

Congress Defeats Pro-Israeli Lobby

By Dr. Aslam Abdullah

When it came to votes, only 23, all of whom were Republican members of Congress voted a resolution condemning hatred and intolerance including Islamophobia and anti-semitism. 407 congress members from both the parties created the history as for the first a resolution condemning anti-Muslim bigotry in America was addressed.

Three Muslim members of Congress, Rashida Tlaib from Michigan, Omar Ilhan from Minnesota and Andre Carson from Indianapolis jointly celebrated the resolution by saying "we are tremendously proud to be part of a body that has



put forth a condemnation of all forms of bigotry including, antisemitism, racism and white supremacy.

At a time when extrem-

ism is on the rise, we must explicitly denounce religious intolerance of all kinds and acknowledge the pain felt by all communities. Our nation

is having a difficult conversation and we believe this great progress.

Several pro-Israel Democratic Congressmen and
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Democratic Presidential Candidates defends Ilhan Omar

By: TMO Staff

Three Democratic presidential candidates Sens. Bernie Sanders, Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren have defended the right of congresswoman Ilhan Omar to criticize pro-Israel groups and politicians, which have been called anti-Semitic.

Sanders, who is Jewish, said criticism of Omar is aimed at stopping a



discussion about American's foreign policy toward Israel. "What I fear is going on in the House now is an effort to target Congresswoman Omar as a way of stifling that debate," the Vermont independent said in a statement. "That's wrong."

In her own statement, Harris expressed concern that the focus on Omar "may put her at risk."

Warren also issued a statement saying "We have a moral duty to combat hateful ideologies in our own country and around the world

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What Malcolm X Means for the Muslim Community



by Amina Khan

Among many past activists who seek change in America, one man enveloped an astonishing multi-dimensional legacy. Some remember him through famous quotes, or as Muhammad Ali's

companion. Or, some may believe he betrayed "true" Islam. El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (or Malcolm X) symbolized how Islam illuminated through him.

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The Reality Behind OIC Resolution on Kashmir

By: TMO Staff

Much has been discussed about a resolution about the plight of Kashmiris and the Babri Masjid that was passed by the forty-sixth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi in February this year. The resolution condemned India for its terrorism in Kashmir.

The Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir that formed decades ago and that had its meeting prior to the foreign minister's conference in Jeddah urged India to respect the fundamental and basic human rights of the people of Kashmir and address the dispute according to the relevant OIC and United Nations Security Council resolutions on the issue to ensure that the sentiments and aspiration of the people of Kashmir particularly their right to self-determination is taken care of.

Kashmir is not new in OIC deliberations. The OIC member states have always brought up and discussed the mass blinding of people in Kashmir, illegal detentions and disappearances as well as more recently the intensified barbarities since July 2016.



However, one part of the resolution that drew the attention of many in India referred to the Babri Masjid. This part was reported only by the Hindu newspaper and it said that OIC calls upon the Indian government to rebuild the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya."

Indian politicians belonging to the BJP misreported this res-

olution, condemned and added wordings that complicated the situation further. They reported that OIC had asked the Indian government to build the mosque on its original site.

One Indian member of parliament, Subramanyam Swami reacting to the resolution tweeted that if the OIC did not withdraw this resolution, India

would demand that the Kaaba, in Makkah be restored to Hindus because it was originally the place where the phallus of Shiva was installed.

His tweet brought the issue further in limelight and many supporters of RSS and BJP jumped into the arena shouting slurs against Islam and Muslims.

The fact is that the OIC has no mention of Babri Masjid and Kashmir in its declaration. It did pass a resolution on the recommendation of its Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. The declaration that was unanimously adopted includes 50-points focusing on many issues such as Palestine or other troubled areas without mentioning Kashmir. It is interesting to note that the resolution is not different than what Amnesty, Human Rights Watch and even the UN has said in the past.

It does praise the Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan for his efforts to promote peace in the region and applauds him for releasing the Indian Air Force pilot as a gesture of peace and goodwill.

India has condemned OIC for adopting a resolution on Kashmir.

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Trump is under hot water from Cohen's Testimony



By Aysha Qamar

Michael D. Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer and fixer, gave a contradicting testimony before a closed House Intelligence Committee hearing on Capitol Hill last month. Cohen pleaded guilty to several federal crimes, including lying to Congress on behalf of the President last year. He is scheduled to begin his three-year term in prison on May 6.

"I have fixed things, but I am no longer your 'fixer,' Mr. Trump," Cohen said.

Cohen's 20 paged prepared testimony depicted Trump as a racist con-man. While Cohen accused Trump of directing hush payments, lying about Russia and inflating his wealth, his most dramatic and remembered statement was regarding the 2020 elections.

At the end of his testimony Cohen said, "I fear that if he loses the presidential election in 2020, there will never be a peaceful transition of power."

He was referring to the rising hate and white supremacist movement encouraged by the Trump administration.

The 2020 election is one of utmost importance that has the potential to impact the future outcome of democracy for the United States. As hate crimes rise, with reports having increased over 17 percent since 2016, many Trump supporters encourage a divided Christian state.

According to the New York Times, the President's "bold decisions to recognize the right of Israel over Jerusalem as its eternal capital, his denial of climate change and his push for Biblical teachings in school along with his world view that defines Islam as an evil religion are seen as essential steps to expedite the creation of a Biblical state."

Cohen's statement created the fear that violence against minorities will increase further if Trump loses the next election.

Cohen's testimony proves to be a historical one providing Congress with further evidence against the President. Here are five key takeaways from the testimony.

1. The role of a "fixer"

A "fixer" is often thought to be a man

who makes problems go away. In films, a "fixer" is portrayed as the discrete man who works to better dire situations. Cohen described himself as a version of this for Trump.

In his testimony, he explained to Congress a concept called "catch and kill," a method of stopping negative press before it is published, in this case by working with the company that owns The National Enquirer. His duty as a fixer also included writing threatening letters to schools, to ensure the safety of the President's academic records, and paying off a woman with compromising information about a presidential candidate, the New York Times reports.

"I wound up touting the Trump narrative for over a decade. That was my job. Always stay on message. Always defend. It monopolized my life," Cohen said during the testimony.

