

30/07/2001

Famous Muslim scholar Shaykh Abdalqadir in KL for two weeks

Farush Khan

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Muslim scholar Shaykh Abdalqadir as-Sufi, widely known for his relentless efforts to establish the Islamic currency, arrived here from London today for a two-week visit.

The Scotland-born speaker and writer on the religion, is to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya on Tuesday.

Arranged by the Malaysian Murabitun Worldwide Movement, he will give a public lecture at Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang on Aug 7. He founded the movement for men and women who share the aspiration of establishing Islam in Europe.

He is accompanied by the leader of the Murabitun Worldwide Movement, Rais Umar Ibrahim Vadillo, an expert on the Islamic gold dinar.

Shaykh Abdalqadir, 71, has visited Malaysia in 1990 and has given a public lecture on "The Collaborative Couple" organised by Persatuan Wanita Universiti Malaya.

In his writings and talks, Shaykh Abdalqadir has expressed support for Malaysia's criticism against the finance and usury capitalism system.

Referring to Dr Mahathir's frankness in voicing out Islam-related matters, Shaykh Abdalqadir, in his article The Year 1997 in Review, mentioned that Malaysia is the only country today with an outspoken defender of Islamic issues.

He said Dr Mahathir was respected everywhere and acted on his own initiative, "sometimes unheard of in the Arab world".

Shaykh Abdalqadir has always emphasised that the establishment of the sovereign Islamic community is dependent on the rejection of the current usurious finance systems and institutions.

Therefore, he said, the Islamic currency must be established to counter the dollar-dominated world currencies which in reality was no longer backed by gold or silver since 1971.

He is working towards the establishment of the Islamic gold dinar, silver dirham and E-Dinar, promoting world Islamic trade networking through Islamic guilds and restoring the pillar of zakat in its rightful form.

Formerly known as Ian Dallas, he embraced Islam in the early 60s and has since dedicated his life to propagate the religion through talks and writings.

Shaykh Abdalqadir has written numerous books such as The Book of Strangers and The Way of Muhammad.