



Midterm Elections Results for Muslims



Rashida Tlaib(Left) and Ilhan Omar(Right), the First Muslim Women Elected to Congress.

By: Dr. Aslam Abdullah governments Americans elect more than 511,000 public officials. However, the elections for

Congress and the office of the Presidency draw the most intense interest in the electoral process.

In 2018, the candidates running for 435 congress-

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Anti-Semitism Hurts Us All: Thoughts on the Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting



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By: Yousuf Ali

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, a man shot into the Tree of Life Synagogue killing 11 people and wounding many others. Eliminating any

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AFMI 28th Annual Convention A Grand Success

Pluralism, democracy and democratic institutions must be defended in India : AFMI

Oct 20, 2018 - Mississauga, Canada



From L to R pictured are Dr. Khutb Uddin (AFMI President), Siraj Thakor (President-Elect), Deepak Anand MPP, Prof Apoorva Anand Jha (Chief Guest from New Delhi), Dr. Nakadar (AFMI Trustee), Advocate Suhel Tirmizi (Guest of Honor-Ahmedabad), and Hanif Shaikh (President Canada-Chapter).

By: TMO Staff

The 28th convention of the American Federation of Muslims of Indian

origin (AFMI) concluded in Toronto with a strong message to support pluralism and defend de-

mocracy against the forces that have democratic institutions in India to

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Khashoggi's Family Requests Return of Body

by TMO Staff

The unfortunate death of Washington Post columnist, Jamal Khashoggi, dominated international news outlets for the past month. The world was shaken after hearing the details of his death at the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey on October 2, 2018.

The world looked to President Donald Trump to see what actions must be taken so justice can be served, but instead, the United States decided to conduct an investigation and minimize commentary on this. After Khashoggi's death, his sons, Salah and Abdullah Khashoggi, had to meet the Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman on October 24 and received condolences from him. They said that King Salman told them that they would find out who murdered Khashoggi. After they left Saudi Arabia, they went straight to Washington, D.C. and had an interview with CNN.

Khashoggi's family has been asking the Saudi government to send them Khashoggi's body. The Saudi authorities are still conducting their investigation, so his body has not been recovered.



Khashoggi's fiancé, Hatiz Cengiz, has been urging the Trump Administration to work with the Turkish government to find out details of what really happened and to prevent the Saudi government from covering up their alleged actions.

Khashoggi's death revealed how far the Saudi government will go to control things that are written and said about them. People are concerned that if the United States, a country that is seen as the global police, cannot

do anything, then anyone can be subject to Saudi's hatred. Another fact that people keep pointing out is that the United States is seen as the protector and champion of freedom of speech. The murder of a journalist, regardless of nationality, worries the public because a journalist is a person who exercises freedom of speech as an occupation and uses it to inform the public of the truth.

The family plans on burying Khashoggi in Medina, Saudi

Arabia in Al-Baqi Cemetery, so his body can be with the rest of his family buried there. The family hopes for his burial to happen soon because they want Khashoggi to rest in peace and according to Islam, a body must be buried with the correct rites and as soon as possible.

One of his sons, Salah stated that "We just need to make sure that he rests in peace... Until now, I still can't believe that he's dead. It's not sinking in with me emotionally,"

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FAX: 248-476-8926
E-MAIL: info@muslimobserver.com
www.MuslimObserver.com

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FOUNDER

A. RAHEMAN NAKADAR, M.D.

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dr. Aslam Abdullah

dr.aslamabdullah@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Aysha Qamar

editor@muslimobserver.com

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Javeria Ahmed

marketing@muslimobserver.com

VIDEO MEDIA DIRECTOR

Samana Shaikh

samana@muslimobserver.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Nida Ashraf

CHICAGO COORDINATOR

Mujeeb Osman

chicago@muslimobserver.com

HOUSTON COORDINATOR

Ilyas Choudry

houston@muslimobserver.com

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The Future of Democracies and Human rights



By: Basheer Ahmed, M.D.
Chairman Emeritus, MCC for Human services

The rise of authoritarianism in the US is diminishing its leadership role in protecting human rights and promoting democracy around the world. Saudi Arabia's Human Rights crises and the developing story of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance is clear evidence of this lack of support for human rights in US.

Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist, came from a rich family in Saudi Arabia who were close to the inner circle of the Saudi Royal family. He went to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey to get copies of his divorce papers on October 2, 2018, and never came out. Turkish authorities believe that Khashoggi was killed at the Saudi consulate. The Turkish government told U.S. officials that it obtained video and audio recordings proving this allegation. (Shane Harris 10 11 2018/Washington post 10/11/18)

Khashoggi was deeply afraid of his country's rulers, and of being targeted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during the months before his disappearance. Because he did not want to stay in Saudi Arabia without freedom to write and publish, he imposed self-exile, staying in the US on a permanent visa. He missed his family in Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi government imposed a travel ban on his son. Khashoggi wrote in The Washington Post in May 2018, "Do we only voice glowing references to our leader's decisions, his vision of our future, in exchange for the right to live and travel freely—for ourselves and our wives, husbands, and children. ("Jamal Khashoggi Washington Post May 21, 2018)

Jamal Khashoggi wrote a

regular opinion column for The Washington Post in which he criticized the Saudi government's jailing of clerics, businessmen, and academics, among others. Khashoggi also criticized the Saudi-led war in Yemen, which caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis, and its diplomatic breakdown with the kingdom of Qatar during which Qatari citizens and businesses were given only twenty-four hours notice to leave Saudi Arabia. Khashoggi also criticized the Saudi regime's diplomatic breakdown with Canada after the Canadians criticized the arrest of women's rights activists. Saudi Arabia retaliated by expelling Canada's ambassador, withdrawing its own envoy from Ottawa, and other punitive measures. Another of the crown prince's recent clampdowns included death sentences for three prominent clerics, 48 beheadings during the first four months of 2018, and an unprecedented arrest of women's rights activists. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sought authority to behead a female activist for nonviolent offenses, which included protests against the government.