"At first, I worked mostly on real estate developments and other business transactions. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Trump brought me into his personal life and private dealings. Over

time, I saw his true character revealed," Cohen added. "Donald Trump is a man who ran for office to make his brand great, not to make our country great. He had no desire or intention to lead this nation—only to market himself and to build his wealth and power."

When Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) asked Cohen how many times Trump had asked him to threaten anyone on his behalf, Cohen replied "Quite a few times."

2. Trump knew more about Russia than he led on

During his testimony, Cohen implied the president knew more about Russian links during the 2016 presidential race than he has admitted.

"Mr. Trump knew of and directed the Trump Moscow negotiations throughout the campaign and lied about it," Cohen said in his opening statement.

He told the committee he had been with Trump when key events in the investigation into Russia's involvement in the 2016 election were

Cont. on page 12.

Remembering Kashmir's Beauty



By: Victor Begg

When Americans hear the news of deadly conflict in Kashmir between Pakistan and India, they simply move on to the next news story. For them, if they know anything, Kashmir simply means an endless conflict zone.

What they don't know is that this region is one of the most beautiful spots on earth—and this deeply entrenched conflict really is a legacy of the British Empire's "divide and rule" policy upon the partitioning of India. The paradise of Kashmir is burning because Indian and Pakistani leaders are willing to die, claiming their ownership to this scenic beauty.

Kashmiris themselves, mostly Muslim, are fiercely independent and don't care for either side. After all, India and Pakistan both have pursued such brutal policies in the region that it is hard to find peace there—and the potential for prized tourism has never been realized. This is a tragedy on many levels.

I don't intend to sort out the decades of back-and-forth arguments over abuse, oppression and violations. What I want to convey is that this truly is a corner of the earth that I hope, one day, they will place on

their bucket list of global travels.

A Muslim born in India, I grew up in Hyderabad, about 1,200 miles from Kashmir. I first saw this legendary region in the summer of 1967, when I had a chance to attend a medical school in Kashmir. I began my long, slow journey to the beautiful Kashmiri city of Srinagar from Pathankot, an Indian town in the foothills of the Himalayas.

My final destination required a challenging mountainous journey—especially scary because earlier that same day, another bus had careened off a cliff. Far below, we could see it as an upside-down toy!

There was no question of driving in the dark—so we stopped for the night and I slept on a cot under the starry sky. As I lay looking up at the stars, I heard devotional hymns and bells from a shrine farther up in the mountains that lulled me to sleep. I woke up to the sound of chirping birds. It was a memorable prelude to what I experienced the next day.

After driving through a poorly lit two-mile-long tunnel, we emerged into a vast, lush valley surrounding the mirror-like Dal Lake reflecting snow-capped mountains.

As a popular tourist destination, it was known as "the jewel in the crown of Kashmir."

For centuries, India's elite escaped the summer heat by packing up their horse-drawn carriages, and sometimes their elephants, and moving to Kashmir for a few months. The 17th-century Mughal Emperor Jahangir loved this place. Everyone knows the story of India's Taj Mahal, built as an act of love. But the shores of Dal Lake in Kashmir boast another world her-

itage site that was born of love. Jahangir devoted enormous resources to the construction of formal gardens to honor his beloved wife Nur Jahan. These gardens made of terraced pools, waterfalls, and elaborate landscaping are known as Shalimar, which means "abode of love" in Sanskrit. Jahangir truly loved this place. When he finished his gardens, he had an inscription carved in stone from the Sufi poet Amir Khusrow: "If there is a paradise on earth, it is here! It is here! It is here!"

UNESCO says one of the remarkable details of the architecture is that it was deliberately downplayed so that visitors' attention was focused not on human construction—but on the natural beauty of the region. These Muslim rulers were environmentalists, appreciating God's artistry in nature.

When I hear "Kashmir"—that's what I see in my mind's eye. I think of the fragrant saffron fields and 100-foot-tall chinar trees with their

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Flying together, not frying together

by Dr. Mike Ghouse

The bile of revenge among “some Indians” but not “all Indians” was raging when the terrorist killed 44 of the army personnel in Pulwama. Now the same revenge bile is raging among “some Pakistanis” but not all.

India claimed that it destroyed the training camp of Jaishe Muhammad, (Muhammad’s Sena is like the Yuva Sena, Shiv Sena and many Senas like their counterparts Lashkars in Pakistan) a terrorist camp with 300 dead in 19 minutes, and Pakistan claims it was a resort and no one is dead. Of course, the truth will come out of BBC, as both India and Pakistan are known to manufacture the facts for political purposes during their conflict.

Jayshree Shukla, my Facebook friend, described her wish very well, which is the wish of the ordinary people of both nations. No one wants to be a terrorist individual or their nation to terrorize the other.

“Those who are smarting that Pakistan denies any casualties in the air-strike, it is in everyone’s interest they do so. Even ours. Can you imagine the repercussions if they were to state that they suffered casualties, that say a 100 people died? The pressure to retaliate would mount. I am not interested in the verac-



ity of either claim. I do not want war or anyone dead. However, if Pakistan admits to casualties, they will be forced to inflict more casualties on India. I hope it is true that no one got hurt. Moreover, either which way, it is the only way to de-escalate. So good if no one got hurt. Now can we put away the weapons and get back to talking? Praying for sanity to return.”

Nature has created two forms of life; humans and animals. Animals evolved (or created) to have a defense mechanism built into them to resolve their conflicts; they have fangs, jaws, and paws to kill or chase the other out. Humans, on the other hand, were given the intelligence to survive, or they evolved with the ability to dialogue instead of killing each other. I urge the people on both sides of

the divide to be humans and not let their animal get to them. (adapted from the book).

Revenge by either side causes more deaths of the very soldiers we are mourning. The ones who want revenge should go on the front-line telling bye to their wives, daughters, sisters, mothers and their male relatives. If an Indian or a Pakistani clamor for revenge, we all should say – come to your senses man, you go to the border and get killed but don’t talk about creating widows of our soldiers.

