

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

The 7th Madinah and Bab al-Ilm Summer short courses

Annual Report 2010



THE WORLD FEDERATION OF KSIMC

Shawwal, 1432
WF – Qum Office

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Introduction

The Madinah and Bab al-Ilm summer courses are a regular feature of The World Federation's calendar as youths from around the world gather together in the Islamic Republic of Iran for 3-weeks of education, cultural appreciation, spirituality and recreation. The aim of the course is to serve as a post-Madrasah education initiative; integrating academic scholarship with an experience of cultural relevance of Islam in the modern age along with a sense of enhanced self-knowledge and understanding leading to higher levels of spirituality and as a result, greater service to humanity in worship of the Almighty (swt).

Course Preparation

This year, The World Federation's Qum Office had the honour of hosting the largest group thus far – 70 students from 4 continents and from a variety of academic, familial, geographic and linguistic backgrounds. The course planning began almost 6 months before the students landed in Iran and was backed up by the constant and selfless administrative and logistical support of the Islamic Education Team in London, and The World Federation's regional bodies: Africa Federation (AFED), The Council of European Jamaats (CoEJ) and The Organization of North American Shia Ithna Asheri Muslim Communities (NASIMCO).

Venue

The course was set in the spiritually charged city of Qum al-Muqaddasah where most of the academic and cultural programmes were conducted. For the first two weeks of the course, the brothers resided in the well-equipped Imam Khomeini Seminary dorms while the sisters stayed at the pristine Jamiah al-Zahra (sa) courseus. During their stay in Qum, students participated in many activities mainly within the city though they also went on daytrips to Tehran and nearby cities such as Kashan and Naraaq, where they visited historical, natural and pilgrimage sites. The final week of the course was spent in the Holy city of Mash'had, performing Ziyarah of our beloved 8th Imam (as), visiting scholars, shopping and also having some fun!

Course Details

Dates: 18 July 2010 (Sunday) – 7 August 2010 (Saturday)

Student distribution:

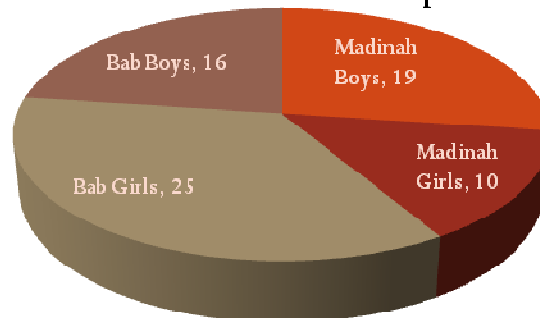
Bab al-Ilm students (ages 14-17) = 38

Madinah al-Ilm students (ages 18-24) = 28

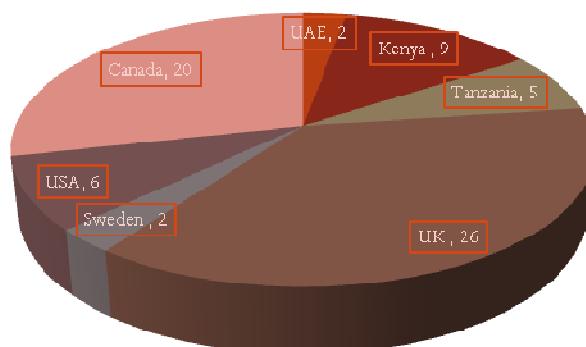
Mentors = 4

	<i>Madinah al-Ilm</i> <i>Girls – Boys</i>		<i>Bab al-Ilm</i> <i>Girls – Boys</i>	
AFED	2	7	5	1
COEJ	4	6	8	9
NASIMCO	4	5	10	5
Mentors	1	1	1	1

