

Imam Khomeini Community

THE IMAM KHOMEINI ISLAMIC COMMUNITY IN KADOMA, ZIMBABWE

In the heart of Africa, hidden away behind the small, humble dwelling of Sheikh Jula, stands a green tent in which the photographs of Imam Khomeini are displayed with the message of the Quran "the truth has arrived and falsehood has perished". This is the mosque of the Imam Khomeini Islamic Community - a small and poor community but a community which has seen the light of true Islamic leadership in Imam Khomeini and did not hesitate in following the Imam and true leader of Muslims in the world. Whenever they came together they shout "Allahu Akbar, Khomeini Rahbar" (Allah is the Greatest, Khomeini is our leader) and sing songs in praise of Imam Khomeini for the work he has done for Islam. But how did these people, hidden away in Africa become so attached to Imam Khomeini? The answer can be found in Sheikh M K Jula, leader and founder of Imam Khomeini Islamic Community.

In 1979, Sheikh Jula was listening to the radio when the news came about the establishment of the first truly Islamic Republic in Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeini and his fellow learned Islamic scholars. He cried and said to his friend "this is what I have been waiting for all my life. For the Muslims to get our own country so that we can spread Islam to the world and now it has come true". At that time Sheikh Jula was teaching at the local mosque. Af-

ter some time Sheikh Jula found a copy of a magazine called Imam' and subscribed to it and other Islamic magazines like 'Mahjubah' and Echo of Islam'. From these books, he received his information about Islamic Iran, Imam Khomeini and the affairs of the Muslims all over the world. With this information at hand, he educated the Muslim children in the madressa. He was invited in November 1987 to Tehran for the World Congress on Safeguarding the Security and



Sanctity of the Holy Haram, in which he participated.

On returning to Zimbabwe, armed with the facts about the

Mecca Massacre and Iran's stand against world imperialism and corruption, Sheikh Jula went around the country, informing the people of what happened during Hajj in 1987 and about his visit to Iran and meeting with Imam Khomeini. He told the different Muslim communities how well he was received in Iran and what good work the Muslim brothers of Iran are doing in Zimbabwe by helping the Muslims and enabling him to go to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Sheikh Jula started challenging all the ulama and their agents who were spreading anti-Iran, anti-shia and anti-Khomeini propaganda, telling the audience that Muslims in Iran are true brothers and sisters and that they encourage the uprising of true Islam over the hollow "American" Islam of the Saudis. Until today Sheikh Jula has converted more than two hundred non-Muslims to Islam and people came from far to learn at his "Masjid-Tent" in Kadoma.

When Ayatullah Tawassoli, the Chief of Imam Khomeini's office, came to Zimbabwe for national day celebrations, Sheikh Jula went to meet him at the airport and he was invited to visit the Imam Khomeini Islamic Community where a big celebration was held on 8th February on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Ayatullah Tawassoli saw the "Masjid-Tent" and gave Z\$10 000, 00 to Sheikh Jula to start building a permanent mosque.