



US Muslim leaders call on China to end persecution of Uighurs

By: Aysha Khan

(RNS) – More than 130 American Muslim leaders and scholars have signed an open letter condemning the Chinese government's continued persecution and detention of the mostly Muslim Uighur minority.

The letter, initiated by the Sound Vision Foundation and signed by prominent Muslim leaders, called for the release of detainees from internment camps in Xinjiang, where Uighurs have reportedly been forced to attend indoctrination sessions.

The leaders also called



for U.S. consumers to boycott imports produced by the detainees' forced labor and to join a planned rally on behalf of Uighur people on Apr. 6 in Washington, D.C.

"We call upon fellow citizens to stop buying products produced through slave labor from these camps," the statement says. "We thank the U.S. government

for raising the issue of human rights abuses and detainment in the concentration camps and ask the rest of the world

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Anti-Muslim politician converts to Islam

By: TMO Staff

A former Dutch politician who spread anti-Muslim hate rhetoric has converted to Islam. Joram van Klaveren is the second ex-PVV (Dutch Freedom Party) politician to convert.

A former member of Geert Wilders' far-right Dutch party announced earlier, that he has con-



verted to Islam.

Joram Van Klaveren said he made the switch from critic to convert while writing a book about Islam.

"During that writing, I came across more and more things that made my view on Islam falter," he told Dutch radio.

Van Klaveren was a member of parliament for the Freedom Party (PVV) from 2010 to 2014, but quit the party after Wilders' asked supporters during a rally in 2014 if they wanted more or fewer Moroccans in the

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Islam Came to America through Black Slaves



By Yousuf Ali

When speaking about the history of Islam in the United States, the discussion naturally goes to the history of immigration from the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent as this is what most people think of when considering the issue.

At the same time, the discourse, unfortunately, does not encompass the

important history and the role of black Americans in the history of Muslims in this part of the world. Indeed, when Muslims of immigrant heritage speak about reaching out to black Americans, they should keep in mind that this includes a substantial part of their own community who deserve their love and support.

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'Top Chef' Fan Favorite Fatima Ali Dies at 29

By: TMO Staff

"Fan Favorite" Pakistani-American chef Fatima Ali, known for her 2017 appearance on popular US Bravo television series *Top Chef*, passed away late January after losing a battle with cancer.

Ali appeared on season 15 of the reality competition show as a contestant and was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer, Ewing's Sarcoma, right after.

She was known for her "fun personality and excellent cooking" of food from her native Pakistan, Bravo told reporters.

While believed that the chemotherapy had rid her of cancer, her cancer returned in September last year with doctors telling her it has metastasized.

The 29-year-old chef, had in October 2018, penned an op-ed for *Bon Appetit*, in which she shared that she has a year to live and intends to use it to make



amends with the people in her life and to sample the finest food all over the world.

To taste all the finest foods she planned to travel the world. Her

friends from *Top Chef* started a GoFundMe page to help her fulfill her wishes.

"It's funny, isn't it? When we think we have all the time in the world to

live, we forget to indulge in the experiences of living," Ali wrote on the website *Healthyish*.

"When that choice is yanked away from us, that's when we scramble

to feel. I am desperate to overload my senses in the coming months, making reservations at the world's best restaurants,

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Trump Delivers State of the Union Address After Government Reopens



by *Aysha Qamar*

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has invited President Trump to deliver the State of the Union address on Feb. 5, following the reopening of the government after the longest shutdown in U.S. history.

After telling reporters the address will be rescheduled once the government has reopened last Friday, Pelosi spoke with Trump on Monday and formally invited him to speak at the House chamber.

'When I wrote to you on January 23rd, I stated that we should work together to find a mutually agreeable date when government has reopened to schedule this year's State of the Union address,' Pelosi wrote in her new invitation to Trump. 'In our conversation today, we agreed on February 5th.'

'Therefore, I invite you to deliver your State of the Union address before a Joint Session of Congress on February 5, 2019 in the House Chamber.'

Shortly after receiving the formal invitation, Trump accepted.

'Thank you for your letter inviting me to deliver the State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress on Tuesday, February 5, 2019,' Trump wrote in reply.

'It is my great honor to accept. We have a great story to tell and yet, great goals to achieve.'

The decision to originally cancel the address was made following an exchange of letters between Trump and Pelosi.

As told by CNN, Trump had insisted earlier in a letter to

Pelosi that he was planning on presenting his annual address from the chamber of the U.S. House as planned, this was in response to a request by Pelosi to postpone the address. Trump's letter essentially dared the House Speaker to formally disinvite him from delivering the yearly message.

