

and more holy verses are recited over them to exorcise the spirits.

"We can burn djinn with Quranic verses. You can hear them scream before they are weakened and leave the body," says Trimizi.

The djinn, he says, have a hierarchy – from the powerful ones usually controlled by bomohs, to weaker ones which are wandering spirits.

Trimizi, who hails from Kuala Lumpur, says he has screened more than 20,000 people in Malaysia, mostly in Sabah and Sarawak, over the past seven years. Of that, 800 were treated for djinn affliction and black magic.

Trimizi has come a long way since he learnt the art from his grandmother at the age of eight in Taiping, Perak. After her death, he continued to study Islamic medicine from renowned teachers in Malaysia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

### Open mind

Hamidi says the most serious case in Britain so far involved a Malaysian family of seven – five were confirmed to be affected by djinn and black magic.

"The mother as well as her two daughters and two sons tested positive during the private screening last weekend," he says, adding that the mother was a single parent while three members of the family suffered mental illnesses, causing extreme psychological trauma.

"We plan to obtain their NHS medical

records and publish a research paper on the relationship between mental health and djinn-affliction," he said.

Hamidi says the family has responded well to treatment and counselling but would require regular sessions for more positive results.

He says they plan to hold at least nine large-scale screenings in Britain for more than 20,000 Malaysians, including 12,000 students and their kin.

He adds that they have received requests from Malaysians and other Asian communities to hold screenings in Glasgow, London, Swindon and Derbyshire.

"Apart from Indonesians and Bruneians, the Muslim communities – Pakistanis and Bangladeshis – from the Indian sub-continent are also keen on our help," he says.

Hamidi says the screenings and treatment are free of charge and open to everyone regardless of nationality, gender, religion or creed.



Hamidi and Trimizi outside the Pisang centre in Oxfordshire. Trimizi specialises in treating those afflicted by evil spirits and witchcraft.

## Nail the offenders

WHILE there are cyber laws to nab high-tech criminals, those who practise black magic get off scot-free due to lack of legislation to bring them to book.

Towards this end, a non-governmental Malaysian organisation in Britain has proposed the introduction of *sihir* laws to nail those who cast evil spells.

Professional Islamic Support and Nurture Group (Pisang) chairman Hamidi Abdul Rahman expresses concern over the lack of such laws for a crime dating back several centuries.

"Cyber crime is barely 30 years old, yet we have cyber laws to indict criminals in a court of law.

"Without *sihir* laws, anybody is free to practise black magic without

fear of being arrested or prosecuted in a court of law," he says.

Hamidi says the problem is not just confined to the Muslim world. Even the Catholic Church has seen it as a threat by itself. He recalls that Pope Benedict XVI had in 2007 issued a decree for his clergy to form exorcism squads to fight the rise in the occult.

"The situation is getting serious. In Malaysia, we even have advertisements for money-back guarantee love potions and other forms of black magic," he adds.

However, he says it would be difficult to convict someone suspected of practising

witchcraft without solid evidence like those presented in civil courts.

Hamidi says he and his deputy, Ustaz Trimizi Zainal, have approached the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim) on the need for *sihir* laws.

"Jakim was very enthusiastic about it," he says, adding that Pisang is preparing the paperwork for a regional conference to brainstorm the issue.

Besides Islamic medical experts from Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore, they also plan to invite legislators, the judiciary as well as syariah and civil court experts to the conference.

He says Pisang hopes to organise the conference in Kuala Lumpur by middle of this year to bring together Islamic and Western medical practitioners on the same platform.

"We want them to study the diagnosis of djinn-afflicted problems and conduct research to establish some sort of evidence to convict *sihir* criminals," he says.

Once something concrete such as DNA profiling could be adduced, he says *sihir* laws could be enacted. Hamidi says *sihir* laws used in Saudi Arabia to convict a perpetrator are often disputed by the West which looks at civil laws and how evidence is brought to court.

He also points out *sihir* evidence derived from a technique to obtain organic materials such as hair sent into a victim's body via a djinn.

"We were quite excited then. We could get strands of hair from the victim but they did not have roots which made DNA profiling impossible," he says.

He says the idea is to obtain indisputable evidence to punish bomohs or whoever controls the djinn.



Trimizi reading the Quran during a djinn-screening session for a group of Malaysian students in Yemen.

## Under a spell

SUFIAH Yusof has been confirmed to be a victim of *sihir* (black magic), according to the UK-based Professional Islamic Support and Nurture Group (Pisang) which treated her.

The maths genius who has swapped prostitution for social work was screened for djinn affliction last year by Pisang deputy chairman Ustaz Trimizi Zainal and found to be positive. Pisang chairman Hamidi Abdul Rahman says she was under the influence of witchcraft.

"Based on our expertise, we can confirm that somebody actually cast the *sihir* on her," he says at the Pisang centre in Falcon Mead, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Hamidi adds that the spell was cast by "certain elements who wanted to use her for something else."

The 24-year-old made headlines when she was accepted into Oxford University at the age of 12 in 1997. She did

not complete her studies and instead got married and was later divorced.

She was found working as a hooker last March. Her Muar-born mother, Halimahton Yusof, recently wrote in her website, blaming the girl's Pakistani father for the way her life had turned out.

Hamidi says Sufiah is now on the road to recovery following intensive treatment by Trimizi but there are still issues bothering her.

"Her situation is quite complicated due to the psychological trauma she suffered during her childhood. But the biggest problem that has to be addressed is that of world headlines about her turning to prostitution," says Hamidi.

Pisang, a non-profit organisation registered in England, has undertaken the Love Sufiah initiative to guide her to the right path in life.



Sufiah Yusof, maths prodigy turned prostitute turned social worker, is believed to be a victim of witchcraft.



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