

Interfaith Prayer Meeting. Mahatma Gandhi's Martyrdom Day - 30 January 2008.

The greatest apostle of peace Mahatma Gandhi observed his **all religions'** prayers every day. On 30 January 1948, after breaking his fast against the Hindu - Muslim riots, as he was walking towards the altar for his evening prayers a fanatic Hindu shot him dead. This was perhaps the saddest day in the history of humanity.

We at Bhavan Australia pay our humble tribute to Mahatma by commemorating this day Interfaith Prayer Meeting every since 2004. This year we organised the Interfaith Prayer Meeting at Parliament House of New South Wales on 30 January 2008. We gratefully acknowledge The Right Honourable John Aquilina MP and Leader of the House who kindly agreed to host the event. Like every year the leaders from all the major religions and a number of dignitaries graced the event and remembered Mahatma Gandhi in their speeches and prayers. These great souls include:

Hon. Sujan Chinoy	Consul General of India
John Aquilina MP	Leader of the House and Member of Parliament
Sister Giovanni Farquer, representing His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney	Executive Director, Interfaith Department of the Catholic Arch Diocese of Sydney
Swami Atmeshananda, an eminent Hindu Scholar	Preacher, Vedanta Centre for Sydney
Brian White	Chairman, Buddhist Council of NSW
Ikebal Adam Patel	President, Australian Federation of Islamic Councils
Harmohan Singh Walia	Sikh Community Leader, with Ragis (devotional singers)
Keysar Trad	Director, Islamic Friendship Association of Australia
Sarkar Ali Abdi	Preacher / Scholar (Shia Muslims),visiting from Canada, Bangkok, India
Jynene Helland	Chair Person, Women's Federation for World Peace
Prof. Abd Malak	Immediate Past President, Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia
Naeem Al Gohar (Syed Shah)	Head, Multifaith International Institute, based in USA and travels around the world.

Other great souls who attended but did not speak include:

Jonathan O'Dea,	MP
Ted Quan	Chairman, Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
Rocy Mimo	Founder & Chairman - Ambrose Centre for Religious Liberty
Varanayaka	President, International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Gajendra Kumar	Director, Govt of India Tourist Office, Australasia
Nakul Singh Chand	Regional Manager, Air India
Dharampuri and Anandi	Preacher and Scholar, Yoga in Daily Life
Zafar Siddiqui & Azzam Siddiqui	Community Leader and Writer
Various other Community Members	

January 2008 issue of *Bhavan Australia* which was devoted to Mahatma Gandhi included messages and articles from His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney; Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence, Senior Minister, The Great Synagogue; Swami Sridharananada, President, Vedanta Centre of Sydney; Hon. Sujan Chinoy, Consul General of India, Hon John Aquilina MP and Leader of the House; Hon. Viginia Judge, MP and Parliamentary Secretary; Dr Stuart Rees AM, Professor Emeritus and Director of Sydney Peace Foundation; H.H. Mahamandeshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwaranada; His Grace Atmarama, Regional secretary, ISKCON Australia; Ikebal Adam Patel; Greg Johns, General Director, Sokka Gakai International; Jynene Hyland; Keysar Trad; Linda Oliveira, National president, The Theosophical Society; Rocky Mimmo and others.

