



A documentary film
from the heart of Nigeria...

The Imam & the Pastor



IPS, the Dialogue Forum, the Arab Society for Reform and Development and El-Tasalouh El Kholeqi organization have organized an open discussion on the award-winning documentary *The Imam and the Pastor* produced by Love of Tomorrow Films. This documentary presents a realistic experience of reconciliation and co-existence in Nigeria; both Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye were able to end the ethnic and religious conflict, overcome inter-religious violence and become instigators of peace. The film traces their remarkable story; depicts the dynamics of personal forgiveness, and highlights some of the difficulties that arise in a Christian-Muslim relationship. The documentary is a case-study of a successful grassroots initiative to rebuild communities torn apart by conflict.

Before the screening, the co-director/film producer introduced the documentary and explained the situation in Kaduna, northern Nigeria, before this astonishing reconciliation. Following the screening, both the Imam and the Pastor gave short presentations about their feelings before and after resolving the conflict and explain how they managed to transform the conflict and work together on peace building.

Program

11:30 – 11:45	Introducing the documentary
11:45 – 12:25	Documentary Screening
12:25 – 12:35	Pastor James's presentation
12:35 – 12:45	Imam Ashafa's presentation
12:45 – 13:30	Open Discussions

The Imam and the Pastor

Documentary Film

The 39-minute documentary film *The Imam and the Pastor* brings to life the astonishing reconciliation between Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye, who were able to end the ethnic and religious conflict, overcome inter-religious violence and become instigators of peace. Both men were leaders of militant groups involved in conflict between Muslims and Christians in Kaduna, northern Nigeria. Pastor Wuye lost a hand while Imam Ashafa's mentor and two close relatives were killed in the fighting. Now the two are taking bold initiatives to promote cooperation and resolve conflicts. The film, narrated by Rageh Omaar, shows that it is possible for perpetrators of inter-religious violence to become instigators of peace. It is a story of forgiveness and a case study of grass-roots initiatives to rebuild communities torn apart by conflict. Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye are the joint founders and directors of the Inter-Faith Mediation Center in Kaduna.

The Imam and the Pastor in the News

Launch of the Arabic Version of the Documentary Film *The Imam and the Pastor*

The Arabic version of the award winning documentary film *The Imam and the Pastor* was launched in Lebanon on 27 March 2009 under the slogan 'Together in service of sustainable reconciliation'.

Visit of Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye to Scotland

Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye from Nigeria, subjects of the film *The Imam and the Pastor*, visited Scotland from 27 November to 4 December 2008 at the invitation of the Scottish Episcopal Church. They took part in a four-day conference bringing together Christians and Muslims from the UK and Scandinavia. The aim was to foster better understanding among those of different faiths, and to discuss the challenges faced by faith groups in different countries.

Imam and Pastor bring Message of Hope to Australia

Two Nigerians internationally famous for their work in interfaith reconciliation spent three weeks in Australia, 24 October to 14 November 2008, as guests of Initiatives of Change. They are Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye from the north-central city of Kaduna, where they head the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Center.

***The Imam and the Pastor* shown at Cinema Verité Film Festival in Geneva and Paris**

Alan Channer reports on the French version of the award-winning documentary film *The Imam and the Pastor*, screened in Geneva on 10 October and Paris on 12 October 2008 at Cinema Verité, the world's most prestigious celebration of films that highlight humanitarian and social causes.

First Public Screening of *l'Imam et le Pasteur* in France

An audience of over 50 people responded enthusiastically to a screening of the film at the International Salon de Paix in Paris on 5 June 2008.

Premiere of *Der Imam und der Pastor* in Berlin

On Sunday 4 May 2008, the German version of *The Imam and the Pastor* had its successful premiere in the presence of Producer Alan Channer and co-producer Imad Karam. Also present was Howard Grace, who is working with the film in British schools. Over 100 people attended the premiere.

Nigerian Imam and Pastor in French-Speaking Switzerland

'The Imam and the Pastor: two war-leaders converted to forgiveness', was the headline over an article in the "Tribune de Genève" and "24Heures", the two largest circulation papers in French-speaking Switzerland, on 30 April 2008.

Imam and Pastor at Oslo University

The Muslim Student Society, the Oslo Students Christian Fellowship, Islamic Council of Norway and IoFC jointly sponsored a showing of this film on the Oslo university campus on 15 April 2008.

Imam and Pastor return to Washington, DC

Imam Mohamed Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye, from Kaduna, Nigeria, were invited to Washington DC, 1 to 4 April 2008, for a series of meetings and workshops at the US Agency for International Development focusing on religious actors engaged in peace building.

***The Imam and the Pastor* launched in Nigeria**

After a stirring world premiere at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and high-profile launch events in Washington DC and Britain's House of Parliament, the documentary's official launch in Nigeria, homeland of the film's protagonists took place on 22 February 2007.