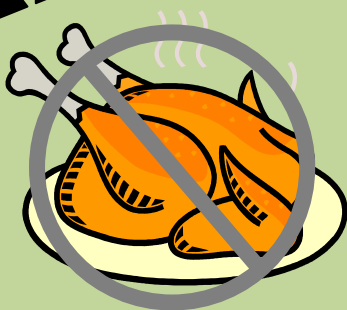




EARLY BIRD CHICKENS



**THE HARAAM
CORRUPTION
EXPOSED!**

Published by:
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10. We, as well as the others have raised these complaints to the Supervisor and Sanha inspectors, but nothing was done about it.

11. We make this declaration because we fear questioning on the Day of Qiyaamah, and we do not wish to be held liable in the Court of Allah Ta ala for the un-Islamic activities taking place at this Plant, under the guise of being halaal-certified.

12. The sin of not reciting Tasmiyah and knowing the chickens are haraam weighs heavily on our conscience. To clear our conscience and to inform the Muslim Community of the fact that the chickens are haraam, we have decided to state the factual position prevailing at Early Bird.


.....
Deponent (1)


.....
Deponent (2)

THUS DONE AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON THIS 22 DAY OF MAY 2009, THE
DEPONENT HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS THE CONTENTS OF THIS
AFFIDAVIT, THAT THE OATH WHICH THE DEPONENT HAS TAKEN IN RESPECT THEREOF IS BINDING ON
HIS CONSCIENCE, AND THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE BOTH TRUE AND CORRECT.


.....
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 2009	
FBI - NEW YORK	

AFFIDAVIT

We, the undersigned, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ **MD** ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ hereby declare under oath as follows:

1. We reside at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ **TEMBORA**
2. We are adult males who are presently employed by Early Bird, Olifantfontein, Gauteng, and have been employed at this Company as slaughterers since ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
3. We are dutibound to follow the teachings of the Qur'aan and the Sunnah on which the Shariah of Islam is based.
4. We as Muslim slaughterer at this Plant are not at all pleased with the present (and past) situation prevailing here insofar as Shariah-compliance is concerned.
5. Our greatest concern and grievance is that of the line-speed, which is too fast for us to cope with.
6. We do not recite Tasmiyah for every bird I slaughter, due to this excessive line-speed, which averages just over 40 birds a minute per slaughterer. We, as well as the other slaughterers are unable to recite Tasmiyah on the birds. We do so occasionally.
7. This excessive line-speed and limited number of slaughterers also means that some birds are being missed out completely from being slaughtered.
8. This excessive line-speed also means that the slaughter, at times, is not thorough which leads to the birds not being slaughtered in accordance to the Shariah. That is, not all and sometimes none of the required vessels are cut.
9. All of us on the day-shift and on slaughter duty do not go out for Jum'ua Salaat and Eid Salaats.

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ZAAHID'S LAMENT FROM HIS HEART

THE EARLYBIRD HARAAM CHICKEN CORRUPTION

EXPOSED

ZAAHID is a current slaughterer at the Earlybird Chicken plant in Olifantsfontein, Gauteng. He has been in the employ of Earlybird for the past two decades (20 years). In a conversation with Mufti Shuayb Ravat, senior Ustaadh at Ashraful Madaaris, De Deur, who was one of the panel of four inspectors (three Ulama and one Haafiz), Zaahid pouring out the years of pent-up frustration and the sufferings of his Imaani conscience, spoke frankly and said:

"Maulana, I know the history of all these things (i.e. the corruption taking place at Earlybird Chicken plant). These people are out for business. They are not looking after Muslims. So they don't think for the interests of the people (Muslim people). As you know, they don't think for the Ummah. Each and everything they do is just for business.

Whatever you (i.e. Mufti Shuayb Ravat) are doing, I like it, and people – they like you just because of it (i.e. because of proclaiming the truth about the chicken corruption). At the end of the day, **the truth must come out. Truly speaking, the truth must come out.** It has been a long time that these (haraam) things have been happening. It is not only Earlybird (of Olifantsfontein). It includes Earlybird at Standerton and it includes Rainbow – all these abattoirs – until we've got powers as Muslims, that we want this, or else these people they can give the Halaal Department to Muslims. Muslims must run the Halaal Departments. That will be the solution. So far there is no solution for these things (i.e. all the haraam irregularities and malpractices).

Maulana! People are just after money, money, money, but you know if it was not a situation of living, then it won't be a problem. But you can check that, aysh! You know what this means –family, house and all those things. *(What Brother Zaahid is trying to convey here is that slaughterers have maintained silence for fear of losing their livelihood.)*

Unless a person like me comes out in person, and tells the truth and say: 'You know what? This is my payslip. I am working at Earlybird. We are working like this and this, and this and this – these things (i.e. the haraam irregularities) happen.

I've got minutes from years ago for all we had been complaining -- that we want this, we want this. People, this management don't want to listen. Whenever SANHA comes, they make a duck and a dive over all those things. **WHATEVER WE WANTED TO TELL SANHA, WE TOLD SANHA STRAIGHT.** I remember onetime we told SANHA that, "You know what?" Then there was this Imam Harris from Cape Town. He came here and we told him also: 'You know what? Imam MJC – Imam! Let us not sell our religion! Let us tell these people the truth, whatever may happen. **If they do not want to listen to us, let's withdraw the certificate.** They won't allow us to withdraw the certificate. Why should we listen to them all the time?"

They will tell you that 'No, we can't pay people who are working one hour and go rest for one hour'. But did they understand why we are sitting one hour? We are working physically and mentally. That is why we need that hour to rest. You can't stay on the line two hours. And these lines are fast. So all these things I told, we told (i.e. to SANHA and Imam Harris).

Maulana, you know what? We've even got the union in the Plant. The union can negotiate things. But these non-Muslims don't understand what is Islam – what is Halaal – what is Haraam. They don't understand about this. So all these things (we told them).

Maulana, you are the people who have to put the pressure, and if they don't want to listen, then **WITHDRAW THE CERTIFICATE.** Imam Harris, he promised and said: 'I will come back'. Then came SANHA. We sat down. One of the guys, he's a CEO now, Stefan Vermaak..... I defeated them (SANHA and the CEO) in that meeting while even those Maulanas were therebecause I told them that. I was with a guy from Malawi who quoted aayats from the Qur'aan. So that guy, Stefan Vermaak asked me and that Malawi guy to go out. We waited outside while

they were discussing inside with those sheikhs. We don't know what transpired there inside and how they finished their meeting. After that, they just tell us: 'No time'. We will fix the problem, just go to your working places.'

So, each and everything what they do, they force you. If you don't do it, you will get fired. So, when you think about your stomach all the time, you will always keep quiet about these doings –just because there is nothing you can say – just because you don't get any support from Muslims.

If a governing body like MJC doesn't give you any support, and if a body like SANHA doesn't give you any support, what will you say? 'You (i.e. the slaughterers) are nothing.' Besides saying these things, I am not a politician or whatever.

