



# Muslim Woman to makes a history

First Arab Muslim women to win a primary, likely to be elected win in November unopposed

By: Aysha Qamar

Michigan makes the news with the results of their Primary Election.

Arab Muslim American, Rashida Tlaib, daughter of Palestinian immigrants, won the Michigan primary election with 33.2% votes making history as the first ever Arab American Muslim woman on track to potentially serve in the United States Congress.

Tlaib will likely be the first Muslim woman elected to Congress after winning her Democratic primary in Michigan's



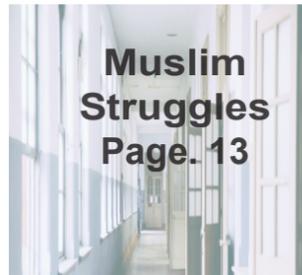
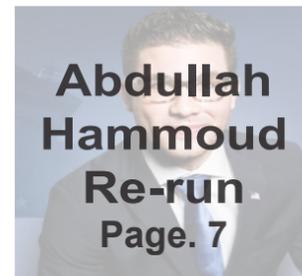
13th District.

She is one of 90 American Muslims that are running or ran for office

this year. Prior to this campaign, Tlaib became the first Muslim woman ever to serve in Michi-

gan's state legislature in 2008

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## Dr. Abdul El Syed Upholds Community

by Dr. Aslam Abdullah

El Sayed represents the voice of the American youth and community despite primary election results this week in Michigan.

Abdul El Sayed, regardless of the outcome of Michigan governor Primary, is the voice and face of new America, an America where people of all religions and color and status and vocation will come together to work for the welfare



and well being of every human being without any discrimination and barrier.

He did not use Islamophobia to win sympathy.

He did not use his minority status to seek support.

He did not use the forum

to vent his anger against others.

He did not skip tough questions.

He faced criticism with dignity

He did not use his religious identity to incite

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## Imran Khan Wins Set to become PM of Pakistan

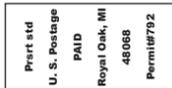


By: TMO Staff

Following the election victory, a former cricketer turned politician faces an uphill task of fulfilling his promises as well as internal and external expectations.

Imran Khan's victory attracted a global media coverage. Because this is probably the second time a civilian government will hand over power to a democratically elected

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# The Essence of Hajj



by Dr. Aslam Abdullah

Abu Uthman al-Sabani al-Shaffi (d 449) in his book Kitab ul Maitain narrates Prophet Muhammad as saying, “towards the end of the time, four main groups of people will flock around the Kaaba to perform Hajj: The powerful rulers to have fun or to enjoy the occasion, the rich people to promote their busi-

nesses, the poor to seek financial support and the reciters (or scholars) to demonstrate their skills.”

Al-Sabuni was not an ordinary scholar. He narrated the Hadith after ensuring that the matan or text and isnad or chains are sound. He once said “I never narrated a Hadith nor a non-Prophetic report in a gath-

ering except if I possessed its chain of transmission; nor did I ever enter the library except in a state of ritual purity; nor did I ever narrate Hadith, nor hold a gathering, nor teach, except in a state of ritual purity.”

Are we living in that period that was predicted by the Prophet? Has Hajj really become a type of ritual devoid of any meaning? Is

Hajj an individual ibada (worship) that requires a believer to spend time and resources to get closer to an omnipotent and omnipresent God? Has the Hajj become a business in our times? Or has it become a vacation?

There was a time when people would spend months and

*Cont on page 4*

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# Rise and fall of Muslim civilization: The causes and cures



by *Basheer Ahmed M.D.*

The Qur'an started with the word "IQRA" which means "Read" and Allah (SWT) reminds us that every Muslim man's and woman's prayer should be: "Rabbi zidni 'Ilmaa" (O Lord, increase me in 'ilm (knowledge) -20-114, and Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) said, "The ink of the scholar is more sacred than the blood of the martyr." Allah (SWT) created humans to be superior over all other creations. The major use of Ilm, (knowledge) and Aqal, (intelligence), is to develop critical thinking. This is necessary to make rational, sustainable decisions.

During the early period of Islam, between the 7th and 15th centuries, Muslims acquired knowledge in every field of Architecture, Astronomy, the Sciences, Mathematics, Medicine, and Philosophy. In the 9th century, The House of Wisdom was established which attracted scholars from many parts of the world. The work of great scholars like Aristotle, Euclid, Galen, Ptolemy, Socrates, and more were collected, preserved, and translated into Arabic. By the 11th century, all major Muslim cities (Bagdad, Cairo, and Cordoba) had unique institutions like universities, hospitals, and scientific laboratories. Muslims became the leaders of knowledge, and people from all over the world would go to Muslim cities for higher education. Muslim physicians performed complicated eye surgeries 600 years before Europe. They measured the circumferences of the earth and values for of specific gravities correct to three decimal places 1,000 years ago. Muslim scientists got the concept of zero from India and substituted

it for the Roman numeral, resulting in a more manageable decimal system in use today. There is no field of knowledge where Muslims did not explore, investigate, research, think, or invent exemplary innovations.

