



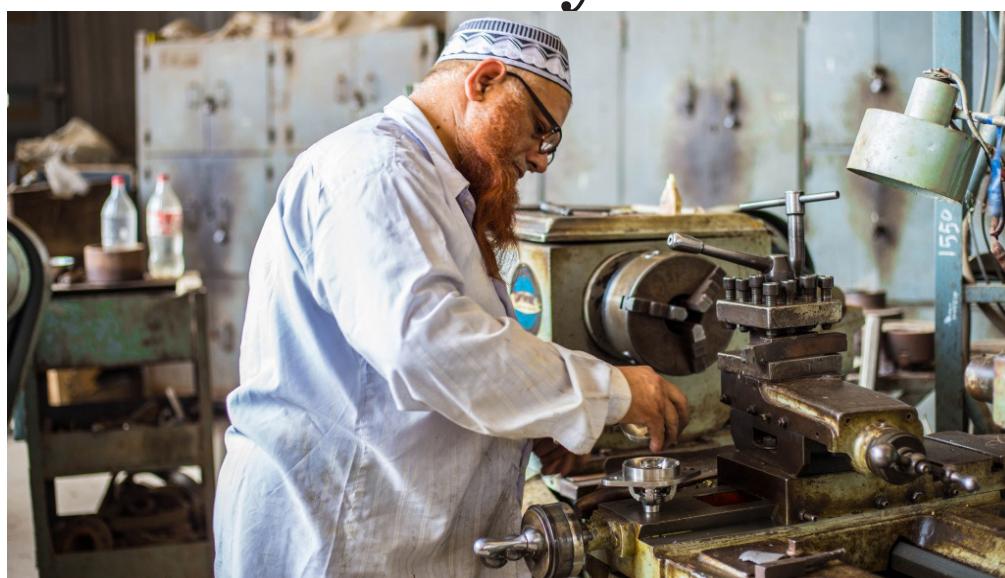
## 10 Things You Use Every Day That Are Invented by Muslims

By: Sumeyye Copoglu

Along with the first university, and even the toothbrush, there are many surprising Muslim inventions that have shaped the world in which we live today. The origins of these fundamental ideas and objects are the focus of "1001 Inventions", a book celebrating the forgotten history of 1,000 years of Muslim heritage. From this book, I have summed up ten outstanding Muslim inventions which we still use today.

### 1. Coffee

More than twelve



hundred years ago, hard-working people have fought to stay awake without this stimulant, until a herd of

curious goats and their watchful master, an Arab named Khalid, discovered this simple, yet life-changing substance.

As his goats grazed on the Ethiopian slopes, he noticed they had become lively and excited after

*Cont. on page 14.*



**Religious Affiliations**  
Page. 4



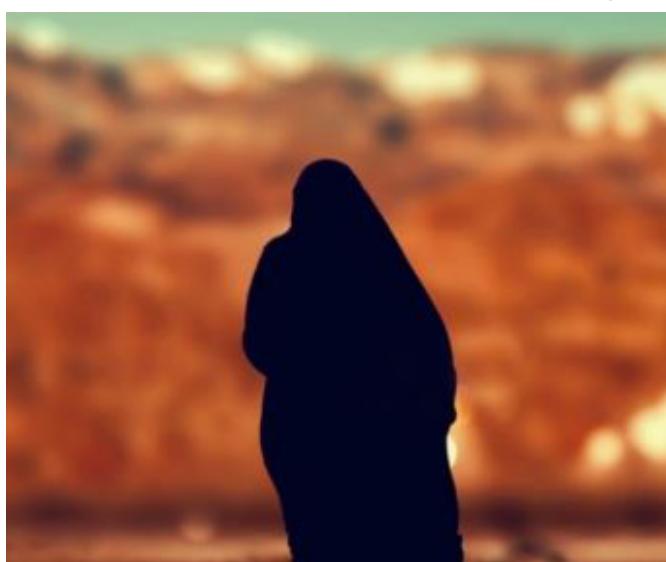
**Israel Strikes Gaza**  
Page. 11

## What is Muslim Women's Day?

By: Aysha Qamar

March 27 each year is an important date for Muslim women worldwide. The date represents the official Muslim Women's Day, created by MuslimGirl.com to celebrate Muslim women and amplify their voices.

MuslimGirl founder Amani Al-Khatahtbeh created Muslim Women's Day to "pass the mic to Muslim women." "In the current climate, Muslim women are



rarely given the space to be heard above all the noise," Al-Khatahtbeh wrote about the day.

The campaign aims to give voice to the often erased narrative of Muslim women and to

diversify the voices of Muslim women.

