Professor in the Study of Islam at the University of Johannesburg

at 7.45pm on Thursday 4th March

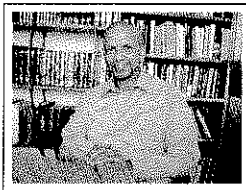
The Ismaili Centre, 1 Cromwell Gardens, London SW7 2SL

*RSVP by: 18th February 2010
Tel: +44 (0)20 7581 2071
Email: events@iicuk.org*

*This invitation is not transferable
Please bring this card with you*

*Dress: Lounge suit
Guests to be seated by 8.30pm*

The Milad un-Nabi Lecture 2010



Muhammad – The Activist Prophet of Certainty and Doubt

Prophet Muhammad (s.a.s.) was a Thinker - who lived and taught heuristically, who was willing to court doubt and uncertainty in his quest for the Transcendent - a Transcendent who always remained thus and who could never be equated with dogma or religion itself. Prophet Muhammad's obedience to this Transcendent and his quest to live out the numerous Qur'anic exhortations to "reflect", "explore" and "ponder" led to a life of perpetual intellectual restlessness – a restlessness that necessarily sits uncomfortably with the certainties of narrow dogmatism, essentialism and fundamentalism. Yet, he was also a Prophet of certainty – certain about the unity of God and God's justice, certain about the immorality of the many social inequities around him. How should Muslims who struggle to live contemporaneously approach these tensions in Prophet Muhammad's quests when we find ourselves in a world filled with poverty and injustice, various forms of fundamentalism, and the utter-connectedness of civilizations? How are responses of serious intellectual enquiry, spiritual reflection, and social service continuations of Prophet Muhammad's mission?

About Professor Esack

Professor Farid Esack is a South African Muslim Theologian who cut his teeth in the South African struggle for liberation. He studied in Pakistan, the UK and Germany and is the author of *Qur'an, Liberation and Pluralism*, *On Being a Muslim*, *An Introduction to the Qur'an*, and *Islam, HIV & AIDS – Reflections Based on Compassion, Responsibility and Justice*. He has published on Islam, Gender, Liberation Theology, Interfaith Relations, and Qur'anic Hermeneutics. Professor Esack served as a Commissioner for Gender Equality in South Africa and has taught at the Universities of Western Cape, and Hamburg, the College of William & Mary and Union Theological Seminary (NY) and at Xavier University in Cincinnati. He has recently returned to South Africa after serving as the Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islam at Harvard University. Farid Esack is now Professor in the Study of Islam at the University of Johannesburg.