

HUZoor'S TOUR OF GERMANY

MAY - JUNE 2015

A Personal Account

PART 3

By Abid Khan

Introduction

In parts 1 and 2 of my personal account of Huzoor's tour of Germany, I narrated the comments of a number of families or individuals who had met *Khalifatul Masih* for the first time or after many years.

In total, Huzoor met more than 650 families in *Mulaqat* during the Germany 2015 tour as well as hundreds of individuals. In sum, Huzoor met more than 3,000 people in formal Mulaqats. This is separate to the countless people Huzoor met at Mosque openings or during other such events. It would be impossible to narrate all of their accounts and so what I narrated can only be described as the tip of the iceberg.

In this final part, the focus will remain on the final week of Huzoor's tour and, in particular, the blessings associated with the *Jalsa Salana* and its positive effect on so many people from so many different countries.

Stay at hotel and seeing my family

During the days of Jalsa, Huzoor and his security and a few other members of the *Qafila* stayed on site. Majid Sahib, Mubarak Sahib, myself and a few others stayed at a nearby hotel. It was the same hotel where we had stayed the previous year as well.

The *Jamaat* had arranged for breakfast to be on the 6th floor of the hotel and so on Friday morning I went there. There were quite a few options but I just had bread, butter and jam and a cup of coffee.

My sister Gugu had travelled for the *Jalsa* from her home in Hartlepool (England), along with three of her children, Adil, Nooresahar and Hameed. They were staying in the same hotel as me and so just as I was about to go and visit them in their room I saw that Gugu was also in the breakfast room with her young son Hameed.

After we had finished breakfast, I went with her to meet Adil and Nooresahar as well. It was very nice to see my family and to hear about their experiences. After completing what had proved to be a long journey, they were refreshed after a good night's sleep and were all extremely excited and happy to be attending the *Jalsa* and to be near Huzoor.

New security tracksuits!

On the morning of Friday 5 June I noticed at *Fajr* that all of Huzoor's security team were wearing matching black tracksuits with the logo of *Amla Hifazat* (security team) printed on them.

Ahmad bhai told me that the tracksuits had been made especially for the security team and so they thought they would wear them for the first time on a Friday. The tracksuits looked smart and comfortable!

Friday Sermon at Jalsa Salana

Alhamdulillah, at 2pm on 7 June 2015, the 40th *Jalsa Salana Germany* commenced with the *Friday Sermon* delivered by Huzoor.

During his sermon, Huzoor emphasised that the *Jalsa* was not a worldly gathering of people but rather a spiritual gathering, with spiritual objectives.



Huzoor said that Allah had greatly blessed the Jamaat and so now *Jalsas* were held throughout the world and that people crossed borders and continents to take part in those *Jalsas* in which the *Khalifa-Waqt* participated.

In his address, Huzoor also spoke about the blessings of collective worship and said that when people prayed together, their prayers did not only benefit them as individuals, but were a means of blessings for the collective community.

Thus, Huzoor emphasised that all the Ahmadi Muslims attending should engage in prayer and the remembrance of Allah at all times.

MTA panel discussion in the heat

The 3 days of Jalsa proved to be extremely hot and although there was air conditioning within the main hall and some other parts of the complex, it

still felt extremely hot at all times. The hottest day was the first day where temperatures reached 37 degrees (98.6F).

I had been nervous all day because *MTA* had asked me to take part in a live panel discussion about *Khilafat* during the afternoon break. The other guests in the panel would be Ameer Sahib Germany and *MTA*'s Managing Director, Munir-ud-Din Shams.

I have never been comfortable appearing on *MTA* or doing broadcast interviews and I was especially nervous because this slot was soon after *Jumma* and so I assumed that many Ahmadis would be watching in different countries at that time.

The studio was outside and due to the weather it was extremely hot and this made me even more nervous. As I kept wiping dry my forehead, I was continually praying that Allah helped me to avoid any mistakes or to forget my words mid-sentence!

MTA had asked me to narrate a few incidents about *Khilafat* that I had personally witnessed and so I had identified a few incidents which I thought would be of interest.

Unfortunately, I was unable to narrate all of the incidents because the allocated timeslot was not enough to cover the ground that had originally been suggested.

When I was answering questions I could see from the presenter's face that he was trying to hurry me along and was urging me to quickly finish my

answers. It was not the most ideal environment to narrate the stories but I tried my best.

Example of simplicity of Huzoor

One small point I wished to narrate on the *MTA* programme but was unable to due to the lack of time regarded Huzoor's simplicity and humility that I had personally witnessed.

During the very harsh and cold winters in the UK, on many occasions I have entered Huzoor's office and been astonished to see that there was no heating on in the office. Rather, Huzoor was seated at his desk, wearing a thick, warm overcoat and I had even seen Huzoor wearing a scarf inside his office.

Each time, I saw this scene, I felt so emotional that our beloved Khalifa was sitting in the cold, wearing his overcoat to keep warm, whilst the rest of us sit in our own offices with the heating turned up.

That is the example of *Khalifatul Masih*, wherein he cares not for his own comfort and just continues to work selflessly for the *Jamaat*, no matter what the conditions.

Mahid happy to see me

After the programme had concluded, I returned to my desk in relief that it was over and I would not have to sit on an *MTA* panel again for the rest of the *Jalsa!*

My wife Mala knew how nervous I had been and so she texted me and tried to reassure me about my appearance!

She told me that as soon as I came on *MTA*, our son Mahid came running to the screen and very excitedly started shouting '*Abba, Abba, Abba!*'

I was happy to hear this and thought how in its own way this was a blessing of *MTA*, whereby it was a means of bringing families closer together when they were apart and that through *MTA* my family had been able to share in my experiences of the *Jalsa*.

Friday evening delegations

A very inspiring feature of *Jalsa Germany* is that many delegations from different countries attend the *Jalsa*. In particular, a number of delegations come from Eastern Europe.

Some of the groups are very small, whilst some are extremely large and consist of both non-Ahmadis and Ahmadi converts. Each delegation has the honour to meet Huzoor, either during the days of *Jalsa* or the day after *Jalsa* concludes.

On Friday evening, Huzoor met a *Russian* speaking delegation, consisting of guests from a number of different countries. Huzoor also met a delegation of guests from *Croatia* and another group who had travelled from *Lithuania*.

During the meetings, the guests would introduce themselves to Huzoor and would then have the opportunity to ask Huzoor questions or to share their own thoughts or comments.

As a bystander, sitting at the side of the room, I felt it a real privilege to share in these moments and to see first-hand, how the words and prayers of *Khalifatul Masih* were a source of blessings and contentment for those people who were from different backgrounds and many of whom had only recently been introduced to *Ahmadiyyat*.

Huzoor's guidance about displaying photographs

A lady from the Croatian delegation asked Huzoor why photos of the Promised Messiah (as) and his *Khulafa* were displayed in the homes of Ahmadis or in *Jamaat* buildings.



In response, Huzoor said that if a person thought that by displaying a photo of the *Promised Messiah (as)* or the *Khalifa* it would increase their spirituality or make them closer to Allah then they were wrong.

However, Huzoor said that if an Ahmadi displayed a photo of the *Promised Messiah (as)* or *Khalifa-Waqt* in their homes because of their attachment to them – in the same way that people display photos of their family members – then there was no harm.



However, wherever there was a risk of photos being considered of greater value than this then they ought not to be displayed.

Thus, Huzoor said that the *Jamaat* did not allow for any photo of the *Promised Messiah (as)* or his *Khulafa* to be displayed inside a Mosque because that was where people bowed down before Allah.

Similarly, Huzoor said that when he visited Australia in 2006, the local *Jamaat* had arranged for an official stamp to be printed with Huzoor's photo on it and upon learning this Huzoor instructed that all of the stamps should be destroyed.

Huzoor also said that some people were able to recognise the truth of *Ahmadiyyat* by seeing the photos of the *Promised Messiah (as)* or the *Khulafa*.

He said that people in various countries had narrated that only after seeing a photo did they realise that the person they had previously seen in their dreams was the *Promised Messiah (as)* or one of his successors. Thus, in this era, photos were a means of guiding some people towards the truth.

Huzoor's guidance about Khilafat

One of the guests asked Huzoor why it was that from *Khalifatul Masih II (ra)* onwards, all of the *Khulafa* of the *Promised Messiah (as)* had been from amongst his own family.

This is a question that is often asked and Huzoor's answer was very beautiful and logical.

He said it was simply a matter of *God's Will* and that if we observed the family of the Prophet Abraham (as) we see that many of his descendants were *Prophets of God* and so this is for God to determine not for any man.

A cause of sadness

During the days of *Jalsa* and indeed for the rest of Huzoor's tour of Germany, it became apparent that Huzoor was suffering with severe hay fever.

Whenever you see Huzoor in any form of discomfort it is very upsetting and so seeing Huzoor suffer with the ill effects of hay fever was distressing.

On those occasions where I have seen Huzoor unwell or in any form of discomfort I have always wished that I had inherited some medical knowledge from my father who was a doctor so that I could perhaps find a way of helping.

Once in London, when Huzoor was somewhat unwell, I even mentioned to Huzoor that I wished I could offer some service.

Huzoor smiled and responded by saying:

"All I need is dua - that is enough"

Nonetheless, despite the obvious discomfort, Huzoor did not let it affect his schedule in any way. In fact, those final days were perhaps the busiest of the entire tour.

Reflections of an African Ahmadi

The next morning, I met an African Ahmadi named *Abu Hurreira (32)* who had travelled to the *Jalsa* from South Africa.