The day quickly became popular with many sharing the achievements and inspiration Muslim

*Cont. on page 14*

## Lessons to Learn from New Zealand Terror Attack



By Dr. A. S. Nakadar  
A highly developed, peaceful, New Zealand, was rocked by a tumultuous earth-shaking terrorist event. A white

supremacist gunned down 50 innocent people assembled for Friday congregational prayers

*Cont on page 13.*

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# Reflections and Lessons from the New Zealand Christchurch Mosque Attacks

By: Yousuf Ali

Those of us in the United States on the night of Thursday, March 14 went to bed with some very tragic news which only got worse when we woke up. Two mosques in New Zealand were attacked in an apparent Islamophobic and white supremacist attack on Friday prayers in New Zealand.

By the next morning, 49 people were killed, and several days later we still haven't verified the total number and all of their nationalities and identities.

Needless to say, this was a very busy and trying time for Muslims worldwide with many including myself performing salat al janazah al-ghaib (the funeral prayer in absentia) after Friday Prayers. In response, there has been a considerable discus-



sion amongst Muslims about how to defend themselves against such incidents in the future.

In addition to the obvious condemnations, Muslim leaders have been contemplating how to best protect themselves and their places of

worship. Naturally, there was an increased police presence at most if not all mosques in the states to prevent any copycat or coordinated attacks.

Beyond this, many Muslims have suggested that they arm and train some of their attendees to ask

as security in case of such an attack. Without any doubt, there is definitely a place for self-defense from a community which is consistently under attack. At the same time, the best way to make both Muslims and society safe are to disarm

those who intend them harm.

As it stands, the nearly dogmatic commitment of some members of western societies, especially the United States, to the idea that every person by

*Cont. on page 15*

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*Holy Quran*

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# 49 Muslims praying in Christchurch mosques massacred by white supremacists



**by Dr. Aslam Abdullah**

In what the Prime Minister of New Zealand described the darkest day in the history of the country, and the worst terrorist attack in the country so far 49 Muslims belonging to different nationalities and ethnic groups praying together in mosques were massacred by white supremacist terrorists.

The Queen of Commonwealth, Pope and the US President along with many other world leaders have sent notes of sympathy to the government.

***The President in his tweet said: My warmest sympathy and best wishes go out to the people of New Zealand after the horrible massacre in the Mosques. 49 innocent people have so senselessly died, with so many more seriously injured. The U.S. stands by New Zealand for anything we can do. God bless all!***

This is what we know so far:

A white supremacist entered into a mosque on Deans Avenue, Christchurch where Muslims had gathered to pray.

He was carrying a semi-automatic weapon.

He opened fire indiscriminately as there were so many targets busy praying.

He was streaming the attack live. TMO editor saw the video

and due to its nature, and in honor of the victims it would not be published

Another white supremacist entered into a mosque in Linwood 49 Muslims are dead as of now. 41 at the Central mosque, 7 at Linwood Mosque and one in Christchurch hospital.

48 people have been admitted to the hospital with gunshot wounds as of now.

Others have been sent to medical centers.

The terrorist has been charged and would appear in the Christchurch District Court on Saturday morning

He was arrested in a city street in a car with explosives and more guns inside.

The terrorist described himself as 28-year old Australian Brenton Tarrant

The terrorists were not on the watch list of police either in Australia or New Zealand

Even though the terrorist had issued a manifesto glorifying white supremacy and asked the people of the US and Europe to oust immigrants and build a pure white society.

Police arrested four people initially, three including Tarrant are in custody.

The fourth person was not related to the events, police said.

There was a chaotic scene at Christchurch hospital that has only 12 operating theaters in use for people requiring multiple surgeries

Families of the victims and others came to hospitals and at the mosques looking for their loved ones.

\* Families have shown up at the hospital and at the Deans Ave cordon seeking news of family's members.

The police have set up a missing people's register

Witnesses have given detailed accounts of the horror of their co-religionists being killed.

Victim support has launched an official fund to support the families of the victims.

\* The Queen, US President Donald Trump, and the Pope are among world leaders who have condemned this terrorist act.

The white supremacist terrorist issued a 73-page manifesto justifying his massacre.

In this, he praised President Donald Trump. The manifesto published in a question and answer form asked the following:

Were/are you a supporter of Donald Trump. The response as a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose

**Cont. on page 8**

# Several Killed in Deadly Iran Flooding



by Rehan Qamar

Seventy people have died in a deadly flood in Iran after record rainfalls began in over 13 parts of the country last month, local Irani media reported.

According to Al Jazeera, deaths have been recorded across 13 provinces, with the highest casualties in Fars, Lorestan, Golestan and Hamedan.

Record rainfalls since March 19 have flooded about 1,900 cities and villages across Iran, causing hundreds of millions of dollars of damage to water and agriculture infrastructures, Al Jazeera reported.

The news outlet reported

that over 140 rivers burst their banks and over 400 landslides have been reported throughout the country.

Evacuation notices are being urged to be taken seriously as showers continue. Unfortunately, while the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent are on the scene aiding victims, US sanctions have prevented the Iranian Red Crescent from obtaining any foreign financial aid to assist victims of flooding.