You know some of the things this SANHA and MJC do? They make these kuffaar (i.e. Earlybird) to undermine us because we are blacks and maybe they don't understand Islam like other people. Just because you are black.....Whatever you say this and this is not halaal, they will say to you: 'No! No! No! No!', we can't talk to you (i.e. because we are black) We will call an Imam about all these things."

Even the stunner, if it is not working, they force you to slaughter. These people are only after production. They don't care whether those people are ZCC (i.e. Zionist Christian Church) or whatever. What they want is just to count that today we make 135 birds (per minute). They don't care how it is done, whether halaal or whatever. It doesn't matter. Whatever you tell them about halaal, they just won't understand.

I used to fight with Rahmat about everything. He doesn't like me. (Rahmat is SANHA's chief supervisor at Earlybird Chicken plant) All the time he listen to the kuffaar. I told him: 'Rahmat, you can't allow these things whatever like this and this.'" But, at the end of the day I do understand that the poor guy is looking after his family. There is nothing he can do. Rahmat doesn't have the power. These are the problems.

There are plus-minus 14 local South African slaughterers who are Hanafis, and about 15 Malawians. Some of them are casuals. They are Shaafis.

You know, that is why some of the things they do are not right. These people are from Malawi. They are from far, you see. They are here only for a job. Therefore, they listen to anything. No matter what you say and demand that you want this. At the end of the day you'll be defeated by those guys because they will comply (with management).

Before when there were just locals (doing the slaughtering) these things did not happen. I know **Maulana Khan from Standerton**. I know him well. He was the one who was fighting for all these things. So after that he ended up resigning. *(The Muslim community will recall that the Carrion Chicken saga was initiated by the resignation of Maulana Doba and Maulana Khan from Earlybird. Now Zaahid has confirmed the hidden Truth on which SANHA has been trampling. This episode will, Insha'Allah, form a separate chapter of SANHA's Carrion Chicken Saga. It will be raised again in a future communication, Insha'Allah)*

All the mist and steam on the visor (of the masks which the slaughterers wear) give us a problem. But these people don't understand when you want to be relieved after an hour (of slaughtering).

One of the shocking things is that the last time when we checked with these Malawi people, we find that some of them just came to work and slaughter, and that they were not Muslims. We then chased them away. Whose responsibility is this?

There is a broker who deals with the casuals. So if it's a holiday, public holiday, we are not there at work. They just go and hire any Malawian. You see they take any people for slaughtering.

You know, Maulana, these things, everyone (of SANHA and MJC) knows it. Maulana, Earlybird is not Halaal. Even Standerton –they're not doing Halaal.

Maulana, I am prepared to go forward. How can you recite on this line speed with which you can't cope? How can you recite? You can't! Even if you know how to recite, you can go mad! These people (SANHA and cohorts) mustn't cry.

We are doing between 200,000 to 240,000 a day. That is impossible! (i.e. It is impossible to recite Tasmiah on this huge amount of chickens daily). So if someone doesn't know anything, anything (of the Deen) and comes to slaughter chickens, what do you call that? So you as the slaughterer should have the power to take out the Malawi (from the job) and to tell him: **'No! No! No! You can go out. You're not qualified for this job.'**

We are born in problems. Problems are there until, until I die – the problems will be there. All these years I am staying here I have been experiencing problems. So there's one thing that I know – at the end of the day we are going to get the reward – not in this dunya. We are going to get the reward after we finish from this dunya.

What I am saying now is that what you are doing, Maulana, is the right thing. I can tell you that some of the people who have been crying (about these haraam practices) have already died. I told Yunus (another slaughterer): 'No, at least we know that we have found the people who will act.' (*This is a reference to the inspection group*). That is why we are doing this (i.e. co-operating). We wanted to understand these people – who are they? Where they come from? – all those things. So now I got the whole information, that is why I am prepared (to speak the truth). (*What Zaahid is saying here is that he and the slaughterers have satisfied themselves that the Ulama who had conducted this latest inspection are not like the SANHA molvies who had all along swept the carrion rot under the carpet thereby pulling wool over the eyes of the Ummah – hoodwinking them into the quagmire of consumption of HARAAM, DISEASED CARRION EARLYBIRD AND RAINBOW CHICKENS.*)

Yunus is not a supervisor. He is an acting supervisor. If someone is acting, he is shaky because he is looking for the position." (*End of Zaahid's heart's lament which we are sure will find its way to the Divine Arsh. Insha'Allah, this Lament of the Heart will flatten the carrion brains of the SANHA mob.*)

SANHA'S LIES AND CARRION PUMMELED

This is straight, sincere talk from the heart of an Earlybird slaughterer of two decades. Every unprejudiced Muslim who reads his cry and lament with an open mind in the quest for the Haqq, will understand the Truth which flows from every word emanating from the unsophisticated tongue of Zaahid regardless of the language deficiency. Every Muslim can understand from this heartfelt LAMENT the LIES which SANHA has been feeding Muslims in its desperate bid to sustain its Haraam Carrion Chicken industry. SANHA has recklessly, flagrantly and knowingly been feeding Muslims HARAAM CARRION CHICKENS. Can the word of such devils ever be trusted? Knowingly feeding Muslims HARAAM CARRION!!! It was not a one-time error. SANHA has been sustaining and covering up with LIES this HARAAM corruption, akin to KUFR, for over 12 years. It is disgusting and utterly disgraceful.

SANHA is, Alhamdulillah, sealing its own credibility fate with the mammoth and dark lies it is proclaiming from the rooftops. Just imagine! Blatantly denying an inspection of several hours by several Ulama! Only paranoia caused by carrion haraam chickens and an incorrigible addiction for feasting on LIES have blinded SANHA into this latest blunder of LIES. The lengthy discussions with the slaughterers, the signing of papers at the plant, both on entry and at the point where the plant attire had to be donned for the inspection, the office discussion with Rehmat (SANHA's chief supervisor at Earlybird), the several telephonic discussions with slaughterers and even with the supervisor, SANHA's threat to the

supervisor after it learnt of the inspection, the lengthy frank, heart-talk of Zaahid (the slaughterer of 20 years service), audio and visual recordings of the inspection – all adequate evidence for any future court wrangle with SANHA -- all testify loudly and explicitly to the inspection which despite being clearer than daylight is denied by the insane Carrion Purveyor, SANHA!!!

SANHA is, Alhamdulillah, in the advanced stage of preparing its own coffin. It is left to us to nail the rotting and stinking corpse of SANHA in the coffin of its own making Denial of explicit facts staring one so glaringly in the face is clear evidence of the insanity which is creeping into the brains of those like SANHA who have been feeding the Ummah HARAAM DISEASED ROTTEN CARRION CHICKENS. SANHA should not forget that over the years of its miserable illegitimate existence it has brutally tortured to death billions of Allah's defenceless *Makhlooq*, and that it has fed the Ummah billions of HARAAM CARRION chickens in the name of Islam.

SANHA! Be rest assured that this Carrion Saga will continue and be perpetuated as long as you feed the Ummah HARAAM CARRION in Allah's Name.