He told me that his father had accepted *Ahmadiyyat* when he was still a child.

Speaking about attending the *Jalsa* and being near Huzoor, he said:

“When you see other Muslims and you see how divided they are then you realise just how lucky we are to be united at the hand of Khilafat. This is what distinguishes us from all others. I honestly believe that if a person listens to Huzoor’s Friday Sermon every week then he will be a good Muslim – that is the key to life. When you see Huzoor, you realise immediately that he is a man of truth and a man of God.”

Huzoor’s address to Lajna Imaillah

At midday on 6 June 2015, Huzoor directly addressed *Lajna Imaillah* about the importance of obedience to the teachings of the Holy Quran and to the Holy Prophet (sa).

Huzoor’s address was extremely powerful and faith inspiring. He said that Ahmadi women had no reason for any complex or fear and that they should not be influenced by worldly or material factors.

Huzoor mentioned the *academic* he had met earlier in the tour who had claimed that Ahmadi women were restricted because they could not attend nightclubs or go dancing.

Huzoor said that he had responded by making it clear that Islam had placed certain restrictions on both men and women but these restrictions were not without reason. He said that if people followed Allah's commands then they would attain blessings both in this life and in the *Hereafter*.

Huzoor said that immodesty and indecency were not a sign of freedom or independence. Thus, it was the task of Ahmadi Muslims to guide the world towards "true freedom" and this could only be achieved through full obedience to Allah and *His Messenger* (sa).

A child's love for Khilafat

Later in the day, I met *Luqman Bajwa* (27) a member of Germany's Khuddam security team. He had come to Germany just over three years previously from Pakistan.

He told me about an incident he had witnessed, earlier in the tour, when Huzoor had opened the *Aachen Mosque*.

Luqman Sahib said:

"I was doing duty at the Aachen Mosque inauguration and when Huzoor walked past where I was posted, I heard a little boy, who could not have

been more than 3 years old, start to cry and say 'Please Huzoor don't leave us'.

The pain in the voice of that little boy had a deep impact on me for I could not believe how such a young child could have such love for Khilafat. Truly, the bond between an Ahmadi and Khalifa-Waqt is placed by Allah Himself."

Huzoor's address to non-Ahmadi guests

For a number of years, a tradition of the Germany *Jalsa* has been that on Saturday afternoon, Huzoor addresses non-Ahmadi guests. The address is delivered in English and is translated into various languages. It is an address that I personally always look forward to hearing a great deal.



Huzoor's address was extremely interesting and proved to be a very comprehensive defence of Islam.

Huzoor said that whilst the terrorism and extremism prevalent in today's world was completely against the teachings of Islam, it was also a means of *increasing* his faith, and the faith of all Ahmadis, in the truth of Islam.

Huzoor said the reason for this was that the Holy Prophet (sa) had prophesied that a time would come when the Muslim scholars would be scholars in name only, and that Islam's true teachings would be entirely corrupted and disregarded.



However, the Holy Prophet (sa) had also stated that at that time Allah would send an individual as the *Promised Messiah* and *Imam Mahdi* to revive Islam's true teachings and to guide mankind.

Huzoor said that both parts of this prophecy had been fulfilled, whereby on the one hand extremists had distorted Islam's name, whilst on the other hand the *Jamaat of the Promised Messiah* (as) was seeking to bring people towards the true Islam.

And so the fulfilment of this prophecy was the reason the faith of Ahmadi Muslims increased upon observing the state of the world.

Huzoor continued by saying:

“During his life the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) shone an illuminating light upon true Islam and presented its magnificent teachings to the world. He proved that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was indeed the greatest champion and torch-bearer for peace in the history of mankind.”

Thereafter, Huzoor spoke of how he remained optimistic regarding the future of Islam.

Huzoor said:

“Whilst today Islam continues to be portrayed in entirely the wrong way, we Ahmadi Muslims do not become hopeless or disheartened. We firmly believe that we will be successful and so one day Islam’s reality will dawn upon the world and its beautiful teachings will be understood by the people of all nations.”

Impact of Huzoor’s address

After Huzoor’s address concluded, I spent the next couple of hours meeting various guests. It was clear that Huzoor’s address had had a very major and positive effect.

I spoke to at least 30 people myself and each and every one spoke of how their views of Islam had changed for the better and how they had been struck by various points made by Huzoor.

Many other Ahmadis also narrated later how much their guests had appreciated Huzoor's message of peace.

One guest who I met, *Silvio Dameo*, had travelled from Italy to attend the *Jalsa*. He told me he considered Huzoor's address to be a "*masterpiece*". He said that Huzoor had used the *Quran* to prove that Islam was a peaceful religion and not a religion of violence as was commonly portrayed in the media.

The guest continued by saying:

"There is no doubt in my mind that what the Khalifa says is the truth. This speech was not just a 'ray of hope'- but a new dawn for the entire world. Believe me - your Khalifa will change the world - through tolerance and harmony."

I met a retired politician from Latvia, called *Mr Valderstein*. He told me that he used to be very good friends with the UK's former Prime Minister, John Major. He too, was very appreciative of Huzoor's message.

Mr Valderstein said:

"I agree with everything that the Khalifa said. His every word and letter was a foundation for peace. His address showed that we are living a life of slavery to materialism and we are acting against God's Will - this is very dangerous. The address has changed my opinion of Islam. I have

now realized that the Quran is a book of peace and that people take its verses out of context.”

I also met two non-Ahmadi Muslims, who were living in Germany, but originally from Africa. They both agreed that they had never heard a speech like Huzoor’s.

One of them said:

“I am not an Ahmadi but I truly believe that the service your Khalifa is doing is for the benefit of all Muslims and Islam. He is telling the world that Islam is peaceful. I hope he goes to every country in the world to spread this message because that is the only way that people will see the true Islam.”

I met *Hristo Barkdgiev*, a guest from Bulgaria, who said:

“It does not matter what religion you follow you should listen to the words of the Khalifa. He taught us that we should all respect and love each other. To be honest, I am quite shocked because my view of Islam was completely wrong. In fact I should say that I am completely ashamed of the fact that I had a negative opinion of Islam.”

Huzoor’s meeting with Turkish delegation

On Saturday evening, Huzoor met another three delegations – one from Turkey, one from *Slovenia* and a group of more than 400 Arabs.

During Huzoor's meeting with the Turkish group, a young Turkish man, who was a convert to *Ahmadiyyat*, stood up and took the microphone.

With great love, the Turkish convert said - ***"I love you, Huzoor"***.

Very lovingly and affectionately, Huzoor responded by saying:

"And I love you too".

Another, new convert took the microphone and with great emotion said:

"I accepted Ahmadiyyat 6 months ago and today I feel so emotional and so fortunate that I am seated before my Khalifa. There are millions of people across the world who dream of this moment and so it is my great fortune that today I have this opportunity."

An emotional guest

In the group, there was a non-Muslim, who had come from Austria. He had a big, thick white beard and as the meeting drew to a close, he requested permission to approach Huzoor.

As he walked towards Huzoor, I saw that he had tears in his eyes and thereafter he bowed his head in front of Huzoor and kissed Huzoor's hand.

It was a very arresting scene, whereby this person, who was not a Muslim, was so deeply affected by seeing *Khalifatul Masih* that he could not control his emotions and sought only to seek Huzoor's blessings.

Huzoor's meeting with Arab delegation

The delegation of Arabs consisted of 300 Arabs who were based in Germany and around 100 Arabs who had come from other countries to attend the Jalsa. Some were Ahmadis, whilst many were non-Ahmadis.

The guests spoke in Arabic and their comments or questions were translated into Urdu by Tahir Nadeem Sahib. Huzoor's response was then translated into Arabic.

Whilst the questions were being asked, I used to look in Huzoor's direction and one thing I noticed was that it often seemed from his expressions that Huzoor understood the question, even before it was translated. I was reminded of when Huzoor delivered an address in Arabic on *Promised Messiah Day* in 2014.

Many of the guests spoke of how they had enjoyed the *Jalsa Salana* and observed what a spiritually uplifting experience it had been.

Upon hearing such comments, Huzoor said:

“The Holy Prophet (sa) said that you should like for others, what you like for yourselves and thus you should inform others about Ahmadiyyat and about the Jalsa.”

One of the guests, asked Huzoor how the spread of extremism in the Arab world could be stopped.

In response, Huzoor said:

“The Muslim world should be united and instead of looking towards the West, they should seek to deal with these threats together. Currently, we see that Muslim countries are buying weapons from the West and boosting their economies. Thereafter, those same weapons are being used by Muslims to kill their Muslim brethren. As Ahmadis, all we can do is pray and we are doing this constantly.”

Huzoor’s unparalleled obedience to the Holy Prophet (sa)

One elderly Arab, asked Huzoor his views on the definition of *kafir* (disbeliever). He asked this question twice and from his tone, it seemed he wished for Huzoor to declare a certain sect as *kafirs*.

Huzoor’s response was extremely beautiful, whereby he said that he submitted to the *Fatwa* (edict) of the Holy Prophet (sa) that anyone who recites the *Kalima* is a Muslim and if anyone else calls such a person a *kafir* then he himself is a *kafir*.

Huzoor said:

“Who am I to make any pronouncement on this issue when our master the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) has already given judgment on this? What right do I have to call anyone kafir when the Holy Prophet (sa) has said that anyone who recites Kalima is a Muslim? ”

As Huzoor's answer was translated into Arabic and the guests heard how Huzoor was utterly obedient to the Holy Prophet (sa), some of the Arab guests raised *naaray* to express their appreciation of Huzoor's message, whilst a number of Arab ladies began to clap.

