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MEDIA RELEASE
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INDIAN COMMUNITY WANTS RECONCILIATION BETWEEN HANEEF & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Friday, December 21, 2007 (Sydney, Australia). The United Indian Associations (UIA) and Overseas and Australian Medical Graduates Association (OAMGA) today welcomed the steps towards renewal of Dr Mohamed Haneef's visa when the Federal Court dismissed the appeal by former Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews.

This welcome news was followed by disbelief when after months of headline making false allegations and bungles, Federal Government lawyers announced they were considering launching a High Court challenge.

UIA President Mr Raj Natarajan commented:

"There is growing anger amongst Australians of Indian background at the Federal Government's handling of Dr Haneef's case, which has not only brought discredit to the Indian Community here in Australia but has had massive international repercussions that have directly affected Australia's health care system and immigration policy.

UIA and OAMGA strongly urge the Federal Government to apologise to Dr Haneef and welcome him back to the Gold Coast to complete his assignment. We sincerely hope that the Government will drop the appeal and recognise the restoring of Haneef's Visa as the first step in restoring credibility to the recruitment process of overseas trained doctors."

ENDS

For further information or comment please contact:

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