What we need to do is call for a conference and put this behind once for all. Wars don’t bring food to your belly, do not put new clothes on you or get you a job, then why do all this? Would you hold a mini-conference in your town? It will be a success if you invite people opposing your point of

view, let all opinions be heard however painful they are, peace is difficult, but once we have it, we will be glad we did it.

We urge the government of India to hold a conference and invite the extremists from all groups and have a dialogue. The government needs to guarantee the safety of the participants. Let everyone put all their grievances on the table and let’s find solutions. Can the Civil society do it?

As a civilized society, our goal is to bring the uncivilized among us into civility, and it requires us to shed the attitudes that aggravate the conflicts. I urge all people who want harmony and peaceful societies to take the first step and drop their ill-will and hatred towards each other. If you hate them, then their hate towards you is justified.

I am glad the Muslim voices are focused on conflict mitigation and goodwill nurturance, a practice of Prophet Muhammad (full information in the book American Muslim Agenda available at Amazon).

Dr. Mike Ghouse is an India American and is committed to building cohesive societies and offers pluralistic solutions on issues of the day. His new book, the “American Muslim Agenda” is about everything you wanted to know about Muslims. The book is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Kindle. Mike is a public speaker, author, interfaith wedding officiant, a newsmaker and the executive director of the Center for Pluralism in Washington, DC. More about him in three formats at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikeghouse/>

Gruesome Details Emerge About Khashoggi’s Assassination

By Yousuf Ali

Saudi Journalist Jamal Khashoggi was assassinated in October of 2018 at his country’s general consulate in Istanbul. Khashoggi was a critic of the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman and claimed that he was not a true reformer and that he was actually consolidating his own power under the guise of genuine reform.

Within weeks of the assassination, gruesome details emerged including his body being chopped up with a bone saw after his murder via choking. According to



Al Jazeera, Khashoggi’s body was burned at in a large oven at the general consulate’s home.

Turkish investigators discovered more details about the murder of Khashoggi as part of their desire to know exactly what occurred on their soil. Turkish

Intelligence chief Hakan Fidan was interviewed in a documentary in which he stated that he told MBS that he demanded to know exactly what happened to Jamal Khashoggi.

In response, MBS ended the call deeming the demand to be “an unaccept-

able threat”. The whole reason why Khashoggi entered the consulate was to receive paperwork to divorce his wife in Saudi Arabia, so he could marry his Turkish fiancé Hatice Cengiz. Additionally, the CIA concluded that MBS actually ordered the assassination.

Further investigation indicates that the furnace played an essential role in the attempt to cover up the assassination. To begin, Khashoggi’s blood was found on the walls of the consul’s office giving direct physical evidence of his death.

Additionally, the fur-

nace itself was built to withstand 1,000 degree Celsius temperature and Turkish investigators said that the furnace was used to cook large amounts of barbecue meat to cover up the cremation of Khashoggi’s body.

All of this was reported in a documentary on Al Jazeera Arabic. The series included interviews with a worker who helped to construct the furnace. Saudi Arabia has refused to allow any of the suspects to be tried in Turkey and instead says it will pursue their prosecution within its own country.

A guide to the conflict between India and Pakistan

By Aysha Qamar

There is hope for peace in the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan. Amidst tensions escalating between the two nuclear-armed countries, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said the Indian pilot who was captured by Pakistani forces after his plane was shot down this week would be released as a gesture of peace on March 1.

While many feared the conflict would escalate out of control causing another World War, Khan emphasized his motive to avoid war with India by saying, "let's settle this with talks."

"Our action was only intended to convey that if you can come into our country, we can do the same," Khan said, referring to the airstrikes by India on Tuesday. "With the weapons you have and the weapons we have, can we really afford a miscalculation?"



As of yet, no public statement has been made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The pending release brings ease to the international community that feared the risk of further conflict between the two countries who were once engaged in a dangerous military encounter back in 1971 with the testing of their nuclear weapons.

World leaders called on both countries to step back from conflict after

they engaged in back-to-back airstrikes last month. Including an airstrike launched by India earlier this week where bombs were dropped outside the town Balakot, about 40 miles into Pakistani territory, according to the Washington Post. In response, Pakistan shot down two Indian military aircraft over its territory, capturing the Indian wing commander Abhinandan Varthaman and launching strikes into the Indian territory

of Kashmir.

While Pakistan said the first airstrike from India hit an unpopulated area, India said the location was the site of a terrorist training camp.

The conflict between the two countries triggered on February 14 when a suicide bomb attack on an Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) bus killed at least 40 CRPF parliamentary troopers and critically injured dozens

in the Pulwama region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pulwama Attack is considered one of the deadliest attack to occur in the last 20 years in the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan.

Adil Ahmed Dar, 20, was identified as the suicide bomber who drove the car with explosives into the bus. Pakistani-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad, also known as Army of Mohammad, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to Al Jazeera, Jaish-e-Mohammad was formed by Pakistani cleric Maulana Masood Azhar to fight for Kashmir's independence from India in 2000. Since their creation, the group has been implicated in a series of suicide bombings in Kashmir, as well as, being involved in attacks on Shia Muslims in Pakistan.

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Why Sikhs don't throw Muslims under the bus

By: Simran Jeet Singh

(RNS) — Earlier this month I published a column on what I learned teaching Islamic studies in Texas. As I've come to expect from all my columns, this one was met with quite a bit of positivity — and also with quite a bit of hate mail. Some accused me of selling out my Sikh roots, others called me a terrorist sympathizer; others, still, called me some very not nice things. Let's just say that my block button was even more active than usual on Twitter last week.

In response to the misguided messages, I would like to share some thoughts on the anti-Muslim hate Sikhs endure and why I, along with many other Sikhs I know, continue to stand as allies to our Muslim sisters and brothers.

First, I will note that although Sikhs aren't Muslim, we remain frequent targets of anti-Muslim violence. Other scholars and I refer to the



process that produces the negative feelings animating this violence as “racialization.” This process ties directly to how people perceive our visible identity, including our beards, turbans, and brown skin.

Most people in the world don't know anything, or not much, about Sikhs, despite the fact that Sikhi is the world's fifth-largest religion. This general ignorance is a huge problem, especially when coupled with Islamophobic racism.