The impact of Huzoor's words was such that 3 or 4 Arabs did *Bai'at* and accepted *Ahmadiyyat* having been so profoundly affected by Huzoor's complete submission to the Holy Prophet (sa).

Later, I met one Arab guest who reflected on Huzoor's answer by saying:

“Who knew that the Khalifa of the Ahmadis had such love for the Holy Prophet (sa)? I heard with my own ears as he said that he was nothing and that the Holy Prophet (sa) was everything!”

A few priceless moments

As Huzoor left the meeting room, he looked in my direction and told me to join him in the lift. Ahmad bhai and Munir Javed Sahib were also in the lift as it came down to the level where Huzoor's residence was.

As we came out of the lift Huzoor told me to come with him towards his residence. Huzoor opened the door and invited me to join him in the entrance room.

There were a few individual chairs in the room and so Huzoor sat down on one and I went and sat to Huzoor's left. However, Huzoor told me to sit on the chair to his right, as he could see me without having to turn his neck.

I took the opportunity to inform Huzoor of some of the conversations I had had with guests following Huzoor's English address earlier in the day.

I said that many people had spoken of how their views on Islam had changed.

I informed Huzoor of an elderly Macedonian lady I had met, who very succinctly said she had only one comment, which was that Huzoor's address was "***the most beautiful thing she had ever heard in her life***"!

Upon hearing this Huzoor quietly laughed and smiled in the most beautiful and humble way.

Those private moments with Huzoor, in the middle of *Jalsa Salana* were unique and a source of everlasting happiness. *Alhamdolillah*. With the *Grace of Allah*, it seemed that Huzoor was happy with the *Jalsa*.

As Huzoor stood up, he asked how I was and if I was being fed adequately and how my accommodation was. I said that with the *Grace of Allah*, everything was wonderful.

Huzoor then asked how my sister *Gugu* was and how she was finding the *Jalsa*.

He asked if I was making sure she got a good breakfast! I said that she was fine and *Alhamdolillah* she and her children were having breakfast each morning at the hotel!

As Huzoor walked to the inner part of his residence, he looked back in my direction and said:

“I have still not started to prepare for tomorrow’s concluding Jalsa address.”

All I could say in response was:

“Huzoor you have so much work that never stops.”

As I walked out, I prayed for Huzoor and thanked Allah for granting me those few precious moments with my *Khalifa*.

A funny comment

As the day had been extremely hot, my forehead was moist with sweat.

Thus when I came out of Huzoor’s residence, Nadeem Amini and Ahmad bhai noticed the beads of sweat and so they began to laugh and asked me:

“What happened to you? You are sweating uncontrollably!”

As they laughed, they were implying that perhaps Huzoor had taken me to task for something or had told me off, which had caused me to sweat profusely!

Thankfully, that had not been the case and the sweat was only because of the physical heat!

American Khuddam meeting Huzoor

Later that day, I was able to spend some time with two close friends of mine, *Amjad Khan* and *Qudus Malik*, who had both travelled to Germany from the United States.

They were both hoping to have the opportunity to meet Huzoor at least once at the *Jalsa* before they returned. Thus, I suggested to them that when Huzoor comes from his residence for *Maghreb* and *Isha*, they should stand to the side and hopefully they would have a chance to offer their *salam*.

It so transpired that when Huzoor came down for *Salat*, he saw them and met them very lovingly. They had the honour of walking with Huzoor from his residence to where *Salat* was offered in the *Jalsa Gah*, which was a distance of several hundred metres.

Both, Amjad and Qudus, later told me how those few moments were amongst the happiest and most memorable of their lives.

Speaking about this encounter, Qudus said:

“Today, I found myself shaking as I walked just behind Huzoor. This moment was beyond my wildest imagination and one that I consider to be the most historic and blessed moment of my life.”

Qudus added that as they walked towards the prayer area, Huzoor had said that he had seen him sitting in the audience during his address earlier and that he had noticed that at one point Qudus had smiled!

Qudus said that he was quite amazed at how Huzoor could ‘multitask’ – whereby whilst delivering an address at *Jalsa* he was still able to notice where people were seated in the main hall!



Reflecting on those moments in the company of Huzoor, Amjad said:

“To be blessed to be in Huzoor’s company for a few minutes in the midst of Jalsa Salana Germany, many thousands of miles away from home, was an indescribable bounty of Allah.”

Amjad said that throughout his 11 hour flight back to Los Angeles he kept thinking about those moments with Huzoor.

Frantically organising breakfast!

The next morning, I went to see my sister Gugu and her family in their hotel room. It would be my final opportunity to see them, as that evening the *Qafila* was returning to *Frankfurt* after the conclusion of *Jalsa*.

I sat with them for a few minutes and after a while I asked if they had been for breakfast yet. They told me they had not because they had only been given breakfast coupons for the first two days by the local *Jamaat*. If I had not asked they would not have mentioned it.

As soon as I heard this, I panicked! The night before, Huzoor had asked me if I was making sure my sister and her family were getting a good breakfast each morning and here they were going to *Jalsa* hungry!

I said I would bring some food for them and so I took my niece *Nooresahar* with me to the breakfast room. I then started frantically putting together different plates of bread, cheese, salmon, eggs, jams and spreads.

Nooresahar could not understand why I was putting so much food in the plates and so very confused she said:

“Abid Mamu, how fat do you think we are?!?”

Anyway, it was only when we returned to my sister’s room and I saw that they were eating that I was able to breathe a sigh of relief!

A blessed trip

Alhamdulillah, my sister and her family had a very blessed trip. When she returned home, Gugu said to me that she felt that going to *Jalsa Germany* was one of the best things she had ever done.

She said:

“It is hard to explain – but the spiritual healing one gets from spending time in the presence of Huzoor and the ability to concentrate on prayer is indescribable.”

Huzoor’s meeting with German guests

On the afternoon of 7 June, just prior to the concluding session of *Jalsa*, Huzoor met with two German guests in his office.

One of the guests was a retired German diplomat, Dr Harald Kindermann, whilst the other was a German *Professor of Islamic Studies*, Dr Mathias Rohe.

The diplomat said that he felt that the situation of the world was worse than at any point in the past 20 years.

He said that there had been various foreign policy mistakes made by Western Governments in recent years and that he felt it was now necessary for Western Governments to inform their own people that helping *others* was an investment in their *own* security.

In response, Huzoor said that it was now clear that the terrorist group known as *ISIS* or *Daesh*, had gained a foothold in Libya and in this way it had reached Europe's doorstep because Libya was very close to Italy.

Huzoor said that all of the North African countries are 'neighbours' of Europe and so for the safety of Europe, it was important that Western countries sought to help and support countries such as Morocco, Libya and Tunisia.

The Islamic Professor spoke about how he felt the concept of *Shariah* had been very much misunderstood in the *West*. In response, Huzoor said that the media had played a significant role in the misrepresentation of Islam and so the media ought to act with honesty and responsibility.

Huzoor calling Ameer Sahib Sanghar

After the meeting, Huzoor walked directly to the *Jalsa Gah* for the concluding session of *Jalsa Salana*. Before the session commenced, there was a *Ba'ait* ceremony.

As Huzoor, walked towards the area where he would lead the *Bai'at*, I saw him point in the direction of an Ahmadi and instructed him to come forward. Huzoor said that he would represent Pakistan at the *Bai'at* ceremony.

The Ahmadi was the *Ameer* of *Sanghar Jamaat* in Pakistan. It was quite amazing how Huzoor had noticed him in the crowd of thousands.

Throughout Pakistan, Ahmadis face difficulties and persecution, and *Sanghar*, which is a district in Sindh, is one area where the situation is particularly dangerous for Ahmadis.

No doubt, the Ameer of *Sanghar* will have witnessed many difficult situations and so it seemed to me that on that day the *Khalifa-Waqt* bestowed upon him a very special reward and blessings for his services. *Alhamdulillah.*

Bai'at ceremony

Last year during the *Bai'at* ceremony there had been some major problems with the sound, whereby the majority of people in the hall could not hear Huzoor's voice.



This year, as the *Bai'at* started it seemed initially that there may again be a problem with the sound but, with the *Grace of Allah*, after a few seconds the sound became completely normal.

The *Bai'at* ceremony proved to be extremely emotional. From all directions I could hear people crying. I distinctly remember how after the *dua*, I saw an African Ahmadi who was continuing to cry uncontrollably like an infant in pain.

Concluding session of Jalsa Salana

Thereafter, the concluding session of *Jalsa Salana Germany* commenced.

In his address, Huzoor spoke about how in recent years, the *Jamaat* had become much better known in Western countries and how each year media interest was increasing. Huzoor said this was entirely a result of Allah's *Help and Support*.



Huzoor also said that as the *Jamaat* became better known, it was quite possible that some people would start to oppose the *Jamaat* and that in the

past year this was something that had been witnessed, to some extent, in Germany.

However, Huzoor said that Ahmadis should not worry or become anxious about this because the Promised Messiah (as) taught that the message of Islam would spread in those areas where there was opposition.



In this respect, Huzoor said it was quite possible that Germany would be the first European country where the people *en-masse* would come to recognise the truth of Islam, *Insha'Allah*.

Speaking about the importance of *Tabligh*, Huzoor said:

“Our Jamaat has no worldly or political ambitions. Our purpose is only to enlighten the world about the true and magnificent teachings of Islam. Nobody can be compelled to believe - rather it is only our task to convey the message and thereafter it is up to Allah to open people’s hearts to the truth.”

