



## Hira Magazine: Turkish in the Language of the Qur'an

by Paul L. Heck

When it comes to the Gülen movement, scholarly attention is often given to its attitudes towards non-Muslims, its willingness to operate within secular environments, and its rapprochement with the material achievements of the West, as well as its own network of educational institutions. As a result, less attention is given to its interest in connecting with the larger Muslim community beyond its own internal associations. The Gülen movement is, however, aware of the need to situate itself and publish its ideas within the wider *ummah*.

*Hira* magazine, a relatively new venture of the Gülen movement (first issue Dec. 2005), is chiefly intra-Muslim in its aims and aspirations. The magazine is published in Arabic and features articles written by both Turkish and Arabic writers; a lead article by Fethullah Gülen opens and sets the tone of each issue. The magazine acts to bring the intellectual outlook of the Gülen movement to the Arab world, serving as a cultural bridge between Turks and Arabs, as a forum in which pressing issues in contemporary Islam can be aired and treated by leading Muslim thinkers, and as a tool for the global Muslim community to consolidate a renewed vision of its relation to the intellectual and socio-political realities of the modern world.

This paper recounts the establishment and development of *Hira* magazine, focusing on the calibre of its themes and contributors, and also its reception in the Arab world as evidenced in local Arab media as well as by the comments of those in charge of the magazine. Finally, a critical assessment is offered of the overall vision of the magazine, its presentation style, material content, and religious perspective, as well as its potential to speak effectively to the global *ummah* as a leading voice for the future of Islam.

**Panel:**  
The Gülen Movement in  
the Muslim World 2

**Venue:**  
D202,  
Clement House, LSE

27.10.07 Panels	Parellel Session 1	Parellel Session 2
9:30-11:30		
13:00-15:00		
15:10-17:00		<b>Presentation: 09</b>

Paul L. Heck: Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, Department of Theology, Georgetown University. His work focuses on the social dimension of religious knowledge in Muslim society. Among recent/current publications: *The Construction of Knowledge in Islamic Civilization* (2002), (ed.) *Sufism and Politics*, (2006), and *The Theology of Islamic Politics* (2008). In numerous articles he has written on concepts of jihad, the role of doubt (scepticism) in the Muslim intellectual heritage, eschatological elements in early Islam, the ethics of Muslim spirituality, the transmission of religious knowledge, political dimensions of scripture, and religious renewal in contemporary Islam. Most recently, he held the Tuohy Chair in Inter-Religious Studies at John Carroll University (2007), where he delivered a series of lectures called 'Being Christian with Islam'.

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