Some of the noted Muslim scholars of Medieval years were: Ibn al-Baitar, Ibn al-Nafis, Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, Al-Battani, Omar Khayyam, Al-Kindi, Al-Biruni, Thabit Ibn, Al-Zahrawi, Jabir ibn Hayyan, Al-Khwarizmi, Muhammad ibn Zakariya al-Razi; Ibnal-Haytham, Ibne khaldun, Ibne Rushd, Ibne Batuta, Al Idrisi, and Ibn-Sina (Avicenna), whose medical encyclopedia, "The Canon of Medicine," became the standard medical book reference in universities for 500 years. You can read about their contributions on Google. Mainstream Western history acknowledges the work was done by Greek and Roman scholars up to 300 AD and then, mysteriously jumps to 1500 AD, i.e., the European Renaissance. Very little is mentioned about social, political, or scientific developments during the period from the 7th to 15th centuries AD. H.J. Morowitz, a historian, described this phenomenon as 'History's Black Hole,' stating: "The impression (is) given that the Renaissance arose phoenix-like from the ashes — smoldering for a millennium — of the classical age of Greece and Rome." It is, in fact, the Muslim contributions in that prior time that led to the European Renaissance of the Elizabethan period, and ultimately inspired the democratic ideals of our constitution, as well as the current cross-cultural climate of U.S.A.

**The decline of the intellectual superiority in the Muslim Umma.**

In the 11th century, the separation of the revealed ("Qur'anic") sources from the rational sources of knowledge were raised by distinguished Muslim scholars. They insisted on the supremacy of the revealed source which was of divine origin, insisting that it should not be complemented or supplemented with rational sources of knowledge which they believed to be inferior and would bring a corrupting influence on the revealed knowledge. Consequently, the madrasas in the Islamic realm abandoned research in and the teaching of scientific themes. The schools and universities were engaged in reading the Qur'an without teaching its meaning, and teaching Fiqh (religious jurisprudence) — which is important for Muslim — to extreme details but taught it without the freedom of expression and critical thinking.

The great Renaissance Movement which transformed Europe into a dynamic and progressive civilization did not impact the neighboring Islamic countries because of the continued inflexible attitude of the orthodox, dogmatic Muslim jurists who only promoted the revealed sources.

Post-colonial Muslim countries were more preoccupied with consolidating their own political power than promoting the advancement of knowledge. Muslims today are as a result suffering from this ignorance. There are no contributions by Muslim scientists in Muslim countries in the technological revolution of the 20th century that has radically changed the world.

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### HAJJ

months preparing themselves financially and spiritually to live the real meaning of Hajj. However, nowadays Hajj is offered as a holiday package. Many Hajj agencies all over the world offer value packages with super programs, deluxe programs and short executive program. These programs offer the best and closest accommodation in Makkah and Medinah, best available food and best possible position in the House of Allah. Depending on how much you pay, you can get the finest place in Makkah and Medinah. If you happen to be the guest of royalty, then probably, no one can ever compete with your placement in the two mosques. When the Prophet performed his only Hajj, the only provision that he had with him was no more than four dirham as narrated in several books of ahadith.

Hajj was meant to teach the pilgrims endurance and perseverance for higher causes, yet it has been turned into an exercise in convenience. Hajj was meant to express the utmost humility in the presence of the rest of humanity by declaring that "Here I am, Here I am, I will not make anyone Allah's partner. Allah is the one who is in control of everything and He alone is the one who is the source of all blessings and praise." Yet, today, Hajj, for many have become, a badge, a symbol of spiritual arrogance.

Hajj is an institution that is supposed to reassure the people that ethnic, cultural, linguistic, geographical, wealth-based, race and color differences that humans have imposed upon themselves have no reality in the presence of God. All are one and the purpose of all is to follow the divine guidance to create a universal humanity to the well being of everyone. Hajj is meant to be a pledge to live example of Hajj beyond the Hajj. It is an occasion to create a personality without a

dimension and space.

Yet, through social engineering and manipulation of resources, Hajj is rapidly adopting social elements that distinguish the rich from the poor, the very institution that it is supposed to demolish. Divisions among Hujjaj on the basis of their ethnicity and money are visible throughout the Hajj journey.

While the hujjaj coming from poorer regions of the world may find accommodation miles away from the Haram, those who are rich can find accommodation within the vicinity of the Kaaba

The Quran describes Kaaba as a center of guidance to humanity. "Indeed the first House of Worship open to all was established in the Noble Makkah. Indeed this House is the center of guidance to all humanity." (3:96) The place was not only a place for bringing together all the people but it is a center for promoting peace. (2:145). It was a place that was meant to help humanity realize its universality rather than divisions (5:97)

For this great purpose of helping humanity realize its dream of removing all the differences and divisions among themselves the institution, Hajj come up with the clear example of making us understand and observe that unity of humanity is possible. For this the Quran asked Prophet Ibrahim to invite people to Hajj, so that they may witness the beauty and magnificence of the guidance of Allah.

Hajj is like a united nation in its real sense without five elitist powers. With no hidden agenda and security council privileges, each nation and community come to Makkah with the single purpose of serving God and reiterating their covenant with Him. Hajj provides the opportunity to everyone to witness the common bonds among people regardless

of their differences. Hajj promotes the idea of the dignity of human beings, male or female, young or old and rich and poor.

Hajj also creates space for intellectual ideas among people so that they could all remain focused on their main agenda of serving humanity by following the guidance of God.