Over the years, many have asked why we don't

just tell people that Sikhs aren't Muslims and leave it at that.

“Why don't you let Muslims deal with their own problems?” is a typical

one. Or, “Wouldn't it be easier and safer for you all to just tell people who



Canadian politician Jagmeet Singh at his annual community BBQ in 2014 at Wildwood Park in Malton, Ontario. Photo by Harman Dulay/Creative Commons

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attack you that they got the wrong person?”

The problem with this response is that it just deflects the hate onto another community. That's not right, nor is it fair.

Nor is it Sikhism. My faith teaches me to engage in authentic solidarity, to see others' oppression as our own. It's just not an option to throw another community under the bus — even if it might make our lives easier or safer.

At a meet-and-greet with constituents in 2017, Jagmeet Singh, the leader of Canada's New Democratic Party, and a Sikh, was subjected to a racist, Islamophobic tirade and famously responded with love and courage.

Afterward, he wrote, “Once allowed to grow, hate doesn't pick and choose, it spreads like fire. Once we say it's okay to hate someone based on their religion, we're also opening the door to hate based on race, gender, sexuality,

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Cont. from page 7. Sikh

and more. It's important that we stand united against all forms of hate."

Jagmeet followed that up with a similar sentiment to what I've laid out above: "Many people have commented that I could have just said, 'I'm not Muslim.' In fact, many have clarified that I'm actually Sikh," he said. "While I'm proud of who I am, I purposely didn't go down that road because it suggests their hate would be OK if I was Muslim. We all know it's not. I didn't answer the question because my response to Islamophobia has never been 'I'm not Muslim.' It has always been and will be that 'hate is wrong.'"

Authentic solidarity is both ethical and strategic. It's ethical because standing with those who are oppressed no matter the consequences is the right thing to do. It's strategic because confronting hate intersectionally (rather than deflecting it) is the only way forward.

Anti-Muslim racism is not just a problem in what's termed the Western world. It's a global phenomenon, with immense and violent implications. We see it in China with the genocidal killing of the Uyghur Muslims. We see it in Myanmar with the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Muslims. Islamophobia is especially bad in modern South Asia, where right-wing nationalists push

anti-Muslim propaganda to construct false historical narratives.

For instance, it has become increasingly popular to depict all rulers from the Mughal period (an early modern dynasty that claimed a large swath of South Asia) as tyrannical Muslim fundamentalists who demonized and persecuted all Hindus. This is patently untrue, yet it remains the standard story of modern India, disseminated to the children through schoolteachers and "history" textbooks.

This propaganda not only distorts the truth of what we know about the histories of these communities — it's also putting innocent Muslim lives in danger.

I get hate messages from right-wing nationalists daily that push this propaganda, Sikhs and Hindus alike. They call me a traitor and a fake Sikh. They say a true Sikh would hate Islam because that's what Sikhi teaches. They say the Sikh gurus would be ashamed of me for standing against Muslim hate.

As a historian of religion in South Asia, I know this isn't true. There is ample evidence to which I could point to make my case, not least the strong relationships between the early Sikh gurus of the 15th and 16th centuries and Muslim leaders of the time. The founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak Sahib, was so close to his Muslim

friend Bhai Mardana that they traveled together for years throughout South and Central Asia.

Guru Arjan Sahib, the fifth Sikh guru, was so close to Sain Mian Mir, a prominent Sufi from Lahore, that Guru Arjan Sahib invited him to lay the foundation stone for Darbar Sahib of Amritsar, the most historically significant gurdwara (place of worship) in the

Baba Farid's work on a regular basis.

Each of the examples above makes it clear the Sikh gurus did not hate Muslims — nor did they see befriending Muslims and respecting Islam as antithetical to their teachings. Their lives show us that. History shows us that.

Equipping ourselves with knowledge like this is a

manipulated by others with ulterior motives.

At the end of the day, I believe we know in our hearts what is right and what is just. I think we also know intellectually how hard it can be to do the right thing when the stakes are high and the outcomes are uncertain. This is why Jagmeet Singh received so much love for his compassionate response to hate.



Rohingya Muslim men carry a body to a cemetery in Kutupalong refugee camp on Nov. 26, 2017, in Bangladesh. More than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims fled persecution in Myanmar. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

Sikh tradition.

The sixth guru in the line of the founder, Nanak, Guru Hargobind Sahib established a mosque in his town for Muslims who had no other place to pray. Aptly named "Guru Ki Maseet" (the Guru's Mosque), it is still standing in Punjab today.

The Sikh gurus incorporated the writings of another prominent South Asian Sufi — Baba Farid — into their compiled scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib. Centuries later, Sikhs continue to sing, recite, and honor

critical tool for protecting ourselves from propaganda that gets thrown our way. In a time when anti-Muslim tropes are used increasingly for political machinations (especially from our sitting president), it becomes increasingly important for us to reflect on our own values and to know what we stand for.

It's also critically important that we dig into our own histories and reflect on what lessons we can learn from them, because failing to do so often means being deluded and

We all admired him for sticking to his values and showing authentic solidarity in the toughest of moments.

And if he could do it when his career and his personal safety were on the line, perhaps we can try doing it while the stakes are a little lower. Let's commit to standing with our fellow sisters and brothers who are being demonized and marginalized. Isn't that the least we can do?

This article is a republished piece

Dr. Resham Khan: A Muslim Woman to be Honored

by TMO Staff

Helping a community stay healthy, Dr. Reshma Khan is someone to acknowledge and celebrate during Women's History Month. Dr. Khan is noted in the community as a woman fulfilling her dream through her positive contributions to contemporary society.

Influenced by her faith, Dr. Khan is the founder and executive director for the Shifa Free Clinic, a program of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) Relief USA in Mount Pleasant. The clinic offers those in need health care at no cost. Dr. Khan parted ways



from a private gynecology practice to establish a free clinic.

The clinic opened in 2012 as a four-hour long clinic on Saturdays but has grown today to be a full-time clinic, open Monday to Friday, accommodating thousands of patients annually. The

clinic provides advanced GYN services, vision care, vaccines, mental health assistance as well as pediatric services and onsite dispensary for free medications.