No doubt Huzoor's address was extremely faith-inspiring and powerful, wherein he called on Ahmadis to use wisdom, logic and reason to persuade others of the truth of Islam.



Huzoor said it was the duty of every single Ahmadi, no matter where in the world they lived, to propagate the true teachings of Islam.

After the final *dua*, Huzoor announced that more than 36,000 people had attended the Jalsa, *Mash'Allah*. This was a significant increase on the previous year when just over 33,000 had attended. *Alhamdolillah*.

Huzoor's love for the family of martyrs

Upon the conclusion of *Jalsa Salana*, Huzoor returned to his residence for a few minutes.

However, as the vast majority of Ahmadis began their journeys back to their homes, Huzoor's duties recommenced just a few minutes later, as he had meetings with new Ahmadi converts and also interviews with a German journalist and a Croatian documentary maker.

As Huzoor walked towards his office, he was introduced to an Ahmadi family, who had been directly affected by the *28 May* attacks in Lahore. There was an Ahmadi lady, who was with her two young children.

Her husband and their father had been martyred on 28 May in *Garhi Shahu*. She had now remarried and was with her new husband, who was the brother of her martyred husband.

Very lovingly, Huzoor met each of the family members in turn. Thereafter, Huzoor started to walk towards his office.

When the daughter of the *shaheed* (martyr), *Huba-tul-Waheed (7)*, observed this, she immediately said:

***“Huzoor, mainay aap say kuch baatein karni thi!” –
(Huzoor, I wanted to say a few things to you!)***

Upon this, Huzoor very affectionately said that that he had to meet some other people and that he would talk to her a little later.

The little girl was extremely sweet and Huzoor had responded to her love with a very loving reply.

Of course, Huzoor is he who fulfils all of his promises, and so when his meetings concluded, Huzoor sought out the little girl and asked her what she had wanted to say to him.

Upon this, the 7-year old girl said she wanted to request Huzoor's prayers for her family. Thereafter she said:

“Aur doosri baat – aap ka kabb chakar lagra hai hamari taraf?”

Perhaps, the closest translation to her words would be:

“And secondly, when are you going to pop round our house?”

As she said these words, we all started to laugh and Huzoor laughed and enjoyed her comment as well.

Such informality in front of *Khalifa-Waqt* is extremely rare and perhaps exhibited only through the innocence of children.

It was a very beautiful and lovely scene, wherein the love of *Khalifa-Waqt* for the young child of a *martyr* and the love of a bereaved child for *Khalifa-Waqt* was there for all to see.

As he left, Huzoor gave both the little girl and her brother some chocolates as a gift.

Huzoor's meeting with Ahmadi converts

That evening, Huzoor met lady Ahmadi converts and thereafter Huzoor met a group of male Ahmadi converts in his office in *Karlsruhe*.

A number of the new Ahmadis were able to share their experiences of how they were guided towards *Ahmadiyyat*.

It was very emotional and faith inspiring to hear their respective stories and backgrounds.

A student, who was studying philosophy, told how he had prayed sincerely for guidance from God and soon he saw a dream in which he heard the words "***Ahmadiyyat is noor***". He said this dream confirmed the truth of *Ahmadiyyat* to him and so he had taken *Bai'at*.

A German convert spoke of his own experiences at Jalsa. He said:

"During these days I have felt the noor and light of Huzoor and I am leaving here with the truth of Ahmadiyyat embedded in my heart. Insha'Allah I will spread this truth wherever I can."

In response, Huzoor prayed:

"May Allah enable you to do so and continually increase you in your faith."

An Arab convert, living in Belgium, spoke about seeing Huzoor for the first time at Jalsa. He said:

“As soon as I saw Huzoor a completely unique spiritual feeling penetrated my heart – all I could think of was that the Khalifa is a man of complete truth. When I saw him I started to cry and could not control my tears. I feel like I have become a new person.”

Huzoor’s interview with media

Following, the meeting with Ahmadi converts, Huzoor was interviewed by a female Croatian documentary maker and a female German journalist. They asked Huzoor about his addresses at Jalsa and about certain contemporary issues in Islam.



The Croatian journalist asked Huzoor if religious beliefs could be changed over time, according to the will of the people.

In response, Huzoor said:

“The manifesto of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the Holy Quran! We believe it to be a Holy Book and timeless guidance for all of mankind. Thus, religion is there to guide mankind and if it was the other way round then there would be no need for any religion or teaching.”

Return to Frankfurt

As the meetings concluded, Huzoor and the rest of the *Qafila*, proceeded to the cars. After Huzoor led a silent prayer, the *Qafila* returned directly to *Baitus Subuh* in Frankfurt.



Alhamdulillah, in all respects the *Jalsa* had been extremely blessed and a source of happiness and contentment for all Ahmadis.

Huzoor's meetings with delegations in Frankfurt

As has become a tradition in Germany in recent years, the day after *Jalsa* was reserved for group meetings with Huzoor.

Various delegations from a number of countries had the opportunity to meet Huzoor.

Some of the meetings were in the Mosque, some in a hall, some in the area outside Huzoor's office and some in Huzoor's office itself.

The venue for each meeting was determined by how large the delegations were. To save time, as one delegation was meeting Huzoor, the next delegation would be seated at a different location and then as soon as one meeting concluded, Huzoor would walk to wherever the next meeting was being held.

As in *Karlsruhe*, the delegations that met Huzoor were a mixture of Ahmadi converts and non-Ahmadi guests. They were each able to introduce themselves to Huzoor and were able to ask questions or to share their own reflections.

Macedonian delegation

The first delegation Huzoor met was of guests from *Macedonia*. One of the guests was a TV journalist who asked Huzoor about the 'integration' of Muslims within Europe.

In response, Huzoor said:

“If a person moves to a different country then he becomes part of that nation and should utilise all of his skills and abilities to serving that nation and to helping it succeed and prosper. I consider this to be true integration – rather than going to a foreign land and absorbing those parts of the culture and society that your religion prohibits.”

Huzoor’s answer was extremely insightful, whereby he said that in his view serving a country and seeking its progress is true integration and that it is not necessary to partake in those aspects that are against your religion.

A non-Ahmadi from Macedonia asked Huzoor about certain restrictions that are placed on the *Jamaat* in Macedonia. He asked Huzoor if it was possible for *Ahmadiyyat* to spread under such conditions.

In response, Huzoor said:

“If there are restrictions then we will work within the restrictions and within the law. No Prophet of God ever came who did not face obstacles and so we will not give up our efforts to spread the message of Islam. It is imperative that the local Ahmadiis pray to Allah that their leaders and people come to understand the truth of Ahmadiyyat.”

Huzoor’s explanation of *Shafaat* (intercession)

A Macedonian man then took the microphone and informed Huzoor that he had *done Bai’at* at the *Jalsa Salana*. He then asked Huzoor about the concept

of *Shafaat* (intercession) and asked Huzoor who would intercede on behalf of Ahmadis on the *Day of Judgment*.

Huzoor spoke of how Allah the Almighty had given the Holy Prophet (sa) the right to intercede and so if Ahmadis lived their lives according to the teachings of Islam then *Insha'Allah* the Holy Prophet (sa) would intercede for them on the *Day of Judgement* and ask Allah to forgive their weaknesses.

Huzoor said that no *Maulvi* (cleric) or *Syed* (descendent of Holy Prophet^{sa}) had the right to intercede on behalf of another and those who claimed they could were deceiving people for their own gains.

It was a very interesting answer given by Huzoor and I felt as though I was learning a lot myself as I listened.

One thing I have learned over the years is that if someone asks a question, then Huzoor always makes sure they understand the answer and that the query or confusion is removed entirely. This is the case whether it is a very young child asking the question or an educated elder.

In this case, it seemed that the Ahmadi had been satisfied by Huzoor's answer entirely. However, later in the day, Huzoor especially called the convert to his office to meet him personally.

I was also in Huzoor's office and I remember being personally curious as to why Huzoor has called him.

Addressing the guest, Huzoor said the reason he had called him back was he was worried in case he had been misled about an incident from the life of the Promised Messiah (as).

Huzoor said that once the son of a companion of the Promised Messiah (as) became extremely unwell and so the Promised Messiah (as) prayed fervently for him. However, his health did not improve and so the Promised Messiah (as) sought to intercede on behalf of the son of his companion.

Upon doing so, Allah the Almighty immediately revealed the following line from the Quran: ***“Who is he that will intercede with Him except by his permission?”*** (Chapter 2, Verse 256)

Huzoor said that upon this, the Promised Messiah (as) began to tremble and felt as though he would collapse out of his fear for Allah and thereafter began to engage in *Istighfar*.

Upon seeing the desperate state of the Promised Messiah (as), Allah then revealed the words ***“Innaka antal majaaz”*** – meaning ***“You are given permission”***. Thereafter, the Promised Messiah (as) prayed fervently and the son of his companion was blessed with a miraculous recovery and lived to a long age.

After narrating this incident, Huzoor said that this was an example of Allah bestowing ‘temporary’ permission for intercession and that the permanent right of intercession is granted only to the Holy Prophet (sa) and that he would be the one who will do *Shafaat* on the *Day of Judgement*.

Upon hearing Huzoor's answer the new Ahmadi said:

“Huzoor whatever you have told me today and whatever you have explained to me has entered my heart forever.”

Thereafter Huzoor said:

“May Allah continue to increase your faith in Ahmadiyyat and may your relationship with Allah the Almighty continue to strengthen.”