Mohammed Bin Salman began a reformation in Saudi Arabia, and he became a key strategic partner to Jared Kushner, who is US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser. Although he made attempts at modernization, Saudi Arabia rejected any form of democracy. Khashoggi stated that this rejection originated from Mohammed Bin Salman's deep belief that absolute monarchy is the best way to govern a country. Democracy in the region is also under attack from Salafists, extremists, and terror groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

Khashoggi stressed that the

only way to overcome conflict in the Middle East is to choose the path of democracy and rise above sectarianism. He pointed out that the lack of interest on the part of the current U.S. administration in defending democracy in the region makes it harder for activists and NGOs to continue their missions and their support for a democratic system. The monarchies are especially worried about democratic movements in Egypt because they're certain they will have a long-term impact on their regimes. Jamal Khashoggi "Why the Arab world needs democracy now more than ever". Authoritarianism and Democratic Decline: In the Age of Sectarianism and Populism CSID's conference in April 2018)

Khashoggi was working to launch a pro-democracy advocacy group and a non-governmental organization whose stated purpose was to boost democracy and human rights in the Arab world. Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), was incorporated in January 2018. The group intended to push for democratic change even when it ran counter to American foreign policy goals. "Free and fair elections may result in some governments that are less favorable to U.S. interests," a statement from the group read. "Regardless, America must respect democratic processes." Khashoggi didn't voice any intention to overturn governments. Instead, he focused on expanding the rights of people living in the region. "I do not want to overturn the Al Saud government. I do not want to replace them with another regime. I just want freedom of expression for the people. We're in the 21st century; we have to keep up with the rest of the world. (Jamal Khashoggi Wanted to

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Why Muslims Should Oppose Gerrymandering

By: TMO Staff

Indeed, Pharaoh extolled himself in the land and made its people into groups, oppressing a faction among them" (Qur'an 28:4)

"Majority-minority districts, by concentrating the minority vote in certain districts, have the... consequence of diluting their influence elsewhere," Kim Soffen from the Washington Post stated.

When it comes to the United States, it is no secret that people of color have not received the best treatment. Indeed, one of the defining features of slavery in this country is that it was implemented on the basis of race with whites enslaving blacks. That is not even to mention the decimation and dispossession native peoples have endured since the earliest days of colonialism. Such tactics and injustices are not new but have been used by tyrants throughout history to their populations in defense of their own authority.

One remnant of such machinations is the continuing disenfranchisement of people of color through gerrymandering. On such a practice, Muslims should not remain "neutral" but oppose it for the oppression that it is.

One of the most oft-repeated ideas relates to the emphasis Islam places on justice and fairness, and the corollary of Muslims being required to change such injustices when they can. When it comes to gerrymandering, there is no doubt of it being a blatant injustice as it is intended to inflate the power of some points of view and groups to the exclusion of others. This is done by concentrating voters of color into as few districts possible thereby reducing their influence.

While the motivation is



not always purely racial, the impact is indisputable: the needs and concerns of these communities are left unaddressed due to underrepresentation. To act as if Islam is neutral on such a matter betrays a deep ignorance of the text and objectives of revelation.

To begin, we are required to learn from the stories of the prophets (P.B.U.T.), as related in the Qur'an and act upon those lessons when appropriate. When it comes to the story of Musa or Moses (P.B.U.H.), his life is particularly significant for us both in its prevalence in the Qur'an as well as its relevance to our lives. As for the prevalence of Musa's story, it is well known that he is the most mentioned prophet in the Qur'an emphasizing the importance of knowing his story to the lives of Muslims.

As for its particular significance to the United States, one of the emphasized themes is how to deal with oppression both from within one's community and without. On this topic, we concern ourselves with the latter as it mainly refers to how Pharaoh oppressed Musa and his people by dividing them then favoring others over them as illustrated at the beginning of surah al-qasas (28:4).

When it comes to gerrymandering, there is

no doubt that it is a relic of a discriminatory past in which the racist establishment would do everything in their power to manipulate their institutions to prevent people of color from being represented.

There can be no doubt behind the oppressive effects and intentions of such a practice further strengthening the comparison with the actions of the pharaonic establishment. Once Muslims understand this, they are left with no other option but to do their best to remedy such an injustice.

One of the things that Muslims pride themselves in is their clear sense of right and wrong and their willingness to oppose evil whenever they see it. Such pride is not restricted to injustices against themselves but also includes those within and without of the community. When it comes to gerrymandering, there is no doubt that its effect has been to oppress and disenfranchise people of color, which includes many Muslims, whilst preserving the status quo.

Furthermore, there are clear parallels between

this oppression and the actions of oppressors throughout history including the infamous Pharaoh and his actions against Musa and his people. When one sees such injustices and understands them, one must do everything in their power to change them as per divine and prophetic teachings. Thankfully, there are several avenues to end gerrymandering available throughout the country including proposal 2 in Michigan. Muslims should live up to the tenants of their faith and take them.



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America Terrorized by White Nationalist supporters of Trump



by Dr. Aslam Abdullah

Three acts of terrorism by right-wing supporters of Donald Trump and the Republican Party, yet no one has the guts to describe them loudly White or Right wing or Christian Terrorism even though the terrorists were white, Christians and Republican party workers with loyalties to the 45th.

Imagine, if this incident had involved a Muslim how much media coverage may have been devoted to Islam as a violent religion and Muslims as a sleeping cell out to destroy the US and Western style of life. Imagine, how experts would have tried to vilify Islam and Muslims and demand to lock them up or ban them from entering the country.

Seemingly, the liberal and conservative media or public officials have specified the term terrorism only for Islam and Muslims and have refused to admit that this violent trend can be found in non-Muslim communities too even though the intelligence agencies often point out that the domestic, white nationalist and right-wing terrorist poses one of the most serious dan-

gers to the country and society.

On the weekend ending October 28, within a span of 72 hours, three terrorist acts were committed. On Wednesday a White man with a long history of supporting the Republican party and Trump shot and killed two African Americans at a Kentucky Kroger following a failed attempt to enter a black church. Then, on Friday, a staunch supporter of Trump who had railed against Democrats and minorities with hate-filled rhetoric online was arrested for sending mail bombs to political leaders and their supporters who had criticized Trump to eliminate them once for all and then on Saturday morning, a white man shouting "All Jews must die" opened fire at a synagogue killing 11 people attending the religious services.

Yet neither the President nor the Republicans nor liberal or conservative media and nor even the Democratic leadership described these violent acts as part of domestic terrorism by white nationalists.

There is no explanation for this insensitivity. The least one can say is that America's power

elites have lost the will to analyze and comprehend the reality objectively. The Global Terrorism Database that tabulates terrorist acts around the world suggests that that almost two-thirds of terror attacks in the US during the last year are tied to racist, anti-Muslim homophobic, anti-Semitic, fascist, anti-government or xenophobic motivations.