INTRODUCTION

On 2 April 2009, Mufti Shuayb Ravat, Mufti Sadaqat Khan, Maulana Haroon Ebrahim (all three are Ustaadhs at Ashraful Madaaris, De Deur), and Hafiz Anwar Sujee of Laudium undertook an inspection of the EARYBIRD CHICKEN plant in Olifantsfontein, Gauteng. This inspection was not pre-planned. Muhtaram Hafiz Anwar Sujee who had earlier visited the plant had invited the Ulama to make an inspection.

The full report of the inspection issued by these Ulama is reproduced verbatim in this booklet.

This was an inspection conducted by an independent group. The result of the inspection will, Insha'Allah, be an eye-opener for many Muslims who are still in doubt regarding the Shar'i status of the commercially processed chickens.

Read the report carefully, digest the facts, and save your Imaan from the spiritual destruction which the consumption of haraam carrion wroughts. May Allah Ta'ala bestow to you the taufeeq to understand and obey the Command He issues in the following Qur'aanic aayat:

“O People! Eat from the earth that which is halaal and tayyib, and do not follow in the footsteps of shaitaan. Verily, he (shaitaans) orders you with only evil and immorality, and that you speak about Allah what you know not.”

Allah Ta'ala in the Qur'aan Majeed states the link between haraam food and obedience to shaitaan. Consumption of haraam food breaks down the spiritual defences and one becomes an easy prey for shaitaan. May Allah Ta'ala save us all from the evil of our nafs and the snares of shaitaan.

Mujlisul Ulama of S.A.
P.O.Box 3393
Port Elizabeth
6056

Jamadil Ula 1430
May 2009

REPORT ON VISIT TO EARLY BIRD, OLIFANSTFONTEIN ON THE 2ND APRIL 2009

By Maulana Haroon Ebrahim

On the 2nd of April 2009, the following three persons and I (Haroon Ebrahim) visited the Early Bird Chicken slaughterhouse for an impromptu inspection: Hafez Anwar Sujee, Mufti Shuaib Ravat and Mufti Sadaaqat Khan.

We arrived at the plant around 1pm and were stalled at the entrance gate, awaiting consent to enter. Hafez Anwar had been to the Plant about two weeks previously and he had met Brother Rahmat Khan (the Muslim supervisor) and a Mr. Hennie. The security at the gate could not locate Mr. Kahn to let us in and Mr. Hennie was unavailable. After some time, eventually the security located Mr. Khan, who sent someone to escort us in.

After about a 30 minute wait at the gate, Brother Yunus, who was a slaughterer and now temporarily a ‘halaal’ supervisor, came to meet us and led us in. As we were walking in, I was speaking to Brother Yunus and during the course of the conversation asked him if he managed to recite Tasmiyah on each and every chicken. He said that he “tried his best to do so”. I asked him, what happens if during the slaughter stint, he needed to cough or his attention was diverted temporarily, he then replied that he ‘recites’ in his heart.

Our group decided to first perform Zuhr Salaat, and we were taken to the Jamaat Khana on the premises. The Jamaat Khana is situated alongside the Muslim staff change rooms, so there, we met a few more slaughterers. When we asked them, all admitted to not being able to recite Tasmiyah for every bird they slaughtered. In fact, one of the slaughterers said: “*It is difficult to recite Bismillah for every chicken, so at Fajr time I make my intention.*”

After we completed our Zuhr Salaat in the cramped Jamaat Khana, which incidentally does not allow more than 4 persons to

comfortably perform Salaat, we proceeded upstairs to change into the required attire in order to go into the slaughtering Plant.

As we were being taken to the change room, we noticed a few trucks laden with crates full of chickens. There was a lone chicken huddled on the ground, close to the tyre of one of the trucks. It had probably fell off from one of the crates.

Close to the change rooms, the MJC ‘halaal’ certificate is proudly displayed on the wall, alongside some other frames.

Whilst we were waiting to get into the change room, we met another slaughterer, who is employed at the Plant for 20 years. It was whilst we were changing that some of the slaughterers started confiding in us. We were taken by complete surprise, because we neither initiated their confessions nor did we imagine they would speak to us so openly about their grievances.

They started off by saying that many moulanas had come previously and they (the slaughterers) had complained, but no one ever came with any feedback. Their problem was the excessive line-speed, which they could not cope with. They felt very guilty that they could not handle this speed given the present number of slaughterers. They said that they could not recite the Tasmiyah for every bird and they feared questioning on the Day of Qiyaamah.

When we asked them why they did not bring their complaints up to Sanha, they said that they have complained on numerous occasions, but nothing was done about it. When asked what their supervisor Mr. Rahmat was doing about their complaints, they shrugged and sighed, saying that he was ‘trying’ but did not do anything constructive as well.

They even went as far as saying that the halaal authorities should be firm with management of Early Bird and threaten to remove the halaal certification if management does not comply to proper Shar’i standards.

One slaughterer said that management commented that in America, chickens are slaughtered by machine and a tape-recorder to recite Tasmiyah. The slaughterer said that they told management that this is South Africa and that system will not work here. [This comment

by management of Early Bird clearly displays the ‘halaal’ concept envisaged by non-Muslims!]

We then also asked them regarding performance of Salaats, specifically Jumuah and Eid Salaats. They said that they were not allowed out for Jumuah Salaat or Eid Salaat, but that sometimes, those who are not on slaughter duty for the specific hour, would steal away for the Salaat. Sanha and their supervisor have done nothing positive to alleviate this problem and arrange with management for them to all go and perform Jumuah Salaat at the closest Musjid. Apparently, Mr. Rahmat goes out for Jumuah Salaat, but no concern is shown for the slaughterers to attend Jumuah or Eid.

We then proceeded to the slaughtering Plant for the inspection.

ENTER THE PLANT

We were taken around by the supervisor, Brother Yunus. We started off at the entrance of the Plant where the chickens are taken from the crates and hoisted upside down onto the conveyor belt. We were shown the control room, where the temperature of the scalding tanks and voltage of the stun-tanks are displayed and controlled. The temperature of the water was 52.5°C and the voltage of the tanks were 60v. There were also counters where the slaughter rate was kept a tab of.

We then entered the Plant proper.

THE STUNNING

We first passed the stun-tank, which is a fairly long tank where the chickens’ heads are submerged as they proceed along the conveyor belt. Besides the brutality these poor chickens undergo in this water, by being electrocuted in their heads they are also subjected to suffocation during this period. At the end of the tank their little heads strike the edge of the tank and mercilessly gets forced over the edge.

We personally witnessed a dead chicken lying at the edge of the tank, drowned. It obviously got dislodged from the conveyor belt and drowned in the water. This must be a regular occurrence. The

cries and pain of these maltreated and oppressed poor chickens are sure to reach the Arsh of Allah Azza Wa Jall!

There are incidentally two lines of conveyors which reach three slaughterers on each side. The slaughterers have one hour shifts each and rotate during the course of the day and night. There are twelve slaughterers per shift. One set for day-shift and another for the night shift. The day shift commences at 6am until 4:30pm and the night shift begins at 7:30pm until 6am.

