AWARDS AND HONOURS ACCORDED TO HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN IV

"THE ETHICS OF ISLAM GUIDE ALL MY ACTIVITY."

HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN IV – JEUNE AFRIQUE INTERVIEW, 2005

ABOUT HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

His Highness the Aga Khan became Imam (spiritual leader) of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims on July 11, 1957 at the age of 20, succeeding his grandfather, Sir Sultan Mohamed Shah Aga Khan. He is the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, and a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through his cousin and son-in-law, Ali, the first Imam, and his wife Fatima, the Prophet's daughter.

Like his grandfather Sir Sultan Mohamed Shah Aga Khan before him, the Aga Khan has, since assuming the office of Imamat in 1957, been concerned about the well-being of all Muslims, particularly in the face of the challenges of rapid historical changes. Today, the Ismailis live in some 25 countries, mainly in West and Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East, as well as in North America and Western Europe...

The Aga Khan has emphasized the view of Islam as a thinking, spiritual faith: one that teaches compassion and tolerance and that upholds the dignity of man, Allah's noblest creation. In the Shia tradition of Islam, it is the mandate of the Imam of the time to safeguard the individual's right to personal intellectual search and to give practical expression to the ethical vision of society that the Islamic message inspires. Addressing as Chairman, the International Conference on the Example (Seerat) of the Prophet Muhammad in Karachi in 1976, the Aga Khan said that the wisdom of Allah's final Prophet in seeking new solutions for problems which could not be solved by traditional methods, provides the inspiration for Muslims to conceive a truly modern and dynamic society, without afflicting the fundamental concepts of Islam.

During the course of history, the Ismailis have, under the guidance of their Imams, made major contributions to the growth of Islamic civilization. The University of Alexandria and the Academy of Science, Dar al-Ilm, in Cairo and indeed the city of Cairo itself, exemplify their contributions to the cultural, religious and intellectual life of Muslims. Among the renowned philosophers, jurists, physicians, mathematicians, astronomers and scientists of the past who flourished under the patronage of Ismaili Imams are Qadi al-Nu'man, al-Kirmani, Ibn al-Haytham (al-Hazen), Nasir e-Khusraw and Nasir al-Din Tusi...

In recent generations, the Aga Khan's family has followed a tradition of service in international affairs. The Aga Khan's grandfather was President of the League of Nations and his father, Prince Aly Khan, was Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations. His uncle, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, was the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations' Coordinator for assistance to Afghanistan and United Nations' Executive Delegate of Iraq-Turkey border areas.

The Aga Khan's brother, Prince Amyn, joined the United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs following his graduation from Harvard in 1963. Since 1968, Prince Amyn has been closely involved with the government of the principal development institutions of the Imamat...

In consonance with this vision of Islam and a long-standing tradition of service to humanity, the Ismailis have elaborated a well-defined institutional framework to build capacity and improve the quality of life within the communities in which they live. Under the Aga Khan's leadership, this framework expanded and evolved into the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of institutions working to improve living conditions and opportunities in specific regions of the developing world. In every country, these institutions work for the common good of all citizens regardless of their origin or religion. Their individual mandates range from architecture, education and health to the promotion of private sector enterprise, the enhancement of non-government organizations and rural development.

Over the years, the Aga Khan has received numerous decorations, honorary degrees, and awards in recognition of the various dimensions of his work...

The title His Highness was granted by Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain in 1957, and His Royal Highness by His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Iran in 1959.

— Aga Khan Development Network

To review His Highness the Aga Khan's speeches visit: http://www.akdn.org/speeches
To learn more about the Aga Khan Development Network visit: http://www.akdn.org
To learn more about the Ismaili community visit: http://www.theismaili.org

AWARDS AND HONOURS: 98

BAHRAIN (1)
BANGLADESH (1)
BELGIUM (1)
COMOROS (1)
CÔTE D'IVOIRE (2)
EGYPT (1)
FRANCE (8)
GERMANY (2)
INDIA (1)
IRAN (1)
IRELAND (1)
ITALY (3)
KAZAKHSTAN (2)
KENYA (3)
KYRGYZSTAN (2)
LEBANON (2)
MADAGASCAR REPUBLIC (2)
MALI (3)
MAURITANIA (1)
MOZAMBIQUE (1)
NETHERLANDS (1)
NORWAY (1)
PAKISTAN (11)
PORTUGAL (2)
SCOTLAND (1)
SENEGAL (1)
SPAIN (4)
TANZANIA (1)
TAJIKISTAN (1)
TANZANIA (2)
UGANDA (1)
UNITED KINGDOM (8)
UPPER VOLTA (1)
USA (17)
UZBEKISTAN (1)
ZANZIBAR (1)

COMPETITION: 1 — NON-STATE: 1

TITLES AND STATE HONOURS	29
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REVISION DATE: 24 JAN 2010

Aug 11, 1957
ZANZIBAR
Decorated with the *Brilliant Star of Zanzibar* by His Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar. (Photo: ismaili.net.)

