

Speakers Profile

Nazim Baksh

Nazim Baksh is a multi-award winning journalist and senior producer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He has worked extensively on issues of national security and has travelled widely across the Muslim world including several reporting trips to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Nazim Baksh has also contributed critically to the revival of the Traditional Islam in the west over the past 15 years and is the founder of the Ihya Foundation and the former convener of the international Rihla Programme.

Nazim's noted documentaries have focused on the root causes of terrorism and the motivations of those who support or become members of terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda. Nazim joined CBC National TV-News in 1990 after completing his Master's Degree in Journalism at the University of Western Ontario. He holds a BA Hons in Political Science from York University.

In his 19 years at CBC, Nazim has worked in both radio and television news and has covered numerous stories of national and international significance. Nazim has recently worked on several feature documentaries including "Nuclear Jihad", "Son of Al Qaeda" and "Land, Gold and Women." He has also contributed to the production of "A Secret History of 9/11," a two hour documentary aired on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks among others. He was recently Canadian Journalism Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto. He has been invited to speak on counter-terrorism, the processes of radicalization and the "war on terror" at think-tanks across the world including Wilton Park and Cambridge University's Islam and the West Programme.

He has written for the Copenhagen Post, the CBC website, Q-News, Islamica Magazine and is a specialist in media and contemporary Islam at the Tabah Foundation in Abu Dhabi, UAE.



Shaykh Seraj Hendricks

Shaykh Seraj Hendricks was a High School English teacher between 1980 and 1982 in Cape Town before leaving for Saudi Arabia in 1983 to study at the Umm al-Qura University in Makkah. He spent three years at the Arabic Language Institute studying Arabic and related subjects before being accepted for the BA (Hons) Islamic Law degree. He specialised in Fiqh and Usul al-Fiqh in the Faculty of Shariah and graduated in 1992.



Previous to this he spent a number of years studying at the feet of his illustrious uncle, the late Shaykh Mahdi Hendricks (d.1981) - erstwhile Life President of the Muslim Judicial Council and widely regarded as one of the foremost scholars of Islam in South Africa.

During his studies at Umm al-Qura University he was also a student of the late Sayyid Muhammad Alawi al-Maliki in Makkah for a period of eight years and from whom he obtained – along with his brother Shaykh Ahmad Hendricks - a full *ijazah* (licence) in the religious sciences and a number of *tariqas* – particularly the Ba Alawi *tariqa*. He also obtained *ijazahs* from both the late Sayyid Ahmad Mashur al-Haddad and Sayyid Abd al-Qadir b. Ahmad al-Saqqaf.

He currently holds an MA (Cum Laude) in Arabic Studies at the University of South Africa (Unisa) and is in the process of completing his DLitt et Phil in the same.

Previous Positions Held: (1994 – 2005):

- Executive Member (Portfolio: Arts and Culture) of “The Shaykh Yusuf of Macassar Tercentenary Committee - Celebrating 300 years of Islam in South Africa”, under the chairmanship of the late Dr Ahmad Davids.
- Senior Lecturer in Fiqh at the Islamic College of Southern Africa (currently The International Peace University of South Africa).
- Director and producer of the highly successful and popular weekly programme “Debate at Ten” featured on Radio Voice of the Cape for a period of two years.
- Presenter of the weekly programme “Inheritance Desk” – covering Islamic inheritance issues - for one and a half years on Radio VOC.
- Co-presenter of the weekly programme “Islam at the Cape” with Cape historian Dr Ahmad Davids for a period of one year on Radio VOC.
- Special Advisor to the South African Islamic Arts Foundation.
- Head of the Fatwa Committee of the Muslim Judicial Council (withdrew to complete DLitt studies).

Current Positions:

- One of the presiding Shaykhs at the al-Zawiya Institute in Cape Town. Evening classes for males and females are conducted throughout the week and also on alternate weekends for females.
- Founder and patron of Dome Publications – a South African Publishing House.
- Hakim (Head Arbitrator) of the Crescent Observer’s Society in South Africa.
- Consultant to the Shariah Board of the Stanlib (Standard Bank and Liberty Life) Financial Institution – one of the leading financial institutions in SA - under the chairmanship of Dr Muhammad Hashim al-Kamali.

Shaykh Seraj has also made a number of appearances on various local and international television and radio stations and has presented papers and talks at numerous conferences and public events. He has also written numerous articles for a number of magazines, newspapers, and journals.

His published works include a highly successful book on the hajj entitled “A Concise Companion to the Hajj” which is currently being rewritten and revised. His MA dissertation entitled

“Tasawwuf (Sufism): Its Role and Impact on the Culture of Cape Islam” is due for publication shortly. He has also completed an annotated translation of Imam al-Ghazali’s *Ayyuh al-Walad* to be launched in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2009. Along with his brother, Shaykh Ahmad, he is also the designated *khalifa* of the late Sayyid Muhammad Alawi al-Maliki in South Africa.

Abdul-Rehman Malik

Abdul-Rehman Malik was a contributing editor at Q-News, a London-based Muslim current affairs magazine. He is currently Programmes Manager at Radical Middle Way, London - a revolutionary grassroots initiative aimed at articulating a relevant mainstream understanding of Islam that is dynamic, proactive and relevant to young British Muslims.

<http://www.radicalmiddleway.co.uk>

<http://www.abdulrehmanmalik.com>

