

EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

TANZANIA

DANIEL EL-NOSHOKATY
FABIAN BOERGER

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Role and Responsibility of JUWAQUTA – National Leadership Training

NEXUS BETWEEN POVERTY, MARGINALIZATION AND RADICALISM – THE IMPORTANCE OF LABOUR

On Saturday, the 25th of February 2017, the country office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Tanzania in cooperation with the Association of Quran Teachers in Tanzania (JUWAQUTA) organized a one day workshop with leading Muslim sheikhs and scholars from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The event addressed in particular issues pertaining to labour in accordance with the teachings from the Holy Quran and Sunna.

In the Tanzanian society the religious affiliation plays an important role. It is estimated that there is a balance between Muslims and Christians in the country and an additional small proportion of traditional and other religions. Although the different religious communities exist quite peacefully side by side, interreligious tensions of varying degrees have been observed more recently. Social marginalization and political isolation, among others, foster the dissociation of society. Some parts of the Muslim population tend to believe that the Government is promoting policies that leave a majority of their members in the lower rungs of the economic ladder.

Against this background JUWAQUTA and KAS Tanzania initiated a one day workshop to discuss the role of work and the effects of poverty and marginalization among Muslims in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunna. The goal was to sharpen the sense of responsibility of the participants for the topic, so that radical movements and religious propaganda can be prevented at an early stage.



Negotiating participant

At the beginning of the workshop, the participating guests were welcomed by Sheikh Alhad Musa Salum, the national chairman of JUWAQUTA, and Daniel El-Noshokaty, resident representative of the KAS country office in Tanzania.

Sheikh Alhad Musa Salum (JUWAQUTA) pointed out that the Quran prescribes hard work and that people should not become a burden to one's family or to the state because of idleness. He also stressed the dangers of 'begging as well as a parasitic life'. 'We need to convey a clear understanding within the Muslim community that the path to independence is difficult because it will never rain gold or money from the sky', the national chairman of JUWAQUTA said. Daniel El-Noshokaty emphasized that four prerequisites are necessary to enable a person to work: an intact social network, health, education and free jobs. If one of these conditions fails, he said, young people are easily susceptible to propaganda and radical ideologies. Hence, religious organizations and the state must work hand in hand. Radical ideas of marginalized groups could be

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avoided if people had an occupation and a permanent job.

Three presentations followed, that reflected the faith, the work and the responsibilities within the Islamic doctrine. Sheikh Hamish Mataka, Member of the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA), stressed the need for Quran Teachers to be responsible for their own communities.



Journalists record the event

It is important that religious and non-religious topics are integrated into the curriculum, so that the students also get prepared to handle everyday problems. Sheikh Yusuph Kidago addressed the effects and dangers resulting from laziness and begging. The following discussion with the participants showed that Muslim teachings should especially care for those who did not have formal education. The aim is to enable entry into the current labor market, which is constantly changing because of altering technologies, which can make access more difficult. The level of the current curriculum needs to be revised in order to improve the working atmosphere for the teachers as well as the pupils. In this respect, three criteria should be emphasized: honest leadership, respect and accountability.

Finally, Sheikh Alhad Mussa Salum sketched a path into the future. The Muslim community must be enabled to cope with poverty and inequalities. In this respect, the cooperation between BAKWATA and JUWAQUTA is of paramount importance in order to enable joint strategies for economic support.



Mr. Noshokaty (2nd f. r.) highlights the importance of cooperation between government and religious leaders

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to overcome conservative ways of thinking within the Muslim community, so that mutual accusations within the community can come to an end. The final words of Richard Shaba, Programme Coordinator of KAS Tanzania, were clear: "The message from this workshop to all Muslims should be: Prayers alone are not enough, a productive community is needed."