Hours later, Pelosi replied to the dare, saying she would refuse to bring up for a vote a measure that would allow Trump to speak and that the House will not open their chamber to the president on Jan. 29.

'I am writing to inform you that the House of Representatives will not consider a concurrent resolution authorizing the President's State of the Union address in the House Chamber until the government has opened,' Pelosi wrote.

The president spoke of the news at the White House Wednesday and said he believes Pelosi's decision will leave a permanent stain on the nation, according to the Washington Post.

'The State of the Union address has been canceled by Nancy Pelosi because she doesn't want to hear the truth,' Trump said. 'She doesn't want the American public to hear what's going on. And she's afraid of the truth.'

I hope they know what they're doing for their party,' Trump added.

'Nancy Pelosi, or Nancy, as I call her, she doesn't want to hear the truth, and she doesn't want—more importantly—[for] the American people to hear the truth,' Trump said according to Mediaite.

'We just found out that she's canceled it. And I think that's a great blotch on the incredible country that we all love. It's a great, great, horrible mark.'

Trump added that he does not think this has happened before making this a "very, very negative part of history."

Prior to his conversation Monday, Trump has not verbally spoken with Pelosi since a Jan. 9 meeting in the White House, which Trump abruptly left after Pelosi told him she would not support funding for Trump's long-promised border wall, according to a congressional aide familiar with the matter, the Washington Post said.

Although Pelosi's hold out for the speech may have been a factor in Trump's decision, his growing disapproval rate among American voters along with massive airport delays and roughly 800,000 furloughed workers on the brink of missing their second paycheck is likely, and hopefully, a greater factor in his decision to sign the short-term deal.

No agreement has been made to provide the funding for the border wall at this time and the president hopes to negotiate a deal to fulfill his long-time campaign promise to build a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

According to news reports, if funding for his border wall is not secured by the end of the negotiation period, Trump said he is prepared to shut down the government again or issue a national emergency declaration in order to get the funding.

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“Seek Permission”: the Importance of Privacy in Islam

By: TMO Staff

“And when your children reach the age of puberty, have them seek ?to come in?, as their elders do. This is how Allah makes His revelations clear to you, for Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.”
24:59

When speaking about Islam, the primacy of privacy is rarely discussed with khutaba and lecturers recycling same topics during the Friday sermon and outside of it. Even though most of the topics are important and worthy of discussion, it is essential that we do not neglect important parts of the deen especially those that pertain to our daily lives.

When dealing with privacy, we should start in our own houses where we have the most impact.

Even regarding something as ordinary as whether or not to enter someone’s room or home, our religion places significance on the privacy of people. To begin, the Qur’an clearly identifies times in which even children must ask permission to enter the rooms or houses of others’ in surah 24:58.

After this, the Qur’an clearly states that once children reach puberty, they are to ask permission just like adults. In fact, it is reported in adab al-mufrad of Imam Bukhari that many of the companions said that the verse applies to even family members living in the same house.

Consequently, parents should clearly teach their children about the importance of seeking permission when they are young at the 3 times specified by the Qur’an, and make it clear that they must seek permission at all times when they reach puberty.



These understandings align with the fact that Qur’anic wording does not exempt these categories. Additionally, the emphasis on privacy extends to a communal level when dealing with the rights of others.

The Qur’an clearly tells believers to mind the rights and privacy of each other also. In surah al hujurat, Allah enumerates several injunctions and guidelines which believers are to apply when dealing themselves and people in general.

In the 12th ayah, Allah gives a clear command to those who have believed which is routinely violated in the American context: “do not spy on nor backbite each-other” (49:12). It is well known that mosques have been the targets of intelligence agencies and spying for a long time. According to the Guardian, it was only last year in which the NYPD against them for spying on Muslim groups not only in New York City but New Jersey as well.

Anyone with an ounce of faith in their heart should fear Allah and desist from such dis-

graceful activities. One can imagine the fate of such people when they are raised for judgment. These actions do not make anyone safer and only serve to deepen existing tensions between Muslims and society in general.

When examining the Islamic injunctions, it becomes increasingly clear just how important privacy is in the reli-

gion. Not only are adults restricted from entering each other’s houses or rooms without permission, but even children must also seek permission particularly before fajr prayer, at high noon and after the isha prayer.

This is something Muslims should work to re-install within their lives. Also, at a community level, it is essential to avoid

the constant backbiting and spying which has plagued our communities so much. Such practices only serve to increase enmity between us thereby preventing proactive and productive action. When we respect our religion’s teachings regarding privacy, we can expect trust to grow between us and from there, constructive action.