"Red Crescent volunteers and staff have evacuated hundreds of people to safety, and have distributed food and items such as tents, blankets

and health kits to tens of thousands of people," the organization's Middle East and North Africa director, Sayed Hashem, said.

On April 2, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a statement extending condolences to the victims of the flooding in Iran and blaming its government for the disaster however failed to address the sanctions in place affecting disaster and aid relief.

The speaker of Iran's Parliament, Ali Larijani reiterated Tehran's accusations that the US is hindering the delivery of relief aid from the International Red Cross to Iran's Red Crescent

Society. "Iran has not received even a dollar from the Red Cross due to US measures and sanctions," Mehr News quoted him as saying.

"These floods once again show the level of Iranian regime mismanagement in urban planning and in emergency preparedness. The regime blames outside entities when, in fact, it is their mismanagement that has led to this disaster," he said. "The United States stands ready to assist and contribute to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which would then direct the money through the Iranian Red Crescent for

relief."

International officials and Iran's Foreign Minister are upset with the lack of support the US is showing in during this natural disaster. responded angrily on Twitter two days later.

"It seems the US Secretary of State is unaware of the mismanagement of natural disasters in the US over the past two years, and hence opines — in an unprofessional, interventionist and demagogic manner — on Iran's management of the horrific and unprecedented floods which simultaneously afflicted 24 provinces," Iran Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said.

## Religious affiliations of the house members

By Dr. Aslam Abdullah

Recently President Donald Trump accepted the illegal occupation of Golan Heights as a legitimate Israeli territory after deciding to shift the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and declaring it as the eternal Capital of Jews.

Obviously, these steps go against world opinion and the UN resolutions. Yet the President decided to go against every norm of justice and fairness. Is it the influence of the pro-Israeli



lobby on US senators and congressmen as well as the President or is it the influence of right-wing Christian evangelical

groups or is the influence of the combined strength of the two. In a series of articles, we would explore the reasons

behind the US continued support of Israel despite the fact that Israel is the world's worst human rights violator.

This article looks at the religious profile of the US with a description of religious affiliations of the senators. Subsequent articles would deal with other aspects of the issue.

It is estimated that there are some 4200 religions in the world with Christianity as the largest religion followed by Islam. The country and Protestant churches have the largest number of adherents. Christians represent 73.7 percent of

*Cont. on page 12*

# Beyond Rape Culture: Neomi Rao's Bleak Political Track Record

By Ravleen Kaur

Earlier this month, the United States Senate confirmed Neomi Rao to the District of Columbia Circuit Court to replace Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was accused of sexual assault by Christine Ford prior to his Supreme Court confirmation. The Republican-controlled Senate voted 53-46 for Rao's confirmation, which is no surprise because Rao herself is far-right on the political spectrum.

Since Rao is only 45 years old, she'll likely be on the court for a long time, and likely a future nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court, which is why understanding her controversial decisions and opinions now is more important than ever.

Prior to Rao's confirmation, her writings from her time as a student at Yale University were unearthed, exposing her opinions on sexual assaulters and rape culture in the U.S. In her 20s, Rao wrote:

Unless someone made her drinks undetectably strong or forced them down her throat, a woman, like a man, decides when and how much to drink. And if she drinks to the point where she can no longer choose, well, getting to that point was part of her choice.

This blatant victim blaming prompted criticism from Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) and the



head of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Though Sen. Ernst previously claimed she was raped and challenged Rao's stance on sexual assault during the hearing, she was appeased by Rao's apology letter, in which she addressed her college articles on date rape to the Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-California).

A simple letter. That's all it took for Rao's fellow political party member Sen. Ernst to forgive her for actively choosing to perpetuate rape culture.

'I cringe at some of the language I used,' Rao wrote.

But this does not come across as a clear apology for her views, nor does it affirm that her regressive views on date rape and sexual assault, in general, have changed.

In fact, Rao continues to engage in work that reaffirms what she said during her college days. During her time as an administrator at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), OIRA decided to roll back Title IX protections for sexual assault survivors and has instead elected to change the rule to protect alleged rapists.

Moreover, OIRA has been delaying the dispatching of sexual harassment guides to employers since November 2017.

With her tone-deaf pieces on date rape and the outrageous administrative missteps she has taken with Title IX, Rao has proven herself to be an enemy of survivors.

However, it doesn't stop there. During her time with OIRA, Rao worked to implement a policy proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services

that "would allow health care providers to refuse to provide medical care to patients toward whom providers might have 'conscientious objections' – in other words, LGBTQ patients and women seeking reproductive care."

Beyond that, Rao is no ally to other people of color. She recently worked with OIRA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to roll back race-based anti-discrimination policies, a move that follows her disdain for affirmative action according to a University of Chicago newspaper.

As a South Asian-American woman, I am shocked by Rao's policy track record. How could a child of Parsi immigrants who moved from India to America for better opportunities actively work to snatch those opportunities from various minority groups today?

