

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST BENEFICENT THE MOST MERCIFUL  
**UNITED SRI LANKAN MUSLIM ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA**

**USMAA**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam - ASSALAMU ALAIKUM

It was recently brought to our notice, that a Sri Lankan Muslim was been held by the authorities at the Migrant Detention Centre Maribyrnong and once contact was made with the brother concerned by members of USMAA, the true plight of Muslims from the North, has once again surfaced.

Having been forced to flee from their ancestral home and family business in Jaffna by the Tamil militants he finally made it to Melbourne only to be detained by immigration authorities. He has now been detained for over 17 months pending legal proceedings.

It is a severe indictment on all of us. Here was a fellow Muslim languishing in detention, going through both mental and physical torment (not forgetting his past experiences in Sri Lanka) since his arrival in 1989. His plight going un-noticed due to the fact, that as a community, we were embroiled in petty squabbles and differences debating the rights and wrongs of helping the needy Muslims back in Sri Lanka.

Regrettably, the self-righteous attitude of most of us that we've done enough for our brethren by directing a mere pittance to their cause, hoping the problem will disappear, has now been shattered. ALLAH TA'AL has now brought this new challenge right to our very door-step as a fresh reminder that our responsibilities and duties to our fellow Muslims, never ceases.

USMAA has established dialogue with counsellor/advocates from the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture and the relevant solicitor plus regular visits and telephone contact with the brother concerned. Members who could assist in any way are kindly requested to contact Bro. Nisthar on 799 3986.

USMAA activities in the last month included the meeting hosted by the Minister of Immigration, the collection of funds for the Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal - a sum of \$340/= was collected and the preparation for the forth-coming "Refugee Week" Conference on 16/6/91. We urge all members to attend if USMAA is to succeed in this field of activity.

Idul-Azha - Haj Festival prayers will be recited on 23/6/91 at all Mosques - 7.30 a.m onwards - insha ALLAH.

WA ALAIKUM SALAAM

Eddie

26th Zulqadah 1411 Hijri 9/6/91