The United States has seen a recent surge in terror-related violence, with 65 attacks last year, up from six in 2006. Out of 65 terrorist incidents last year in the United States, 37 were "tied to racist, anti-Muslim, homophobic, anti-Semitic, fascist, anti-government or xenophobic motivations."

The list includes the August 2017 incident at the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where a man drove a car into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing Heather Heyer and injuring many others. The suspect, James Alex Fields, was photographed earlier that day marching with neo-Nazi hate group Vanguard America. Fields have been charged with first-degree murder and are awaiting trial in Virginia. In June, he was indicted

on 30 charges of federal hate crimes related to the attack. Terror from the Right is the Southern Poverty Law Center's directory of major terrorist plots and right-wing political violence from 1995 to the present.

It's apparent that the President and the Republican party are on a political course that is founded on the notion of racial supremacy of the white with little or no respect to minorities, especially the racial and religious ones.

Hence attacks on blacks, Muslims Spanish, and Jews are justified by Trump or his Republican supporters. The anti-minorities rhetoric has created a dangerous situation in the country that might lead to a civil war. Trump and his political advisors believe that that the white race is losing its political grip on the country and if drastic measures are not taken, America will be controlled by a multi-eth-

nic plural liberal leadership that would disregard the conservative values approved by the right-wing evangelical churches and the notion of smaller government. They believe that the current immigration policy is destroying the dominant white culture of the country and the flow of immigrants is not stopped now, the White race would be reduced to a non-entity.

It is this fear that has become the dominant tone of Trump and the Republicans. They have combined the slogans that Christianity is in danger and America is under attack into their political rhetoric. In this narrative, the idea of a right-wing white nationalist does not fit. Hence, the term terrorism is reserved by them only for non-Christian and non-White people.

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The 2018 Women of Color STEM Multicultural Conference Awards

by Samana Sheikh

Women from various backgrounds received awards for their accomplishments on October 13, 2018, at the STEM Multicultural Conference Awards which was co-hosted by Women of Color magazine.

Women in cocktail dresses arrived at the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan. Many receiving awards while their family members came as support systems. The award ceremony recognized women who have made an impact in engineering, math (STEM) and technology.

The emcee for the night included Priya Kaur Mann, an Anchor at channel 4 WDIV Detroit, NBC.

Mann is an experienced story-teller, bilingual and also comes from a Punjabi background.

She announced every award recipient that came from vast edu-



cational backgrounds. Many of the participants were from the local area in Detroit.

Last year, over five million technology jobs were held by women with minority backgrounds. This background consisted of Hispanic and African American females.

Donna L. Bell, Director of research operations from the Ford Motor Company, won an award

for technologist of the year.

The career achievement awards were held by Rekha Rao, Brenda Ellis, Jie Xue and Gena Lovett. They also awarded women in education including, Melanie Villatoro, assistant professor at New York City College of Technology, and Kathleen Johnson, associate professor at the University of California, Irvine.

Awards were also offered in areas of community service, managerial leadership, new media leadership, outstanding technical contribution, president's award, professional achievement, student leadership, technical innovation and last but not least technical innovation.

This specific conference is hosted to honor and highlight challenges

of gender harassment and other discouraging factors women have to face on a daily basis from their workplace.

Women coming together in unity and loving their personal achievements was a success. The STEM multicultural conference awards brought a mix of young, talented women in a room which is the definition of a melting pot.

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Zakat Foundation and Feed the Children Unite to Serve Chicago

CHICAGO, NOV. 11 — Have you ever awoken in the morning to your stomach’s grumbling? Went inside your kitchen only to open an empty fridge? Worried how you will provide the next meal to your children? This is the reality of food insecurity, a widespread yet overlooked issue in the United States. Food security can be defined as a set of circumstances that prevent your access to food, and it affects millions of Americans. One in seven people in Cook County will experience food insecurity this year, according to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. That is why Zakat Foundation of America once again partnered with Feed the Children, this time to uplift Chicago’s struggling communities one family at a time. The first distribution this year was held last June in Washington DC serving 400 families in need. The event took place in the city’s Belmont Cragin neighborhood at the Grace and Peace Church, a former warehouse now being restored as a multipurpose facility. Student volunteers from Universal High School joined to stack up more than 1,000 food aid

packages that were distributed to 400 families on Chicago’s West Side. “We’re here to give back, we’re here to serve, and we’re here to love,” announced Rebecca, an Events Manager at Feed the Children, to a crowd of volunteers braving the cold autumn morning. Each family received three boxes containing food and hygiene kits, in addition to children’s books. The packages are meant to sustain a family of four for a week. “It’s an honor to partner up with Feed the Children,” said Lena, Events Coordinator at Zakat Foundation. “I pray that it benefits the families, and we can help families in Chicagoland and around the United States.” “We’re trying to send a message,” said Grace and Peace Church Pastor John Zayes. “We may have different views on different things, but the reality is we have to work together to serve our community, and that’s what we’re doing today. Let’s serve together and show the folks there’s love in the world.” Afterward, volunteers and staff gathered inside the church for coffee, doughnuts, and pizza. “We’re so excited to do

the work of bettering our communities, our city, and our families,” said Angelina Zayes,

CEO and co-founder of GAP Community Center. “Thank you for coming together for one vision:

to help the people in our communities.”



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MY- ICD Youth Host Conference with 2000 Attendees in Dearborn

By Noor H. Salem

More than 2000 attendees gathered in the Edward Hotel and Convention Center of Dearborn on October 13th for the first annual Reconnect Conference, hosted by MY-ICD and AMLC.

These youth saw a niche in the market; the need to host a large conference in Michigan, a state with the largest Muslim population in the country. The conference theme, Reconnect Through Positive Change really left a large crowd inspired to implement positive change in their lives. Just a few days before the convention, the MY-ICD proudly announced surpassing 1000 tickets, as the registration numbers continued to sky-rocket.

The team behind this incredible convention consisted of over 70 volunteers, from nine different cities; Dearborn, Detroit, Hamtramck, Ann Arbor, Columbus, Toledo, Flint, Dearborn Heights, and Grand Blanc! The 20-30 hours weekly that this hardworking team of youth put in the planning, ever since Ramadan, unquestionably did not go in vain.