It is this spirit of Hajj that was prevalent at the time of the Prophet and his trusted companions. It is this spirit of Hajj is now being challenged by the modern business-dominated society and hierarchy of rich and poor culture. However, among all this razzmatazz, still, there are people who come to the Hajj to take the inspiration to transform themselves for a better future both for them and for others. They are the ones who do not care about big hotels or better facilities. They are the ones who spend their days and nights in Mina, Arafat, Muzdalfa, Makkah and Medina. Here they remember the covenant that Allah made with Prophet Abraham, the builder of Kaaba. Prophet Abraham was told by God, Almighty, "I am making you the source of balance and inspiration (The Quran uses the

word Imam, that literally means the instrument that a construction worker uses to level the construction) for all people," (2:124). Encouraged by this honor, the Prophet asked: "Is this covenant for my progeny too," No" said Allah, "Those who deviate from my path would not qualify for this honor," (2:124)

In these simple words thus was described the real intent and purpose of the Hajj and all other faith-based institutions. The dignity and honor do not come with buying this or that package. It comes through dedication and commitment to the divine values and living up to them.

Someday, the Hajj will be restored to its original intent by those un-known and un-recognized faces who come from all over the world quietly without any fanfare and who spend every moment of their presence in the noble sanctuaries and the pilgrimage path with the determination to follow their real leaders: Prophets Ibrahim, Prophet Ismail and Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon them, in every aspect of this great institution.

The re-enactment of acts performed during

the Hajj is attributed to Prophets Ibrahim and Ismal and Mother Hagar. They are primarily meant for the purpose of reminding the humanity that in order to bring people together, God's guidance is received, acknowledged, accepted and followed by a small group of people who may not be present physically to see the fruits of their efforts. Prophet Ibrahim created that nucleus for perpetual change in human behavior and for that he was honored by God who declared him as an Imam (role model) for humanity. The guidance that inspired Prophet Ibrahim to put the dream of one people under God, in reality, is there in its most clear, puritan, crystal form in the Quran. How ironic it is that despite the guidance, many remain misguided including those who claim to have understood and mastered the divine guidance

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# President Donald Trump Tweeted About Iran In ALL CAPS

President Trump threatened to retaliate if Iran were to threaten the United States or its allies ever again.

by TMO Staff

Foreign Affairs Minister of Iran responded with his own tweet, stating that he was not impressed, nor was he scared of President Trump's threats.

White House Press Secretary, Sarah Sanders, said that President Trump's tweet was in response to what the leaders of Iran had been saying about the United States. President Hassan Rouhani, warned the United States, that a war



is kind of odd. For the past couple of weeks, the

Trump explicitly stated that he did not believe American intelligence reports that provided evidence of Russia meddling in the 2016 American Presidential Election. Not only did residents President Trump let Russia get away with the hacking, he also threw Americans under the bus.

Americans and the world were shocked at President Trump's submissive behavior at Helsinki, where President Trump said that Russian President, Vladimir Putin, had nothing to do with the 2016 American Presidential Election. Some have even said that President Trump looked intimidated by Putin.

Americans at home, watched the American President weaken himself in front of their

adversary, Russia. When President Trump returned back to the states, he faced harsh criticism from everyone, and I mean everyone. Republican Members of Congress were furious at President Trump for not standing up to the Russian President. They kept reminding the President that Russia is not America's friend, but President Trump did not listen.

It seems like President Trump would rather be friends with Putin than

defend his own citizens. Some have questioned the possibility that Putin might have damning information on President Trump, that might be causing President Trump to cower in front of Russia.

However, after hearing all the criticism, President Trump changed his position and said that Russia did influence the election. A couple of days later, he became wishy-washy on his position, so Americans now know for sure that President Trump is too scared to say the truth about Russia.

The threatening tweet about Iran was just a way to distract Americans from the real issue. The Trump Administration is aware that if they make Iran the Boogeyman of the world and scare Americans into believing that they are under threat, then they can try to hide the President's actions.



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

To Iranian President Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE. WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!

11:24 PM - Jul 22, 2018

333K 230K people are talking about this

with Tehran would be the "mother of all wars."

It appears that Iran does not want to fight a war with the United States unless it has to. The comment that President Rouhani made was to dissuade the United States from war, but the comment could be taken as a threat, even if the intention was the complete opposite.

The timing of the tweet

news cycle was covering what occurred at the Helsinki Summit. The Summit was for President Trump and President Putin to come together to discuss the relationship between the two countries.

During the interview part of the summit, a journalist asked President Trump if he believes the Russian government hacked the American election. President



Javad Zarif  
@JZarif

COLOR US UNIMPRESSED: The world heard even harsher bluster a few months ago. And Iranians have heard them —albeit more civilized ones—for 40 yrs. We've been around for millennia & seen fall of empires, incl our own, which lasted more than the life of some countries. BE CAUTIOUS!

3:04 PM - Jul 23, 2018

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"Who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say: 'Surely we belong to God and to Him shall we return'." Al-Baqarah 2:156

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## Department of Interior Turns Department of Oil Pipelines

by TMO Staff

Recently, it was found that The United States Department of Interior has been attempting to decrease the sizes of national parks to allow for more big businesses and corporations to dig up the lands to build pipelines and search for other natural resources.

This has angered many people because the pipeline not only cost a lot of money, but they are extremely hazardous to the environment. Drilling for oil costs the world enough money and damages and now a federal agency that is meant to maintain national parks is trying to do the exact opposite of what it was made to do.

IT has become evident that the Trump Administration does not care

for the "little guy" or is interested in "draining the swamp". The Trump Administration only wants to line the pockets of their friends with money, no matter how much it costs small family businesses or small furry animals that live in national parks.

Adding on to the disaster that the Trump Administration is causing, they have now decided that protections on endangered species will be decreased severely and that the Administration will look at each species and decide their fate on a case-by-case basis.