The clinic provides these services to uninsured individuals regardless of his or her religion, race

and ethnicity. According to ICNA's website, Dr. Khan's "burning desire to have medical services for [individuals] uninsured at the same level as those who have insurance" led her to devote her time and efforts continue on a volunteer basis.

August of 2017, Dr. Khan was awarded the 2017 Leadership in Diversity Award by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. Established in 2011, the award honors individuals or organizations that have played an important role around leadership and diversity. Dr. Khan was also awarded the

Nonprofit leader award by Charleston's community organization Trident United Way as mentioned on ICNA's website.

Dr. Khan once explained on Charleston's local WCBD the name of the clinic.

"Shifa is an Arabic word which means healing through God. Every step that I took, it was not an easy step, because I had a lot of work to do to accomplish one step. I prayed hard. I said god if you think I'm sincerely doing justice for you, you have given me so many blessings, I want you to use me for you."



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A letter to the Editor

The Muslim Observer
c/o Dr. Aslam Abdullah, EDITOR IN CHIEF
Aysha Qamer, MANAGING EDITOR
29004 W. Eight Mile Road Farmington, Michigan 48336

Re: Perpetuating Denigrating Ideology

Dear Editors:

The 02.15.20129, Volume 21, Issue 2, front page article, Titled, "Islam Came to America through Black Slaves" perpetuates the denigrating ideology of white supremacy. No black "Slaves" came to America, only black "Captives"!

Use of the definition "slaves", is not only inaccurate and a misnomer, it is deliberately denigrating. Your word scholars - editors and authors give credence to the definition coined by white Christian and Muslim Merchants looking to extract free labor from those considered to be sub-human.

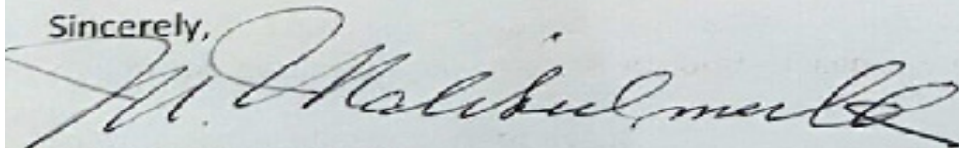
The irrefutable, historical truth is that free citizens of communities in Africa and the "new world", (so-called Indians) were KIDNAPPED, CAPTURED, IMPRISONED, then sold like cattle to merchants intent upon capitalizing the enslaved prisoner's free labor into their profit margin.

The ENSLAVED prisoners were concentrated in camps under armed guards who practiced perverted and unspeakable atrocities. For a prisoner to escape and be recaptured meant a horrific death by dogs, being burned alive or being genitally mutilated before the lynching.

Even the children born in the concentration camps (plantations), were born free, only to be ENSLAVED at birth!

A front page retraction with explanation dedicated to this historical truth is mandated!

Sincerely,



Mujahid Malikulmulk

Tumultuous Week In Israeli Politics with Netanyahu-Extremist Alliance and Corruption

By Yousuf Ali

In the past week, two pervasive issues within Israeli politics have resurfaced: extremism and corruption. To begin, Israeli Prime Ministers Benjamin Netanyahu came under fire as he moved towards allying himself with a Jewish extremist group, the Jewish Power Party (Otzma Yehudit) for electoral purposes. For background, the party has its ideological roots in the thought of the late extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane who openly advocated for the expulsion of all Arabs from the land of Palestine.

The move even stoked condemnation from prominent pro-Israeli organizations including AIPAC in the United States. Despite officially supporting a 2-state solution, Netanyahu has previously opposed it and his own party does not



recognize Palestine as a state. This was hardly the first of Netanyahu's troubles as the Israeli attorney general told the public that the pm will be indicted for corruption.

On February 28, the Israeli Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit said he was considering leveling charges or bribery and fraud against Netanyahu. He is accused of attempting to skew cov-

erage of an Israeli media outlet towards according to the BBC.

This has in turn further called into question his electoral prospects as elections near. He has, in turn, accused the AG of acting politically rather than seeking justice. Though disturbing, these events are representative samples of the problems that have long plagued Israeli politics.

Though some defenders of Israel will insist that they maintain the moral high ground by condemning Netanyahu's gestures to Israeli racists, the reality is that such an alliance is not out of character for Netanyahu's brand of politics. To begin, Netanyahu is on record arguing against the two-state solution several times as recently as the last Israeli general elections though he

claims to have switched after. The fact that supporters of Israel continue to defend him despite such an abysmal record is unacceptable.

Additionally, the Israeli state regularly perpetuates violence against Palestinians and holds many of them as prisoners without trial, and even though it doesn't explicitly call for their removal, that doesn't change the fact that they have turned them into prisoners in their own land especially in Gaza and the West Bank. Additionally, corruption has been endemic in Israeli politics with several prime ministers and presidents of the country being implicated in it. All in all, Netanyahu's actions force supporters of Israel to reconcile their espoused ideals with the reality of the state that they claim to support.

CONTINUED STORY

Cont. from page 1.
Ilhan

— and that includes both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. In a democracy, we can and should have an open, respectful debate about the Middle East that focuses on policy. Branding criticism of Israel as automatically anti-Semitic has a chilling effect on our public discourse and makes it harder to achieve a peaceful solution between Israelis and Palestinians. Threats of violence — like those made against Rep. Omar — are never acceptable.”

Omar, in a tweet, had insinuated that the pro-Israel lobbying groups were exercising “political influence in this country.

The pro-Israel lobby plays a significant role in the electoral process through political donations. Data from Opensecrets.org a website that tracks money in politics reported that \$14.9 million were contributed the prop Israeli groups in the 2018 election cycle.

The website ranks the Israeli lobby as the 50th-biggest spender in the last cycle

Donations by the pro-Israel lobby were more to Democrats than Republicans,

OpenSecrets.org data

t:			
	Dems:	\$9,370,218	
	Repubs:	\$5,376,214	
	Others:	\$130,610	
All Candidates:		\$14,877,042	
Incumbents Only:		\$10,684,087	
House	# of Members	Average Contribution	Total Contributions
Democrats	150	\$21,283	\$3,192,561
Republicans	119	\$25,364	\$3,018,346
Independents	0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	269	\$23,089	\$6,210,907
The US House of Representatives has 435 members and 5 non-voting delegates. Totals may exceed 440 due to mid-term replacements.			