From the sophisticated stage set-up to the smooth execution at the registration booth, it was merely remarkable. Marketing was taken to another level; with a motivational promotional trailer, ticket booths at Friday khutbahs in all the local masjid, and of course their various social media platforms, it was no surprise that many people flew in from across the nation.

With over 20 speakers, 4 entertainment artists, and more than two dozen vendors of all kinds, it really was a memorable day that went down in Dearborn's history. The conference held an entire parallel track in Arabic, with incredible speakers from across the US, including the ICD's very own Imam Dr. Abdelhamid Salem, Imam Dr. Mohammad Qatanani from New Jersey, Imam Dr. Ali Suleiman, Imam Dr. Muwafaq Alghalayini, Shaykh Hamood Affif,



Shaykh Abdulrazaq Alsayid, and Shaykh Majdi Bdeir.

Imam Siraj Wahaj, beloved to far too many, gave a treasured talk. "How close to Allah do you want to be? Worship Him as though you see Him. Strive. Struggle. Worship," he said profoundly shaking one to their core.

Ustadh Majed Mahmoud emphasized the importance of learning about the life and characteristics of the Prophet (saaw) in order to truly improve in one's character. "Reconnect with the Seerah of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)." He encouraged all the attendees to visit the bazaar and not leave until they purchase a copy of the Seerah of the Prophet (saaw).

After a lunch and Salah break, the program resumed with many more esteemed guests.

Through life's vicissitudes, one might find themselves feeling down, and lacking direction. Shaykh Suleiman Hani's talk truly hit home to many.

"As long as your heart is beating, don't stop returning to Allah (swt)," Shaykh Suleiman Hani said in his uplifting lecture, The Road Back to Allah.

He continued "How do you know that your heart is not connected to Allah? When you find yourself lacking direction, ask yourself about the state if your heart in the case if nourishment. How often do you purify your heart?"

In another heart-moving session with Ustadha Yasmin Mogahed, who left many feeling up-

lifted, she made sure to remind the crowd of the importance of being grateful to Allah (swt) "The fastest way to lose a blessing is to take it for granted. Always thank Allah for your blessings and remember Him."

Besides motivational talks, beautiful posters of motivational quotes were found in the halls around the convention center. One quote by Muhammad Almathil, the guest speaker who was first to start off the program that morning, read, "With high IQ others are impressed by you, with high EQ others are impacted by you."

Imam Siraj Wahaj, Ustadha Haleh Banini, Ustadh Majed Mahmoud, Shaykh Suleiman Hani, Imam Mohamed Abutaleb, Ustadh Mohamed AlMasmari, Ustadha Yasmin Mogahed, and Ustadh Ubaydullah Evans were of the many honorable guest speakers who came out to benefit the community.

The MY-ICD Team made sure to provide the audience with the most up to date version of a convention program: a phone app. Many attendees were impressed with the ability to access the entire program, list of speakers along with their biographies, sponsors, and more on the Socio app.

Moreover, the attendees had the ability to rate speakers, leave reviews on sessions, and give feedback on the convention. The team made sure to create a video to teach attendees how to download and access the event. It was truly impressive.

If you were impressed by the program, the entertainment session that began late at night was quite a pleasant scene in and of itself. Spoken word artist Boonaa Mohammed, Artist Muslim Belal, and Acapella Artist Ilyas Mao performed and definitely impressed the crowd. However, what took the entertainment session to another level was the one and only, Humood Alkhudher.

They call me Humood Vegetable when they translate my name," he said, as the audience roared into laughter.

He threw in a few more jokes, like the person who posted on his Instagram account that "I'm your biggest marwa7ha (the Arabic word for a fan you'd use in your home)" which definitely lit the room. He, along with a very ecstatic and jubilant crowd, sang several of his world-famous songs. Shaykh Mohammad Almathil recognized Brother Sufian Nabhan, the ICD Director, and Brother Khaled Saleh, the ICD Youth Director, for being at the forefront of facilitation at the masjid. It was definitely a day to remember, and one that many anticipate reoccurs every year!

"I was so close to not attending, and I can't express how grateful I am that I went! It was very beneficial and a fun social gathering we truly needed. I'm already looking forward to next year," said one attendee expressing great joy on her face.

We were honored to ask Brother Khaled Saleh, the Youth Director of the Islamic Center of Detroit

and one at the backstage of this event's planning, a few questions:

What was the most rewarding part of organizing this historic conference?

"It was organized by youth & it was well received by our community."

We've heard from many attendees that they're looking forward to this next year. Is it in the plan?

"Yes, in sha Allah, it will be announced early 2019."

Will you do anything differently?

"We are currently reviewing the feedback surveys & prioritizing areas of improvements."

What was the goal and vision of this conference, and has it been fulfilled?

"The goal was to spark positive change in the different relationships that are most important to us: Faith, family & community. Alhemdlillah, with the data & feedback we received, we believe the goal was attained."

One might assume that a team of hardworking youth would be so occupied in the planning and preparation of such a large conference that they would put their other programs in the masjid at a halt. Nonetheless, they did not fail to continue hosting incredible and unique programs, such as MY-Mental health support groups, a weekly IlmNight series, semester-long programs for the young youth, and much more.

It was a long day, filled with laughter, tears, smiles, and an event that will not be forgotten. Until next year's Reconnect, keep an eye out for other programs and events. For more information about MY-ICD Youth, and the incredible programs they facilitate in the Southwest Michigan community, visit the website, icdonline.org, or find them on Facebook at Islamic Center of Detroit.

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What can you do to slow down climate change?

by TMO Staff

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released a report stating that the world is at risk of a climate change catastrophe within 12 years if we, humans, do not change the way we live our lives.

The Earth has been heating up for the past decades because people have been polluting the planet, taking down trees and plants, and be completely wasteful.

If global warming increases, the entire world will experience major droughts, floods, wild-fires and other natural disasters. Just over the past year, the United States has experienced multiple natural disasters including the worst hurricanes in history. The UN report provides reasons and evidence, but the evidence can be seen right in front of us.

Many have said that the weather used to be like this or it used to snow in this month but it does not anymore and that's because of climate change. Just because it



is cold wherever you are, does not mean that the world is not warming up. The ice in the arctic has been melting which is causing ocean levels to rise and more flooding to occur. People have lost their homes because of the effects of global warming. More and more animals are becoming extinct because their habitats and ecosystems have been wiped away.