During the night-shift there is no supervision of slaughterers, as Mr. Rahmat Khan only works during the day.

At the end of the stun-bath, I personally counted the line-speed by placing my hands on the top of the conveyor to count the number of chickens passing by. I counted no less than 120 chickens passing by in a minute. This means that each slaughterer gets to slaughter at least 40 chickens a minute. Another person (Brother Yunus, the supervisor) also did a physical count after me and his count was 134 chickens in a minute. This translates to 44.6 chickens per minute per slaughterer!

THE SLAUGHTER

We then proceeded to the slaughterers. We could not discern whether the slaughterers were reciting Tasmiyah because they had white mouth-masks over their faces, over which they had the full-head masks. They also wore ear-muffs. Each slaughterer had to cut every third chicken on the line. At the rate the chickens were moving and the fact that the slaughterers had to concentrate on cutting every third chicken, we concluded that it is impossible to recite the Tasmiyah fully and diligently for every chicken! Furthermore, the slaughterers themselves have confirmed this fact. It was also clearly observed that the slaughterers only passed the knife very superficially over the chickens' necks. On close inspection it was found that many, if not most of the birds were just nicked with the knife. In many cases the knife of the slaughterers barely cut the skin on the poor chickens' necks.

As we were proceeding towards the next stage, I noticed one of the slaughterers going out of line to quickly wash his mask and knife.

In this time, it was obvious that some birds were left unslaughtered.

The chickens are then led through a 'bleeding' stage, before being scalded in the scalding water tanks. We stood at the entrance of the scalding-tanks and watched the chickens as they passed by. We noticed that almost one in every five, was not properly slaughtered. I took pictures of two of them.

THE SCALDER

The chickens are then led into a scalding tank. The water in this tank was extremely hot (bubbling) and filthy, filthy, filthy. We placed a thermometer in the water to test the temperature, but unfortunately the thermometer we brought only had reading until 42°C, and the water was much more hotter than that. Incidentally, the thermometer came out of the water with a putrid stink. That stink still exists on the thermometer to this day! The recording in the control room showed 52.5°C.

Imagine the chickens being boiled in their blood and whatever filth is on their feathers and bodies. They remained in this tank for at least 4 minutes (according to Mr. Rahmat) and about 7 minutes (according to a slaughterer whom we asked). These chickens are seriously contaminated during this stage! It is no wonder that they have to 'spice' the chickens with a 'brine' before packaging, so as to remove the stench and pollution the meat exudes.

After the scalding, the birds are then taken through the defeathering machine whereafter their heads are virtually ripped (not cut) from their necks. The heads are taken on a separate conveyor for separate packaging. The feet are also cut off the bodies and taken for packaging. We noticed ammonia burns on many of the feet.

The birds are then taken for cleaning, cutting and packaging.

END OF THE 'halaal' SECTION

Incidentally, the first stage of the Plant, until just after the slaughter is called the 'halaal-section'. So, even they regard the rest of the process as..... not halaal? There is absolutely no supervision in the latter stages, since most if not all the staff are non-Muslim. An

important pre-requisite for meat to be Halaal is that there has to be Muslim supervision right until the end-user. This is definitely not the case here.

In fact, even Mr Rahmat, the Muslim supervisor admitted to us that he will not buy or eat an Early Bird chicken purchased from Pick and Pay, for example. (See the last part of this report).

The chickens are then sorted out according to their size and weight and undergo a mechanical process of removal of intestines, etc.

They are then injected with 'brine' before being packaged.

We asked to see the bags of the product used to inject the meat with and were taken to the stores where we met Mr. Rahmat Khan.

ENTER THE SUPERVISOR

I asked him what the ingredients of the 'brine' were and he said that it is halaal and checked by the ulama. He then gave us a 'certificate of analysis'. He could not tell us exactly what the 'brine' consisted of.

He explained to us that he was in charge of the stores and had many other duties in the Plant, hence he relied on supervisors like Yunus to be on the floor and check the slaughtering.

So, if he was occupied with other duties and his supervisor, Yunus, was escorting us on that day, who was supervising??? Also, what supervision is there? What does the Sanha supervisor come there to see? The slaughterer's mouths are fully covered by the white masks, how can one gauge that they are reciting Tasmiyah, which is the core of being halaal, at least in their understanding?

Rahmat then invited to sit down and ask him whatever we needed to know.

He took us to an office where we sat down and had a short discussion with him. From our discussion with him, we realised that he was rooting fully for Sanha. Amongst his comments were:

- ✓ MJC no longer comes for inspection and only Sanha sends their inspector.
- ✓ Sanha's inspector comes at least twice a month and sometimes thrice. He would mostly come during the

slaughterer's lunch break, which is between 11 and 12, and motivate them. [This view differs greatly with the slaughterers who said the last they saw a Sanha inspector was late last year].

- ✓ He told us that he constantly reminds the slaughterers that the entire halaal-process hangs squarely on their shoulders and that their job is very important, in that if they fail to discharge their jobs properly they will have to answer to Allah Ta'ala on the Day of Qiyaamah...What a shambles! The slaughterers confided in us that they fear questioning on the Day of Qiyaamah because they are not able to properly discharge their duty due the line-speed being excessive and on this side their supervisor says the responsibility of halaal rests squarely on the slaughterer's shoulders, who are not even allowed out for Jumuah and Eid Salaat! Sanha and their stooges rely totally on fussaaq for making the chickens halaal! The same chickens they and their supervisors will NOT buy or consume when sold at supermarkets!
- ✓ When we highlighted to Mr Rahmat the importance of Jumuah Salaat, he shrugged and said that they are trying to make a plan. We even suggested a way in which the slaughterers could all go for Jumuah and still keep up with production. It is obvious that Sanha and their ilk are totally subservient to the non-Muslim companies who pay them lucratively. The non-Muslim companies' main concern is production, and Sanha, Mjc, etc are too scared to present the Shariah to them.
- ✓ The slaughterers perform their Jumuah Salaat on the premises. They take turns – six at a time. An Imaam is brought

in for them from nearby Tembisa. [This statement of his is preposterous to say the least. Since he had told us that most of his slaughterers are Shaafi, their Jumuah like this is not valid. Also there is no *Izne aam*. Also, all the slaughterers laughed off this claim of Rahmat Khan when we told them that we were told they perform Jumuah on the premises. In fact, one of the slaughterers, commented that some Muslims are big liars!]

- ✓ He said that arrangement is made for them to go for Eid Salaat. Six go where Salaat is early and the balance go to another venue. [This also differs with the claim of all the slaughterers we spoke to. They all said that they do not go for Eid Salaat].
- ✓ I asked Rahmat whether he would eat Early Bird chickens slaughtered at their Plant if bought from Pick and Pay. To this he replied, *"Now that is another matter..."* He said that because of contamination and the fact that Pick and Pay etc. are run by non-Muslims, he will not buy and eat from there. I then asked him that since 99% of their chickens are sold to the large non-Muslim concerns, he and Sanha have no concern for the rest of the Ummah who buy and consume these chickens when they label them as Halaal and yet he himself will not buy and eat from there?
- ✓ I then asked him whether they supplied any franchises. He was not sure of this but commented that he had spoken on numerous occasions with the Ulama at Sanha regarding the franchises, that even though they certify them as Halaal, they have no access to the central distribution places because they are not allowed to see the recipes and ingredients. He said

that he was surprised that Sanha certifies franchises without knowing what ingredients go into the products.