Bosnian delegation

Huzoor's next meeting was with a delegation of Ahmadis and non-Ahmadi guests who had travelled to attend the *Jalsa* from Bosnia.

All the meetings of Huzoor were extremely moving but for some reason the meeting with the Bosnian delegation touched me more than any other.

Hearing the words of the Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis alike, as they expressed their feelings of love towards Huzoor and the *Jamaat*, had a very strong and emotional impact.

One of the first people to speak was a young Bosnian man called *Maid Ormanovic*. As he took the microphone he informed Huzoor that he had accepted Ahmadiyyat at the *Jalsa* and had taken part in the *Bai'at* ceremony the previous day. He informed that before he had become Ahmadi he had been a non-Ahmadi Maulvi (cleric).

Describing his feelings, Maid Ormanovic said:

“When I saw Huzoor for the first time at the Jalsa Salana, I felt that all of my questions had been answered in that moment. My heart immediately became completely content and satisfied after seeing Huzoor. When I saw you I knew there and then that the Khilafat established in the Ahmadiyya Community is a true Khilafat.”

Huzoor prayed that Allah continued to increase the faith of the convert.

After meeting Huzoor, Maid Ormanovic said:

“After meeting the Khalifa I am completely speechless. I feel like I have completed my faith by coming to the Jalsa and meeting Huzoor. When I kissed Huzoor’s hand I felt like I saw noor (radiance) there and then. There is no doubt that Khalifatul Masih is a man of God.”

An elderly non-Ahmadi Bosnian man of Roma descent, called Bayro spoke about his feelings of *Jalsa Salana* and meeting Huzoor.

Addressing Huzoor directly, Bayro said:

“I am over 70 years old but when I saw Your Holiness for the first time I felt it was the greatest moment of my life. When I saw you I felt all of the objectives of my life had been fulfilled and so if I die today I will die a happy man because I met you.”

Afterwards, our *Jamaat's Missionary* in Bosnia, *Mufeezur-Rehman Sahib*, told me how throughout the return journey the elderly gentleman continued to repeat the words that he was '*ready to die*' because he had now met Huzoor.

To hear these words from a non-Ahmadi was quite amazing and showed the indescribable impact Huzoor has on all people.

In response to the words of *Bayro*, Huzoor said:

"May Allah grant you a long and healthy life. You are still young in my eyes and so may Allah enable you to continue with the good work you are doing in your local society."

Huzoor was introduced to a young Bosnian lady who had converted to Ahmadiyyat a few years ago. The local *Missionary* informed Huzoor that this lady was so firm in her belief in *Ahmadiyyat* that she used to publicly go and challenge extreme *Wahhabi* Muslims about their beliefs and preach the message of *Ahmadiyyat* to them.

Upon hearing this, very lovingly and affectionately, Huzoor said:

"You should be careful and always take care of yourself."

Another young Bosnian convert called *Amina* informed Huzoor how it was the third time that she had attended the Germany *Jalsa* and that she thought Huzoor's speeches this year were very good.

Huzoor smiled and responded by saying:

“Does this mean that my speeches in previous years were bad?”

As Huzoor said this he laughed and all of us also enjoyed Huzoor’s light-hearted comment.

An Ahmadi convert, called *Medina Sardar*, then narrated her story. She told Huzoor how she had become Ahmadi 5 years ago and had just recently moved to Canada after marriage.

She said that in the past she had been unable to attend the Jalsa due to opposition from her family members who were all non-Ahmadi. The opposition reached such a point that after doing *Bai’at* her parents ultimately removed her from their home.

After getting married she had finally been able to come with her husband to meet Huzoor and attend the Jalsa for the very first time.

Medina Sahiba said:

“After seeing Huzoor and hearing your addresses at the Jalsa I feel as though I am now a new person. Every word Huzoor spoke was amazing and I learnt so much and have been able to identify my personal weaknesses. From now on I will be much bolder in Tabligh (preaching) because previously I have been somewhat shy in this. I request Huzoor’s special prayers that my family members come to accept Ahmadiyyat.”

Huzoor was then informed that Medina Sahiba was translating some *Jamaat* books into Bosnian and upon hearing this Huzoor immediately gave her a pen as a gift.

Another young lady convert was Amina Sahiba who had accepted Ahmadiyyat a few years ago.

She informed Huzoor how her son was part of the *Waqf-e-Nau* scheme and that she thought that he may be the first ever *Waqf-e-Nau* from the Balkans.

Speaking about her experiences as an Ahmadi convert, Amina Sahiba said:

“As soon as I joined the Ahmadiyya Jamaat I felt that all of the worries and fears that had plagued my earlier life vanished. Instantly, I felt contentment and peace.”

Amina Sahiba continued by saying:

“In my family, I am the first woman who observes Hijab and this has caused me problems from amongst my family and acquaintances – but it will not stop me – I am determined to always maintain the dignity given by Hijab, Insha’Allah.”

At this point, Amina Sahiba started to cry in front of Huzoor and as the tears streamed down her face she said:

“The biggest desire of my life is that my son grows to be a true servant of Ahmadiyyat.”

Upon hearing her words, Huzoor responded very lovingly by praying:

“May Allah bless you and fulfil all of your pious objectives and efforts.”

As the meeting concluded, Huzoor stood for photos with each member of the delegation either individually or with families and gave gifts to the children.

Huzoor stood for photos like this with each delegation, even though some of the delegations contained dozens and even hundreds of people.

Thereafter, whilst Huzoor walked to where the next delegation was waiting he asked me how I had found the Bosnia group. I responded by saying that the meeting had been extremely emotional.

In response, Huzoor smiled and said:

“In Bosnia, even their Maulvis are accepting Ahmadiyyat!”

Kosovo Delegation

The next delegation to meet Huzoor was from *Kosovo*.

The first person to speak was a non-Ahmadi guest who said that they had ***“never felt as happy in their lives as they did during the Jalsa”***.

A recent convert to *Ahmadiyyat* then explained why the *Jalsa* had been very inspiring for him. He said:

“Our Jamaat in Kosovo is small and so when I came here to Germany and saw how strong and how big the Jamaat in Germany was, it made me extremely happy. Huzoor’s speeches during the Jalsa had a truly great effect on my heart.”

A lady Ahmadi convert then spoke of her feelings about *Jalsa*. She said it was the first time she had attended *Jalsa Salana* and having done so she felt that if anyone needed confirmation about the truth of *Ahmadiyyat* then they should come and attend the *Jalsa Salana*.

Upon hearing this comment, Huzoor said:

“The point this Ahmadi lady has made is exactly right. I pray that may such faith inspiring and large Jalsas come to take place in Kosovo in the future, Insha’Allah.”

One Ahmadi from Kosovo mentioned to Huzoor that he was engaged in translating the Holy Quran into the local language and that it was proving to be a very difficult task.

In response, Huzoor said:

“Make sure you do the translation extremely carefully and make sure you start your work each day with prayer. May Allah help you in this noble effort.”

Montenegrin Delegation

The next group consisted of just two guests who had travelled to attend the Jalsa from *Montenegro*.

One of the guests said that during the *Jalsa* he had realised that what he had heard about Ahmadis from other Muslims "***had all been lies***".

The guest said that he had previously been told that Ahmadis did not, *God forbid*, believe in the Holy Prophet (sa) but after hearing Huzoor's concluding address at *Jalsa Salana* he felt that Ahmadis had more love for the Holy Prophet (sa) than other Muslims.

The other guest was called *Ali Koachi* and he was an elderly pensioner. Addressing Huzoor, he said:

"I feel very sorry that I waited until old age to attend the Jalsa Salana. The unity I have seen in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is something that I have never seen anywhere else in the world. Just seeing how you feed so many thousands of people in itself is inspiring!"

Ali Sahib said that he felt that more Ahmadi literature was required in Montenegro.

In response, Huzoor said:

"Yes you are right. It is our mission to spread the message of Islam to the very best of our abilities. Guidance for mankind was perfected in the

time of the Holy Prophet (sa) and so it is our duty to spread this truth to all parts of the world.”

Huzoor helping the guest with his phone

As the meeting continued, the phone of one of the guests began to ring. As he took it out of his pocket he frantically tried to switch it off but was unable to stop it ringing.

Huzoor observed this and had a quick look at the phone from across the desk and then said:

“Flick that button on the side and it will put the phone on silent mode! But remember to flick it back after this meeting is concluded so that you don’t miss any important calls!”

It was a very enjoyable moment and the guest seemed quite surprised that Huzoor knew better than him how to operate *his* phone!

Huzoor’s guidance at Nikah ceremonies

On the afternoon of Monday 8 June, Huzoor led the *Nikah* (marriage) ceremonies of a number of families after the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers.

Before announcing the marriages, Huzoor delivered a short sermon, in which he counselled that *Taqwa* (righteousness) was the foundation for any successful marriage.

Huzoor said:

“If those who are getting married adopt Taqwa then they will naturally take care of each other and each other’s families. If you are righteous then the mutual trust that is essential in a marriage will automatically develop.”

Huzoor continued:

“Many people ask me to lead their Nikah ceremonies but thereafter their marriages dissolve after just a few months. This is a cause of deep regret and so you should make every possible effort to sustain these marriages.”

Huzoor concluded by saying:

“When you have children you should take care of them and raise them in the best possible manner because they are your future and they are your tomorrow. And the best way to raise your children is by yourself adopting the highest standards of Taqwa so that your homes prove to be a beautiful and peaceful environment for your children to grow.”