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Water for Gaza Dinner with Shaykh Yasir Qadhi



by Noor Salem

"I always wonder why I come to Michigan in January with this cold season, but then I feel the

warmth of the community," said Shaykh Yasir Qadhi as he was welcomed to the stage at the

Water for Gaza fundraising dinner in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

A hall of over 400 people gathered in support of a very profound cause, funding access to clean water to many who so desperately need it. Water is cheapest when available, and most expensive when it's not, yet many take it this valuable and life-depending

blessing for granted.

When was the last time you turned on the faucet and actually pondered that millions across the globe don't have this instant access to clean water, let alone water at all?

As the Prophet (saaw) reminds us not to be wasteful, even if we have plenty. If you happened to be blessed with wealth, or health, or any strength or talent, out of gratitude to Allah (SWT) use it in a way that is pleasing to Him (SWT).

Use your wealth to support the needy, invest in ongoing charity, feed the

hungry, be generous to those around you, and spend on your family. Donating to such cause is undoubtedly a way of

showing gratitude for the blessing you have by aiding those who don't.

The dinner began with a very mesmerizing Qur'an recitation with none other than Shaykh

Ahmed Mabrouk. The entire hall was so quiet, all at awe for his recitation, a pin can be heard if dropped. Thereafter, the MC of the night, Dr. Obadah Al-Zohaili, welcomed Imam Imran Salha

to give welcoming remarks and a few inspiring words about the importance of recognizing

ing Gaza

as a concern for the entire Ummah alike.

The microphone was handed over to the Executive Director of Baitulmaal, Dr. Mazen Mokhtar, who gave very insightful information about the projects Baitulmaal has conducted in the past, and currently underway with. He shared the very disturbing statistics of the access to water in Gaza, with more than 95% of people there not having access to clean water.

Imagine waking up not finding food, let alone water, to drink and feed your children. Next, Noor Salem, author and Spo-

ken Word Artist, gave a very profound and heart moving spoken word about Gaza. Thereafter, Shaykh Monzer Talib shared very beautiful reminders of the importance of aiding the needy and the long way this water goes for those who so desperately need it.

Dr. Yasir Qadhi's heart lifting talk was last on the program, yet left the audience with much to ponder over. He reminded the crowd that the best way to connect with people is to show them

that we live by what Allah (SWT) commanded by living by the values of Qur'an, and allow-

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Tulsi, Kamala, and Indian Americans

by Mike Ghouse

One of the reasons the earlier immigrants have come to America was the freedom to live their lives in the pursuit of liberty and happiness. You can be who you want to be in personal achievements and contribute to nation building. "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying



its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." Declaration of Independence.

The guarantor of such rights is assured through electing the right candidates to uphold that principle.

As Indian Americans, we have a natural affinity towards anyone

that resonates India and things Indian. The discussions are taking place in American Indian homes across the nation about whom to support between Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard and Sena-

tor Kamala Harris.

No Indian American wants to mess up what has been good for us; a cohesive America where all of us can function together for common good, and want to elect the candidates who uphold the dream of Martin Luther King Jr., to treat every human for his/her character and not his/her faith or skin color.

Kamala is progressive and inclusive in her approach. She will not buy into the prejudices that hold the nation back. We need to explore if she has faced exclusion from Indian Americans while

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NJ Attorney General Grewal Swears in Councilman Salim Patel

by Zuleyha Kayi

Attorney General Gurbir Grewal swore in City of Passaic Councilman Salim Patel in a Swearing-In ceremony at Passaic High School on Thursday, Jan 17.

There were approximately 300 attendees who came to witness the Swearing-In of Councilman Salim Patel. The attendees, as well as the elected officials, were from various different ethnic groups, cultures, and religions.

Honorable Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said, "picture this, an event where a Hindu priest starts the event, and then the Jewish American Assemblyman introduces the Dominican American Mayor, who is about to introduce the Sikh American Attorney General, who is about to swear in the first South Asian American member



of the council here, the first Muslim American, I believe, to be on this council!

For all those in Washington who might try to separate us based on our differences, they can look to Passaic and learn a thing or two. Our diversity here is our strength."

"I was raised here in the

City of Passaic for most of my life. I am committed to this great city and it's wonderful people. Serving Passaic's kind, honorable, and hard-working citizens as a Councilman is a privilege, and I am beyond grateful for the opportunity. I also feel honored to be working alongside my peers. Together, there is no challenge

too great that we can't overcome," Councilman Salim Patel said.

Honorable Assemblyman Gary Schaer, who also took part in the Swearing-In ceremony said, "for the past decade, Councilman Patel has served our community admirably as both Commissioner and Board Chairman of the Passaic City Board of Education,

and through numerous non-profit organizations. As President of the Passaic City Council, I am pleased to welcome him as a colleague and honored to be present as Gurbir Grewal, New Jersey's first Sikh Attorney General, swears in Passaic's first South Asian City Council member."