Many companies are getting rid of the use of plastic, for example, McDonald's in the UK is banning plastic straws and will now supply paper straws. Some cities

are also banning plastic straws.

We as humans must realize that the way we have been living has been hurting the planet we live on. Science has not progressed enough to where we can go find another planet to live on if this one fails, so we must act now.

There are several ways that we can help our planet from experiencing a natural catastrophe.

- Use reusable grocery bags (tote bags) when grocery shopping instead of plastic bags. Paper bags are also a good alternative.

- Instead of using plastic straws, purchase metal straws

- Also, cut down your use of plastic utensils, plastic cups and plastic plates.

- Recycle cans and paper, if you do not have a recycling option, you can take your recyclables to a recycling location.

- Instead of driving solo, carpool to reduce CO2 emission, or take public transportation

- Always turn off lights and unplug any devices not being used

- Plant trees and plants wherever you can, they

release Oxygen!

- Volunteer to clean up parks, lakes and beaches to create a safe environment for animals

- Find ways to save bees! They play a vital role in our ecosystem

These are just some ways that you can help make this world a better place. If one person were to change to a more sustainable lifestyle, it would make all the difference this world needs. One person can make a huge impact on this world.

Sri Lanka's New Prime Minister

by TMO Staff

The country of Sri Lanka has been currently on a rollercoaster of politics. Shocking news came out of the island country in the Indian Ocean, when President Maithripala Sirisena removed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, dissolved his cabinet and suspended the parliament. After these major acts, he appointed former President Mahinda Rajapaksa as the new prime minister.

Mahinda Rajapaksa has been an important figure in the country's politics. He led the country when a decades-long civil war was coming to an end. It may seem that he must have been beneficial to the country, but his rule turned out to be filled with corruption and has been accused of war crimes and creating a debt with China worth billions of dollars.



It may seem like a normal business because countries do this type of stuff often, but Ranil Wickremesinghe has refused to leave the Prime Minister's given residence and claims that President Maithripala Sirisena's actions are unconstitutional and he will not give in to his demands.

The place of the prime minister's residence is called the Temple Trees and many of Wickremesinghe's supporters have come out to form a protective human wall to prevent the President from removing Wickremesinghe from his position.

This is a tense situation for Sri Lanka because this event shows a lack

of a peaceful transition of power. Having various seats empty or occupied seats with no work being done puts the country in a situation of turmoil. There is potential for mass protests, conflicts between parties and civilians.

Mahinda Rajapaksa's status as a corrupt politician remains a high concern of the people as

well. To many people, it just seems like they are adding more corruption to the country's government. There are accusations against Rajapaksa of accepting bribes and offering bribes to become the new prime minister.

It also strange that President Sirisena is bringing on Rajapaksa as the new prime minister because Rajapaksa lost to Sirisena in the last presidential election. It makes people wonder if President Sirisena and Mahinda Rajapaksa had already planned for something like this so that they could both hold very powerful political positions in Sri Lanka.

Currently, there is a lot of gridlock in the country and the people wait to see if Rajapaksa actually participated in corrupt behavior and if Wickremesinghe will leave Temple Trees willingly or by force.

Cont from page 3 Human rights

Launch a Pro-Democracy Group. Then the Saudis Disappeared Him. Betty woodruff –www.the dailybeast.com)

If the international community does not take a stand, Bin Salman will continue to assassinate Saudi dissidents, international journalists, and other diplomats.

The US government does not want to take action yet. They point out that Mr. Khashoggi was not a US citizen, that they are investigating his disappearance, and that they will wait for the outcome. President Trump claims that U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia are “excellent,” and he is not considering withholding arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

“The Saudis are spending \$110 billion purchasing military equipment and other things. If we don’t sell it to them, they’ll say, ‘Well, thank you very much. We’ll buy it from Russia—or China.’

That doesn’t help us—not when it comes to jobs and not when it comes to

our companies losing out on that work. It would be a very, very tough pill to swallow for our country,” NBC News.

Further, it was an insult to Mr. Khashoggi’s noble work when Donald Trump Jr. made a statement tying Mr. Khashoggi to Islamic terrorism by saying that Khashoggi was among a number of journalists who interviewed Bin Laden in the 1980s. During that time, Bin Laden had been recruited by the CIA to train Mujahideen (Taliban) to fight against the USSR which occupied Afghanistan. They were honored by the US government, and Mr. Reagan invited the Taliban to the White House to recognize their work as freedom fighters.

Protesting the Saudi’s suspected role in the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, some major media companies are pulling out of a high-profile event, “The Future Investment Initiative (FII),” an investment conference hosted by Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund, (Los

Angeles Times, CNBC anchor and New York Times columnist Andrew Ross Sorkin, New York Times and Bloomberg would no longer appear at the event. Maxwell. Tani@thedailybeast.com)

Saudi Arabia is establishing a new role as one of Silicon Valley’s most prominent investors. Will its investments purchase silence from companies that pride themselves on openness and freedom? (Anand Giridharadas, New York Times 10/12/18) Will more business leaders and news organizations of conscience withdraw from the Public Investment Fund-powered conference?

What can we do when a country silences its human rights abuses by their enormous wealth by influencing major businesses like Amazon, Uber, Facebook and multiple companies in the Silicon Valley as well as the US Government which likes to honor its contracts to make billions of dollars? So far, the evidence suggests that the Saudis have

murdered a prominent dissident inside one of its embassies, the Russians have killed their critics, and the Pakistanis have been killing their dissidents for years. The US used to be a staunch supporter of human rights, but the Trump administration is abandoning this role. Being the leader, the rest of the world look towards the US for guidance when protecting human rights and unfortunately Mr. Trump has apparently given up this role.

Freedom fighters and people against the world’s authoritarian regimes seek leadership from the U.S. The credibility of the American president is in question due to his dealings with dictators around the world who abuse human rights. These dictators are encouraged by his tolerance for their blunders. The Saudis need American backing, technology, intelligence and arms and it’s in America’s best interest to keep this relationship. Still, America can put pressure on Saudi Arabia to

stop their human rights violations and still maintain this relationship. Like President Trump said: “There would be no Saudi Arabia if there wasn’t the United States”

The world media broadcasted that the most significant reform process underway in the Middle East today is in Saudi Arabia and this reform will change the message of Islam across the world. However, Khashoggi’s brutal murder tells a different story about Saudi Arabia under MBS – that it is still one of the most oppressive countries in the world. It is time for the US president to put pressure on the Saudi government to stop the Human rights violation

America is supposed to be the torch bearer and protector of human rights and democracy. Let us keep our leadership role in upholding this noble cause.