From the opportunity for survivors to speak out against their assailants, to minorities receiving affordable and safe housing, and women making their own reproductive decisions, Rao's background is inconsistent with her actions.

Rao has been confirmed to a very powerful circuit court, and her words hold more weight than her writings did decades ago. It is as if Rao has lost a sense of reality and is no longer in touch with our world as she progresses on the career ladder. She is a reflection of our current administration and how it is affording fringe far-right government actors the chance to change the fabric of our society, sadly and unfortunately, for the worse.

*This article was originally posted on Brown Girl Magazine.*

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# Palestinian prisoners launch hunger strike

By: TMO Staff

Thirty Palestinian prisoners in Israel's jails have started a hunger strike, news reports say. Approximately 1,500 others are expected to join the movement next week.

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have launched an open-ended mass hunger strike over deteriorating conditions inside. The prisoners will reject the intake of any food or water, mainly in protest against the recent installation of mobile phone reception blocking equipment in the Ramon prison, a notorious Israeli military jail in the southern Negev region.

According to Al Jazeera, the movement began two days before Israel's general election, in which Israel's incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the far right-wing Likud party, is seeking a fifth term in office.

According to Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, the instal-



lations are necessary to halt "terror" activity – an allegation Palestinian prisoners deny. This equipment is a health hazard that harms the prisoners and may lead to cancer, the prisoners said in their statement.

They say without mobile phone service, they are unable to communicate with their family members, many of whom are unable to visit their jailed relatives.

Palestinian prisoners are also protesting against the ban on family visits for prisoners from the besieged Gaza Strip, and are demanding the expanding television

service and the stocking of additional goods in the prison canteens.

At times, prison authorities would resort to force-feeding, a practice criticized by the United Nations.

"Under no circumstance will force-feeding of prisoners and detainees on hunger strike comply with human rights standards," the UN special rapporteur on the right to health had said in a 2015 statement.

In January, Erdan announced plans to "worsen" conditions for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, including

rationing water supplies and reducing the number of family visits.

According to media reports, the plan which needs parliamentary approval will also see jails removing cooking rights and limiting prisoners' access to television, as well as blocking funds from the Palestinian Authority.

Prisoners who are on hunger strike are expected to be subject to punishment, including solitary confinement or transfer from one prison to another under the pretext of security.

According to local media

reports, Israel holds 5,450 Palestinian prisoners, including nearly 200 administrative detainees (people held without charge), according to the latest figures from Jerusalem-based Palestinian prisoners' rights group, Addameer.

Most are held in jails inside Israel, in contravention of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which requires that an occupying power hold prisoners from an occupied land within that area.

Israel has for years held Palestinians in overcrowded prisons with poor hygiene standards with many prisoners confined to a 2.9sq meters cell, according to Addameer.

Rights groups say more than 1,800 inmates are in need of medical care, with about 700 suffering from serious or chronic illnesses.

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to strengthen your media-your voice



Islamophobia is a major obstacle for peace and religious harmony in our world. If it is not countered properly and effectively, it has the potential to create havoc all over the world. Gruesome terrorism in Christchurch, New Zealand, causing 51 murders is a glimpse of the future.

This bogey of Islamophobia is raising its ugly head worldwide. We recently saw the most gruesome terrorist attack on the innocent congregation gathered for Friday prayers in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Islamophobia has its roots in the US and Europe among those who believe in the concepts of supremacy on the basis of race, religion and ethnicity. Only through a long process of dialogue, discussions and education, this menace that is spreading fast can be checked effectively.

We need to invest in our younger generation to be able to counter constant attacks on Islam and Muslims. We want them to be skillful communicators, excellent writers and objective researchers. Only through bringing out facts and demolishing myths and stereotypes, our young journalists can challenge the narratives spread by Islamophobes.

## TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES:

- (a) **We must prepare** a strong team of our own reporters and communicators that will report objectively.
- (b) **We must support** students willing to do accurate and balanced research on the issues that impact Muslims and other fellow citizens in America.
- (c) **We must fund** Internship with State and Federal Law makers by providing living expense stipends for Muslim students,
- (d) **We must provide** Education on the political process and facilitate Muslim participation in local and federal government.

We need your help in carrying out this strategy that will prepare a strong contingent of our own reporters to effectively convey our message.

We are together in our movement to achieve these objectives. Many of our past interns and writers are now part of the main stream media.

Our interns and writers with the help of researchers have carried out following research projects in the past.

### *Here are the examples:*

- 1) Demographic survey of Michigan Muslims and its political impact on Congressional districts,
- 2) Safeguarding Muslim civil right in America,
- 3) States that have passed Halal laws
- 4) How cities with high Muslim concentration have effectively used their positions to gain access to local councils or other legislative bodies,
- 5) And a Muslim perspective on Obama health care, etc.

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*Cont. from page 3.*  
**49 Muslims praying**  
 "Sure, as a policymaker and leader? Dear god no."