Salim Patel has served the City of Passaic in various capacities, notably being the President and Vice President of the Passaic Board of Education for ten years.

Salim Patel has a background in corporate finance and real estate. He graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in finance. He is also the founder and President of SMILE for Charity, a non-profit charity focused on food insecurity and poverty.

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Virginia Governor Ralph Northam: Racist Yearbook Picture Controversy

By: TMO Staff

An investigation into Eastern Virginia University's 1984 Medical School yearbook yielded revelations about Virginia's government which has left him clinging on for his political life. On Ralph Northam's (D-VA) personal yearbook, there is an image of a man wearing a KKK costume standing next to another dressed in blackface, both outfits with a highly racist history against the black population in the United States.

This provoked a strong reaction against Northam across the political spectrum, and according to CNN he initially apologized for the photo but now insists that the photo does not actually picture him. Even within his own party, Northam has faced consistent calls for resignation event amongst previous political allies.



Figures from all levels and wings of the Democratic party have called for Northam to resign as governor. This sentiment exists at both the state and national levels with a previous democratic lieutenant governor calling for his resignation. According to CNN, calls for his resignation snow-

balled after his press conference intended at clarifying the situation.

For example, both of Virginia's Democratic senators, Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, have called for his resignation. Even presidential candidates are getting

involved with several joining the chorus calling for Northam to make his exit from the governorship.

This sentiment is found across the ideological spectrum with both Alexandria Ocasio-Cortes and Hillary Clinton calling

for his resignation. Despite this growing sentiment, Northam may be remaining in office due to developments concerning his Lieutenant Governor.

Virginia Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax has recently been accused of sexual assault in 2004. Consequently, this has put his own political future into consequence with Virginians being forced to have either a possible racist and a possible assailant in their governor's mansion.

According to the BBC, Fairfax has questioned the timing of the accusations without directly mentioning Northam. In any case, Virginia's political future remains unclear amidst the media storm.

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Healthy Homemade 7-Layer Dip



By: TMO Staff

Whether it's a gathering with your friends to watch the Superbowl or a family social on a weekday night, it's easy to reach for unhealthy options without thinking twice about the health consequences. Instead of ordering deep-fried boneless wings, potato wedges, and store-bought dips and condiments, try preparing scrumptious snacks at home instead.

Once you get in the habit of cooking and baking, you will come to realize not only does your meal or snack taste better, it's far more comforting knowing what ingredients are being used in your food.

Unfortunately, most restaurants may use low-quality products for profit, such as corn oil or vegetable oil for frying. If you can't help but have deep-fried potato wedges, fry them at home in organic cold-pressed avocado oil! You save yourself from consuming genetically engineered oils, which are linked to cancer, liver toxicity, food intolerance, obesity, and more.

Purchasing store-bought dip is no different; whether it's a bean dip or a jarred cheese dip, it's best if you strive to make them at home instead. This layered dip is mouth-watering, loaded with protein, dietary fiber, healthy fats, vitamins, and more. It will leave you feeling healthy, energized, and satisfied with every taste bud.

Layering the beans on the bottom makes it easier to add your sour cream and other

layers atop without destroying the presentable look it offers. It's highly recommended that you soak the beans overnight, or at least several hours if possible. This helps to reduce the phytic acid and ease digestion as well.

Adding spices like ginger, ground mustard seed, and red pepper all add to the flavor, and also make it easier to digest the beans. Mustard seed and ginger are also wonderful in that they carry anti-inflammatory benefits. The avocados and extra virgin olive oil fill this scrumptious snack with healthy fats-granting you satiety and heart health benefits.

This dip is bursting with four remarkable foods mentioned in my book, *Sunnah Superfoods*: ginger, garlic, onions, and extra virgin olive oil. Ginger adds a unique pungent flavor to this dip, while providing you with better digestion (perfect for this bean dip!), heart health benefits, and much more. Garlic gives an even stronger taste, and carries remarkable anti-bacterial cleansing aid, and is wonderful for your heart. Extra virgin olive oil is the star of the night, remarkably healthy for so many organs in your body. It grants you satiety and balances blood sugar after meals.

Onions, like garlic, carry natural anti-bacterial benefits and are full of unique antioxidants and nutrients.

This dip is loaded with dietary fiber, healthy fats, antioxidants, nutrients and more; it makes a perfect choice at your next gathering, or even your family

dinner.

It's undoubtedly a much healthier snack choice than chips and crackers full of ingredients and additives difficult to pronounce.