As we were still speaking to him, he reminded us that it was time for knock-off, so we had to leave.

The next day I phoned the slaughterers who had confided in us and asked to meet them so they could sign affidavits attesting to what they told us the previous day. They agreed and we were to meet them nearby the Plant after they had finished work for the day. Nevertheless, this meeting proved futile because by now, they were scared out of their wits as they had been threatened by Rahmat Khan that they would lose their jobs if they spoke to us. They were heavily rebuked for having spoken to us the previous day. The slaughterers even said that they had never seen Rahmat Khan in the temper he was in since they know him, which is many years.

COMMENTS:

1. According to our inspection, the chickens slaughtered at the Early Bird in Olifantsfontein are 100% Haraam.
2. In fact, before we even entered the Plant proper, after speaking to the slaughterers it was clear that the chickens were Haraam. When all the slaughterers we spoke to conceded to the fact that they do not recite Tasmiyah on all the chickens they slaughter, what further evidence is needed to certify the chickens as Haraam?
3. The factors of not facing to Qibla, wanton disregard to the fact that the chickens are creation of Allah Ta'ala with souls and yet so oppressed, contribute to the hurmat of the chickens.
4. The upside down hanging of the chickens, the cruel stunning, the incomplete slaughter, all add to the cruelty.

5. The scalding of the chickens before defeathering, which takes at least 4 minutes (and longer) clearly add to the hurmat of the chickens.
6. The fact that there is ABSOLUTELY no supervision of the chickens, including the slaughtering process leaves much food for thought. Although there is supposed to be a Muslim supervisor, he is not there on the floor all the time. On the day of our visit Mr. Rahmat was busy in the stores and the supervisor, Brother Yunus was taking us around. There was no one supervising on that day. Another point to remember is that it is IMPOSSIBLE to see the slaughterers reciting Tasmiyah, because their mouths are covered by the white mask. After the slaughter process there is again ABSOLUTELY no supervision when the chickens are cut, packaged and stored. Transport is undertaken by non-Muslims---no supervision. There are only two 'halaal' slaughtering Plants of Early Bird but they have branches in many places all over the country where the chickens are stored, like Cape Town, etc. There is ABSOLUTELY no supervision at any of these places.
7. After personally visiting this Plant we are absolutely certain that chickens coming out of such 'halaal' Plants are totally and absolutely Haraam. Not Mushtabah or Makrooh, but 100% HARAAM!

May Allah Ta`ala have mercy on His servants and save us all from consuming Haraam. May He guide the carrion-certifiers to see their folly and mend their ways.

Was Salaam

Haroon Ebrahim

Early Bird Olifantsfontein Haraam Plant

By Mufti Shuayb Ravat

What the Slaughterers Had to Say—The Scandalous Reports

1. The first slaughterer I spoke to said that he tries his best to read the Tasmiyah. He acknowledged that **he does *not* read over every bird.**

When asked about the pre-Christmas period he said that during that period they slaughter between 40-45 chicks per minute. He said that it was very difficult. This slaughterer had a shift coming up from 2.00pm-3.00pm. We spoke to him at about 1.20pm. He was extremely tired. His eyes looked blurry and he looked in desperate need of sleep.

2. Then there were the two whom we can call ‘head slaughterers’ who do supervising work as well. They spoke to us in private about their grievances. They said that everything is not alright. They asked us to help them because their conscience was weighing heavy on them. They said that they were answerable on the *Day of Judgement*. They said that other Moulanas would come, not to be seen again. I asked what their problem was. They said that **the line speed was too fast**. They complained about the management being kuffaar who do not understand. They said that when they brought their complaints to the chief supervisor, Rahmat Khan, or to the SANHA supervisor, they did not hear anything again or they would be told that it has been brought to the management’s attention. They agreed **it was *not* possible to read the Tasmiyah every time.**

The one has been working for 9 years at Early Bird. His name is Yunus. He was our guide at the plant. The other who made the shocking revelations was Zaahid who has been with the plant for 20 years. Yunus agreed to whatever Zaahid had to say.

I gauge from what they had to say that the management considers *their protests of the line speed* to be a demand for increased salary. In other words, the management does not understand the difficulty and the importance of slaughtering every chick with the Tasmiyah. They are under the impression that the slaughterers just want more money. They said that the management told them about this method not being in practice in America. They responded by saying that this is not America where you put a cassette on and slaughter with an automated machine-knife.

They were prepared to meet us for further discussion. However, they all chickened out. According to them Rahmat, the Early Bird supervisor, was a different man the next day. They had never seen him like that before. They said that he spoke to the other slaughterers who were then all scared of losing their jobs. Even Yunus was looking scared and he acknowledged that he was threatened with his job. Zaahid the whistle-blower however, was adamant he would go ahead with the exposure. In his own words, he was prepared to stand in front in the mosque and tell everyone. He said that he was not scared; he is the shop-steward at the plant. But alas Zaahid also got chicken feet when we contacted him afterwards.

3. Another slaughterer I spoke to said that he has been working for 2 years at the plant. He says that he simply reads *Bismillah*, *Bismillah*, *Bismillah*. In other words, he does not read the entire Tasmiyah of *Bismillahi Allahu Akbar*. He also acknowledged his incapability of reciting over every bird.

Comments

1. The truth of the matter is that the slaughterers hardly recite Tasmiyah. They are too fatigued. In fact, it appears that they have become accustomed not to recite.

Practically it is **impossible** for them to recite the Tasmiyah over every bird. There are 3 slaughterers in each line. The birds are coming at a rate of approximately **40 birds or more per minute per slaughterer**. The slaughterer has to count two birds and slaughter the third. As soon as the third bird appears in front of him he slaughters it. There is no pause for the Tasmiyah and then the slaughter. This means that if he recites the Tasmiyah he has to start it immediately after slaughtering the previous one. But this is not possible either as he has to count one, two and slaughter the third. And the speed of the birds coming in is tremendous. It is non-stop. The slaughterers do not have a second's rest in between.

Yet, I saw one slaughterer move out of the line to wash his visor/goggle and sharpen his knife. He took approximately 15-25 seconds to do this. Now during this period what happened to the 10-16 chickens which he had to slaughter? He was the last in the line and hence it cannot be averred that the other slaughterers slaughtered his share as well.

2. We saw many chicks with just a nip in their necks. Not a single vein was cut. More will be disclosed on this later, Insha Allah.

Our Visit to Early Bird Chicken Plant Olifantsfontein

The Unannounced Visit

On Thursday, 5th Rabi'ul Aakhir 1430 / 2nd April 2009 a visit to the Olifantsfontein Chicken Slaughtering Plant of Early Bird situated in Clayville was arranged by Moulana Haroon Ebrahim Saheb via

Hafiz Anwar Sujee Saheb of Laudium. We met Hafiz Saheb outside Laudium at approximately 12.05pm and he took us via Centurion and Midrand to the plant.