Laundry issue!

In every tour I have had the privilege of travelling with Huzoor, one issue that is always of concern to the *Qafila* members is *laundry*! Most of us travel with a limited stock of clothes that need to be re-used a number of times during the tour.

At *Baitus Subuh* there was a washing machine in the bathroom that I used and so that afternoon I filled it up with my clothes and put the washing powder into the correct compartment.

However, when I went to press the 'start' button, I realised there was no 'start' button! For some reason it had been removed! I tried to place my finger into the hole where the button was supposed to be, in the hope that I could somehow trigger the machine but to no avail!

Thus, I took my clothes out and put them in a carrier bag and decided to go to the area where Huzoor's security team was staying as I heard there was a washing machine there also. Thankfully, the machine was empty and this time it was working.

Apart from getting your clothes washed, the other concern is that the clothes do not get lost or mixed as there are so many people utilising one machine. Unfortunately, after doing the load one pair of my socks went missing! I think they probably got mixed with someone else's clothes. Losing one pair of socks in the tour was not too bad but I was a little sad because those socks had been a gift from Huzoor.

Anyway, a few days after our return to London, I was in Huzoor's office and Huzoor handed me two pairs of new socks as a gift. Upon this, I mentioned to Huzoor that I had lost a pair given to me by him in Germany.

It is quite amazing how despite being so busy and having the weight of the entire *Jamaat* on his shoulders, Huzoor still takes the time to take interest in these small and quite insignificant matters.

Thus, Huzoor asked me in detail how I had lost the socks and what the procedure was to do laundry in Germany.

After listening to me narrate the story, Huzoor said:

“During travel you should just wash your socks by hand in the sink. If you wash them at night, they will be dry by the morning and then there will be no risk of them getting misplaced.”

I thanked Huzoor for this tip and said in future I would do as Huzoor had suggested.

Bulgarian delegation

After the break for *Namaz* and lunch, Huzoor’s meetings with the various delegations re-commenced. The first meeting was with a large delegation of guests who had come from *Bulgaria*.

One Ahmadi lady, who was a convert, requested Huzoor’s prayers that Ahmadi Missionaries could come to Bulgaria in order to assist with the moral and spiritual training of the Ahmadi children in the country.

In response, Huzoor said that the *Jamaat* was training some local Bulgarians as Missionaries in *Jamia* and as soon as they were ready they would be sent back to Bulgaria.

It was difficult to send non-Bulgarian Missionaries to the country due to restrictions on our *Jamaat* in the country.

Huzoor added:

“We should pray that the influence of the so-called Maulvis in Bulgaria declines and that true religious freedom can take root in the country.”

As the meeting concluded and the guests lined up for photos, a young child was taken to meet Huzoor.

When the child’s mother had been 7 months pregnant she had met Huzoor in Germany. At the time she was a non-Ahmadi but still she requested Huzoor to name her child and Huzoor gave the name of a boy.

The lady had been told by doctors that she was having a girl but a couple of months later she was blessed with a baby boy.

Upon seeing how Huzoor had given a boy’s name and she had been blessed with a boy, she came to accept *Ahmadiyyat* and did *Bai’at*.

Hungarian delegation

The next delegation who met Huzoor were from *Hungary*. One of the guests was a policeman and he spoke about how impressed he had been by the discipline of the *Jalsa Salana* and how each volunteer understood their respective roles and responsibilities.

Huzoor asked him if the police in Hungary could maintain the law and order at such a large scale event.

In response the police officer said:

“We would certainly need to take special measures to hold such an event and even then we would need the help of Ahmadis!”

There was an African guest who lived in Hungary but was originally from Burkina Faso. He spoke of the difference he had noted between Ahmadi Mosques and non-Ahmadi Mosques. He said:

“In other sects of Islam and in other religions I have never seen the unity that I have seen in the Ahmadiyya Community. In Hungary, when I visited non-Ahmadi Mosques I always felt as though they looked down at me because I was an African – but when I visited the Ahmadi centre I was instantly treated with great respect.”

Latvian delegation

The next delegation was a small group of guests from *Latvia*, which included a retired Member of Latvia’s Parliament.

Upon meeting Huzoor, the retired MP said:

“Whilst at this Jalsa, I honestly felt as though I was visiting a different planet – and it is the planet of peace! I felt as though I had entered a different world. And when I listened to your addresses I realised that in every sentence you speak common sense and you call for people to come together.”

The politician also said that he felt his country was suffering due to the policies of other countries and that Latvia was no longer a truly free country.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor said:

“You should fight for your country so that it is saved from the clutches of bondage – however not with violence or by brandishing a sword – rather knowledge and education should be your country’s weapons. Through academia your nation can prosper. May Allah help you.”

Russian delegation

The next delegation was from *Russia*. One of the guests was an Ahmadi who spoke of his desire for the *Jamaat* to build a Mosque in Moscow.

Huzoor said they should do a proper feasibility study to see if the local *Jamaat* was ready and able to manage such a project.

Huzoor said:

“Whatever money the Jamaat has is due to the sacrifices of Ahmadis and so it is imperative that the Jamaat spends the money extremely carefully. I would advise you yourself and the local Jamaat to do as much sacrifice as you can and then we will see to what extent the Centre can assist.”

Albanian delegation

Later in the afternoon, Huzoor met a delegation from *Albania*. This was also an extremely emotional and faith inspiring meeting.

The first lady to speak was an Albanian teacher who mentioned her apprehension prior to attending the Jalsa. She said:

“I did not know what I was letting myself in for and what I was about to attend. Before coming to the Jalsa I was extremely nervous but now I can say that this event has left me amazed. The sheer scale of the Jalsa is something I could never have imagined. I went to both the men’s and women’s sides and I found every person to be good and peaceful.”

She then sought Huzoor’s special prayers for her 14 year old son who she said was unable to speak. She said that when he was younger he used to talk and then suddenly one day he stopped.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor sought further details of the boy’s problem and prayed for him.

Blessings of *Khilafat* witnessed

Thereafter, an Ahmadi convert took the microphone and spoke of how *Ahmadiyyat* had changed his life and that ever since he had become an Ahmadi he had been preaching to his wife.

Upon hearing that both the convert and his wife were lawyers, Huzoor said:

“As both of you are lawyers it is important that you use reason and logic to persuade her. In the end she will Insha’Allah accept Ahmadiyyat because the strength of your arguments are stronger.”

After, listening to Huzoor’s answer, the wife was also given the microphone. As she addressed Huzoor, she said:

“Your Holiness, I feel extremely affected by what I have seen here at the Jalsa and after meeting you. Everything I have seen I have liked.”

At this point the lady began to cry and paused momentarily before continuing. She said:

“From today, I consider myself to be an Ahmadi Muslim and in my heart I accept it completely. I am now an Ahmadi.”

Normally, my natural instinct is to look in Huzoor’s direction to see his reaction but on this occasion my eyes went straight to the lady’s husband and I saw him beaming with happiness and in a sense of shock and joyous surprise!

It was a very memorable scene, where the husband had sought Huzoor’s prayers that his wife would become an Ahmadi and then within minutes she emotionally spoke of how she had accepted *Ahmadiyyat*. *Alhamdulillah*.

Of course, Huzoor was also happy to see that the lady had accepted *Ahmadiyyat* and so Huzoor smiled and said to her husband:

“Due to this happy news, I think that you should give at least 10% of the money you get for your next case as a gift to your wife!”

A suggestion from a guest

Later in the meeting, an Albanian female economist, took the microphone and said that she had been moved by the “***sincerity and hospitality***” she had witnessed at the *Jalsa*. However, as an economist, she said she had noticed that food had been wasted at times in the dining rooms. Upon hearing this, Huzoor very gracefully thanked her for highlighting this issue.

Huzoor said:

“Each year we seek to improve upon our weaknesses and so I am grateful that you have highlighted this issue. Wherever possible we try to re-use food so that it is not wasted but clearly there is room for improvement. I will tell the organisers about the point you have raised so they can make sure that waste is minimised in future.”

Whereas, other people do not like criticism or suggestions, Huzoor listened to the point made by the guest very seriously and in his *Friday Sermon* the following week, Huzoor particularly mentioned this point and said that the organisers of the *Jalsa* should make sure they pay attention to this issue in future.

A very blessed day

Alhamdulillah the day had proven to be extremely blessed. From morning until evening, I had watched as hundreds of people came to meet Huzoor and spoke of the blessings they had witnessed and felt during their journeys to the *Jalsa Salana*. It had been extremely inspirational and moving to witness.

A comment I will not forget

Later that evening, Huzoor asked me how I had found the day. In response, I spoke of how much I had learned from hearing Huzoor answer the questions of the guests.

I said that above all, my overriding memory would be of how the lives of so many people seemed to have changed after spending a few minutes with Huzoor.

I then said that I hoped Huzoor had also enjoyed the day.

Normally, Huzoor speaks to me in Urdu but on this occasion Huzoor spoke to me in English and said words that I will never forget:

“It was the best of my days in Germany!”

Hearing those words from Huzoor made me extremely exhilarated and delighted.

It is rare for Huzoor to express his personal feelings or emotions and so to hear that he had enjoyed the day a great deal was a means of great joy.

I thought about Huzoor's words for the rest of the evening. It occurred to me that, despite the fact that there were so many activities throughout Huzoor's tour, the main purpose of his visit was to attend the *Jalsa Salana*.

During the days of *Jalsa*, the pressure on Huzoor is extreme, whereby he is concerned for the welfare of all the tens of thousands of people who attend and he has to prepare and deliver his addresses to the *Jalsa*.