Gender distribution of campers 2010



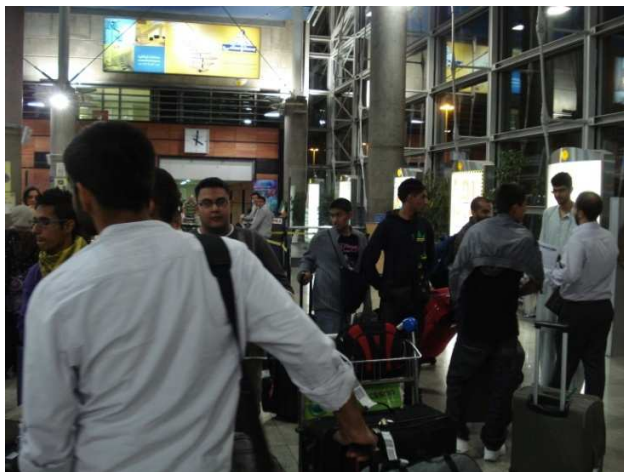
Geographic origin of campers 2010



The Arrival

On the morning of 19th July, just before Fajr time, the first group of students arrived and they were received at the airport by Qum Office staff members. The long flight and the overnight lag had not dampened the spirits of the students as their faces lit up in excitement for a journey of a lifetime, which may change their lives forever!

The students settled into their residences and rested for most of the morning and the afternoon that day. In the evening, a few hours before Maghrib namaz, the welcoming ceremony for the course was held in the grand Shaheed Arif Husayn Husayni Hall at Imam Khomeini seminary. The students were briefed about the goals and expectations of the courses and its management and were advised on health and logistical tips for the duration of their stay in Iran. Later, the students were driven for their very first emotional Ziyarat to the Haram of Sayyidah Fatima al-Ma'sumah (sa) and Maghribayn Salaat.



WELCOME TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



WELCOMING CEREMONY AT THE SHAHEED HUSAYNI HALL



LISTENING INTENTLY TO THE TALK!



FIRST ZIYARAT FOR THE BOYS

Course Outline

The 3-week summer course is organised in a way to facilitate personal development keeping Islamic values and principles at its core and resembles the Hawza style of living. The primary component in Qum consisting of 2-weeks is fully scheduled whilst the final week in Mash'had is purposely left flexible allowing students to plan and execute their personal plans. In Qum students are encouraged to steadily settle into the schedule which consists of two main components: the Academic programme and the Cultural/Recreational programme.

Academic Programme

The Academic component was geared towards stimulating the intellect of the students and aimed towards furthering an academic study of Islam through its primary sources – the Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt (as). It consisted of the Morning programme: students began their typical day with Fajr prayers at the Haram of Sayyida Fatima al-Ma'sumah (sa) followed by a reflective Twilight programme, followed by a morning exercise routine and breakfast. Thereafter, senior English-speaking scholars would dedicate instructional time to the students everyday and discuss issues on topics such as Aqaid, Akhlaq, Qur'anic Principles and Fiqh (Practical laws and Principles). Students benefitted from a great number of learning opportunities beyond the classroom as well with informal discussions with teachers outside class time and in informal gatherings.

Teachers and Subjects

<i>INSTRUCTORS</i>	<i>SUBJECTS TAUGHT</i>
Shaykh Muhammad Khalfan	Qur'anic Principles – Madinah Boys/Girls
Sayyid Asim Hashemi	Qur'anic Principles – Bab Boys/Girls
Shaykh Ali Azhar Arastu	Qur'anic Principles – Bab Boys/Girls
Shaykh Tahir Ridha Jaffer	Aqaed – Madinah and Bab Boys
Sister Razia Batool Najafi	Aqaed – Madinah and Bab Girls
Shaykh Ali Azim Shirazi	Aqaed – Madinah and Bab Girls
Sister Batool Arastu	Practical Laws - Madinah and Bab Girls
Shaykh Nadir Jaffer	Workshop on Fiqh & Usool – Boys Akhlaq – Madinah and Bab Boys
Brother Husayn Baxter	Akhlaq – Bab Boys Twilight – Bab Boys
Shaykh Ali Redha Walji	Akhlaq – Madinah and Bab Girls

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	Twilight – Madinah Boys
Sister Zahra Walji	Twilight - Madinah and Bab Girls



TWILIGHT PROGRAMME



MORNING ZIYARAT – A GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY





MORNING EXERCISE

Qum – Cultural/Recreational Programme



The primary aim of the cultural programme was to provide the students a perspective on ‘living Islam’ and its manifestations in our day-to-day life. This consisted of performing Ziyarats of the progeny of the Imams (as) buried in Qum, visiting the Mosque of the Imam of our Time (atfs), meetings with Maraje (high-ranking scholars), informal gatherings in the parks with local senior students and also take part in various recreational activities such as hiking at Mt. Khidr, swimming, soccer and ...