This would be a tragedy to all American lands. National Parks would no longer exist as

*Cont. on page 14*

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# Abdullah Hammoud Re-running for Second Term: Dearborn State Representative

Abdullah Hammoud, the first Arab-American occupied a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives



**By Samana Sheikh**

After two strong years of helping legislate the state of Michigan, Hammoud has decided to re-run for a second term.

“I realized policy was a little pertained. When I reflected on whose hands were on this level no one with a faith like ours, no one with a name that sounded like ours were able to contribute to policies,” Hammoud said. “So when the opportunity presented itself in policy I said why not.”

Hammoud represents the 15th district which includes his hometown of Dearborn.

“We ran for a contested seat one of nine candidates and we won by ten points,” Hammoud stated. “We won unprecendentedly and currently we serve as the only Muslim in the state house legislature.”

Hammoud this past year has been able to establish a bill for less invasive autopsies, secure \$1 million for dearborn museums, and propose

several other laws shining a positive light on Dearborn.

“For the Muslim community we realized how important elections are given our most recent presidential election,” Hammoud stated. “It’s no longer enough to sit on the sidelines and wait for change to come from a part of the change. If you’re unwilling to be apart of the change, then you can continue to sit on the side and bicker. If you want to be active, if you want to see hope, If you want individuals that fight for other prin-

cipals you have to get out and vote.”

Hammoud stands for fixing Michigan’s infrastructure; Strengthening health care, Reducing auto-insurance costs, Protecting air and water, Enhancing our focus on education and most importantly creating an economy that works for everyone.

Emgage USA is a non-profit organization that stands for empowering engaged Muslim Americans. Mainly, bridging a gap between elected officials and their

constituents. Throughout, Hammoud’s campaign they have supported and helped bring funds.

“He is someone we can believe in,” Hassan Sheikh, former executive director of Emgage USA said. “He is someone we know in office who is fighting every single day for what we truly believe in and what our values are.

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# Global Impact Day: Gardening to Make a Difference



by Noor H. Salem

Global Impact Day is a worldwide event held by Al-Maghrib Institute, in which more than 25 cities participate. The mission is to put knowledge into action, and through different means give back to the community.

The theme this year focused on the environment, but the creativity that emerged under the umbrella of this theme was impressive from one city to another. Some cities focused on educating others in their social circle on the need to recycle and soil composition, while one decided to take a nature walk on a hiking trail and clean it up.

Other qabeelahs did “adopt-a-road,” while one decided to do a masjid clean-up initiative. The local chapter of Al-Maghrib, Qabeelah Ittihaad-Michigan, visited Huda Urban Garden to clean it up and plant vegetation there as well.

Children as young as 12 came out to help and enjoyed watering the plants while others removed weeds. Numerous seeds of vegetables and herbs were planted, and the hot scorching sun did not stop these hardworking volunteers from giving back to the needy.

Huda Urban Garden is a clinic in Detroit that provides its clients with free food to improve their health condition, naturally. Undoubtedly, the effort the volunteers put in on Global Impact Day will make an impact in the life of many others they will perhaps never

come to meet.

“Although we are only planting the seeds, it’s such a rewarding feeling giving back to our community,” one volunteer said.

Qabeelah Ittihaad Michigan, Al-Maghrib’s chapter of Southeast Michigan, was founded back in 2005. Respect, integrity, manners, optimism, and helpfulness are all qualities of the

many Qabeelah Ittihaad volunteers.

As of today, the Qabeelah has hosted more than 72 seminars and one-day seminars. Their mission is to help their commu-

nities by providing them with opportunities to seek Islamic knowledge in a fun, engaging, and extraordinary way.

It’s more than just sitting

*Cont. on page 14*

*So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone]:* **سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ**

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# Do advertisements Contribute to Skin Bleaching?

By: Samana Sheikh

Pooja wakes up every morning and hates what she sees. She has a dark complexion and bleaches her skin in order to fit the Indian standard and find a future husband.

Several women across the world in continents such as Asia and Africa suffer with low self-esteem due to their skin color. The beauty standard in those continents associates a lighter complexion to prosperity, wealth and mates.

For several decades the world attributes beauty with a light-skinned appearance.

This growing stereotype needs to change.

Brands such as Fair and Lovely, Dove International and Ponds have all produced products that convey these messages.

“Dark out, White in.” Is the branding logo for the Ponds skin lightening line in Pakistan. They always show the tanner woman happier, successful and more talented after using their skin lightening line and magically becoming ten shades lighter.

Advertisements like this contribute to psychological problems not only within young woman but also in children.

In the 1940’s African American psychologists Kenneth and Mamie Clark conducted a doll study. This study was able to show that African American children around the age of three felt their place in this world was “less than” then the average white person.

They were able to conclude this because the Clarks showed two dolls to the children. One was brown and the other white. The couple asked the children a series of questions and found that most of them chose white dolls over brown.

According to, “Skin Bleaching in Jamaica: Self-Esteem, Racial Self-Esteem, and Black Identity Transactions” black Jamaicans who bleached their skin had a positive view of their individual self-esteem. However, when it came



to racial self-esteem they viewed it negatively. Jamaicans that were not skin-bleaching had the same negative connotations toward their own race.

Skin bleaching and skin lightening brands make

millions of dollars from one country on its own.

According to, “Skin Lightening Is a Dangerous Obsession – and One Worth Billions” in India by 2024 skin lightening brands will triple in profit to \$31.2 billion.