We reached the plant at about 1.00pm and checked in at the security gate/reception. Meanwhile Hafiz Saheb contacted the Early Bird Supervisor, Rahmat Khan as we were not allowed permission onto the premises without official escort. Rahmat Khan was unavailable and arrangements were made for someone else to receive us. At about 1.40pm a person who introduced himself as Yunus met us at the security gate. We were then allowed inside and Brother Yunus who is a slaughterer at the plant and who also does supervision of the 'halaal' section, i.e. the slaughtering section led us inside. This brother is from Thembisa, the sprawling Black settlement outside Johannesburg.

We mentioned to Yunus that we wanted to read our Zuhr Salaat firstly and thereafter see the whole slaughtering process and the subsequent process. On our way to the Jamaat Khana situated inside the plant Moulana Haroon Saheb engaged Brother Yunus in conversation. Yunus' arrival was a blessing in disguise, as we came to learn thereafter.

Statistics

Whilst waiting for our escort at the entrance we made some calculations of the number of chickens slaughtered at the plant, and by each slaughterer, according to the statistics given to Hafiz Anwar by the Plant Management during his visit a fortnight ago.

200 000 chicks are slaughtered daily at the plant during two shifts; day shift and night shift. Total hours of slaughtering are 18. Thus 11 111 chicks are slaughtered per hour approximately.

There are 6 slaughterers per 1 hour shift. Thus each slaughterer slaughters 1851 chicks per hour. And in a minute, each slaughterer passes his knife over 30 chicks and a half. This means that a slaughterer has less than two seconds to recite *Bismillahi Allahu Akbar*. In one hour he has to recite the Tasmiyah **1851** times and in

his 5 hour work shift he recites or should recite the Tasmiyah **9455** times! *Allahu Akbar!*

These calculations are in fact less than what our investigation concluded as the figures given were not correspondent to our count once at the killing section. We witnessed and concluded an average of **40 to 45 birds per minute** per slaughterer. The calculations thus are astronomical. It means that **1¼ chicks are slaughtered in 1⅞ of a second**. That is averaging **almost a Tasmiyah a second** which is impossible. It means the Tasmiyah and the slaughter are taking place at one and the same time. It means that before the completion of a Tasmiyah the chicken has been slaughtered in cases. *Subhaanallah!* And, in fact the recitation of **2400 Tasmiyahs an hour and 12 000 in 5 hours** of slaughtering is practically impossible for the slaughterers. This they have testified to. Some said that they read in the heart; some say they try their best; some acknowledged they can't; whilst others just shook their heads in defeat and fatigue.

The Freight and Fright of the Chicks

Following Brother Yunus we passed by the trucks carrying the imprisoned chicks. In the crates the chicks were crammed up. There was only space to stand. The hours-long journey to the killing plant and the hours-long wait made the chicks exceptionally weary. For how many hours have they been starved and deprived of water; makes one imagine the gross cruelty to these dumb creatures of Allah Ta'ala. We were told that each truck carried 9000 chicks.

One chick had fallen off a truck. It was in no physical condition to run. It stood for a while. Its abnormal physical build did not allow it to walk even a few paces. It just stood or sat by the wheel of the truck. No one cared for it. Would it have escaped the truck's tyre once the trucker moved his truck to the platform? Allah Alone knows the degree of blood-chilling cruelty these chickens were and are suffering.

Like flakes of snow the feathers of the chickens were falling from the trucks leaving a film of white on the tarmac. Their short life on earth was near to expiry.

At the Jamaat Khana

We reached the Jamaat Khana. Inside I met one bearded black brother and slaughterer by the name of Rashid. We greeted. I asked him about his slaughtering and recitation of Tasmiyah. He said that *he tries his best*. I asked how many chickens he slaughtered a minute. He replied, “About 35.” After being asked about the October and November months when production increases he just shook his head signifying utter helplessness. He said that during that period from **40 to 45 chicks a minute are slaughtered by each slaughterer**.

After reading our Zuhr Salaat I found Rashid with his hands and head on the table resting out of weariness. His eyes looked foggy and blurry. He really looked tired. Yet he was due for another 1hr stint from 2.00pm to 3.00pm.

Unexpected Exposure of the Haraam Slaughtering

We went to the changing room after performing our Zuhr Salaat. Outside the changing room we waited for the keys to be brought. We also had to fill in a form here replying to questions on personal health. Whilst we were waiting, Yunus introduced another Black Muslim brother by the name of Zaahid—a veteran at the plant. He has been working at the plant for 20 years since the age of 18. He is also a slaughterer from Thembisa. He spoke of Moulana Kattani and Jamaat Work. He was aware of the Ijtimaa in Roshnee during the April holidays. He seemed a very friendly character. I think Moulana Haroon Saheb posed him a few questions about the slaughtering.

Nevertheless, once inside the changing room and whilst we were putting on our boots and overalls Zaahid came inside and spoke his heart out. He said: “Shaikh! I want to tell you something. Everything is not alright here. We have grievances. They do not

want to listen to us. When we tell any Moulana, they say they will do something, but we do not hear from them again. The management is kuffaar. They don't understand."

I asked him what their grievances were. He replied: "**The line speed is too fast. We can't cut so many an hour. We need an extra slaughterer per line. It is difficult. The pressure on the mind is too much.**" He thereafter related his guilty conscience and of being questioned on *Judgement Day* by Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala. He is aware that Muslims are consuming Early Bird Chickens on the strength of their slaughtering and he felt guilty of betraying the Ummah for their helplessness to cope with the line speed. He said that they brought it to the management's notice without success. The management cited the example of America where slaughtering is done by machine. He responded that this was not America where a cassette is played with *Bismillah* and the slaughter is done by a machine-knife. Muslims here would not eat such chickens. He said that these kuffaar do not understand these issues.

We asked them what happens when they go on strike. They replied that inexperienced slaughterers are recruited from Thembisa Mosque. Then about 6 are stationed per line and the slaughtering is haphazard.

We asked him about his salary. He replied that he receives R3800 monthly.

He said that the last time they went on strike was 3 years ago.

We asked him how often **the SANHA-inspector** came round. They said (Yunus came in shortly after Zaahid began his revelations and disclosure) that he **hasn't been there since the starting of the year.**

We explained to them that we are prepared to help them, but they must be prepared to speak and give us the relevant facts. We assured them that we will get back to them. Hafiz Saheb (Anwar Sujee) was utterly shocked at the disclosure. In his guided tour by Rahmat Khan, the Early Bird Supervisor, he was led to believe everything was halaal. He did not question the slaughterers

individually. Now he was left agape at the malpractices inherent in the chicken-killing industry.

Zaahid said that he had some papers which spoke out against the slaughtering system. We asked to be shown the papers. He said he will make it available.

Greeting Zaahid, we left the changing room and headed for the 'halaal' department. On the way Moulana Haroon Saheb commented: **"It is confirmed that the chickens are Haraam.** There is no need to proceed further. But for further confirmation we will view for ourselves."