LIST OF PLACES VISITED

Tour of Haram and resting place of many great Scholars & Maraje
Shaykhan graveyard
Masjid-e-Jamkaran (Dua-e Tawassul on Tuesdays)
Bait al-Noor
Mt. Khidr (as)
House of Imam Khomeini (ra)
Chehel Akhtaran (Burial place of 40 individuals of the Prophet’s family (as))
Audience with Ayatullah Waheed Khurasani
Q&A session on Fiqhi issues with the rep. of Ayatullah Sistani
Swimming at the Quds pool (Imam Khomeini Seminary)
Soccer game at the local field

Library of Ayatullah Mar'ashi Najafi

Ansariyan bookstore

Dar al-Zahra (sa) – 15 Sha'baan celebration

Special 15 Sha'baan A'maal programme – Mt.Khidr/Jamkaran

Dua-e Kumail programme in Haram (on Thursday nights)

Meeting with a War narrator and veteran from the Iran-Iraq war

Burial ceremony of Ayatullah al-Udhma Sayyid Abbas Kashani (ra) and condolence visit at his residence



PAYING RESPECTS AT THE GRAVE OF
AY.MIRZA JAWAD MALIKI TABRIZI –
SHAYKHAN GRAVEYARD





TUESDAY NIGHT AT MASJID JAMKARAN



REFLECTION ON THE NATURE AT MT. KHIDR



THE HIGHER WE GO (TOWARDS THE BELOVED)...SMALLER BECOMES THE (MATERIAL) WORLD!



AT GRAND AYATULLAH WAHEED KHURASANI'S OFFICE



Q&A SESSION ON FIQHI ISSUES WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AYATULLAH SISTANI



TIME OUT FOR SOCCER AT BUSTAN-E-ALAVI



CONVERSATIONS WITH FORMER SOLDIERS OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR



'A SCHOLAR'S PARADISE' – BOOK SHOPPING AT ANSARIYAN

15 SHA'BAAN (Special programme)



A' MAAL AT MT. KHIDR – LECTURE BY SH. KHALFAN



SALAAT AL-LAYL AND FAJR AT MASJID JAMKARAN



WILADAT PROGRAMME LECTURE BY DR SHOMALI



STUDENTS AT THE PROGRAMME AT DAR AL-ZAHRA (SA)



MADINAH BOYS RECITING QASIDAS



THE RENOWNED AL-GHADEER TAWASHI GROUP

Kashan-Naraaq

To beat the summer heat in Qum, the students hopped onto buses for a day trip to appreciate nearby historical, religious and natural sites in **Kashan** and **Naraaq**. The first stop was at the 'Feen Gardens', a 100+ years old well-planned water garden built at the time of a very wise Iranian prime minister of the Qajar king, later killed in the same place. Later, the students traveled to Mash'had Ardehal on the way to Naraaq, where they visited the shrine of Hazrat Ali ibne Mohammed al-Baqir (as) who was martyred with a group of his companions, such that it has been narrated that the reward of his Ziyarat is that of Aba Abdillah al-Husayn (as). The final stop of the trip saw the students disembark at the naturally majestic Naraaq caves discovered only 20 years ago, beautifully formed and well-maintained. The students felt refreshed after a break and were looking forward to other such trips.



COOLING OFF AT FEEN GARDEN



Tehran

The capital of the Islamic Republic was our second destination for a day-long field trip. The day, as usual, began right after dawn and consisted of memorable events; from a VIP style welcome at the shrine of Imam Khomeini to visiting graves of Martyrs of the Iran-Iraq war and victims of terrorist attacks at Behishte Zahra (sa) cemetery, to rubbing shoulders with top dignitaries of the country at the weekly Jum'ah Salaah at Tehran University, to recounting of horrendous accounts of torture carried out at the Savak prison (currently the Ebrat Museum) and finally to soothe the nerves, the Ziyarat of the Grand Sayyid – Abdul Azeem al-Hasani (ra) and other scholars buried in Rey city such as Shaykh Sadooq (ra) and Shaykh Rajabali Khayyat (ra). Overall, the Tehran trip was a great experience.