Senate	# of Members	Average Contribution	Total Contributions
Democrats	37	\$86,293	\$3,192,860
Republicans	19	\$60,511	\$1,149,710
Independents	2	\$65,305	\$130,610
TOTAL	58	\$77,124	\$4,473,180
The US Senate has 100 members.			

also reported Israel’s government spent \$15.8 million on lobbying-related efforts in 2018, while the nonprofit Jewish Agency for Israel spent \$8.3 million.

Cont from page 3.
Cohen

discussed. His testimony implied that the president was far more informed about Russian links during the 2016 presidential race than he has so far admitted, the Guardian reports.

Cohen said the first incident, occurred in June 2016, involved Cohen overhearing a conversation between Trump and his son Donald Jr. regarding a meeting being set. He referred to Trump asking, “How’s it going in Russia?” as his way of closely monitoring the Trump Tower Moscow dealings, which are currently being investigated by special counsel Robert Mueller.

The president has denied he had any prior knowledge of the meeting.

Cohen admitted that Trump never explicitly

told him to lie about the matter, instead, since he had worked with the president for nearly a decade, Cohen understood a code signaling him to. “At the same time I was actively negotiating in Russia for him, he would look me in the eye and tell me there’s no business in Russia and then go out and lie to the American people by saying the same thing. In his way, he was telling me to lie.”

Cohen also stated that the president’s lawyers reviewed his earlier false statements to Congress about the Moscow project.

3. Hush payments

Cohen confirmed the president had knowledge of the payments made to silence Stormy Daniels, the adult film actor who has alleged she had an affair with the President.

Cohen said he acquired a home-equity loan to pay \$130,000 to silence Daniels just before the 2016 election. These payments, Cohen stated, were made in 11 installments in order to disguise the purpose of the transactions.

Cohen provided the committee with a copy of one of the installments, a \$35,000 check signed by Trump from his personal bank account on 1 August 2017. Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) said this was the “smoking gun document” that proved criminal fraud, by hiding the purpose of company spending.

Cohen notably mentioned that the president instructed him to lie and say he “was not knowledgeable of these reimbursements and he was not knowledgeable of my [Trump’s] actions”.

“Oh, he knew about

everything, yes,” he said. The aim was “to keep Trump as far away as possible.”

According to the Guardian, that statement could place the president in severe legal jeopardy under campaign finance laws that prohibit the use of secret funds for political gain.

4. The possibility of further investigations

In conversation with Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.), Cohen hinted at another investigation involving Trump.

“Is there any other wrongdoing or illegal act that you are aware of regarding Donald Trump that we haven’t yet discussed today?” Krishnamoorthi asked.

“Yes, and again, those are part of the investigation that’s currently being looked at by the Southern District of New

York,” Cohen responded.

While Cohen did not detail what the investigations might entail, he hinted possible convictions of criminal fraud.

5. Speaking against people of color

Cohen confirmed the allegations that Trump has a racist nature. He said that Trump often made bigoted remarks about African-Americans in the United States and about predominantly black nations.

Last year, Trump came under fire after making the comment, “Why are we having all these people from shithole countries come here?” referring to immigrants from African countries, in conversation with lawmakers.

**Cont. from page 1.
Congress Defeats**

Republicans wanted to single out Ilhan Omar for her remarks in she had said that being critical of the policies of Israeli prime minister and occupation is not the same as being antisemitic. They wanted her to be removed from the congressional committee on foreign affairs and they wanted her not to be included in the intelligence briefing sessions.

It appeared that the pro-Israeli lobby was closer to achieve all this, but the support three influential senators offer to Ilhan changed the nature of the debate and the speaker of the House who at one time was willing to have a resolution condemning Ilhan for her statements changed her position and said that the tweets were not antisemitic.

Ilhan Omar took a bold stand on the issue and in her defense argued that she should not be expected to have support to a foreign country in order to serve my country in Congress or serve on the committee.

She further wrote " I am told every day that I am anti-American if I am not pro-Israel. I find that to be problematic and I am not alone. I just happen to be willing to speak up on it and open myself to attacks. "

She was brutally attacked by the left and the right and even center. The pro-Israeli lobby mobilized hundreds of phone calls to congressmen urging them to vote Ilhan Omar out of the foreign affairs committee.

However, they could not persuade 407 members who refused to single out her for her criticism of Israel. It is a victory for freedom of speech and a defeat of racists and bigots who have been trying to stifle public opinions on matters that impact the nation.

Here is the text of the resolution.

Whereas adherence to these principles is vital to the progress of the American people and the diverse communities and religious groups of the United States;

Whereas whether from the political right, center, or left, bigotry, discrimination, oppression, racism, and imputations of dual loyalty threaten American democracy and have no place in American political discourse;

Whereas white supremacists in the United States have exploited and continue to exploit bigotry and weaponized hate for political gain, targeting traditionally persecuted peoples, including African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other people of color, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and others with verbal attacks, incitement, and violence;

Whereas the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., taught that persecution of any American is an assault on the rights and freedoms of all Americans;

Whereas on August 11 and 12, 2017, self-identified neo-Confederates, white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux Klansmen held white supremacist events in Charlottesville, Virginia, where they marched on a synagogue under the Nazi swastika, engaged in racist and anti-Semitic demonstrations and committed brutal and deadly violence against peaceful Americans;

Whereas a white nationalist murdered nine African American worshipers at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on the evening of June 17, 2015, in the hopes of igniting a nationwide race war;

Whereas on October 27, 2018, the perpetrator of the deadliest attack on Jewish people in the history of the United States killed 11 worshipers at the Tree of Life Synagogue building in Pittsburgh and reportedly stated that he "wanted all Jews to die"

Whereas anti-Semitism is the centuries-old bigotry and form of racism faced by Jewish people simply because they are Jews;

Whereas in 2017 the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a

37 percent increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up 58.1 percent of all religious-based hate crimes;