Aug 26, 1957
UNITED KINGDOM
Receives the Title of His Highness from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain.

Oct 24, 1959
IRAN
Receives the title of His Royal Highness from His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Iran.

Oct 27, 1960
PORTUGAL
Decorated with the *Grand Cross of the Order of Infante D. Henrique* by the Portuguese Government in Goa.

Jan 13, 1963
SWITZERLAND
Wins the *Roberts of Kandhar* challenge cup in Davos, Switzerland, the oldest challenge cup in the world for downhill ski racing.

Nov 4, 1965
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Made a *Freeman of Abidjan*, and presented with a key to the City. (Photo: ismaili.com.)

Aug 8, 1966
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Decorated with the *Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of Côte d'Ivoire*, the ivory Coast's highest order.

Nov 28, 1966
COMOROS
Decorated with the *Grand Cross of the Order of the Green Crescent* by the Government of Comoros.

Nov 13, 1968
MADAGASCAR REPUBLIC
Presented with a key to Majunga. (Photo: ismaily.com.)

Nov 13, 1968
MADAGASCAR REPUBLIC
Decorated with the *Grand Cross of the National Order of Madagascar*, the Madagascar's highest honour.

Aug 5, 1969
UPPER VOLTA
Decorated with the L'Ordre *National de la Haute-Volta* (Grand Cross of the National Order), Upper Volta's highest national title.

Nov 28, 1969
PAKISTAN
Inducted as an Honorary Member of the Pakistan Medical Association.

Jan 1, 1970
PAKISTAN
Decorated with the *Nishan-e-Imtiaz* (Sign of Excellence), Pakistan's third highest honour. (Photo: ismaili.net.)

Feb 14, 1970
PAKISTAN
Inducted as an Honorary Member of the Pakistan Medical Association.

Oct 24, 1970
PAKISTAN
Made an Honorary Citizen of Lahore, and presented with a key to the city.

Feb 15, 1970
PAKISTAN
Inducted as an Honorary Member of the Pakistan Medical Association, Sind Chapter.

Feb 16, 1970
PAKISTAN
Presented with a key to Karachi.

Feb 7, 1971
KENYA
Made an Honorary Citizen of the Town of Kisumu.

Feb 19, 1971
PAKISTAN
Inducted as an Honorary Member of the Pakistan Medical Association.

Nov 2, 1971
SENEGAL
Decorated with the *Grand Officier, L'Ordre National Du Lion* (Grand Officer of the National Order of the Lion).

Nov 2, 1972
SENEGAL
Decorated with the *Grand Officier, L'Ordre National Du Lion* (Grand Officer of the National Order of the Lion).

Oct 8, 1977
ITALY
Decorated with the *Order of the Knight of the Grand Cross*, Italy's highest honour, normally reserved for heads of state, in recognition of His Highness the Aga Khan's contributions to the development of Sardinia's economy and tourism. The Aga Khan is the first Muslim to receive this honour.

Feb 1979
PAKISTAN
Invested as an Honorary Colonel of the 6th Lancers by the Pakistan Army.

Apr 7, 1980
HAUTE-STATE ORGANISATION
Receives the Gold Mercury Art Petrovan Award for his "outstanding role in promoting economic cooperation, exchange of technologies and experience," and for "renewing social and economic progress."

Nov 15, 1980
CANADA
Awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by McGill University.

In his laudatory address, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill, Dr. Robert Bell, commented: *"It is unique in the world today... This man is a bridge between North and South, East and West. His ancestors are Persian, his religion is Muslim, his religion is a world-view by choice, healthy, wise and fair of nature. Indeed, he is a strong beacon of inspiration and of hard-headed accomplishment in enjoining the law of humankind, in elevating the dignity of man, in the quest for a better quality of life in the world to should be underlined of man."* (Photo: ismaily.com.)