Try this dip, and you'll find it tough for your taste buds to accept a lower quality of the store-bought versions. I enjoy swapping the black beans with other beans, changing up the spices, and adding new herbs like dill or cilantro.

Enjoy this at your next social gathering. Serve immediately for optimum taste.

Ingredients:

Protein Bursting-Bean layer:

- 2 cups black or kidney beans (soaked overnight if possible)
- 1 teaspoon Himalayan Pink Salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper, freshly ground
- ½ teaspoon ginger, ground
- 1 teaspoon garlic, ground
- ½ teaspoon rosemary, ground
- 1 teaspoon mustard seed, ground
- ½ teaspoon red pepper, ground
- 2 tablespoons organic cold pressed avocado oil

Antioxidant Avocado Layer:

- 2 avocados
- 1/3 cup lemon or lime juice (freshly squeezed)
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped

- 1 teaspoon ginger, ground
- ½ teaspoon Himalayan Pink Salt
- 1 small red onion, peeled

6 Remaining Layers:

- 1 cup organic sour cream
- ¾ cup organic chunky salsa
- 2 cups shredded lettuce
- 1 cup organic sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- ½ cup fresh tomatoes, diced
- ½ cup black olives, sliced
- ¼ cup green onions, chopped

Directions:

1. In a small skillet, cook the beans with ½ cup water. Add salt and remaining spices. Allow the beans to cook about 5-6 minutes, or just until they're tender. Drizzle with the organic Avocado oil, and mash them with a fork. Transfer to a presentable serving platter and flatten using the back of a spoon.

2. In your blender, place the avocados, lime/lemon juice, cilantro, onion, and spices and pulse until smooth and creamy. Place an avocado layer atop the beans, and use a spatula to even it out.

3. Add an even layer of sour cream, followed by salsa, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, black olives, and green onions.

4. For optimum taste, serve immediately. This dip goes great with fresh cut vegetables, organic pretzels, or good quality organic crackers.



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High School Students with MAGA Hats Harass Native American Elder



BY: TMO Staff

A video emerged with students from Covington Catholic High School students wearing Making America Great Again hats making faces and mocking indigenous health. It later emerged that the elder was a Vietnam War veteran by the name of Nathan Phillips. Furthermore, there was also harassment from a group calling themselves “Hebrew Israelites”.

According to CNN, the teens were also shouting “build that wall”, an apparent reference

to Donald Trump’s promise to build a wall along the southern border while having Mexico pay for it. The events depicted in the video have since drawn significant backlash against the students.

Since the release of the video, the students have defended themselves while their critics have slammed their actions. According to Phillips, he was there to diffuse a potential conflict between the students and the Hebrew Israelites. Also, the students claimed that they were actually trying to diffuse the situation as opposed to

harassing Phillips. According to ITV, Catholic Diocese of Covington and the High School itself apologized to Phillips for his experiences and was considering action against the students including expulsion.

As the situation developed, many commentators have criticized double standards applied to bad behavior from white youth and that from the youth of color. They claim that had the youth of color been filmed harassing a white man, the mainstream press would not have given them the time to explain their side of the story and would

immediately be demonized.

Additionally, they reference the deaths of unarmed black youth who were killed for far less and whose deaths were chalked up by the right-wing media as “self-defense”. Furthermore, other Native Americans have said that the events in the video are the tip of the iceberg involving a long history of harassment and persecution that they have faced in the country, and if we want to prevent such treatment, these root causes must be addressed.

Venezuela in Crisis



By: TMO Staff

Over the past 2 weeks, the political crisis in Venezuela has escalated to extreme levels. The already embattled president of the country Nicolás Maduro is now openly being challenged by the speaker of the parliament

Juan Guaidó to step aside and allow him to govern instead.

The claim is that the presidential elections last year were illegitimate, and he is the only politician in the country with a genuine mandate to lead.

this point.

Notably, the international reaction has been rather polarized with many countries supporting the national assembly led by Guaidó and others insisting that Maduro is the legitimate president and cannot be removed at

To understand the origins of this crisis, one needs to go back to last year in which Venezuela had its last presidential elec-

Cont. on page 12.

Sanders and Schultz: a Tale of Two Contrasting Candidates



By: TMO Staff

Over the last 2 weeks, 2 potential candidates have been focussed on in the media; Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Howard Schultz, former CEO of Starbucks. On the face of this, the two could not be more different. One is a politician who has spent his entire career attacking the unfairness of a system which allows .1%, which Schultz comes from, of the population to control the vast majority of the wealth.