Whereas there is an urgent need to ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities, including synagogues, schools, cemeteries, and other institutions;

Whereas Jews are the targets of anti-Semitic violence at even higher rates in many other countries than they are in the United States;

Whereas it is a foreign policy priority of the United States to monitor and combat anti-Semitism abroad;

Whereas anti-Semitism includes blaming Jews as Jews when things go wrong; calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or extremist view of religion; or making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotyped allegations about Jews;

Whereas Jewish people are subject in the media and political campaigns to numerous other dangerous anti-Semitic myths as well, including that Jews control the United States Government or seek global, political, and financial domination and that Jews are obsessed with money;

Whereas scapegoating and targeting of Jews in the United States have persisted for many years, including by the Ku Klux Klan, the America First Committee, and by modern neo-Nazis;

Whereas accusing Jews of being more loyal to Israel or to the Jewish community than to the United States constitutes anti-Semitism because it suggests that Jewish citizens cannot be patriotic Americans and trusted neighbors, when Jews have loyally served our Nation every day since its founding, whether in public or community life or military service;

Whereas accusations of dual loyalty generally have an insidious and pernicious history, including—

(1) the discriminatory incarceration of Americans of Japanese descent during World War II on their basis of race and alleged dual loyalty;

(2) the Dreyfus affair, when Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish French artillery captain, was falsely convicted of passing secrets to Germany based on his Jewish background;

(3) when the loyalty of President John F. Kennedy was questioned because of his Catholic faith; and

(4) the post-9/11 conditions faced by Muslim-Americans in the United States, including Islamophobia and false and vicious attacks on and threats to Muslim-Americans for alleged association with terrorism;

Whereas anti-Muslim bigotry entails prejudicial attitudes towards Muslims and people who are perceived to be Muslim, including the irrational belief that Muslims are inherently violent, disloyal, and foreign;

Whereas Muslims and people perceived to be Muslim are subjected to false and dangerous stereotypes and myths including unfair allegations that they sympathize with individuals who engage in violence or terror or support the oppression of women, Jews, and other vulnerable communities;

Whereas in 2017, mosques were bombed in Bloomington, Minnesota, and burned in Austin, Texas, Victoria, Texas, Bellevue, Washington, and Thonotosassa, Florida, and mass attacks on Muslim communities were planned against communities in Islamberg, New York, in 2019, Jacksonville, Florida, in 2017, and Garden City, Kansas, in 2016;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that hate crimes against Muslims or Muslim institutions in the United States increased by over 99 percent between 2014 and 2016;

Whereas attacks motivated by bigotry against those who are Muslim or perceived to be Muslim have substantially increased since the Sep-

tember 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the violation of an individual's civil rights based on his or her actual or perceived membership in a particular religious group clearly violates the Constitution and laws of the United States; and

Whereas all Americans, including Jews, Muslims, and Christians and people of all faiths and no faith, have a stake in fighting anti-Semitism, as all Americans have a stake in fighting every form of bigotry and hatred against people based on religion, race, or place of birth and origin:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the House of Representatives—

(1) rejects the perpetuation of anti-Semitic stereotypes in the United States and around the world, including the pernicious myth of dual loyalty and foreign allegiance, especially in the context of support for the United States-Israel alliance;

(2) condemns anti-Semitic acts and statements as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States;

(3) reaffirms its support for the mandate of the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism as part of the broader policy priority of fostering international religious freedom and protecting human rights all over the world;

(4) rejects attempts to justify hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere;

(5) acknowledges the harm suffered by Muslims and others from the harassment, discrimination, and violence that result from anti-Muslim bigotry;

(6) condemns anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry against all minorities as contrary to the values of the United States;

(7) condemns the death threats received by

Cont. on page 14

Cont. from 13.
Congress debates

Jewish and Muslim Members of Congress, including in recent weeks; (8) encourages law enforcement and govern-

ment officials to avoid conduct that raises the specter of unconstitutional profiling against anyone because of their race, religion, nationality, political, or particular social group, including the assignment of blame

or targeting members of an entire religious group for increased suspicion, based on the conduct of a single individual or small group of individuals; and (9) encourages all public

officials to confront the reality of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and other forms of bigotry, as well as historical struggles against them, to ensure that the United States will live up to the transcendent principles

of tolerance, religious freedom, and equal protection as embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the first and 14th amendments to the Constitution.

Cont. from page 1.
Malcolm X

His character, intellect, and urge to spread Islam and rid racism in America still inspires people today. He inspires people like Sheikh Omar Suleiman, who has been traveling around the US to deliver seminars purely to educate Muslims about Malcolm X.

“Malcolm provided hope to those abandoned by society. We have been deprived of a spokesperson not just for Muslims, but for the black struggle. We owe him a great deal by showing dedication to the causes he cared for,” Suleiman said in the lecture.

In the IlmNight: Malcolm X After Makkah seminars, Suleiman, founder and president of the Yaqeen Institute, spends four hours to recap Malcolm X’s life with an analysis of his post-Hajj rhetoric. Malcolm discovered what he defined as “true Islam”. The admiration Suleiman had for a key figure in history animated an audience of hundreds and four hours sped through.

The lecture I attended in Dallas was organized by the UTA Muslim Student Association. Attendees journeyed through Malcolm X’s life before and after his pilgrimage for Hajj, to the holy city of Mecca. After Hajj — unlike in 1960s America — Malcolm X witnessed

a brotherhood in the East that astonished and transformed him. He devoted his life to reshape America to fight police brutality and the internal black struggle by championing blackness.

In Suleiman’s lecture, he applauded Malcolm X for his brilliance and grace. Malcolm openly criticized oppression in America. He criticized Israel for the division of the Arab world and wrote an essay on the issue before 1967. Today, we have black intellectuals who oppose Zionism like Angela Davis, Cornel West, and Alice Walker. (Davis, who was recently revoked the Fred. L. Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award because of her BDS support). The class overall demonstrated how the prominent black activists’ life of service is what should be reflected in the Muslim community concerning racism and oppression.