These advertisements contribute to insecurities and self-esteem issues to the people that watch ads on a daily basis.

This can result in depression, psychological problems and low self confidence. Many of the women that are darker skinned end up on the path of skin bleaching.

Dr. Ernesto Gonzalez, a senior dermatologist at Boston’s Mass General Hospital, says skin whitening can be dangerous: “The best protection that you have for your skin against sun damage is pigment, melanin. If you lose the pigment of your

skin, you suddenly become white. The whiter they become the more chances they will be subjected to skin damage and skin cancer.”

Many people are unaware of the cancerous risks. They skin bleach to achieve beauty, social and economic statuses and to attain self acceptance in society.

Although society’s pressures to modify exterior beauty is always present; women need to remember beauty comes in all shapes and sizes. Their dark complexion and dominant features make them unique.



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Kosovo	\$130	\$100	\$700
Lebanon	\$240	\$160	\$1,120
Macedonia	\$135	\$100	\$700
Mali	\$90	\$70	\$490
Pakistan	\$140	\$80	\$560
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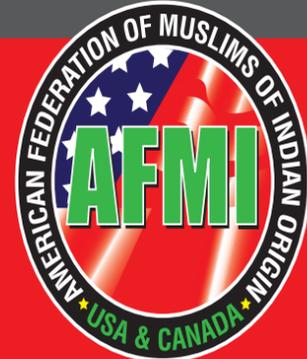
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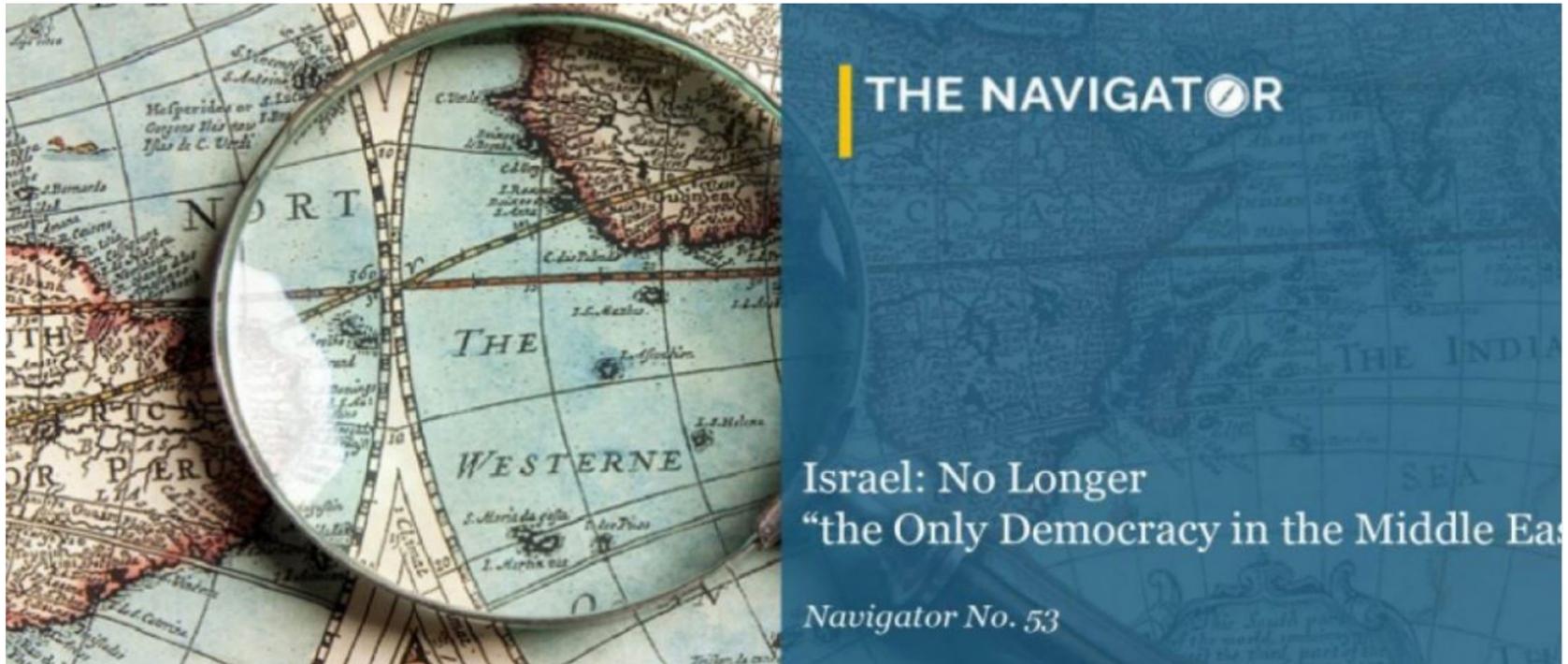
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# Israel: No Longer “the Only Democracy in the Middle East”



by Dr. Muqtedar Khan

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it a “defining moment” when the Israeli parliament passed the Basic Law: Israel – The Nation-State of the Jewish People. He was slightly off the mark. This law redefines Israel. The document codifies the ethnonationalism that now dominates the Israeli political landscape. Israelis have achieved what white nationalists in the United States and Europe aspire to: a state for only one people defined in either racial or ethnic terms. And in doing so, the Israelis have complicated matters for the United States and for themselves.