Dr. Ahmed can be reached at mbahmed05@yahoo.com

President Trump says, “Sanctions are Coming”

by TMO Staff

Recently, President Donald Trump tweeted about imposing sanctions on Iran, for following the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, created under the Obama Administration.

The tweet featured a picture of President Trump walking while looking to the side with a caption in the foreground that said, “Sanctions are Coming”, similar to HBO’s series, Game of Thrones, where the infamous line is said often, “Winter is Coming”. Most have joked about the fact that President Trump made a meme of himself and did not take his tweet seriously.

However, the Trump Administration is very serious with carrying out these sanctions.

As a refresher, the JCPOA, also known as the Iran deal, was an agreement made between the United States and Iran under the Obama Administration. The



agreement limited Iran’s capacity to build nuclear weapons for ten years and then afterward, the agreement would be revisited and a new agreement would be made. The Republican party and President Donald Trump heavily criticized

President Obama for “letting Iran get away with nuclear weapons” and that it endangered American national security. The purpose of the deal was to push Iran’s timeline on building nuclear weapons, so the United

States could buy more time to decrease global nuclear proliferation.

Because of President Trump’s major opposition to the agreement, his administration is punishing Iran for following the Iran deal. President Trump has banned oil imported from Iran and listed more than 700 Iranian banks, companies and individuals as part of his sanctions against Iran.

President Hassan Rouhani of Iran spoke to the Iranian people on

national television and denounced President Trump’s actions. He stated that the “unfair sanctions are against the law, U.N. resolutions and international accords. Therefore, we will proudly break the sanctions... It’s not going to work out only through words... Action means putting pressure on the U.S. so it doesn’t dare to continue with its plots.”

To cause even more damage to Iran’s economy, President Trump would impose sanctions

on countries that buy products from Iran. The U.S. exempted China, India, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey and allowed temporary imports of crude oil without facing penalties. Iraq is allowed to continue to buy electricity and also natural gas, but only if the natural gas is being used for humanitarian purposes.

Adding on to that, the U.S. allowing temporary use of international nonproliferation efforts at some Iranian nuclear sites to ensure safety.

This will cause major damage to Iran’s economy, which is what the Trump Administration is aiming to do. It is not clear what the Iranian government is going to do in response to the American sanctions. There is not much Iran can do because the U.S. has basically made it impossible for any other country to buy from Iran or help Iran.

Cont. from page 1 AFMI

divide people and spread hatred in the name of religion.

AFMI is mainly concerned about the education of Muslims in India, but the prevalent political conditions inspired the speaker including professor Apporva-nand Jha of Delhi University and attorney Suhel Tirmizi, the president of Lokhit Prakashan trust that publishes Gujarat Today daily newspaper. AFMI president, Dr. Khutbuddin, AFMI trustee Dr. A S Nakadar and incoming President Mr. Siraj Thakor to discuss the political context in which education is being imparted.

Dr. A. Jha explained in details the rise of forces who in the name of religion have been trying to usurp India's pluralistic values and impose its version of a faith that divides people and pitch them against each other to promote the politics of fear.

He urged the people to join hands to defend causes of justice and strengthen those who believe in secular democracy.

He defended the rights of religious minorities to practice their faith fearlessly without proving their patriotism to anyone.

He condemned the policy of uprooting people or lynching them in the name of faith.

Attorney Suhel Tirmizi focussed on deteriorating law and order situation in India where discrimination and biases are institutionalized against minorities and weaker sections.



The participation of so many Canadian lawmakers is a testimony to AFMI's great work.

He narrated several incidents where state officials showed their personal religious biases to discriminate against minorities.

Dr. Khutbuddin focussed on the challenges the minorities have been facing in India and urged people to expose injustices and use all peaceful means to bring about changes.

He invited Yong Muslims of Indian origin to take the leadership role in the organization.



Dr. Nakadar talked about the achievements of AFMI in improving literacy and educational levels of Muslim Indians. When the organization began working in India, the literacy rate was 30 percent, now it is over 70% among Muslims and illiteracy is 30% He said. He gave many examples of Muslim youth's achievements in education and added, "Education is the best Defense".

The Toronto convention focussed

on youth and women empowerment. The speakers included Dr. Iqbal Ahmed, Dr. Razia Ahmed, Dr. Akbar, Dr. Sanaullah Khan, Sr. Rabia Khedar, Sr. Farah Jhuman, Sr. Sana Uddin, Mr. S Lokhandwala,

There were about 25 AFMI delegates present from coast to coast representing various states of USA

Sr. Neisha Eckhart chaired the convention and the vice chair was Zubair Khaja Mohiuddin.

The Toronto team was led by Mr. Siraj Thakur, the incoming president of AFMI and Mr. Hanif Shaikh, president Toronto chapter, Mr. Muhammad Afroze, Shahnawaz Khan, Moiz Khan, and many others. The friends of Humanity was the main sponsor of the conversation.

Natalia Kusendova, MPP, presented greetings from the Premier of Ontario Ford, recognizing AFMI's work. He welcomed AFMI delegates to Mississauga-Toronto-Canada and wished the convention a great success.

Over 550 people attended the AFMI convention, including the following politicians:

Natalia Kusendova, Member of Provincial Parliament (Mississauga Centre), Deepak Anand, Member of Provincial Parliament (Mississauga Malton), Peter Tabuns, Member of Provincial Parliament (Toronto-Danforth), Salma Zahid, Member of Parliament of Canada, and Asif Syed, who read the greetings from Sonia Sidhu MPP of Canada from Brampton.

Cont. from page 1 Anti-Semitism

doubt about the motive of the attack, the man was heard shouting calls for genocide against Jews in the course of the attack.

Furthermore, his social media accounts displayed a clear anti-jewish animus for their alleged conspiring to bring refugees into the United States at the expense of white people. In the aftermath of this tragedy, there was an overwhelming outpouring of support for the victims including over \$250,000 raised by the Muslim community.

Without a doubt, these responses send a positive message regarding the generosity and compassion of our community to those who have been wronged. Though we cannot change the tragic nature of the events in Pittsburgh, the aftermath of these events represents a genuine opportunity to build inter-communal solidarity and action that we need so much more of.