VIP WELCOME AT THE SHRINE OF IMAM KHOMEINI



BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT THE SHRINE OF IMAM KHOMEINI



AT BEHISHT E ZAHRA (SA)



AT BEHISHT E ZAHRA (SA)

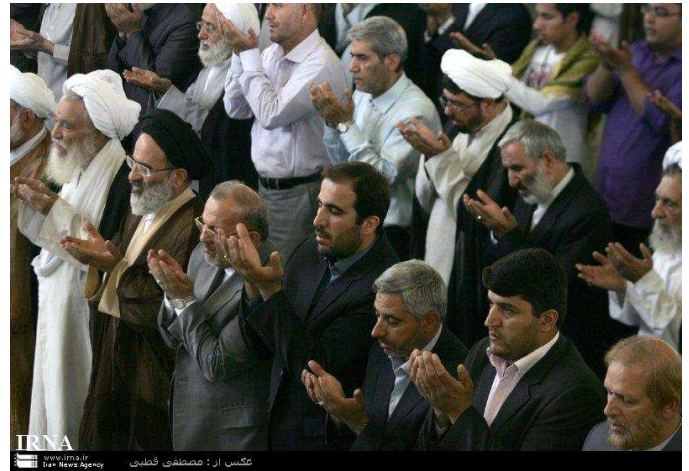


AT THE HISTORIC SITE OF IMAM KHOMEINI'S SPEECH AFTER RETURNING FROM EXILE



Photo :Meghdad Madadi

FARS NEWS AGENCY



IRNA

تکسیر از: مصطفی قاضی

FRIDAY PRAYERS AT TEHRAN UNIVERSITY – STUDENTS IN THE FIRST FEW ROWS (PRAYER LEADER: AY. EMAMI KASHANI)



THE SAVAK's TORTURE DEN – NOW EBRAT MUSEUM



SHRINE OF SHAH ABDUL AZEEM AL-HASANI – REY, TEHRAN

Closing Ceremony

At the end of the two weeks in Qum, the students began setting their minds and spirits towards preparing for the climax of the course – Ziyarat of Imam al-Ridha (as) in Mash'had. The students were prepared by talks on the Philosophy and Etiquettes of Ziyarat. At the ceremony, the students were also invited to share their thoughts and feelings about the course and thus student representatives spoke about their experiences on behalf of all students. Thereafter, students were provided with Certificates of Participation, which was followed by their farewell Ziyarat at the Haram of Sayyida Fatima al-Ma'sumah (sa).



CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE COURSE HELD IN THE
SHAHEED SADR HALL



SHAYKH NADIR JAFFER SPOKE ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF
ZIYARAT

Mash'had

The sacred city of Imam al-Ridha (as) was the final trip destination of the students. They set off from Tehran by train, spending a night on the way and the following morning they reached the spiritual aura that encompasses this blessed city. The programme in Mash'had was scheduled with very few planned events allowing students independence to manage their time wisely, although programmes such as meetings with Scholars, a tour of the Haram, local Ziyarats and even a visit to the local water park was also scheduled!



HOLY SHRINE OF IMAM ALI IBN MUSA AR-RIDHA (AS) – MASH'HAD



MEETING WITH AY. MAKARIM SHIRAZI



AYATULLAH MAKARIM WITH THE STUDENTS

Farewell

On Saturday 7th August, students from Africa, Europe and North America headed back towards Tehran from Mash'had for their final journey back home after spending memorable weeks which passed by like seconds, together; making life-long friends, learning about their faith and exploring their inner selves along the way. Students were tearful as they separated from one another and boarded their respective buses. Along with this, the Qum Office staff and volunteers felt blessed and fulfilled once again to be part of these successful summer courses, Alhamdulillah.



MAKING NEW FRIENDS CAME NATURALLY ...



BOYS ATOP MOUNT KHIDR

The WF-Qum Office would like to thank and sincerely appreciate the efforts of all parties involved to make these courses another success and prays for the continued progress of all towards Allah (swt).

ربنا تقبل منا انك انت السميع العليم