To understand the shifts in the ways most Israelis define their nation, consult the full text of the new Basic Law and the text of the Israeli Declaration of Independence, which in the absence of a constitution served to define Israel until now. Until Israel creates a constitution, the Basic Laws serve as constitutional articles that shape the legal system and the policies of the Jewish state.

In its first article, the Basic Law describes Israel as a nation-state of the Jewish people and limits the right of self-determination to Jews alone. This article makes it clear that Israel's Arab citizens have no right to self-determination under the law, but it is not clear what the law means for millions of Palestinians living under Israel's military occupation. The Basic Law does not even mention Israel's Arab and Muslim citizens. According to some of its supporters, the law has been designed to undermine the “constitutional revolution of 1992” and the Supreme Court interpretation that all citizens of Israel, Jews or not, have equal rights.

In contrast, the country's Declaration of Independence specifically expresses Israel's intent to work “for the benefit of all its inhabitants.” The document states that Israel “will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the Charter of the United Nations.”

## Ethno-Nationalism at Work

The new law, unlike the Declaration of Independence, fails to guarantee equal rights and freedom of religion for Israel's non-Jewish minorities. The law also downgrades the status of Arabic by making only Hebrew the national language. Not only does the law fail to address discrimination against non-Jewish citizens, it also can be used to override the rights and privileges of minorities with impunity. Put simply, it asserts the political supremacy of Jewish identity, religion, and culture.

For years, American leaders and expert commentators have been warning Israel that it cannot remain both Jewish and democratic if it does not embrace the two-state solution. By diminishing the status of the country's Arab minorities and failing to reaffirm Israel's character as democratic, the Basic Law indicates that Israel is choosing ethno-religious identity over democracy. American politicians who often justify the excesses of the Israeli occupation by describing Israel as “the only democracy in the Middle East” will have to face the reality that

even Israel does not call itself a democracy anymore.

The passage of this Basic Law shows the international community the direction in which Netanyahu is taking Israel. He is redefining Israeli identity and ideology. Therefore, the absence of a reaffirmation of Israel's commitment to democracy and religious freedom for minorities, of Israel's promise to preserve religious places of all faiths, and of a commitment to a two-state vision of peace in the region is extremely salient.

## Israel's International Standing

This change in what serves as Israel's constitution will encourage more countries to label Israel a pariah state. The law incites anger in the region, makes it more difficult for Europe to support Israel, and above all alienates the American diaspora whose support and influence in American society is crucial for Israel's security. The declaration of Jewish settlements as of national value raises questions about the seriousness of Israel's commitment to the two-state solution. It confirms the suspicion of many scholars of the region that Israel does not really want peace.

Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, a pro-Israel and prominent American Jewish organization, summarizes Israel's new and troubling character succinctly: “If you are an Israeli Arab today, you certainly are feeling de-legitimized as a citizen of the State.” He adds, “Israel is losing its soul and weakening its democracy and Jewish character. Its beacon of light on the nations is now dim. Even I am having dif-

ficulty seeing it.” The thing that Netanyahu and his supporters miss is that in abandoning democracy to preserve Jewish identity, they are also abandoning Jewish values.

The passing of this law only a few months after the United States' unprecedented decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem will make U.S. foreign policy toward Muslim nations more contentious. Saudi Arabia, its Gulf allies and Egypt were willing to cooperate with Washington and Israel in their shared quest to contain Iran. This law makes it more difficult for these countries to normalize relations with Israel; they are criticizing it for “consolidating the occupation and perpetuating racial discrimination against the Palestinians.” Most policy-makers abroad will assume that the passage of the Basic Law received U.S. President Donald Trump's approval, and this assumption will cement the idea that the Trump administration acts more in Israel's interests than in U.S. interests. As Washington takes steps to implement new sanctions against Tehran, Israeli provocations will make it more difficult to garner cooperation from nations like Turkey, Qatar and Pakistan.

This nationality law may serve Netanyahu's political aspirations, but it does not serve American interests. It undermines Israeli democracy and complicates the United States' relations with its Muslim allies.

*This post was originally published on the Center for Global Policy and republished with permission from the author.*

# Muslim Struggles in Highschool



by *Murrium Farooqi*

High School can feel pretty tough when you are a teenager. Yes, tough classes, drama, and not receiving the freedom you believe you deserve, are all valid forms of hardship.

But, that's not what I'm referring to— I'm talking about what feels like the extra baggage every Muslim might have felt at some point alongside their American High School experience.

Muslims across generations can relate to the poor vegetarian and halal food options every school offers and the torn feeling when you have to choose between going to school, taking an exam or celebrating Eid.

While wondering who you are and what you will do with your life is a normal feeling to have in High School, watching your religion be practically nonexistent for your school can lead to feeling irrelevant. Unfortunately though, this probably isn't even the worst of a Muslim student's worries.

With "Moslems" always being a central topic in politics, teens that openly express their religion by wearing a hijab, or just being open about their religion in conversation, suddenly are representing one of the most controversial political debates in the country.

The reaction one can expect to receive varies. For example, at schools like Troy High or International Academy Central

(IA Central), there is almost always a good mix of political opinions and cultural backgrounds in the room.

Zeina Aboushar, who attended IA Central for her freshman year of high school, never had to worry about explicitly being singled out and the worst of her experiences were people openly joking about Islam.

Yet, Mahnoor Imran, now a senior at Troy High, recounts her days as a high schooler in Pennsylvania as much worse than anything she had experienced at Troy High.

She believes national politics did have a role in how she was treated and how she felt at school.