The manifesto has now been removed from the website. In it, the shooter also talked about American conservative commentator and political activist, Candace Owens being the primary figure of inspiration for him to carry out the attack.

"Yes, the person that had influenced me above all was Candace Owens. Each time she spoke I was stunned by her insights and her own views helped me further and further into the belief of violence over meekness. Though I will have to disavow some of her beliefs, the extreme actions she calls for are too much, even for my tastes," the manifesto read.

Owens is the director of communications at the conservative advocacy group Turning Point USA, and is known for her pro-Trump stance and her criticism of Black Lives Matter and of the Democratic Party.

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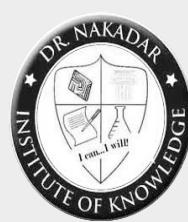
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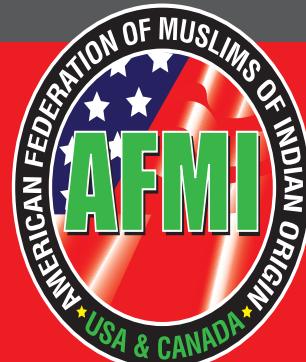
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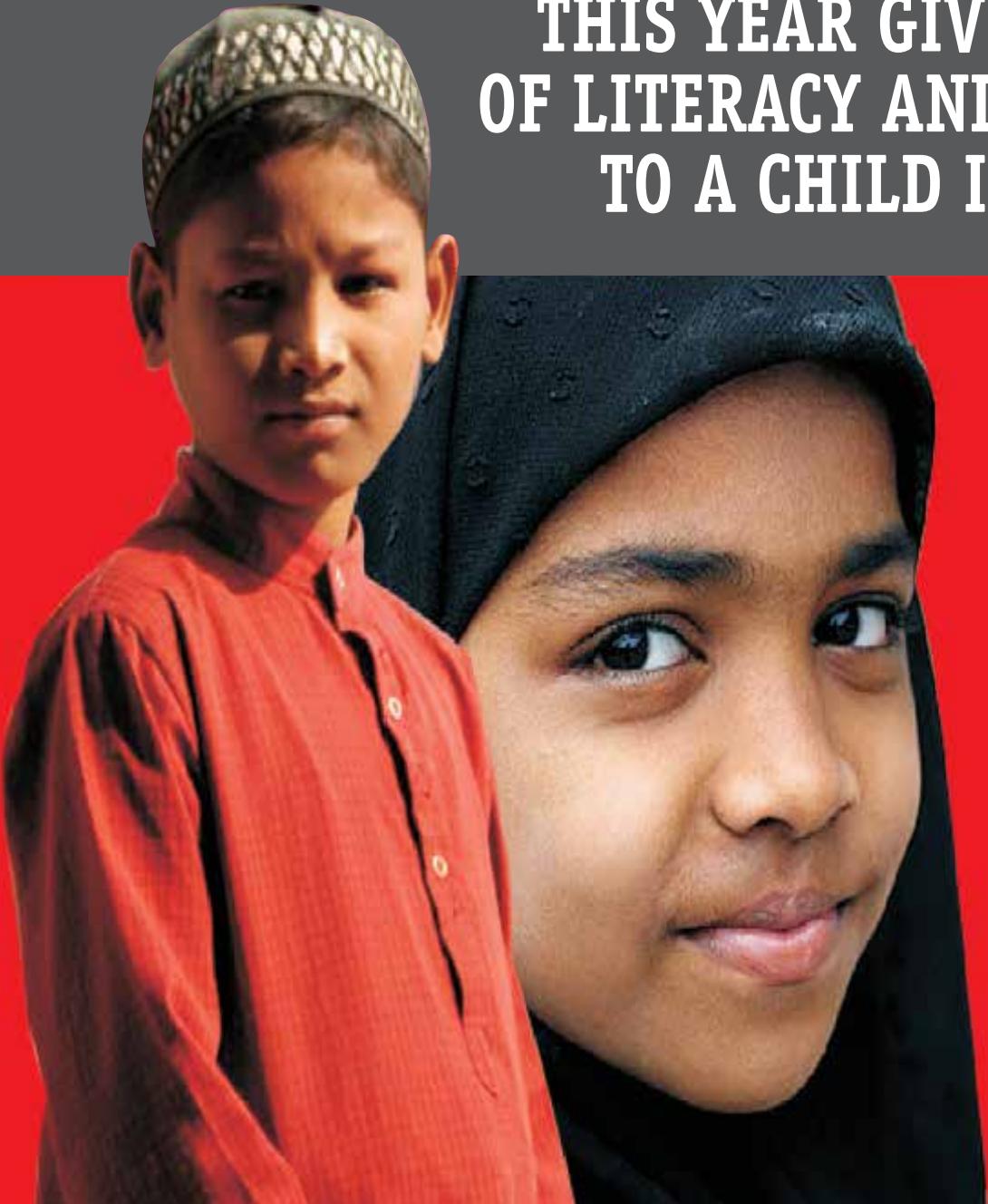
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# An Open Letter to the New Zealand Terrorist

The following open letter was written by a Chinese revert Muslim on the terrorist attack in New Zealand

To: The Terrorist, who attacked Muslims in NZ.