The Temperature Control Room

From there (the changing room) we went with Yunus to the starting point. The crates are brought down from the trucks onto a platform and from there the journey of tyranny for the birds commence. They are taken out of the crates and shackled upside down. The temperature control room is the control room which also has a counter of the chickens slaughtered. The scalding water read 52 centigrade and the stunner was just above 60 volts.

The So-Called 'Halaal' Section

Now we were taken into the slaughtering section. We observed two lines of birds, i.e. two separate operations of slaughtering, de-feathering, etc.

Birds on conveyor belts shackled upside down were coming non-stop. Above, wherever one's gaze fell, there was the bizarre scene of trapped chickens with feet upright hovering around. On the conveyor belt birds were flapping their wings, many of them. Most however were silent and still but their eyeballs were popping out in horror.

A horrific journey of a minute or two brought them to the stun cabinet. Here their whole heads and necks were submerged in electrified water and at the same time water was being sprayed at

them once they were in the cabinet. Many birds coming out of the cabinet flapped their wings frantically. The neck and heads of the birds were immobile. I lifted the heads of a few chicks but there seemed like no life in their heads. Their eyes were open, but they were senseless. The heads just fell down once released.

The Dismal Haraam Slaughtering

The next observation was the most important; the actual slaughtering. Only 3 slaughterers operated each line. Line no. 2 was extremely hot, humid and steaming from the steam coming from the stun cabinet and the scalding tank not far away. In fact, I thought I may become dizzy at first. But I held myself together, *Al-Hamdulillah*.

I looked on in amazement at the slaughterers and the conditions of their slaughtering. Like I said, Line Two was very humid and steamy. It was more enclosed. The slaughterers were wearing their gear and masks. It is not possible to see their lips and thus no lip movements can be seen. Their jaws did not even move. In fact, they looked like beaten horses going through their monotonous motions.

Three slaughterers were lined up in each two sections. The birds came relentlessly. The slaughterers held the birds' necks with their left hands and slit their necks. The slaughtering was done very lightly. In fact so lightly, that **I and my other colleagues saw plenty of chicks with only nips in the necks. We captured on camera a chick with not even a single vein cut. Only its skin was cut. And there were many like that.**

This was the final shift of the day, i.e. 2.00pm—3.00pm for this team. They looked fatigued. The only motion was in their hands. Their heads were motionless; drooped and just staring at the chicks passing them. One slaughterer in line two just then jumped out of the line and went to wash his goggles/mask and knife. He came

back, sharpened his knife and continued. This was for approximately 15-25 seconds. Now during this period what happened to the chicks that were left for him to slaughter? Each slaughterer slaughters one and leaves two. So it follows that during this period about 10-16 chicks went by without being slaughtered.

Nevertheless, I saw plenty of chickens with just nips in their necks. The chickens were coming to the slaughterers already half-dead after the stunning. The slaughterers themselves looked half-dead. I really doubt whether they were even reading a single Tasmiyah. In fact, **they admitted that they do not read over every chick**. Just how many birds are slaughtered without verbal recitation has not yet been declared by them. And **in our observation we cannot vouch for a single Tasmiyah having been read over any chicken**.

The Line Speed

Moulana Haroon Saheb took a count of the line-speed. His count was 120 birds per minute. Yunus disagreed. He took his count. The count is made by placing a hand over the conveyor belt and counting each shackle joint. Yunus' count was 134. **In Moulana Haroon's count the average number of chickens slaughtered by a single slaughterer is 40 per minute. In Yunus' count it is 44.6.** It is humanly impossible to sustain the Tasmiyah for a whole hour and then repeat it 5 times a day over 12 000 chickens.

Three Feet in One Shackle

Something else I noticed in the conveyor belt upside down shackling was that there were three feet sometimes on one shackle. At first I thought that it was deformed chicks born with three feet. Upon closer observation I found that the third foot was unattached to the leg of the shackled chick. It slipped my mind to enquire about this.

The Scalding Tank

The next step of the slaughtering I observed was the scalding; the scalding hot water into which the chickens are submerged, with their intestines, feathers, cut and bleeding throats for **7 minutes** according to Yunus. However, Rahmat the Early Bird Supervisor disputed this. He contended that leaving the birds in such hot water for 7 minutes will leave the meat ‘black’. His assertion was that they were in the scalding tank for **4 minutes**.

The water in the scalding tank was absolutely filthy. Moulana Haroon Saheb asked me to keep a thermometer in the tank. I kept it and he did the timing. When the bubbles rose it burnt my fingers, but I held on. After a minute we looked at the temperature. The thermometer was, however, calibrated until 40 degrees. Thus the water was definitely **over 40 degrees. 52 degrees according to what was displayed in the temperature room.**

The next day Moulana Haroon Saheb said that after 24 hrs the thermometer was still stinking.

Next we saw the de-feathering process and then the plucking off of the heads.

Removal of Pink Chicks from the Line

Then, still on the conveyor belt the chickens went past two workers looking for ‘pink chickens’, i.e. chicks that turn pink due to being un-slaughtered. During our ten minute period around that area the two workers did not remove a single chicken from the line. Their feeling of the necks for un-slaughtered pink chickens was also at random and they were not looking highly alert.

The ‘pink chickens’ removed are supposedly dumped into garbage bins.

Ammonia Burnt Feet

The next process was the amputation of the feet. The feet were cut off and put on another conveyor belt. We saw almost all the feet with various degrees of ammonia burns. Later we saw the feet being packed into packets.

The Packaging Department

We then went to the packaging department. Here some chickens are cut up and packed in trays. Others are packed whole. We entered from the back; hence we saw the packaging first. Prior to this, the intestines are removed in three separate processes; slitting, slicing and removal.

Here, in all probability, the workers were all non-Muslims. It is possible that there were a few Muslims there, Wallahu A'lam. There were hundreds of workers there. The work-rate and production were tremendous. There was no Muslim supervision.

We also saw two lines coming into this department. Here the chicks were injected with a spice known as 'brine' for taste. The Muslim slaughterers were suspicious about the contents of this 'brine'. Moulana Haroon Saheb took a picture of the brine bag label and ingredients.

Also whilst we were here Zaahid turned up and handed over to us the paper which he told us earlier contains some reports malpractices in slaughtering. It turned out to be a pamphlet by the *Independent Group of Concerned Muslims* reporting on their interview of Hammarsdale, Natal Rainbow Plant slaughterers, dated 6th Shawwaal 1429 / 6th October 2008. We returned the pamphlet as we do have a copy.

Enter Rahmat

Finally, we met Rahmat after observing the whole process at Early Bird Chicken Plant. After almost 2 hours of observation Rahmat the Early Bird Supervisor appeared on the scene smiling and greeting us. At that time we were observing or studying the packaging and label of the brine manufactured by Crown Mills. He gave us an analysis of the brine composition prepared by Crown Food Ingredients Division. Thereafter we spent the next half an hour or so in conversation with Rahmat.

In brief, here are the aspects we discussed with him and some remarks.

