

Press Release of Bangladesh Islamic Centre - 15 July 2006

COURT CASE AGAINST Bangladesh Islamic Centre (BIC) by RASHID RAASHED

(RASHID RAASHED Claiming Bangladesh Islamic Centre fraudulently transferred Sefton Mosque property from House of Peace to BIC)

BIC as an organization was established in 1989 with the purpose of organizing Islamic gathering & arranging celebration of Islamic festivals and thus promoting Bangladeshi unique cultural heritage and religious accord for Bangladeshi Muslims living in NSW.

BIC felt the necessity of a permanent place by collecting Donation to build up fund in order to buy some property which can be well utilised for Bangladeshi Community religious activity. After collecting Funds in 1993, BIC made an unsuccessful bid in an auction at Botany to buy a property for building a mosque and centre office.

By the help of Allah SWT, BIC was able to collect enough money in cash & commitment, BIC bought in July 1995, a property at Sefton to establish a Mosque under BIC Mosque Project called Sefton Mosque of today. Although BIC paid the total amount for purchase of the property, but the property was registered under the name a company called House of Peace Company (HOP) instead of BIC's name during 1995. Rashid Raashed and Mumen Bhuiyan were selected themselves the two directors of House of Peace company at the time. When this information was known & clear to the general members of BIC and it was revealed that the directors;

- Hold a share as trustee of HOP and the sole beneficiary of HOP is BIC.
- Declare that at any time they will transfer & sign documentation in relation to 11-13 Helen Street, Sefton, this will only be done at the sole direction of the Executive Committee of the BIC.

BIC President sent letter to Rashid Raashed and Mumen Bhuiyan during 2002 to attend Executive Committee meeting and requested them to transfer 11-13 Helen Street, Sefton from HOP to BIC.

The Executive Committee authorised the then President to take appropriate steps to transfer the property at 11-13 Helen Street, Sefton to BIC being the ultimate holding company and sole beneficiary of HOP.

In the meantime, HOP was deregistered by ASIC whilst ASIC sent the confirmation letter to HOP directors. At the same time, BIC President also sent confirmation letters to ASIC, Rashid Raashed and Mumen Bhuiyan regarding ASIC deregistration and informed them of not to continue the HOP company any longer.

Being BIC is the sole beneficiary of HOP, also the land had been transferred to the beneficiary.

Based on the above circumstances BIC is the sole owner of the property at 11-13 Helen Street, Sefton. Whilst under this court case, Rashid Raashed put up his claim that the land be reprocessed by House of Peace from Bangladesh Islamic Centre.

Under this situation, BIC requests all Bangladeshi community members to come forward and resist strongly Rashid Raashed's attempt to transfer the Sefton Mosque from the ownership of Bangladesh Islamic Centre.

BIC requires generous financial contribution from Bangladeshi community to deal this matter in the Court as Rashid Raashed took Bangladesh Islamic Centre to this litigation and for which the community needs to become aware and provide an active assistance to defend the mosque property managed by the Bangladeshi Muslim Community.

Recently, one of the companions of Rashid Raashed had unauthorised collection of money on Jummah day from Sefton Mosque on December 23, 2005. They appeared again on two occasions on February 2006 and collected money after Jummah Prayer BUT the local worshippers resisted them and recovered the unauthorised collection of money by them. Accordingly, EC reported this unauthorised money collection event from Sefton Mosque to the Local Area Command Police Station.