As for Schultz, he is a billionaire who is the founder of a major coffee company who has come out explicitly against many of the policies which Bernie Sanders supports. Both of these individuals frame their aspirations in opposition to the excesses of President Donald Trump, but further investigation indicates that one is genuine in this claim.

While Schultz may frame his interest as a respectable 3rd way option between what he deems to be two extremes, the fact remains that the policies of Trump do a great deal to help him. To begin, the idea that the presidency of a man who was

born into wealth and spent his career exploiting defrauding others would somehow be a boon for the working class is absurd. It is to be expected that he would implement policies which would benefit him and people like him when in office. According to a study by Bloomberg LP, the tax cuts Trump trumpeted as being great for the middle class far more than the wealthy have actually done the opposite. As it relates to Schultz, we should not assume that he is ignorant of this reality and knows that it is in his best interest to maintain the status quo. Regardless of his intentions, the effect of his candidacy would almost certainly help president Trump.

The reaction from the progressive left has been understandably negative to Howard Schultz's presidential interests. To begin, they draw parallels to Donald Trump who was also a self-proclaimed billionaire who campaigned under the pretense of helping the "left-behind" Americans.

Also, the fact that a lifelong

Democrat would suddenly want to run as an independent naturally draws suspicions of vote splitting, increasing the chances that the share of Republican votes ends up the largest, thereby helping him be elected.

For example, according to Boston.com, Elizabeth Warren blasted Warren in the following Tweet: "What's 'ridiculous' is billionaires who think they can buy the presidency to keep the system rigged for themselves." When one examines the changing discourse of American politics, it is no wonder that Schultz is so concerned.

Just before Schultz's announcement, there has been talk of Bernie Sanders entering the race. According to The Hill, several sources told them that the Senator was considering running and announcing his candidacy soon.

A senior advisor went on to say that no decision is imminent. Nevertheless, his candidacy has understandably put people like Schultz on edge. As explained before, the wealthiest are actually benefiting contrary to the pretense that the President

tries to maintain. This is in direct contrast to Bernie Sanders, who has been clear about his desire for higher taxes on the wealthy and reforming the financial sector.

Ever since the midterms, the conversation has increasingly shifted to the 2020 presidential race and who is going to win. Like 2016, this seems to be a unique year with many people rushing to jump in. Also, there seems to be an increased interest on behalf of billionaires seeking to become president. This is because they perceive the Democratic Party moving further away from their interests and wish to protect them.

Despite their rhetoric, they are some of the biggest beneficiaries of a Trump presidency, and those who truly oppose his agenda should not be taken in by what they say. True resistance seems to be coming from individuals like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, who push back on the attempts of billionaires to try to further manipulate the political system. When assessing presidential candidates, all of this must be kept in mind.

Cont. from page 11.
Venezuela

tion and its contested nature. Even though Maduro won an overwhelming majority of the votes, the opposition and many international observers claimed irregularities which thereby nullified the legitimacy of the election.

Several of the main opposition

parties were not included in the election prompting accusations of rigging and leading to the main opposition parties rejecting the results. Even before the election, several countries in the region stated that they would not recognize the elections due to perceived inadequacies in the process.

Such a context provide an environment for international actors to impugn the legitimacy

of Venezuela.

The Trump administration has been particularly vocal in its demands for Maduro to make his exit even to the point of not ruling out force as an option. Even most of Venezuela's neighbors have called for Maduro to step down with Mexico being the notable exception to the regional trend.

Some observers have suggested to Maduro that the only way to maintain his legitimacy is and avoid international meddling would be to call new elections which are not marred by the dubious practices that featured last year's.

Cont. from page 2.
Chef Fatima Ali

reaching out to past lovers and friends, and smothering my family, giving them the time that I so selfishly guarded before.”

Ali posted pictures of herself during cancer treatment on her Instagram page, sharing her struggle with fatigue even as she flashed a warm smile.

At the mere age of 18, Ali left her hometown to pursue her dream of becoming a chef, the network said in a statement Friday after her death.

She enrolled in the Culinary Institute of America and started working in New York restaurants, eventually becoming executive sous chef at Macy’s Stella 34 and La Fonda Del Sol.

When she first appeared on “Top Chef,” Ali told Bravo, she was hesitant to cook Pakistani food, even though she was passionate about it.

“I wasn’t sure if the judges were even going to be excited about eating that kind of food, but they were, and that really reinforced a lot of faith in the food that I want to cook,” she said.



Ali made a heavy impact on culinary media, she was a contestant on the Food Network show “Chopped” in 2012 and won. She hoped to one day open her own restaurant in New York City.

“I dream of my future restaurant, where the kebabs melt against your tongue and the cocktails are just sweet enough to calm the burn,” she wrote on Healthyish in May 2018.

