



AUSTRALIAN
FEDERATION
OF ISLAMIC
COUNCILS INC

MUSLIMS AUSTRALIA (AFIC) PRESS RELEASE

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Sydney Campus**

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Islamic School of Brisbane

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Islamic School of Canberra

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Fax: (02) 6287 3517

Islamic College of Melbourne

Tel: (03) 8742 1739

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Islamic Council of VIC

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Over 100

**48 Years of Community
Services**

All of God's creatures deserve compassion and humane treatment!

The President of Muslims Australia (AFIC), Mr Ikebal Patel expressed serious concern and sadness at media reports and images of cruel treatment of Australian cattle in Indonesian abattoirs. Mr Patel stated, "Islam places great importance on the care and consideration of all of God's creatures. It implies a duty to animal welfare, both during the rearing and during the slaughter."

Muslims Australia (AFIC) is committed to animal welfare in Halal accreditation services and has partnered with Halal Kind Meats to reinforce this message. The Halal Kind Meat concept incorporates the interests of rural industry leaders, animal rights groups and AFIC Halal certification services which all realise potential prosperity combined with compassion and good business sense to achieve equitable outcomes for all, said Mr Patel.

Muslims Australia (AFIC) during its National Federal Congress meeting in 2008 called on the Australian Government to cease live exports immediately. AFIC Federal Congress members agreed live cattle/sheep export is traumatic for the animal during the journey and as evidenced, cruel and inhumane and un-Islamic at their destination during slaughter. Muslims Australia (AFIC) again calls on the government to cease live exports and promote Halal slaughter in Australia under the supervision of Islamic authorities and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQIS).

Mr Patel emphasised the leading and important role Muslims Australia (AFIC) undertakes with the Department of Primary Industry and AQIS to ensure humane and compassionate treatment of all livestock is enforced in order to comply with Halal standards throughout the process of Halal slaughter and the premium status of Australian Meat industry. AFIC calls upon the Federal Government to make available the Australian tax payers funds which are being paid to MLA to be redirected for the purpose of building infrastructure in regional areas of Australia and for local councils to provide crown land so that meat processing plants could once again become a viable proposition in rural and regional areas promoting jobs creation in the struggling country towns. Mr Patel further stated that he would like the Department of Immigration and Agriculture to support a Halal Kind Meats Agriculture training centre to approved asylum seekers, indigenous and indeed anybody living in regional areas. He proposes a leasehold arrangement might be one option for free range farms thus providing a future for regional Australia.

Mr Patel also welcomed and endorsed comments by Mr Lukman Hakim from Indonesia's peak Islamic body, Indonesia Ulema Council (MUI), who stated the inhumane treatment of animals in Indonesian abattoirs is "sinful and would be investigated".

End

For further information, please contact:

MR. IKEBAL PATEL

President - Muslims Australia (AFIC) on 0409 775 102.