

Centro Cultural Brasil-Turquia
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
at the Sao Paulo University, in São Paulo-Brazil, on 19 May 2016
DIMENSIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT:
FETHULLAH GÜLEN AND HIZMET

Professor Max Farrar, Sociologist, Leeds Beckett University, UK

Five major global socio-political challenges:
How might Hizmet respond?
A British perspective

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Thank you, Mustafa Göktepe, President, and the team at the Centro Cultural Brasil-Turquia
- ▶ Five major challenges
- ▶ Shocking facts: a resource for discussion
- ▶ What we can do together

FIVE INTERCONNECTED GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ Globalised capitalism increasing inequality of wealth and income
- ▶ Rising mass migration
- ▶ More violence claiming religion as its justification
- ▶ Decreasing social solidarity

Hizmet: possible responses

INCREASING CLIMATE WARMING

- ▶ By 2100 global temperature might rise between 1.4 °C and 5.8 °C
- ▶ 1986-2016: 2.3b affected by droughts and storms
- ▶ 13.6M at risk through drought in Southern Africa today
- ▶ Already, 40% of world lives with too little water
- ▶ Water pollution > diarrhoea > 2.2M deaths p.a.
- ▶ By 2050: estimated that between 25m and 1b will be 'environmental migrants'
- ▶ Energy policy and individual behaviour must change!

INCREASING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

- ▶ In America, over the last 30 years, the share of national income of the richest 1% has doubled (from 10% to 20% of national income)
- ▶ In China, the top 10% obtain 60% of national income
- ▶ Since 2010, the wealth of the poorest half of the world's population has fallen by \$1 Trillion (38%)
- ▶ Since 2010, the wealth of 62 people have increased by \$500 Billion. Their total wealth now is \$7.6T
- ▶ Almost half of all Africans live on less than \$1.25 per day
- ▶ As income inequality goes up, happiness goes down

INCREASING MASS MIGRATION

- ▶ 2008: 20M people displaced by extreme weather conditions
- ▶ 2008: 4.6M displaced by internal conflict and violence
- ▶ 2015: Turkey hosts almost 3M Syrian refugees
- ▶ 2015: 1.26M apply for asylum in Europe
- ▶ 2015: 88,300 unaccompanied children apply for asylum in Europe

INCREASING TERROR IN THE NAME OF GOD

Context: Crusades, Fascist, Communist & Republican Terrorism, State terror: Dresden, Hiroshima (1945), retreating Iraqi army (2001)

'Moral panic' or real threat? Death toll:

- ▶ Europe: New York, Madrid, London (2001-5) 2,996
- ▶ Bali 2005: 222
- ▶ Mumbai (2006-11): 492
- ▶ Paris & Brussels (2015-6): 178
- ▶ Add: terrorist deaths in Turkey, Yemen, Syria, Libya, Nigeria, Mali, Somalia, Kenya, Pakistan and Bangladesh
- ▶ 2000-14: 48,000 incidents claiming over 107,000 lives (Camilleri 2015)

DECREASING SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

Context: 'Bowling Alone' (Putnam, 2000)

