

# *Freemasonry Universal*—AFRICA

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## **Mauritius, Morocco, South Africa**

*by Tony Pope*

### **Mauritius (Île Maurice)**

**The Grand Lodge of Mauritius** was formed on 12 March 2005 from lodges of the French National Grand Lodge (GLNF), with the blessing of the GLNF and prior recognition (9 March) of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Richard Num, *Harashim* #34, April 2005

Murray Yaxley reports, in the November 2007 issue of *Freemasonry Tasmania*, that the Grand Lodge of Mauritius now has nine lodges, including one to work the French Rectified Scottish Rite ritual in English, Lodge Unity. The Master of this lodge is the representative of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania near the Grand Lodge of Mauritius.

*Harashim* #43, July 2008

### **Morocco**

From Michel Singer, Grand Secretary for foreign relations of the Grand Lodge of France (GLdF), comes the news that, with support from the Grand Lodge of France, **Atlas Grand Lodge of Morocco** (formed in 1967) has resumed meetings, with 80-plus members in four lodges, working the A&ASR Craft ritual. The Grand Master is Amal Kanouni.

He also advises that more than 30 members of the GLNF-sponsored Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of Morocco (formed in 2000) have defected to Atlas Grand Lodge. A statement from another GLdF source, that the **Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of Morocco** has ceased to exist, has yet to be confirmed.

*Harashim* #24, October 2002

The current situation is not clear. In September 2004 the first issue of a newsletter appeared, *Le Fraternel*, claiming to be published by La Grande Loge du Royaume du Maroc (GLRM), distributed by its members in France and Morocco. It claimed recognition from the Grand Lodges of Colorado, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York and Wisconsin, and also from Grand Lodges in Brazil, Portugal and Venezuela—without identifying *which* Grand Lodges in those countries—and Israel.

Less than a year earlier, the GLNF had withdrawn recognition from the GLRM for alleged irregularities, and recommended that other mainstream Grand Lodges follow suit. One French source claims that by 2006 there were three Grand Lodges in Morocco—the Grand Lodge of Morocco, the Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of Morocco (with a single lodge) and the Regular Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of Morocco—with 200 members between the three of them.

## South Africa

On 30 July 2005, Lodge Flaming Star #139 was consecrated at Johannesburg as the first research lodge under the **Grand Lodge of South Africa**, and WBro Mark Botha was installed as its first Presiding Master, with 38 founding members.

The lodge will meet quarterly on the third Friday at the Orange Grove Masonic Complex, Johannesburg, and will be a dining lodge. It will not conduct degree work, and membership is open to Master Masons who are subscribing members of a Craft lodge. The lodge plans to publish its papers, provide lectures and lecturers for other lodges, and education courses for Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons.

Thus there are now three research lodges in Johannesburg, the others being the Century Lodge of Research #1745 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the English Lyceum Lodge of Research #8682 (Associate member of ANZMRC). Another English research lodge, Athenaeum Lodge of Research #7455, is located at Durban (about 500 km away), and at Cape Town (about 1200 km from Johannesburg) is the multi-jurisdictional Cape Masonic Research Association.

*Harashim #36, October 2005*