When it comes to Muslim-Jewish relations, there is natural-

ly hesitation due to concerns revolving around injustices towards the Palestinians and the role American Jews play in maintaining American support of Israel despite such oppression. Of course, there is no excuse for supporting injustice and oppression in any part of the world, including in Palestine.

At the same time, it is important to understand not to attribute the evils committed by the state of Israel to the Jewish community at large. Furthermore, there is plenty of room for engagement and collaboration on matters wholly unrelated to Palestine which need not be abandoned because of it.

Indeed, we are expected to cooperate with others in good causes, so there should not be any hesitation in collaborating with Jews in community service projects such as feeding homeless people.

Additionally, such collaboration does not imply that we support Israel any more than it implies that they support Palestine.

Unfortunately, such petty guilt-by-association reasoning has taken root in some quarters

of the Muslim community.

When Rashida Tlaib won her congressional primary on August 7th, Muslims were, by en-large, pleased by this, yet there were some who had misgivings. Without a doubt, the selection of Palestinian-American Muslims woman to be the nominee for U.S. Congress inspired many Muslims to think more optimistically about the future, but almost immediately after her election, she was the victim of baseless accusations questioning her loyalty to the Palestinian cause.

The claim was that because she had been supported by the pro-Israel organization Jstreet, she supported military aid to Israel because J Street supports such military aid. Of course, the feebleness of such claims are so apparent as not to even deserve comment; nevertheless, some people naively bought into it.

Rather than allowing Tlaib to demonstrate her convictions in Congress, they chose to cast aspersions on her reputation based on nothing more than the positions of people who happen to support her. If we expect

to make a genuine impact, we cannot accommodate such an erroneous mentality.

When it comes to dealing with anti-Semitism, Muslims can do this most effectively by demonstrating that it is possible to stand up for the rights of Jews whilst not compromising their own principles and beliefs.

In addition to supporting victims of hate crimes such as the members of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, we should be proactive in collaborating with others on issues of shared concern even with people who we do not agree with. Of course, this does not entail abandoning the plight of the Palestinians or other oppressed groups of people.

Rather, we must understand the basic point that agreeing with others on a particular cause or issue does not entail support for all that they believe. Indeed, if we acted on such a mentality, we would do nothing with anyone besides ourselves. When we can do this, we will have taken a crucial step towards reducing hatred in racism in all of its forms, including anti-semitism.

**Cont. from page 1
Election**

sional districts and 35 Senate seats as well as thousands of local and statewide institutions spent more than 5 billion dollars

The 2018 election was unique in the electoral history of America. For the first in the nations over 200-year history, Americans elected natives, Muslim women, and openly gay people for Congress. For the first time, 95 women would serve in the 116th Congress compared with 84 women in the 115th and at least 13 new women senators in addition to the 10 who were not contesting.

This election would go as a turning point in the history of the country especially at a time when the nation is sharply polarized on issues such as immigration, healthcare, tax reform and the role of religion in politics. The election of two Muslim women for Congress and over 30 Muslims for various local and state offices at a time when the right-wing Christian evangelical groups were openly calling for the conversion of Muslims and Jews to Christianity and projecting the election as the most crucial for the survival of Christianity in America was perhaps the most inspiring event for the pluralistic and democratic future of the country. Of the 235 million voters in the country, some 115 million voted in 2018 and of these over 50 percent voted Democrats.

Even though the midterm election threw some surprises by electing a Republican candidate who had called for the conversion of Muslims and Jews to Christianity, or an openly white supremacist Republican from Iowa or a dead Republican who was a brothel owner and Pimp or a Islamophobe who is under investigation for fraud and who used the ethnicity of his Christian Democratic opponent to attack Islam and Muslims, yet the country's Democratic and independent voters by and large rejected the politics of fear, xenophobic, racists, white supremacists, homophobic anti-Semitic and religious fanatics. There were some 47 million voters who still identify with the politics of fear and xenophobia as they preferred the agenda of a President and his party who were openly promoting hatred against immigrants and non-white Americans.

Despite the fact that America is a plural and democratic society that declares itself a nation under God without openly promoting a single religion, the religious identity of candidates running for political office make

a difference. In the 115th Congress, some 99 percent identified with a specific religion and 91 percent of them called them Christians. 55.9% of the Members (241 in the House, 58 in the Senate) were Protestant, with Baptist as the most represented denomination, followed by Methodist; 31.4% of the Members (144 in the House, 24 in the Senate), Catholic; 5.6% of the Members (22 in the House, 8 in the Senate), Jewish; ? 2.4% of the Members (7 in the House, 6 in the Senate), Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints); 24

Three Members (2 in the House, 1 in the Senate) are Buddhist, 2 House Members are Muslim, and 3 House Members are Hindu; and

There were 51 African American Members (9.4% of the total membership) in the 115th Congress, 46 Hispanic or Latino Members or 8.5% of the total membership.

All this has changed in the 2018 midterm.

Muslim who make up less than one percent of the population ran for at least 250 positions at various levels. Nearly half of them make it to the primary for Congress, state assemblies, city councils, state boards, and other offices. Some far over 45 candidates are reported to have won their races. Among the winners are: 1st Muslim woman elected to Congress: Rashida Tlaif first Muslim immigrant woman, Ilhan Omar, 1st South Asian elected to Passaic City Council, NJ; Salim Patel, 1st Muslim legislator in New Mexico: Abbas Akhil, 1st Muslim women elected in Orange County, CA; 1st South Asian Women elected to Irvine City Council: Farrah Khan, 1st Immigrant and 1st Muslim elected to Georgia Legislature: Sheikh Rahman and the first Muslim attorney general, Keith Ellison.

In fact, the inspiration for running for major positions came primarily from a young doctor who in Michigan decided to contest governorship two years before the mid-term. Dr. Syed inspired hundreds of young Muslims all over the country and many ran for their local and state offices. Certainly, this number is likely to increase in 2020 as many more are motivated to serve public.

The presence of at least three Muslims in the House and with at least 40 other Muslims in state and local offices in 15 of the 50 states would definitely change the discourse on Islam and Muslims. Islamophobes in these states and in Congress would be questioned for every hateful statement they would make against their fellow Mus-

lim citizens.