Mar 1982
PAKISTAN
Inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan.

1983
USA
Awarded an Institute Honour from the American Institute of Architects.

Mar 16, 1983
PAKISTAN
Aga Khan Medical College is accorded the status of university.

On the occasion of accepting the Aga Khan University Charter, His Highness the Aga Khan said: *"This University is the most ambitious undertaking by the Aga Khan family ever known to us, to the people of Pakistan, but to the whole world," and "I can say with full confidence, that The Aga Khan University will prove itself to be a lighthouse, which will not only immortalize the good name of the Aga Khan, but also spread new light in Pakistan and the Islamic world."* (Aga Khan, Photo: ismaili.net.)

Mar 23, 1983
MOROCCO
Decorated with the *La Grand Cordon de l'Ordre du Trone Chérifien* (Grand Cordon of Distinction of Arch), Morocco's honour, by the Hassan II, King of Morocco. (Photo: ismaili.net.)

Oct 26, 1984
ITALY
Decorated with the *Cavaliere del Lavoro* (Knight of Labour) in recognition of the major contribution His Highness the Aga Khan had made to the Italy's economy. The Aga Khan is the first Muslim to receive the honour. (Photo: ismaili.net.)

Sep 13, 1987
CANADA
Awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by McMaster University (Hamilton).

The President of the University, Mr. Alvin Lee, praises His Highness the Aga Khan's "tutor and responsible leadership in the advancement of the Ismaili community, and the development of the field of education, for major contribution to health care in Pakistan and his involvement of McMaster University in that project, and his extraordinary efforts in bridging many and very diverse religious and cultural groups, and for his great concern for the underdeveloped and the highly developed worlds." (Photo: ismaily.com.)

1990
FRANCE
Awarded the *Medaille d'Argent* (Silver Medal) from the Academie d'Architecture de France.

1990
UNITED KINGDOM
Inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

1992
USA
Inducted as an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects.

Jul 1992
SPAIN
Named Hospital de Honor De Granada (Grand Hospitaller of Granada) at Inaugural Ceremony of the Historic Hill Country Cultural House.

Jul 1992
SPAIN
Awarded the *Medalla de Oro del Consejo Superior de Los Colegios de Arquitectos* (Gold Medal of the Superior Council of Colleges of Architects) by His Highness Aga Kyan Carlos el Rey, King of Spain. The citation reads: "His Highness the Aga Khan's contributions to the restoration and conservation of historic buildings and to the development of the profession. The Aga Khan is the first recipient outside Spain to receive this honour."

Nov 2, 1990
FRANCE
Decorated with the *Commander of the Legion of Honour* by the President of France for "a long catalog of remarkable services rendered to humanity." Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the medal is France's highest honour.

Nov 23, 1991
SPAIN
Decorated with the *Gran Cruz De Merito Civil* (Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit), one of Spain's most important civil decorations, by His Highness King Juan Carlos of Spain.

Nov 23, 1991
UZBEKISTAN
Made an Honorary Citizen of Samarkand, and presented with a key to the city.

Mar 11, 1994
USA
His Highness the Aga Khan delivers the commencement address at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge), the first Muslim to do so in its 130 year history.

Mar 27, 1994
USA
"Education has been important to my family for a long time, and I am personally very grateful for the opportunity to address the 1994 graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Discovery of knowledge was seen by Muslim scientists and philosophers, Muslim and Christian, and both as mediated by knowledge of workings of the Creator. Indeed, the Holy Qur'an, the Muslim scripture, enjoined over Allaw 1000 years ago that there should be no distinction between faith and knowledge remains a source of strength...

"I shall talk today about encounters. Encounters. When I speak of encounters, I mean the process of the encounters of people and cultures, much depends on the path that each has taken to that point. These are not stochastic processes. The subjects have histories. The encounter has complexity and rich interactions. It is not a game of chance. It is not a game of probabilities. It is not a game of the assumptions of each, by their respective goals and objectives. It is not a game of the assumptions of the responses of responses that each has learned... If the encounter of the Muslim world, the West and the rest. Community world takes some time to shift and slow on its own strengths, to be consistent with its own ideals, to be consistent with its own traditions and to ensure a human response to the encounter will have been as successful as it is important.

– His Highness the Aga Khan,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Oct 17, 1996
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
"The communitarian revolution means either a growing interdependence between the rich and the poor, or, in the words of the Report of the Commission, "We can hope that the spirit of this Commission will prevail over the Commission. For the spirit of the Commission will never become a dominant force in our world without the strong and effective leadership of the information media.