(I) Appreciate that you made the effort to find out the timing of our noon prayer.

Appreciate that you learnt more about our religion to know that Fridays are the days the men go to the Mosques for their congregational prayers.

But I guess there were some things you, rather, unfortunately, didn't get to learn.

Perhaps you didn't know that what you did made them Martyrs.

And how you have single-handedly raised the statuses of our brothers and sisters in the eyes of their beloved Creator with your actions. And how, through your actions, they will be raised as the most righteous and pious of Muslims.

Perhaps you didn't know that doing what you did, at the time and place you chose, it actually meant that the last words that escaped their lips were probably words of remembrance and praise of Allah. Which is a noble



end many Muslims could only dream of.

And perhaps you didn't know, but what you did would almost guarantee them paradise.

Appreciate that you showed the world how Muslims welcome, with open arms, even people like yourself into our Mosques, which is our second home.

Appreciate you for showing that our mosques have no locks or gates, and are unguarded because everyone and anyone is welcome to be with us.

Appreciate you for allowing the world to see the powerful image of a

man you injured, lying on back on the stretcher with his index finger raised high, as a declaration of his faith and complete trust in Allah.

Appreciate how you brought the Churches and communities together to stand with us Muslims.

Appreciate that you made countless New Zealanders come out of their homes to visit the mosques nearest to them with flowers with beautiful messages of peace and love.

You have broken many many hearts and you have made the world weep. You have left a

huge void.

But what you also have done have brought us closer together. And it has strengthened our faith and resolve.

In the coming weeks, more people will turn up in the Mosques, a place you hate so much, fortified by the strength in their faith, and inspired by their fallen brothers and sisters.

In the coming weeks, more non-Muslims will turn up at the gates of mosques with fresh flowers and beautifully handwritten notes. They may not have known where the mosques in their area was.

But now, they do. All because of you.

You may have achieved your aim of intended destruction, but I guess you failed to incite hatred, fear and despair in all of us.

And while I understand that it may have been your objective, I hate to say that after all of that elaborate planning, and the perverse and wretched efforts on your part, you still failed to drive a divide among the Muslims and non-Muslims in the world.

For that, I can't say that I'm sorry.

(A Radiant Muslim)

## Israel Strikes Gaza after Tel Aviv Rockets

*By TMO Staff*

According to the BBC, Israel carried out dozens of strikes on the Gaza Strip on March 15th. In these strikes, it was reported that four people were wounded. These came in response to rockets fired from Gaza against Tel Aviv which injured no one.

Israel targeted Hamas, the group ruling the Gaza Strip, even though the group said that it did not fire the rockets. Israeli media reported that one Israeli defense official said that the rockets may have been fired by "mistake". The IDF claimed to have struck 100 Hamas military targets including an office complex.

They also stated that the rocket attack came as a surprise, and Hamas stated that the rockets



came during a time of mediation with Egypt to broker a long term truce with Israel. Hamas then stated that an agreement to restore calm had been reached. These events come in the immediate context of Israeli elections and a broader context of violence against the Gaza strip.

Gaza has been under an intense blockade since 2007 enforced by both

Israel and Egypt and has been the subject to several IDF bombing campaigns under the pretext of eliminating a Hamas military threat.

The blockade was initiated in response to the Hamas takeover of the Gaza strip from Fatah which, was planning to create a Palestinian government without Hamas to satisfy Israel and the international community.

Hamas' seizure of the Gaza strip allowed for Fatah to purge the Palestinian institutions in the West Bank of any Hamas presence resulting in two de facto Palestinian governments, Hamas in Gaza and Fatah in the West Bank.

In both cases, Israel still had crippling control through direct military occupation in the West Bank and a crippling

blockade against the Gaza Strip. Since then there have been several bombing campaigns which Israel insists were carried out in defense against Hamas firing rockets into their territories. These would culminate in ceasefire agreements which included Israel agreeing to gradually lift the blockade in return for Hamas not firing rockets against them.

While there have been sporadic periods of "easing" the blockade, it has never been fully lifted as is the stated goal of the treaties. Furthermore, the blockade goes far beyond weapons including restrictions on lentils, tomato paste and batteries.

## CONTINUED STORY

**Cont. from page 4.**

**Religious affiliations**

the population with 49.9 Protestant, 23 percent as Catholics; 1.8 Percent as Mormons.

There are 18.2 percent who do not identify with any religion. Jews are about 2.1 percent of the population and Muslims make about 0.8 percent of the populations. Mississippi is the most religious state with 70 percent claiming to be religious and New Hampshire the least religious with 80 percent describing them as nonreligious. American Samoa is the largest religious region of the state with 94 percent claiming to be religious.