Thus the responsibility he bears is something that others could never understand or comprehend.

However, on that Monday, Huzoor was able to see first-hand the spiritual impact of the *Jalsa* on guests from so many countries.

Person after person spoke about how they had come to accept the Promised Messiah (as) or how the *Jalsa* had changed their lives for the better.

Thus, it was my belief that the knowledge that the *Jalsa* had been successfully concluded and the change it had brought in so many people was the reason that Huzoor personally considered that day to be the most enjoyable day of the tour.

I prayed a great deal that evening that each and every day of Huzoor's life is filled with joy, happiness and contentment.

Departure from Frankfurt

The next morning, 9 June 2015, Huzoor departed from Frankfurt for the final time. However, Huzoor's tour had not yet reached its end but rather Huzoor was due to lay the foundation stone for a Mosque in the city of *Iserlohn*, before inaugurating a Mosque in the city of *Vechta* later in the day. Thereafter, the final night of Huzoor's tour would be spent at the *Basharat Mosque* in *Osnabruck*.

The *Qafila* departed from *Baitus Subuh* in Frankfurt at 10.50am and hundreds of Ahmadis had come to see Huzoor off.



As Huzoor waved to the Ahmadis, I noticed an Ahmadi lady who was doing security duty. She had her arms spread wide to prevent the Ahmadi ladies from approaching the area where the cars were. However, as she stood controlling the crowd, she was unable to control her own emotions.

It was a very striking scene, whereby a lady was doing security duty, all the while tears streaming down her face because her *Khalifa* was departing.

Arrival in Iserlohn

After just under a 2 hour drive the *Qafila* arrived in *Iserlohn* at around 12.40pm. Initially, the *Qafila* stopped at a hotel very near where the foundation stone for a new Mosque was to be laid.

You could not help but notice that Iserlohn and its surrounding area was a very green and beautiful area. There were vast acorn trees and wooded areas visible throughout the city and the air itself was fresh.

Foundation stone laying for Baitus Salam Mosque in Iserlohn

After a few minutes, Huzoor was given a police escort to a plot of land nearby, where Huzoor was to lay the foundation stone for the *Baitus Salam Mosque*.

Upon arrival at the premises, Huzoor was taken to a marquee that the *Jamaat* had erected for the formal function. Many of the attendees were non-Ahmadi guests, including a number of local dignitaries.

The formal reception began with the recitation of the *Holy Quran*, followed by a welcome address delivered by Ameer Sahib Germany.

Thereafter, local dignitaries took to the stage to congratulate the *Jamaat* upon the foundation stone laying of their new Mosque.

They spoke of how Ahmadi Muslims had successfully integrated into the local society and how they had been spreading peace in the region for many years.

One guest said that the Jamaat's message of '*Love for All, Hatred for None*' was "*a slogan for the entire world and a standard of peace that we should all aspire to*".

Huzoor's address at Iserlohn reception

Thereafter, Huzoor delivered the keynote address.

Huzoor said that whilst the natural beauty of the city was very apparent, he felt that an even greater form of beauty were the "*open-hearts and open-minds*" of the local people who had come to attend the foundation laying ceremony.

Huzoor said that the true beauty of a Mosque was not determined by its physical appearance. Huzoor said:

"The beauty of a Mosque is not determined by its shape or size, but rather by the conduct of those who enter its doors. A Mosque of true beauty is one in which the worshippers fulfil the rights of God Almighty and the rights of mankind."

Huzoor made it clear that it was the duty of all Ahmadi Muslims to serve the countries in which they lived to the best of their abilities.



Huzoor said:

“Members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are members of the societies in which they live and so their responsibilities are the same as all other citizens. Thus, every Ahmadi Muslim living in Germany must serve the nation and seek its progress.”

Thereafter, Huzoor was escorted outside where he laid the foundation stone for the new Mosque. The next stone was laid by Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor’s respected wife*) and thereafter by various members of the German *Jamaat* and some of the non-Ahmadi dignitaries.

Impact of Huzoor's address

After watching Huzoor lay the foundation stone, I took the opportunity to meet some of the guests, whilst the ceremony continued.

One lady, who was a member of the local police, said:

“If this is the true message of Islam that your Khalifa has given then I hope that Islam spreads very quickly in Germany.”

I also met the previous owner of the land which the *Jamaat* had bought for the Mosque. She told me that after hearing Huzoor's address she felt reassured that ***“the land is in safe hands now”***. She added that she felt inner peace after hearing Huzoor's address.

Another member of the police who I met said:

“I have never in my life seen such unity as I saw today. It is clear that Ahmadi Muslims follow their Khalifa to the letter. I liked the address of the Khalifa very much and in particular how he said that we should prioritise the rights of others above our own. This is a selfless teaching of Islam that I learned today.”

I met a local doctor, who was representing the local hospital. He told me that previously he had a somewhat negative impression of Muslims but that had been removed entirely after listening to Huzoor's address.

He said:

“I learned today that Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance and that Ahmadi Muslims are entirely different to the Muslims we see in the news in countries like Saudi Arabia or Yemen”.

Lunch at hotel

After the foundation ceremony concluded the *Qafila* returned to the hotel we had visited briefly earlier in the day. The *Jamaat* had arranged lunch for the *Qafila* at the hotel.

In one room, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi were served lunch, whilst the rest of us were served lunch in the main restaurant. The *Jamaat* had ordered the food for us and so we were all served a salad, followed by grilled salmon with asparagus and potatoes.

One thing I have seen in Germany is that it is a nation that loves creamy sauces and full-fat mayonnaise! These are things that I try and avoid but in Germany it is difficult to do so!

After consuming the salad, which included the obligatory sauce, I was served the main course that was also covered in a creamy sauce.

I did not feel like something so heavy and so I asked the waitress if it was possible to be served a portion without any sauce and to my relief she said it was not a problem.

To call the dish '*salmon with asparagus and potatoes*' is perhaps misleading. The most accurate description would be "*asparagus served with salmon and potatoes*"!

The fish piece was small and placed on the side of the plate, with the two boiled potato pieces on the other side of the plate. In the middle were 10 or 11 huge pieces of asparagus. They were not like the asparagus I have had in the UK, which are green and very thin but rather these were very long, very thick and white in colour.

Those of us who had come from London were unable to eat more than 2 or 3 of the asparagus pieces but the local *German Jamaat* members were able to eat piece after piece without problem! Perhaps this was proof of how well the German Ahmadis had integrated to their local society!

Nonetheless, despite the overload of asparagus, the food itself was extremely good quality and enjoyable. *Alhamdulillah.*

Inauguration of *Baitul Qadir Mosque* in Vechta

We left the hotel in *Iserlohn* at 4.30pm and from there the *Qafila* proceeded directly to the city of *Vechta*, a small city in north-west Germany. In *Vechta*, *Huzoor* was due to inaugurate the newly built *Baitul Qadir Mosque*.

The *Qafila* arrived at 6.15pm and after unveiling a plaque to commemorate the opening of the Mosque, *Huzoor* proceeded to the Mosque to lead the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers.

The Mosque itself was very beautiful, constructed with red, yellow and dark coloured bricks and including a large dome and twin minarets.



Thereafter, Huzoor proceeded to a marquee erected on the site for the formal ceremony, in which more than 170 non-Ahmadi guests attended the event.

After, a welcome address by Ameer Sahib and remarks made by local dignitaries, Huzoor made his second address of the day.

Huzoor informed the audience about the importance of places of worship and said that when the Holy Prophet (sa) had been permitted to engage in a defensive war it was in order to protect *all* places of worship and *all* religions.

Huzoor spoke of how the Promised Messiah (as) had repeatedly emphasised the need to ‘*serve humanity*’ and to fulfil the rights of one another. Huzoor said it was this spirit that underpinned the *Jamaat’s* humanitarian efforts.

Huzoor said:

“We, Ahmadi Muslims believe that if we do not fulfil the rights of others then our worship will prove worthless. Thus, wherever we can, we seek to help others. And so in Africa and indeed other parts of the world we are engaged in various humanitarian projects.”



Huzoor spoke about the value of water and how he had seen first-hand how desperate people were for water when he lived in Ghana.

Huzoor said:

“Here in the West it is common for people to waste water but I personally spent 8 years living in Africa and so I have seen for myself

how desperate for water those people are. Young children, no older than 7 or 8, have to walk for miles with large water vessels balanced on their heads in order to retrieve water from dirt-filled ponds.”

Huzoor then spoke about how the Mosque had been built by stone bricks and that normally stone was considered to be a ‘hard’ or ‘impenetrable’ material, however the *Holy Quran* had spoken of stones from whose core water springs gushed forth.

Very beautifully, Huzoor said this could be used as a metaphor to describe the spirit of Ahmadis. Huzoor said:

“Just like those stones from which water gushes out, you will see that nothing but love, compassion and peace will gush from the hearts of Ahmadi Muslims.”

I was seated with a number of the *Jamaat’s* senior *Missionaries* and *office bearers* and they all said that this point Huzoor had made to compare Ahmadis to the stones described in the *Quran* was a completely new point for them and one that had touched their hearts and a truly inspirational interpretation of the *Holy Quran*.

As I listened to them, I thought that in front of the *Khalifa-Waqt*, even the most knowledgeable and experienced people become like children learning from their father.

Meeting guests in Vechta

The event concluded with a silent prayer led by Huzoor. Thereafter, the *Jamaat* served dinner to the guests. Having eaten lunch just a few hours before, I was not at all hungry and so I excused myself from our table and went to meet some of the guests.