“I have never felt more fulfilled than when I let myself crawl into bed late night after a back-breaking day of cooking.”

“I’m sick and unfortunately I’m getting sicker,” she wrote in her last Instagram post on Jan 11.

“Right now all I need are prayers; prayers that are simple. I hope because a wish is putting on too much responsibility on the other, that you will somehow find forgiveness in your big heart for whenever I must have hurt you. I thank you a million times over for when you have given me joy. I’ll try to keep everyone updated the best that I possibly can.”

Cont. from page 5.
Water for Gaza

see the beauty of deen in our actions.

Shaykh Yasir Qadhi, Ph.D., is the Dean of Academic Affairs at AlMaghrib Institute. He is one of the few people who have combined a traditional Eastern Islamic seminary education with a Western academic training of the study of Islam. Shaykh Yasir graduated with a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston, after

ing them to

which he was accepted as a student at the Islamic University of Madinah.

After completing a diploma in Arabic, he graduated with a B.A. from the College of Hadith and Islamic Sciences, and then completed an M.A. in Islamic Theology from the College of Dawah. He then returned to America and completed a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Yale University. He has authored several books, published academic articles, and appeared on numerous satellite and TV stations around the globe. His online videos are of the most

popular and highly-watched Islamic videos in English. Shaykh Yasir Qadhi is a resident Scholar of the Memphis Islamic Center. He is also a professor at Rhodes College, in the Department of Religious Studies.

The ended as everyone headed for Isha prayer; a reminder that despite all success, despite all hardship, and despite all achievements in this Dunya, one takes a break to remember their purpose of existence by fulfilling this command of Allah

(SWT). For ultimately, no true success is acquired nor meaningful in this Dunya, without making Salah priority before anything else. It was blessed and beautiful night here in Farmington, that unquestionably changed the life of many at the other end of the globe.

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Cont. from page 5.
Tulsi, Kamala

her father was black. Nikki Haley and Bobby Jindal have a reduced image among Indians because many of them believed their rise was due to conversion which proved to be wrong. Raja Krishnamoorthy, Pramila Jayapal and Ro Khanna and others have made it.

Tulsi Gabbard, on the other hand, has a questionable record that she needs to address. She seems to be prejudiced against fellow Americans who are Muslims and perhaps LGBTQ community and not sure who else. You cannot build a peaceful and prosperous nation with such an attitude, in the end, everyone lives in apprehension.

She has an affinity for authori-

growing up because

tarians like Hafez Assad, Putin, Modi, and Trump. She is in the wrong party; she belongs to the exclusive Republican Party rather than the all-inclusive Democratic party.

Vox.com writes in an article about Tulsi, “Gabbard’s fall from grace in the Democratic Party came in a bizarre fashion: She picked a series of high-profile fights with the Obama administration over foreign policy. Gabbard was an exception. As early as January 2015, she started going on every cable channel that would have her — including Fox News — and bashing Obama’s policy on terrorism. She sounded indistinguishable from a Republican presidential candidate.”

She was pushing Obama to acknowledge the oxymoron phrase, Radical Islam, without

realizing that Radicals exists in every group of people and Islam has nothing to do with it, if she did not get this, I would be happy to coach her or she can read the book “American Muslim Agenda.” Here is a video made in June 2016 about the issue. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsnqLkRNI4U>

In a tweet on Oct 1, 2015, she praised Putin, “Al-Qaeda attacked us on 9/11 and must be defeated. Obama won’t bomb them in Syria. Putin did.” After visiting Assad, she came back and parroted the regime’s line that there was no difference between the mainstream anti-Assad rebels and ISIS.” She could have asked Modi to apologize to fellow Indians for the massacre of nearly 2000 Indians particularly Muslims as a part of repentance.

Many a parent inadvertently poison their kids against fellow Americans, without realizing that when their kids grow up to be adults, they have to work with the very people they were told to keep away from, it must be painful for these men and women to form trustful relationships. Not sure how much of brainwashing her father has done to her to hold such views against LGBTQ and Muslim communities.

I urge the Hindu Americans to look for candidates who will build a bridge between fellow Americans, at the end of the day, we owe it our children, grandchildren and ourselves to have a cohesive America, where all of us can live in harmony and not in suspicion of each other.

Cont. from page 1
Call on China

to do the same.”

Signers include prominent civil rights activist Imam Omar Suleiman, who heads the Yaqeen Institute in Texas; Imam Yasir Qadhi of Al-Maghrib Institute and the Islamic Seminary of America; Imam Mohamed Magid, who leads Virginia’s All Dulles Area Muslim Society; as well as several representatives from the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Suleiman said the Uighur crisis, which he called “the world’s most blatant violation of any sense of religious freedom and human rights,” has not received the attention it deserves from world leaders.