How does this religious diversity reflect in the US Senate? Currently, among 100 senators non-Christian religions are represented by eight Jews, five unaffiliated and one Buddhists.

The following list compares reported religious

affiliations of U.S. senators to religious statistics of the demographics of the United States of America: Protestants have 60 members, Catholics have 22 and Latter Day Saints or Mormons have four senators.

Among Protestants, Presbyterians are represented by 14% of the Senate for 2.2% of the population; Baptists are 11% of the Senate for 15.3% of the population; Methodists are 11% of the Senate for 4.4% of the population; Lutherans are 6% of the Senate for 3.6% of the population; Episcopalians are 4% of the Senate for 1.2% of the population; Evangelicals are represented by 6% of the Senate for 26.4% of the population; Congregationalists are 2% of the Senate for 0.5% of the population; The Church of God has 1% of the Senate for 0.7% of the population; the Churches of Christ are 1% of the Senate for 1.5%

of the population.

Catholics are represented by 22% of the Senate for 20.8% of the population.

Latter-day Saints are 4% of the Senate for 1.6% of the population.

A number of religions in the US is roughly 313 of which 28 are said to have a large following. Additionally, there are 35 Christian denominations, 124 non-Christian religions and 127 "New Age" religions.

Christianity is the largest religion in

Jews are represented by 8% of the Senate for 1.9% of the population.

Buddhists are 1% of the Senate for 0.7% of the population.

Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Bahá'ís, Taoists, Jains, Unitarian Universalists, New Age, and adherents to Native American religions (are unrepresented in the Senate for 4.3% of

the population.

Those without religious affiliation are represented by 5% of the Senate for 22.8% of the population.

Religious identities do matter in the US, especially at a time when from President to Secretary of the State have been using religious symbols and language to advance their agenda. In the 116th Congress, 385 out of 435 members of House of representative or 88.7 percent are Christians. Various denominations of Protestantism are 243 or 53.7 of the total members and Catholics are 141 or 32.5 percent. Mormons are 6 (1.4 percent). And Orthodox Christians are 5 (1.2)

Among protestants, Baptists are 61 (14.1 percent) percent, Methodist 32 (7.4), Episcopalian (22 (5.1), Presbyterian 13 (3.0), Lutheran 19 (4.4), Congregationalists 2 (0.5), Non-denomination 9 (2.1) Pentecostal 2,

(.05) Adventist 2, (.05), Holiness 1 (.2), Reformed 1 (.2), Unspecified 68, (15.7)

There are 26 Jews (6 percent), 3 Muslims (.7), 3 Hindus (.7). Two (.5) identify as Unitarian Universalists and 14 or (3.2 percent) refused to identify with any religion.

In the House 197 Republicans are Christians with 136 Protestants, 54 Catholics, 5 Mormons and 2 Orthodox while 188 Democrats are Christians, with 97 Protestants, 87 Catholics, 1 Mormon and 3 Orthodox Christians, All 3 Muslim and 3 Hindu members of Congress are Democrats as well as 24 Jews or 11.4). Unitarian Universalists are 2 and who refused to identify with any religion are 14 Democrats.

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**DTE**



## CONTINUED STORY

**Cont. from page 1.**

**Lesson To Learn**

and injured an even larger number of people. Among them were men, women, children and elderly.

According to the NZ police Department, the person who carried out this heinous act was not even on their radar screen. As pointed out by many people, what do you expect when the radars of most of the countries are focused on one particular community, Muslims?

They said, if the radar system was truly fed with the waves from different communities, it is likely Quebec, Charleston, Pittsburgh, and other worldwide white supremacist massacres, probably would have been prevented.

The PM of NZ, Jacinda Arden, aptly described this act as a "White Supremacist Terrorism". And yet, what we see is that most of the world countries find it difficult to swallow this label of, "White Supremacist

Terrorism".

Especially so for the US where the sitting president, Mr. Trump, according to Washington Post, is well-known for his Anti-Muslim bigotry.

What is more bothersome is that this white supremacist ideology, a racist ideology, has eclipsed into religious, political, and other forms of interchangeable mixed ideological formats.

The politicians are fully aware of this and have made full use of it for their political and personal advancements. They try to whip up a racial frenzy that culminates into a religious hysteria, sawing hatred among communities. This was also witnessed recently when a terrorist attack on the military convoy, in the Indian part of Kashmir, quickly turned into a religious and nationalistic frenzy, signaling out Muslims as the villains or when Israelis alleged that Gaza fired a couple of rockets into Israeli territories.

In both these instances, the leaders face a national election. And in both cases, the leaders have lost their popularity. In the case of India, it is failed policies of development, economic progress, creating new jobs, etc. While in Israel it is the indictment of PM Netanyahu on corruption charges.

So naturally, people suspect about the timings of these incidences. They feel it is to garner votes for political gains. The national elections are due in both these countries in a few weeks.