"How can the press best contribute to a spirit of Creative Encounter? Here is Africa and around the world One simple requirement towards the spirit of Creative Encounter is that the press, in its quest for information, should not do so at the expense of... (2) ensure much more than tolerance and Tolerance... In truth, cultural sensitivity is not a matter of tolerance, it is a matter of respect. It is a matter of intellectual commitment. It requires a readiness to study and to learn cultural features, an ability to see others as they see themselves. Cultural sensitivity is hard work.

"(3) is the press which should lead the way – not just newspapers and broadcasting institutions, but also the news services and press agencies which serve them and the organizations which support them. For the media to be able to do this, it requires a commitment to understanding and enlightenment. And you, even as the press has become more international, it has often left a trail of misunderstanding in its wake. Cultural sensitivity is not a matter of tolerance, it is a matter of respect. It has often been focused too much on the quantity of what is put down, and too little on the quality of what it presents.

"And of the media have sometimes been part of the problem, amplifying the threatening aspects of globalization – then the media can be part of the solution. If the media can be more sensitive to the sensitivities the clash of cultures, there is more sensitive and thoughtful press can accomplish the opposite. The same media which serves to depict or describe the clash of cultures, can also be used to moderate them, and to help explain them to others."

– His Highness the Aga Khan,
Keynote Address at the Commonwealth Press Union Conference

Dec 2, 1996
PORTUGAL
Presented with a key to Lisbon.

Apr 10, 1998
SPAIN
Presented with the Granada de Oro (Gold Medal of the City of Granada).

Jun 1, 1998
SPAIN
Decorated with the *Cruz De Merito Civil* (Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit), one of Spain's most important civil decorations, by His Highness King Juan Carlos of Spain.

Jun 2, 1998
PORTUGAL
Decorated with the *Grand Cross of the Order of Infante D. Henrique* by the Portuguese Government in Goa.

Jun 5, 1998
MALI
Made an Honorary Citizen of the Islamic Ulemahs of Timbuktu.

Nov 6, 1998
BAHRAIN
Decorated with the *Order of Bahrain* (First Class) by His Highness King Hamad of Bahrain.

Dec 20, 1999
USA
Paradise at the White House Conference on Culture and Diplomacy. (Photo: ismaily.com.)

Jan 30, 2000
TORONTO, CANADA
"[Where] you look at what is considered general knowledge in the Western world, you will find that a great deal of the Islamic world is anything taught in secondary schools in the Western world. Now, I'm not saying that we should change the curriculum in the Western world and Western schools, but I do think that there is a very, very difficult for Muslim leaders to articulate positions against such a vacuum in knowledge."

– His Highness the Aga Khan, Globe and Mail Interview

Jan 31, 2000
FRANCE
Awarded an Insignia of Honour by the International Union of Architects.

Feb 2, 2000
KAZAKHSTAN
Decorated with the *State Award for Peace and Progress*.

Sep 2, 2002
AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS
"[It is] my conviction that the strengthening of institutions supporting pluralism is an essential part of the process of building a stable, secure and prosperous world order, conducive, in first of them and necessary order, for the creation of conditions favorable to the material and spiritual development of humanity and the development of the individual in the developing world by programmes to alleviate poverty because, left alone, poverty will provide a catalyst for special interests to pursue their goals in aggressive terms...

"[Development is sustainable only if the beneficiaries become, in a genuine sense, the creators of the process. The means that initiatives cannot be contemplated without the participation of the beneficiaries, and that participation implies the encouragement social and cultural development as well. Cultural development is central to health and public services, conservation of cultural heritage, infrastructure development, and economic development. Cultural development is central to social and economic development, and to the development of the institutions that contribute to the stability of the societal sector in Europe.

"We must work to ensure that governments see the development of institutions supporting pluralism as a support strong private institutions that can contribute to the intellectual and social fabric of their country."

– His Highness the Aga Khan,
Address at the "Friends Across The World" Exhibition

Apr 18, 2003
NEW DELHI, INDIA
*"Tolerance, openness and understanding are the essence of Islam and of its institutions, values and ideals. Islam has always been the source of inspiration for the development of the arts and sciences. It has nurtured and encouraged the development of the arts and sciences. It has given us the foundation for the development of the arts and sciences. It has given us the foundation for the development of the arts and sciences. It has given us the foundation for