Each and every one spoke of their delight at having heard Huzoor's address and many of them spoke of how their views on Islam had changed for the better in those few minutes.

The first person I met was a lady called *Cindy Leppla*, who worked in the local University library. She told me how she had found Huzoor's address to be "***very emotional***" and how she "***considered it a privilege to hear and see the Khalifa directly.***"

Another lady guest who I met said:

"Above all today I saw a Muslim leader who loves humanity. When you see the Khalifa your own love for humanity increases. I felt contentment in my heart upon seeing and hearing him. I saw first hand that this is a Muslim leader who treats men and women equally and with true respect."

I met a German man called Bernard Schmidt who said:

"If I had known in advance the message the Khalifa was going to give then I would have invited him to address my church. He is so humble

and his words are so simple and this is also a sign of his truth – that no contradiction or any hidden meaning exists. His address was a foundation for peace in the world and for freedom of religion.”

Another guest, Mr Strang said:

“When you see the Khalifa you automatically respect him. A spiritual light seems to accompany him. I am a devout Catholic but the feelings of respect I felt for the Khalifa were equal to the respect I have for the Pope. I will most certainly tell all other people how the Khalifa spoke only of peace and tolerance.”

Alhamdulillah the event had proved extremely blessed. Just as Huzoor’s tour had begun with a very blessed event in Aachen, so it concluded with an extremely blessed event in Vechta.

Overnight stay in Osnabruck

It had proven to be another long day. We had left Frankfurt in the morning and from there the *Qafila* had travelled to Iserlohn and then to Vechta.

The day’s journey was not yet complete as after the Mosque opening, the *Qafila* proceeded to the Basharat Mosque in Osnabruck which was around 40miles from Vechta.

Upon arrival in Osnabruck at 9.25pm, Huzoor was greeted by hundreds of Ahmadi Muslims who had gathered to welcome him.

The Mosque itself was quite large and the surrounding area was quite green and attractive.



Maghreb and *Isha* prayers were offered at 9.45pm and thereafter Huzoor returned to his residence. Huzoor told me later that having eaten a little bit of food at the Vechta Mosque opening, he did not eat anything further that evening.

However, the rest of us were unable to show such control and so after *Namaz* we headed to the dining hall at the Mosque for a late evening meal.

The local *Jamaat* had placed ice cream and the ingredients for the Asian dessert *falooda* on a table and so I made myself a bowl. It was delicious and so a few minutes later I went back and took a second bowl as well!

Return journey to London

The next morning, Wednesday 10 June, was the day of Huzoor's return to London. At 10.50am, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi came out of their residence and after leading a silent prayer, the *Qafila* set off for the journey to Calais.

Soon the *Qafila* crossed into Holland, then Belgium and ultimately into France.

Lunch and Namaz at service station

The *Qafila* stopped at 2pm for *Namaz* and lunch at a service station called 'Shop n Go' in Belgium.

It was decided that first we would offer *Namaz*. The local *Jamaat* had taken permission for us to use a relatively small square-shaped room within the service station complex for prayers.

Huzoor's security team always keeps a prayer mat in the *Qafila* cars and so a prayer mat was laid out for Huzoor.

However, the prayer mats to be used behind were in a *Khuddam* car that had not yet reached the service station and so the *Khuddam* who were present began to sweep the floor in the room and clean it as best as they could.

However, just before Huzoor entered the room, the *Khuddam* car reached and so some sheets were laid for the rows behind the *Imam*. Thereafter, Huzoor led the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers at the service station.

Serving lunch

After *Namaz*, I went and sat at a table with Ameer Sahib and a few other people. After a minute, Ahmad bhai called me and said he needed my help in serving. I did not realise initially but he meant to serve Huzoor and Khala Saboohi. Suddenly, I became nervous!

I helped Ahmad bhai as he prepared a couple of trays. In one tray there were *fish and chips* and in the other tray there were two small steaks.

The food being served to Huzoor and Khala Saboohi was the same that was being served to the *Qafila* members and the same that could be ordered by anyone. In these moments you also get to see the simplicity of *Khalifa-Waqt* and his family that they do not ever require anything lavish or extraordinary.

Huzoor and Khala Saboohi were seated on one side of the restaurant in a relatively private area.

As we approached their table, I was a little nervous that perhaps Huzoor would wonder why I had suddenly come to serve without permission.

However, my mind was immediately put at ease because, upon seeing me, Huzoor said to Ahmad bhai:

“Ahmad - I was just thinking that I should tell you to take Abid’s help in serving and so it is good that you have done so!”

As we placed the trays on Huzoor and Khala Saboohi’s table, they kept the *fish and chips* and returned the steaks. Thereafter, Huzoor told us to go and enjoy our lunch as well.

It was a real honour for me to serve Huzoor and Khala Saboohi that day and I hoped and prayed that I would have this opportunity again, *Insha’Allah*.

Farewell to Germany Jamaat

Following lunch, Ameer Sahib Germany and the other members of the German *Jamaat* who were present met Huzoor for the final time in the tour.

Although they would continue to escort Huzoor to Calais, this was the final opportunity to meet Huzoor, as in Calais the *Qafila* cars drive straight to the terminal.

We still had a significant drive from the service station to Calais and on route there was quite a lot of traffic.

Thus, by the time we reached Calais we had missed the 6.20pm *Eurotunnel* service that had been booked. Hence, we had to take the next service which departed at 6.50pm.

An unforgettable few minutes

As per the normal routine, when we entered the *Eurotunnel* the *Qafila* members exited their respective cars, whilst Huzoor and Khala Saboohi remained in their car.

As we were talking amongst ourselves, I received a message that Huzoor was calling me. I approached Huzoor's car and stood next to his car window. Upon seeing me, Huzoor told me to sit in his car in the front passenger seat.

Upon hearing these words, I felt my heartbeat instantly rise and I became extremely nervous because I had never sat before in Huzoor's car and had never expected this opportunity and privilege.

When I opened the door to the car, I saw that Ahmad bhai had left some of his possessions on the floor of the car and so I entered slowly and carefully so that I did not move his bags.

Due to my nervous state, I think I took even more precaution than was necessary and so it took me a few seconds to enter and sit down. Upon seeing this Huzoor smiled and said:

"Ahmad enters in a second – so why is it taking you so long?"

I cannot describe how I felt during the next 15 or 20 minutes.

I felt so fortunate to have this unique opportunity to sit alone in the car with Huzoor and Khala Saboohi as they crossed the *Channel* that separates France and England.

Huzoor asked me about the past few days' events and whom I had met.

I spoke about how I had met many Ahmadis and guests who had been overcome with emotion at having the opportunity to attend the *Jalsa* and to meet Huzoor. I mentioned some of the people I had met after the events in Iserlohn and Vechta the day before.

As I spoke, Khala Saboohi offered me popcorn and told me to take a handful from a bag that was in the car. I took the popcorn, which was delicious, but only a few pieces so that my mouth was not full when speaking to Huzoor.

Later, Huzoor told me that during the tour both he and Khala Saboohi used to enjoy eating popcorn during the long journeys.

The moments were precious and unique and on a personal level, perhaps the most enjoyable moments of the entire tour. Huzoor then asked me how my wife Mala was and if she had been missing me. I said that I think on this tour she has missed me a little more than normal!

As I left the car, Khala Saboohi again offered me the popcorn and this time I took a big handful, which I enjoyed.

I returned to where a few of the other *Qafila* members were stood and although I participated in their conversation, my mind was elsewhere as I

thought about the blessings of not just the past few moments but of the entire tour.

Blessings of Germany Tour

From the very first day of the tour to the very last, Huzoor's tour had been filled with countless blessings and memorable moments.

Those of us lucky enough to be present, saw first-hand how lives were being changed and transformed due to the presence of *Khalifatul Masih*.

We saw how non-Muslims came to understand the true teachings of Islam for the very first time.

We saw as *Khalifa-Waqt* shared in the joy of Ahmadis, we saw how he shared in their moments of grief, we saw how he guided them individually, we saw how he guided them collectively.

We saw once again the unique relationship and spiritual bond that exists between Ahmadis and their Khalifa.

Arrival at Fazl Mosque

After crossing into England, the *Qafila* proceeded directly to the *Fazl Mosque*, where we arrived at around 8pm local time.

Hundreds of Ahmadis had gathered to greet Huzoor and welcome him back. Huzoor waved at them all before returning to his home.

My wife had recently passed her driving test and so she had come to pick me up.

As I came out of the car I looked around to see if I could see her, but before seeing her I saw a two year old toddler look excitedly in my direction. It was Mahid and as he saw me he jumped happily towards me. I picked up my luggage and we drove straight home.

It had been a truly historic tour and one that I would never forget. *Alhamdulillah.*

Huzoor's help and guidance

At the end, I most humbly take the opportunity to thank beloved Huzoor for his continued guidance and support.

Before publishing the Germany diaries they were all personally checked by Huzoor. He read every line and made corrections where my memory had failed me. He even corrected my spelling mistakes or typos!

Also, it had been my intention to cover the entire tour in two parts, but Huzoor suggested I should divide it into three parts, so that it was easier for the readers.

Further, Huzoor even helped me draft parts of the diary and suggested ways to make them more interesting.

When I read back those parts where Huzoor had helped me draft, I realised instantly the value of Huzoor's guidance.

May Allah grant Huzoor a long and healthy life and grant every Ahmadi the ability to be true servants of Khilafat. *Ameen.*

End