She elaborates "As the political climate and anti-Muslim rhetoric grew more hostile, I lost many friends and faced online harassment from others in my grade." This left her feeling very "...isolated and alienated..."

The experiences these two students highlighted are often a result of teachers and school officials struggling to draw the line between something being offensive or political.

Most teachers are obligated to intervene when a situation becomes offensive or if one student is harassing another, but, when the cause is political, a teacher faces the struggle of resolving a conflict, while staying politically neutral.

This is related to the question of whether

students should be allowed to wear political paraphernalia like a Trump t-shirt, even if it increases the chances of students being harassed on either side.

Aboushar and Imran both believe that people have a right to wear what they want to wear to school.

Abou Shar believes "...people should be able to express their opinion even if we don't agree with it maybe we'll be able to show the truth with our actions."

While Imran points out that even though people have a right to express themselves, "if bullying ensues, then the school must take action to end those types of issues."

We live in a country

that was not built for or around the needs of Muslims and feeling like you don't belong is the last thing you want to worry about in high school.

Although some believe that the Islamophobia situation is only getting worse, others have reason to be optimistic.

While acknowledging the widespread hate in our country, both Aboushar and Imran don't feel like they have to "compensate" for being Muslim around others. Imran does recall wanting to "fit in" when she was younger, however, she also remarks that "...as I grew more mature and gained more insight about the world around me, I focused on embracing my differences."

Despite the negative

rhetoric associated with being Muslim in America, many Muslim Americans seem to echo Imran's more optimistic outlook on life.

Real-world stories of this optimism are seen in Ibtihaj Muhammad becoming the first Hijab wearing woman on the U. S. Olympic Women's fencing team, Melanie El-Turk owning a modest fashion line Haute Hijab and a number of Muslims running for government.

The achievements of these courageous Americans emphasize one point: the struggles students face in high school are no reason to lose hope, they only give students more reason to join the positive force for change.

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**Cont. from page 3**  
**Rise and fall**

**Current status of Muslims**

There are only 500 universities in the 57 Muslim countries, whereas the USA has 5,758 and India has, 8,407. Not one university in the entire Islamic World is featured in the Top 500 Universities of the World. Literacy in the Christian world is 90% and Literacy in the Muslim world is 40% (where the illiteracy rate for Muslim women is 90%). The Muslim-majority countries have 230 scientists per million, whereas the USA has 5,000 per million. There are approximately 1.6 Billion Muslims in the world and there are roughly 14.4 million Jews in total. There have been 12 Muslim Nobel Laureates – 7 for Peace (including Malala), 2 in Literature, 2 in Chemistry, and 1 in Physics. A smaller Jewish population, had 193 Nobel Laureates (22% of Nobel Prize winners), not without reason.

Muslims, even in the US, are preoccupied with the Islamiza-

tion of science and medicine. Muslim scientists in medieval times impartially acquired knowledge from earlier scholars and then contributed their own original work to it. Ibn Sina's medical work was not Islamic because he was a Muslim, just as Einstein's theory of relativity is not Jewish physics because he happens to be Jewish, and Isaac Newton's theory of gravity is not Christian theory because Newton was a Christian. Scientific Methods are based on objectivity and rationality, not on the religion of the scientist. Some Muslim countries are super rich with their abundance of natural resources. However, they expend these mostly on buildings and luxuries, often buying European and American goods but their own universities do not produce scientists, engineers, and technicians of a contemporary or lasting following.

**Our mindset is used to memorizing and retrieving the wisdom of 7th-century scholars, which prevents us from learning to analyze,**

**understand, or decipher our present-day problems. WE WILL NEVER LEARN ABOUT MODERN KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATIONS, AND INVENTIONS unless we drastically change our mindset from rote learning to produce rational learning.**

**What is ahead of us.**

Today we need an education system which can produce Muslim experts in all fields of knowledge who can reconstruct the social order and justice. By virtue of good educational programs for both males and females, the future generations will become the torchbearers of Islamic values and play an effective role in the world. Education of women is the key to the success of a society. We need to develop and effectively apply critical thinking skills to the complex problems that we face, and to the critical choices, we will be forced to make as a result of the information explosion and other

rapid technological changes.

We are proud to have 3 Muslim noble Laureates. We have hundreds of Muslims who mastered in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. They are engaged in teaching and research and making valuable contributions to the society.

Institute of Medieval and Post-Medieval Studies (IMPSM) has invited Muslim scientists to speak at a seminar in August 2018 in Dallas as we encourage our youth to participate. We will present a brief outline of the contributions made by Muslim scientists of medieval years to make our youth familiar with our heritage and to learn the path to become scientists, innovators, and critical thinkers.

Dr. Basheer Ahmed is the former professor of psychiatry at the Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas and the founder and president of IMPMS. He can be reached at mbahmed05@yahoo.com

**Cont. from page 1**  
**El-Syed**

his religious community

He talked about issues and policies for common people.

He did not shy away from being seen with his Hijabi wife.

He, in fact, symbolized what every youth wants to demonstrate in one's character.

He has already won the hearts of millions across the country and the world.

Abdul El Sayed is no longer an aspirant for a position. He is a

role model for every American activist.

What this 33-year-old young man did in a year or so of campaigning is amazing and surpasses most of the work that we activists claim to be doing for

years.

It was so because American democracy gave him the opportunity to reclaim what is his., the right to dream and share his dream with others.