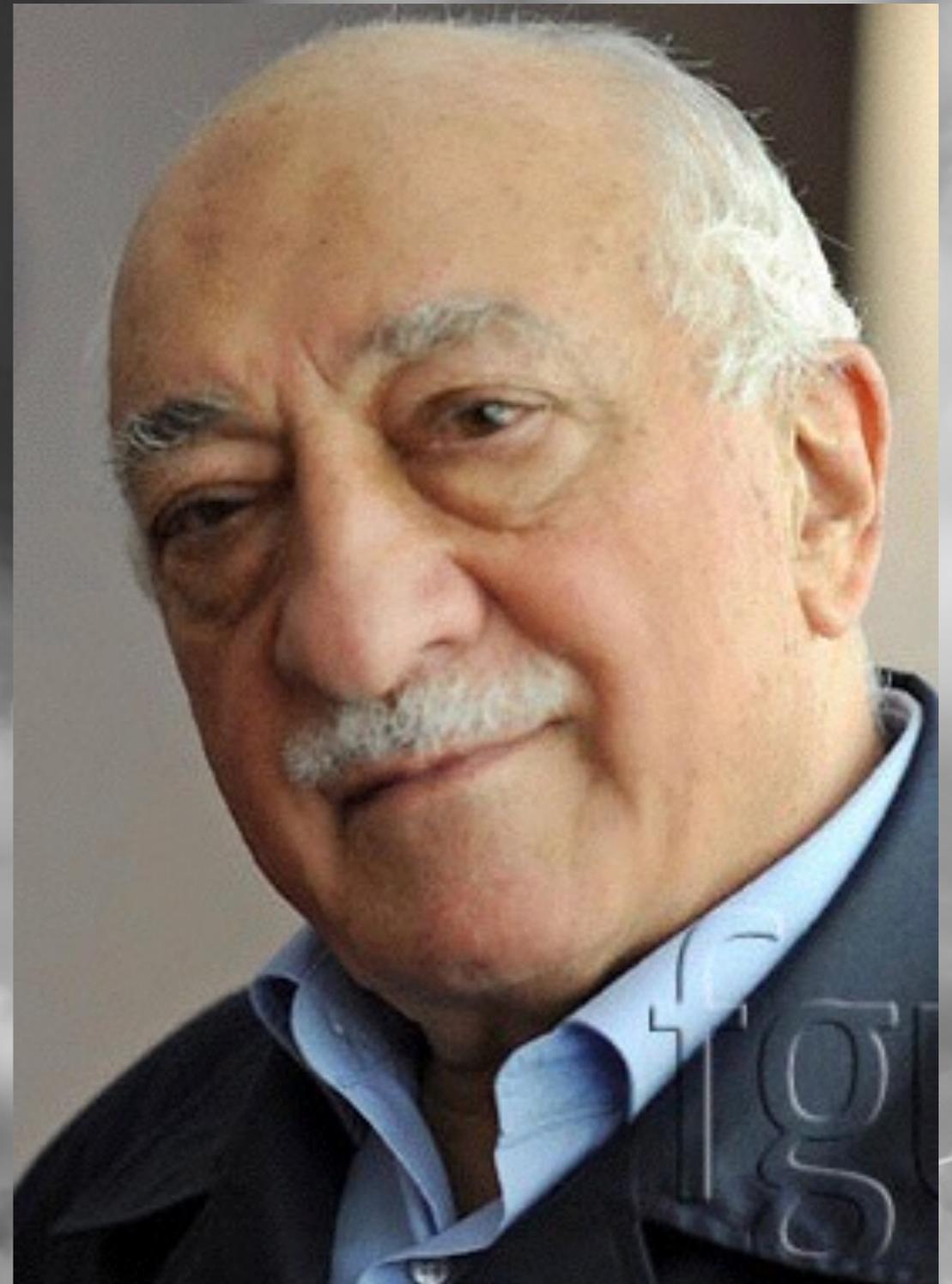
- ▶ This discussion goes back to Tönnies (1912), Marx, Weber and Durkheim: change in the nature of social relationships as we transition from feudalism to capitalism
- ▶ Capitalist modernity delivers 'association' among people rather than 'community'
- ▶ Instead, today, immigration and terrorism are said to be increasing social fragmentation
- ▶ But 'income inequality and deprivation' more important than ethnic diversity in explaining lack of social cohesion (Demivera 2015)

HIZMET: 'THE BETTERMENT OF HUMAN LIFE'

Sanaa El-Banna (2013 p.40):

The London Dialogue Society aims:

- ▶ to create social mobility through education, integration & *temsil* (religion in practice)
- ▶ to promote dialogue with mainstream Britain to help fulfil community needs
- ▶ to engage in service activity to eliminate ignorance, poverty & schism



HIZMET'S UNIQUE ROLE IN MEETING 5 GLOBAL CHALLENGES

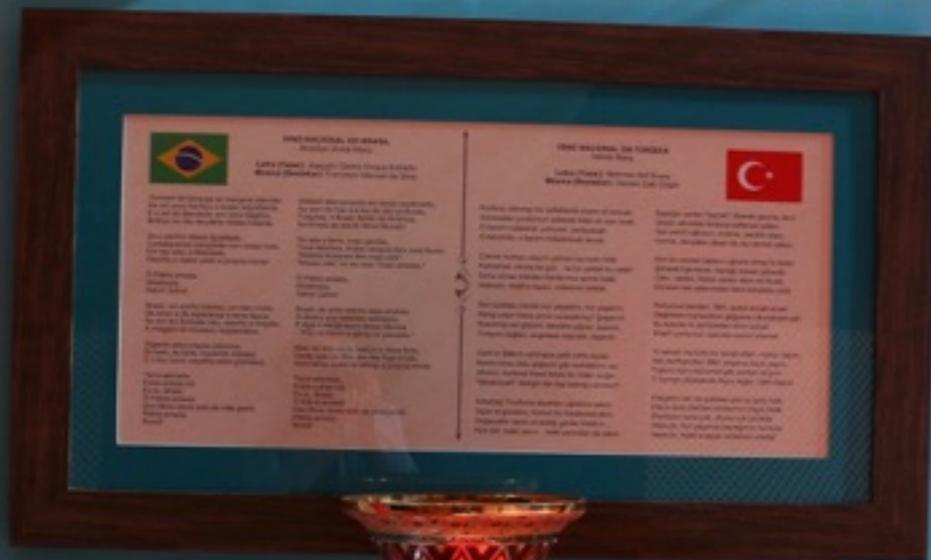
- ▶ Education: in faith AND on climate change, economic inequality & mass migration
 - > to promote health (by lowering global temperature), well-being (of the rich & the poor) & understanding of the real causes of each nation's problems
- ▶ Dialogue about difference: across faiths AND across ethnicities, classes, genders & secular activists, at national and local levels of society
 - > to increase social solidarity & to de-mobilise the *jihadis* & right-wing extremists
- ▶ Education & dialogue to bridge the gap between materialists and believers to grow the movement for social justice, equality, human rights & democracy

7-10M participants in Hizmet movement worldwide (El-Banna 2013 p. 63)

WHAT A CHANGE WE CAN MAKE!



CENTRO CULTURAL BRASIL TURQUIA



SALAAMTHANK YOU,
OBRIGADOTEŞEKKÜR EDERİM
FOR JOINING IN DIALOGUE

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