Certainly, the right-wing Christian groups would create a lot of noise about Muslim's visible political presence in the country and propagate that Muslims were out to take over the country and implement their sharia, yet the tide is not on their side. Despite all the rhetoric that the President and the Republicans would have against Muslims and Islam, the presence and the work of the elected Muslim officials would prove beyond any doubt that Muslims are an integral part of American pluralism and democracy and America would not listen to racists, bigots, and white supremacist.

Confirmed Wins (Organized by State)

Summary of State Wins

- 1.NJ (9)
- 2.CA (7)
- 3.NY (3)
- 4.VA (3)
- 5.MI (2)
- 6.MN (2)
- 7.NC (2)
- 8.GA (1)
- 9.IL (1)
- 10.IN (1)
- 11.MD (1)
- 12.NH (1)
- 13.NM (1)
- 14.TN (1)
- 15.TX (1)

State Wins — Detailed Breakdown

California (7)

- Sabina Zafar: San Ramon City Council (CA) (Source: East Bay Times)
- Aisha Wahab: Hayward City Council (CA) (Source: The Mercury News)

•Ali Taj: Artesia City Council(-CA)(Source: The Los Angeles Times)

•Farrah Khan: Irvine City Council (CA) (Source: The OC Register)

•Halim Dhanidina*: Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three (CA) (Source: LA Progressive)

•Maimona Afzal Berta*: Franklin McKinley Board of Education — Short Term (CA) (Source: Ballotpedia)

•Sabina Zafar: San Ramon City Council (CA)(Source: Sabina Zafar Instagram)

Georgia (1)

•Sheikh Rahman: State Senate, District 5 (GA) (Source: Northwest Georgia News)

Illinois (1)

•Sadiah Covert: Dupage County Board, 5th district (IL) (Source: Daily Herald)

Indiana (1)

•Andre Carson: U.S. Representative, 7th District (IN) (Source: WRTV)

Maryland (1)

•Sabina Taj: Howard County, Board of Education (MD) (Source: The Baltimore Sun)

Michigan (2)

•Rashida Tlaib: 1st Muslimah in Congress (MI) (Source: Vox Media)

•Abdullah Hammoud: Re-elected House of Representatives, District 15 (MI) (Source: Move-On Twitter)

Minnesota (2)

•Ilhan Omar: 1st Hijabi, 2nd Muslimah, 1st Somali-American in Congress, (MN) (Source: Minneapolis Star Tribune)

•Keith Ellison: 1st American Muslim Attorney General (MN) (Source: Star Tribune)

New Hampshire (1)

•Safiya Wazir: Former refugee from Afghanistan, State Rep (NH) (Source: Think Progress)

New Jersey (9)

•Assad Akhter: Reelected Passaic County Freeholder (NJ) (Source: North Jersey)

•Salim Patel: 1st South Asian on Passaic City Council (NJ) (Source: Insider NJ)

•Mohamed T Khairullah: Mayor of Prospect Park (NJ) (Source: Mohamed Khairullah Facebook)

•Alaa Abdelaziz: Councilman, Paterson 6th Ward (NJ) (Source: Tap Into Paterson)

•Alaa Matari: Borough Councilman, Prospect Park (NJ) (Source: NJ.com)

•Hazim Yassin: Borough Councilman, Red Bank (NJ) (Source: Two River Times)

•Adam Chaabane: Woodland Park Board of Education (NJ) (Source: www.passaiccountynj.org)

•Mohammad M. Ramadan: Haledon Board of Education (NJ) (Source: www.passaiccountynj.org)

•Mussab Ali*: Jersey City Board of Education (NJ) (Source: NJ.com)

New Mexico (1)

•Abbas Akhil: State Rep, District 20 (NM) (Source: Planned Parenthood Twitter)

New York (3)

•Charles Fall: State Assembly, North Shore Assembly Seat, Staten Island (- Fall will become the first Muslim and the

Cont. on page 15

CONTINUED STORY

Cont. from page 14 Election

first African American to serve as a Staten Island representative in Albany. (NY) (Source: Staten Island Live)

• Robert Jackson: 1st Muslim in NY State Legislature, State Senate District 31 (NY) (Source: Patch)

• Shahabuddeen Ally: NYC Civil Court, New York County (NY) (Source: Ballotpedia)

North Carolina (2)
• Mujtaba Mohammed: State Senate District 38 (NC) (Source: Run for Something Twitter)

• Nasif Majeed: State House, District 99 (NC) (Source: Charlotte Observer)

Tennessee (1)
• Yusuf Hakeem: House District 28 (TN)(Source: Ballotpedia)

Texas (1)
• Rabeea Collier: District Judge , 113th Judicial District (TX) (Source: Rabbea Collier Facebook)

Virginia (3)
• Mo Seifeldein: Alexandria City Council (VA) (Source: Alexandria Living)
• Haseeb Javed: Manassas Park City Council (VA) (Source: Prince William Times)

• Babur Lateef: Special Election for School Board (VA) (Source: Inside NOVA)

Re-Elected Wins (7)
1.Assad Akhter*: Re-elected Passaic County Freeholder (NJ) (Source: North Jersey)
2.Abdullah Hammoud*: Re-elected House of Representatives, District 15 (MI) (Source: MoveOn Twitter)
3.Andre Carson*: U.S. Representative, 7th District (IN) (Source: WRTV)
4.Mohamed T Khairullah*: Mayor of Prospect Park (NJ) (Source: Mohamed Khairullah Facebook)
5.Halim Dhanidina*: Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three (CA) (Source: LA Progressive)
6.Maimona Afzal Bert*: Franklin McKinley Board of Education — Short Term (CA) (Source: Ballotpedia)
7.Mussab Ali*: Jersey City Board of Education

(NJ) (Source: NJ.com)

All Confirmed Wins (Organized By Time of Report)

- 1.Rashida Tlaib: 1st Muslimah in Congress (MI) (Source: Vox Media)
- 2.Ilhan Omar: 1st Hijabi, 2nd Muslimah, 1st Somali-American in Congress, (MN) (Source: Minneapolis Star Tribune)
- 3.Assad Akhter*: Re-elected Passaic County Freeholder (NJ) (Source: North Jersey)
- 4.Salim Patel: 1st South Asian on Passaic City Council (NJ) (Source: Insider NJ)
- 5.Haseeb Javed: Manassas Park City Council (VA) (Source: Prince William Times)
- 6.Babur Lateef: Special Election for School Board (VA) (Source: Inside NOVA)
- 7.Safiya Wazir: Former refugee from Afghanistan, State Rep (NH)



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