**Cont. from page 6**  
**Oil Pipelines**

they do now. The effect of these changes will be seen for years to come. It will also contribute to climate change, making the state of the world even more dangerous.

It would make someone wonder why the Trump Administration is going through such lengths to destroy something that does not really affect the average American. What has become clear is that changing the regulations to protect animals, only helps the rich get richer. With all the animals out of the way, then

these big rich corporations can build whatever they want, wherever they want.

It is very similar to how the original settlers of the Americas behaved when they first landed here. They took whatever they wanted, they lived whatever they wanted and totally and

completely disregarded any human or animal life. It seemed like as a country, we should have gotten out of the phase of barbaric colonialism or similar behaviors to that. However, the Trump Administration only cares about the wealthy and helping their rich friends become richer.

**Con from page 8**  
**Garden**

in a classroom and taking notes-bonds are built, memories are made, and seeds of friendship are planted.

They've had more than four students complete the Al-Maghrib degree audit to its entirety, two of which are now Al-Maghrib instructors themselves. The Qabeelah hosts seminars on various topics, covering Qur'anic Tafseer, pillars of faith, beautiful patience, Fiqh of marriage, modesty and clothing, ethics and manners in Islam, history, and many more heart-warming courses.

Other than hosting seminars several times a year, Qabeelah Ittihaad's volunteers get together to put their knowledge into action: they give back to their community. Of the many projects conducted, they've made almost 300 personal hygiene packages, brought hot food to a



homeless shelter, helped pack clothing for the needy, and much more.

This year's theme of the environment led them into the beautiful neighboring garden of Huda Urban Garden. They work as a team, strive as a team, and experience the incredible fruit of

their efforts as a team.

Across the globe for the duration of the entire global impact day, the earth became a more beautiful place. More people were educated about importance of recycling, energy saving mechanisms, and healthy eating habits. While it was just one day

of cleaning up and planting, the results of the seeds that were planted are yet to bloom.

For more information about Qabeelah Ittihaad, and their involvement in the community, visit: Qimichigan.org or al-maghrib.org/Michigan

CONTINUED STORY

**Cont. from page 1  
Rashida**

“It’s not about just being out there and flaunting your faith,” Tlaib told CNN reporters. “I always tell people that I’m exposing Islam in such a pivotal way, an impactful way, through public

service.”  
The White House liaison to American Muslims under former President Barack Obama, Zaki Barzinji, referred Tlaib as the “perfect example of how to hustle and win the right way, not just for Muslims or Arabs, but

for anyone.”  
“She may be the first Muslim congresswoman, but she just opened the door for millions of Rashidas to follow. As a Muslim and Arab father of a 9-month-old baby girl, I’ve never felt more hopeful about my daughter’s future,” he said.

Tlaib upholds the Muslim community’s voice and activism.  
Two years ago, she was arrested for disrupting a Trump speech in downtown Detroit, where she shouted at him that “our kids deserve better” and

encouraged him to read the Constitution, according to CNN.  
The general election primary for Michigan Tlaib won is for the full two-year term that begins next January.

**Cont. from page 1.  
Imran Khan, Pakistan**

another civilian government without a military intervention.

Apart from this who governs Pakistan is also of international importance.

The election was unique in many ways. In Pakistan woman, especially, veiled woman hardly goes to cast their vote. This election became significant in this respect as many women voters went to the polls for the first time. Women voters comprise 44% of eligible voters who rarely go to polling booths in Pakistan, especially in its tribal areas such as South Waziristan. Veiled women created a history when many of them went

to cast their vote for the first time.

Another significant event that took place was amongst the youths. Pakistan’s youth population is of 200 million (66% are under 30). In the past, significant numbers of youth have stayed away from politics because of illiteracy, inequality, and poverty. Often being taught of the invalidity or uselessness of western system of democracy. Hence many youths never bothered to go to cast votes. But Imran Khan and his PTI pursued these challenges and were able to convince these masses the significance of exercising their franchise.

Because of Pakistan’s strategic location, it also drew the world attention.

For western countries but especially America, the endless on-going war in Afghanistan, Pakistan election and who wins would have a far-reaching consequence. For India, a nuclear power next door with Kashmir as a flash point is apparently concerned. And for China, Pakistan is an important ally in its trade expansion through an especial corridor provided by Pakistan.

How Imran Khan and its party, Teherik-E Insaf (Party of Justice) will face these world issues, along with looming domestic issues, such as monetary deficits, payment to IMF, increasing imports while exports are falling, rampant corruption, and looming economic crisis. This

will be a challenge. But looking at his optimistic assertions, he uplifts the spirits of his people. He feels confident of himself and that translates into people too.

The tentative announcement of his ministers proves his point, as most of the ministers are either Harvard, Oxford, or highly qualified from Pakistan’s elite Universities.

He expresses his concerns, feels his countryman still has the colonial mentality and thus he said, “The inferiority complex that is ingrained in a conquered nation results in its limitations of some of the worst aspects of the conqueror, while at the same time neglecting its own great traditions”.

His victory speech was very conciliatory in which he called for the national unity. His speech relieved many factions, including clerics. On the international level he said he would seek peace. Addressing India for the peace dialogue he said, “If you take one step, we will come two steps towards you for the dialogue. He also wants to improve relations with Afghanistan.

As Imran Khan said, “Time to Move on” and his party PTI had demonstrated “genuine national political appeal”, it is up to the people of Pakistan to give him a political space to try his ideas into the reality of “Naya Pakistan”.

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