- 1. Can the slaughterers cope with the Tasmiyah?** “We motivate them all the time. We tell them, ‘You are answerable to Allah Ta’ala.’ Moulana Hashim Wadia, the SANHA inspector makes it a point to visit during the slaughterers’ lunch break between 11.00am and 12.00pm. He gathers all of them. He gives them motivational talks.”

The slaughterers are unanimous that they find it difficult to cope.

- 2. How often does the SANHA inspector make his rounds?** “About twice a month. Sometimes thrice a month. He sometimes brings visitors.”

The slaughterers scoffed at these remarks when we informed them of this. They say that they have not seen the SANHA inspector, Molvi Wadia the entire year.

- 3. Does the MJC whose ‘halaal’ stamp appears on the packages conduct inspections of the plant?** “No! All the practical inspection (i.e. what little of it) is done by SANHA. Yes, SANHA should put their stamp on the chickens.”

- 4. Does SANHA receive any remuneration from the MJC for their inspections?** “Well, look, I spoke to Moulana Navlakhi. He denies them receiving anything. But they should be receiving remuneration. I do not delve into these issues.”

5. **Do the slaughterers perform Jumu'ah and Eid Salaats?** To this he replied that those who are off shift read, not those who are on duty. And for Eid he tells some of the slaughterers to read their Eid Salaat in the Thembisa Mosque which is read early and the other group to read in Midrand Masjid later.
*This claim of his was laughed at by the slaughterers. They could not believe that Rahmat had stooped to such a base level to utter such falsehood. They stated emphatically in our subsequent meeting with them the following day that **they do not read Jumu'ah and they do not get leave for Eid Salaat.***
6. **Another lie peddled by Rahmat Khan was that all his slaughterers have at least 10 years of slaughtering experience at the plant.** Yet just after our conversation with him I asked one slaughterer how long has he been slaughtering at Early Bird and he replied: "2 years."
7. **Rahmat was asked by Moulana Haroon Saheb whether he would purchase these chickens from the chain-stores.** He replied, "No," and he stated the reason to be that he sees contamination at the fridges with chickens packed alongside pork products.
8. **He was asked about the franchise outlets, KFC, etc.** He replied that the SANHA Ulama stated to him that there is no supervision of the ingredients used at these outlets, i.e. in the marinades etc. They do certify these franchises; and yet they cannot vouch for the products being Halaal, because they cannot confirm what ingredients are used.
9. Rahmat mentioned that the truck drivers are not Muslim and that the packed chickens are distributed from the plant. He also mentioned that there is a storage facility in the Cape. He is not aware of the conditions there and whether there is any Muslim supervision.

Another Slaughterer's Words

After our conversation with Rahmat Khan we left to read our Asr Salaat at the Jamaat Khana. There, I spoke to another slaughterer.

He said that he just recites *Bismillah, Bismillah, Bismillah*. In other words he does not recite the full, “*Bismillahi Allahu Akbar*.” He indicated that he does not recite over every bird.

Can This Be Humane?

As we left I saw a lone bird on the platform. Work for the day had come to an end. It was almost 5.00pm. The chicken on the platform stared in loneliness and apprehension. It had to wait two hours before the night shift commenced. There was no food, no water, no grass, no sand and no friend for it. The happy chicken emblem of Early Bird certified by MJC and sanctioned by SANHA is indeed a far cry from the terrified, forlorn and battered broiler chickens sent to the slaughtering and torturing gallows at the plant. *Walaah Howla wa Laa Quwwata Illa Billaahil Aliyyil Atheem*.

Reported by: S. Ravat

Sunday, 8th Rabi’ul Aakhir 1430/5th April 2009

CONCLUSION

Why Early Bird Chickens Are Haraam

- The Slaughterers have clearly and emphatically stated that Tasmiyah is not read over every chicken.
- Numerous chickens are slaughtered with just a nip in the neck. Not a single vein is cut at times.
- The chickens, still bleeding and with their intestines not removed, are submerged in boiling water for 4-7 minutes. This renders **all** the chickens Haraam.
- There is no guarantee that the two workers looking out for ‘pink chicks’—un-slaughtered chicks—can or do remove all the un-slaughtered chicks.

- There is no fixed, permanent and continuous Muslim supervision from the point of the slaughter till the consumer.

Gross Shar'i Violations Rendering the Whole Slaughtering System Haraam

- The Chickens are cruelly left hungry and thirsty crammed up for hours in crates.
- They are mercilessly hung upside down, shackled to a moving conveyor belt.
- They are immobilized by immersion of their heads and necks in electrified water.
- The chicks are slaughtered in the presence of each other.
- No consideration is given to Istiqbaal-e-Qiblah or Facing the Qiblah. Neither does the slaughterer nor the slaughtered chicken face the Qiblah.
- The Slaughterers are denied the right to perform Jumu'ah Salaat and Eid Salaat.

In the light of the above, we declare all chickens slaughtered by Early Bird (Goldi/Festive Chickens) Haraam. It is your duty to abstain from the carrion.

And peace be upon those who follow guidance

Panel of Inspectors:

1. Moulana Haroon Ebrahim
2. Mufti Sadaqat Khan
3. Hafiz Anwar Sujee (Accountant)
4. Mufti S. Ravat

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Johannesburg - The days of “botox chicken”, pumped full of brine and salt to increase the weight, are almost certainly numbered. The agriculture department is planning interventions to regulate brine injections after City Press published reports of a frozen chicken scandal involving the country’s third-largest chicken producer, Supreme Poultry.

Supreme admitted it had defrosted chicken pieces after their expiry date, injected them with brine and attached a new expiry date. Agriculture spokesperson Noncedo Vutula said this week that a shock report about the chicken industry – in which a warning is sounded about serious health risks for millions of South Africans – would be made public after it had been approved by the minister. City Press was reliably informed that four major brands were probed. The report on the investigation, handed over to the department of agriculture, allegedly refers to a massive loss of weight when the chicken is defrosted and cooked. A large part of the weight of the chicken packs in question allegedly consists of water injected during the production process. Consumers therefore pay for water at a price of more than R10 a kilogram.

The report also allegedly warns about high salt levels in the meat which can affect consumers with blood pressure and heart problems, as well as oxidation levels which could affect the taste and pose health problems. Vutula said this week there was now a forum including officials from the departments of health and agriculture and the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS).

City Press, meanwhile, asked Professor Arno Hugo, of the department of microbial biochemistry and food biotechnology at the University of the Free State, to undertake an independent probe into the chicken industry, basing it on four brands.

The study found that:

- * One of the well-known brands analysed weighed 48.37% less when all the fluid had been cooked out of the chicken. Hugo said that the big weight loss in relation to a control portion (21,63%) was an indication of high brine water injection levels.
- * The injection level in most other countries is only 10% to 15% of the raw meat’s real weight, but in the City Press investigation the total fluid loss was astronomical.
- * The control portion that was not injected with brine, for example, lost 5,97% of its weight after defrosting.
- * The frozen portion weighed 29,59% less after the brine had run off when it was defrosted...