Racism exists in the Muslim community as it does in the broader community. A khutbah Suleiman led a few years ago on “What if Trayvon Martin Came to the Masjid?”, notes how Muslims must look deeply at their own community with a critical eye. Trayvon Martin was an unarmed 17-year-old who was shot dead by a neighborhood watch member. Suleiman stresses how important it is for Muslims to support #BlackLivesMatter and people like Trayvon Martin, regardless of

whether or not they are Muslim.

Though Muslims respect Malcolm X as a symbol, little effort is put to emulate Malcolm’s passionate drive to eradicate racism in their communities. Immigrant Muslims owe a lot to black Muslims. We need to invest our time to gain knowledge on how much black Muslims contributed, and contribute, to Islam. Start by reading Malcolm X’s biography. Seek to understand him and his message. We owe at least that much to Malcolm.

Dallas and Harlem are the only places in which Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Malcolm X Blvd. intersect. “Under it, you see the worst poverty,” says Suleiman. “It’s a profound intersection. In Dallas, you have committed anti-police brutality work of Muslims and Christians who are very vocal in assisting greater police accountability.”

Dallas is also home to the oldest masjid in the area, Masjid Al-Islam. It was founded by Elijah Muhammad’s seventh son, Imam Warith Deen Muhammad (Wallace D. Muhammad). Imam W. D. Muhammad demobilized the Nation of Islam and geared towards Sunni Islam — deeply influenced by Malcolm X who was a close friend. Masjid Al-Islam is a living, breathing link to Malcolm X.

On a weekly basis, the inner-city masjid serves around 350 individuals comprised of unskilled laborers, the homeless, and low-income families through the Beacon of Light. The predominantly black masjid is also known for A Day of Dignity, a day out of every year dedicated to serving those in need in South Dallas.

However, the masjid is struggling to meet funds to keep it running. Recently, a fundraiser was held with a goal of \$250,000 and was met with \$80,000. If Suleiman’s own local masjid, Valley Ranch Islamic Center, wasn’t running its’ fundraiser the same night, he says he would have attended Masjid Al-Islam’s.

But, Suleiman says he will help make sure they reach their goal. “There is no doubt an element of neglect is in this situation. The community overall has an important heightened consciousness,” says Suleiman. “Since that night there have been multiple discussions in leadership groups on what we can do.”

Suleiman encourages young Muslims to commit anti-racism work. He says Islam has explicit scripture against racism. At Yaqeen Institute, Malcolm X Vanguard’s of Justice Scholarships are offered to students who

contribute service to the community. Suleiman says it’s for students who have the potential to make change for justice and are inspired by Malcolm .

“One thing that I think distinguished Malcolm from everyone else was his courage. Right now there a lot of blatant evils that exist in society. We have the victimized Muslim community and other communities and we have to face them with sincerity”, says Suleiman. “His fierceless was so vivid and his speeches so clear. The man spoke from the heart. Even those that disagreed with him, they still loved and appreciated him.”

At the Arlington lecture hall, Suleiman invited Dallas activist Thomas Muhammad, who created a documentary on Malcolm X, to say a few words. Muhammad encouraged young Muslims in Dallas to pursue a career in politics to demolish oppression in America.

“There’s a lot of history you need to learn to grow as an American,” he said. “Don’t forget about Malcolm X’s legacy. He’s still with us, that’s your legacy as Muslims. Malcolm X left his print... a good brother. Don’t forget it.”

Cont. from page 4.
Kashmir

wide, shady canopies. I remember the gondola-like boats, called shikhara, slowly moving across the lake to carry the tourists and honeymooners to the houseboats anchored in Dal Lake.

I never became a doctor. Shortly after I arrived, Indian forces established a harsh curfew that closed everything down for many months. Finally, I gave up and left Kashmir behind. I wound up coming to America and becoming an entrepreneur. Now, I am an author promoting a peaceful understanding

between religious and cultural groups wherever I travel.

This is why my heart breaks any time conflict breaks out between the two giant powers poised around Kashmir like great lions, ready to pounce at any provocation. I want to reach out

and grab the leaders of both nations and give them a good shaking. I want to tell them: “Wake up! Why can’t grown-up, educated Indians and Pakistanis finally reject this British time bomb that was left behind when the Raj crumbled?”

There is so much of God’s

beauty still cradled in Kashmir. Why can’t the armies leave and let this lush valley once again become a global mecca for love and beauty?

ADVERTISEMENT

Cont. from page 6
The Conflict

The group was banned in Pakistan in January 2002.

Jaish-e-Mohammad released a video following the attack where Dar allegedly said, “by the time this video reaches you, I will be in heaven. This is my last message for the people of Kashmir.”

Prior to India’s retaliation to the bombing, their foreign ministry

accused Pakistan of harboring terrorists and demanded a response.

”We demand that Pakistan stop supporting terrorists and terror groups operating from their territory and dismantle the infrastructure operated by terrorist outfits to launch attacks in other countries,” they said in a statement.

Pakistan called the attack “a matter of grave concern” and denied any involvement and offered

to help with investigations.

“I want to offer the Indian government, whatever investigations you want done, we are ready. If you have any actionable intelligence, we will take action,” Khan said.

In a statement from Pakistan’s foreign office, they stated that “[we] have always condemned acts of violence anywhere in the world” and “reject any insinuation by elements in the Indian

media and government that seek to link the attack to Pakistan without investigations.”

India and Pakistan have been fighting for Kashmir since before they won their independence from Britain in August 1947. Under the partition plan provided by the Indian Independence Act, Kashmir was free to accede to India or Pakistan.

Rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for India-administered Kashmir to either become independent or merge with Pakistan due to its majority Muslim population.

According to data released by the Ministry of Home Affairs, terror attacks between 2014 and 2018 have risen to 176 percent. Government data shows that Kash-

mir has witnessed over 1,700 terrorist activities in the last five years, Al Jazeera reported.

In 2018 alone over 528 people were killed, including 145 civilians, according to the human rights group Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society.

The conflict between India and Pakistan is occurring during a sensitive time for India, as the country is two months from their parliamentary elections. A time-critical for Prime Minister Modi who is up for re-election, his next move would help or hurt his chances in the election, but could also risk starting a war that would leave thousands of civilians caught in the crosshairs.

—
Originally posted on The Tempest.



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