

Hanef Bhamjee, former secretary of the Wales Anti Apartheid Movement to receive Mahatma Gandhi Annual Award for Reconciliation and Peace

Wednesday, 8th July, 2009

The Mahatma Gandhi annual Award for Reconciliation and Peace which pays tribute to prominent people who have tirelessly campaigned for justice reconciliation and peace, will take place in the Durban City Hall on 20 July with Myanmar pro-democracy leader Daw Aung San Suukyi taking the top honours this year.

To commemorate the centenary of Gandhi's first ever newspaper which was started in Phoenix as a farm-co-operative initiative, the Gandhi Development Trust initiated these significant accolades to individuals who have dedicated themselves to working for peace and justice. Every year an international personality is chosen and approximately six South African candidates are honoured. Some hugely significant international personalities have been acknowledged and applauded for their work by the Gandhi Trust over the years.

Ela Gandhi said "The awards help us to remember what has gone before. In the absence of accurate archives and historical records, the Trust wishes to applaud six people from very different categories to help keep their stories alive."

The heroes applauded this year include the Wales Anti Apartheid Movement's **Hanef Bhamjee** who is still active in NGO and charity bodies today and is currently secretary of ACTSA Wales (Action for Southern Africa).

Hanef said today "I am more than delighted to receive this award which has gone in the past to far more distinguished men and women. Since 1994 ACTSA Wales has contributed thousands of pounds to health and education projects in South Africa e.g. a Manchester United autographed football was auctioned for £25, 000 to assist victims of HIV/AIDS."