“If this was any other religious group, the world would be up in arms,” Suleiman told Religion News Service. “The reality is that Muslims have been so dehumanized that even those who are usually credited as being champions for human rights can turn away without being called out on their double standards.”

Members of the United Nations Committee say there are credible reports that the Chinese government had “turned the Uighur autonomous region into something that resembles a massive internment camp,” detaining as many as 1 million Muslims — nearly 10



The Xinjiang province in western China where many Uighurs live. Map courtesy of Creative Commons

percent of their regional population — without charge, in order to strip them of their beliefs and religious practices.

Human rights advocates say reports of torture, forced labor and indoctrination are widespread. A massive surveillance program includes streets lined with facial recognition devices and closed-circuit television cameras and government spies living in suspected Muslims’ homes. The crackdown has made many Uighurs too frightened to pray or call family abroad. Avoiding alcohol and pork, both banned in Islamic teaching, is thought to be cause for suspicion.

The signed statement begins a broader effort to call attention to the Uighurs’ cause, said Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, founding chairman of Sound Vision Foundation. A number of mosques across the country will read the letter to congregants during Friday prayers today (Feb. 6).

“These imams have a far larger following in social media as well as in mosques than all national Muslim organizations together,” he explained. “I am sure the list and the movement will grow.”

The Sound Vision Foundation, based in Chicago, organized the Bosnia

Task Force in 1992 to help declare rape a war crime. More recently, it launched the Burma Task Force and the SaveUighur project to advocate for Myanmar’s Rohingya Muslims and China’s Uighur Muslims.

On Thursday (Feb. 7), SaveUighur launched a national campaign to urge Muslims to call their representatives in Congress and demand their support for bills condemning human rights violations against Uighurs.

Uighur activists say they are frustrated by the lack of international condemnation, particularly from the global Muslim

community.

“The Muslim-majority countries, every one of them has remained silent,” Aydin Anwar, a young student activist working with the Uighur independence movement East Turkistan National Awakening, told Religion News Service last year. “They all have deals with China. It’s really frustrating (for) Uighurs to witness what we see as a betrayal. How are you not standing up to this genocide of your brothers and sisters?”

This article was originally published on Religion News and republished on the Muslim Observer.

Cont. from page 1
Converts to Islam

Netherlands, to which the crowd chanted “Fewer! Fewer! Fewer!”

After leaving the PVV, Van Klaveren set up his

own party, For Netherlands, but failed to win a seat in the 2017 national election and quit politics.

Van Klaveren was a harsh critic of Islam during his time as PVV politician, saying “Islam

is a lie” and “The Quran is poison,” newspaper NRC reported.

Asked in the newspaper interview if he feels guilty about these statements, Van Klaveren said he had been “simply

wrong,” adding that it was “PVV policy: everything that was wrong had to be linked to Islam in one way or another.”

Arnold van Doorn, a former PVV official, was an early convert to Islam.

Van Doorn congratulated Van Klaveren on his decision via Twitter, writing: “[I] never thought that the PVV would become a breeding ground for converts.”

Cont. from page 1.
Islam came to America

When examining the roots of black Muslims in the United States, one cannot overlook the critical role slavery played in this.

One of the dark stains on the history of the United States was the institution of slavery, which was manifestly racist in that it was exclusively against black people, and Muslims were unfortunately caught up in this.

Thankfully, there has been a substantial academic investigation into this subject with many scholars documenting the cases of individual Muslims who were taken as slaves.

According to Caravan Daily, Sylviane Diouf is one of these scholars who has documented many such cases, including that of Omar Said who left behind manuscripts in Arabic. In addition to the degradation that all

slaves in the Americas faced, Muslims endured further persecution on account of their religion with their masters imposing Christianity upon them.

Consequently, many feigned adherence to the religion of their masters to avoid such treatment, and after several generations, traces of Islam all but disappeared amongst the population. Despite this history, Islam would reemerge amongst their

descendant generations later.

When examining the history of black people living in the United States, the role of Islam cannot be neglected. Not only do they make up a substantial part of the Muslim population in the United States, but they arrived in these shores with the arrival of slavery.

Furthermore, there is evidence that many such people did their utmost to preserve their religion

despite their circumstances. In at least one case, one such person Ibrahima Abdul Rahman bin Sori was the subject of a book Prince Among Slaves which documented his life from living like a prince in modern day Nigeria to being captured and establishing a family there before going back to Liberia. Without a doubt, the history of black Muslims in the United States is rich and requires further investigation.

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