



The Lady Fatemah (a.s.) Charitable Trust

September Lodge, Village way, Little Chalfont
Buckinghamshire HP7 9PU

Tuesday, 03 April 2007

Biodata in Summary of the Keynote Speaker at 2007 Gala Dinner

Rageh Omar's journalistic career began in 1990 as a trainee at **The Voice** newspaper in Brixton. Shortly after that he decided to pursue a career in freelance journalism covering international news.

In 1992 he went to live in Ethiopia, next door to his homeland of Somalia, which was in the midst of a famine and the US led military intervention which ended in defeat for the US.

Whilst there he reported for the BBC World Service from the north of Somalia on the plight of refugees leaving the country. These reports for the World Service were the beginning of his career at the BBC. He produced and presented on **Focus on Africa** and for the **World Service**.

In 1995 Rageh took a sabbatical year to study Arabic at the University of Jordan, and thereafter went on to be appointed BBC's **Amman Correspondent** in 1997. It was here he began his long involvement in reporting about Iraq. He visited all parts of the country for 6 years before the invasion in 2003 and his reports were watched by 90% of the viewing public in the UK in addition to a global audience. His dispatches were distributed throughout the US by networks affiliated with the BBC – you could just say; His dispatches were shown on TV stations throughout the US

His first book, "**Revolution Day**", drew from the diaries he kept while in Iraq. Rageh's latest book, "**Only Half of Me: Being a Muslim in Britain**" was published in June 2006.

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