The New Zealand terrorist, Brenton Harrison Tarrant, has mentioned president Trump in his manifesto, as his ideological guru. This ideological virus of white supremacy is becoming a growing evil. It has transcended global borders infecting people with hate, xenophobia and bigotry. We have seen people harboring such evil ideologies attacking churches, synagogues, gurudwaras, and masjids. The whole

purpose is the intimidation and subjugation of other races and faiths.

It is time for the community to have introspection.

How far have we succeeded in delivering our message of one humanity, fraternity, and peace?

Or have we been able to build the bridges of understanding among communities by our social and moral obligations?

Lots of our individuals and organizations are doing an excellent job of helping and serving their fellow humans, here at home in the USA and worldwide. But we have failed to convey it to our compatriots and other fellow communities. Our priorities on financial issues are emotional and reflective. We have doled out billions of dollars in relief and rehabilitation across the Muslim world but have failed to contribute to putting the money where the mouth is.

A fraction of that money spent in developing a

Think Tank, strengthening our own Media in the USA, Lobbying and other such activities, could have prevented those catastrophic tragedies in the first place.

If this doesn't wake us, I don't know what will. Islamophobia is on the rise as indicated by PEW research. It was up by 19% in 2016 in the USA and continues to rise since then. It is also rising in Europe and in the UK. Statistics indicate the Islamophobic incidents in the UK rose by 27% in 2017. In spite of the fact that hate speech is criminalized under UK law but not in the USA.

Let us discard differences that we have built around the sects and denominations and be a just, "Muslim" and work together to unleash the Ummah's, economic, social and political power for the benefit of all the humanity to usher in love, peace and prosperity for all, not only in the US but the world over.

## Terrorism will never keep me from my mosque

by Nushrat Nur

My childhood mosque has always been more than a place for prayer. It's home.

Mosque (n.) – a Muslim temple or place of public worship. It's quiet; save the faint whispers of prayers recited under hushed breaths and the distant shouts of hyperactive children. Rows upon rows of men and women sit with their heads bowed, immobile as fans circle above, buffeting their soft silks and cotton like gentle caresses. If one didn't know better, the scene before them could be mistaken for an art exhibit. Still-life captured in the peaceful sanctuary of a mosque.

A high and clear voice rings throughout the space, and suddenly the exhibit sheds its stillness and comes alive.

The mosque has always been a steady presence in my life – the open courtyard beckoned mischief in my younger years and forged friendships on sunlit afternoons

later on. There was the ever-present ice cream truck which came every week at 12 o'clock sharp and had kids patting themselves down for pocket change for a chance to feast on a red, white and blue icicle. It hosted spring fundraising picnics with bounce houses, cotton candy machines, discount hijab booths, and a faux farmer's market. On sleepy yet festive mornings after Eid prayers, there was always a comforting guarantee of boxes upon boxes of Dunkin' Donuts and coffee.

It was a place where I spent my Sundays being schooled in the faith and then teaching it to younger kids. Where I fumbled over my Arabic alphabet until I managed to recite whole chapters of text in a language I couldn't speak from memory.

I grew up wandering its halls, and in turn, it grew up with me.

I was lucky to see it through its numerous renovations and refurbishments, slowly becoming the place that

we could truly claim as our own. A place whose chipped walls had been lovingly replaced by murals of the names of Allah, painted by volunteers on days the mosque stood quiet and introspective. A place that the brothers would gather after services to sweat through their thobes, playing endless hours of basketball on a new court my cousins and I would race across barefoot on late nights.

A place that our sheikh, Ibrahim Habash, could speak his Friday sermon with a blend of gravitas, revelation and dad humor.

There was the ever-green thrill of bringing non-Muslim friends to Ramadan iftars.

Watching their faces light up as they bit in the soft flesh of a date.

Fixing the placement of their hands as they tried with some effort to look natural as they joined the masses for Maghrib prayers. Kissing their perfumed cheeks goodbye as they left the space later in the night, taking a little piece of our faith

with them, tucked safely between the sweets in their Styrofoam boxes.

My mosque's walls bore the weight of Janazah (funeral) prayers, as we gathered in swathes of white and let our grief slowly pool and then trickle out of our raised hands.

It has heard collective mourning for those taken by hate-fueled terror both abroad and at home.

The weathered pulpit has remained steadfast as sermons of unification sounded out to the masses, seeking to ease minds plagued by fear and indecision.

Strength surging from our sheikh's voice and seeping into the green and white carpet. Steady, he would say. We are going to be okay. We will forge on.

The mosque that I have been attending since I was eight years old holds more than a decade of memories. Some are sad, some are happy, and some are embarrassing.

But every single one is precious.

Every scraped knee, every dog-eared Quran page, every gap-toothed salam, every Friday dinner.

Every moment my nose touched the carpeted floor praying that this sanctuary remains untouched by those who only mean to do us harm.

I remember it all.

And as we process our grief and anger and frustration from this senseless tragedy, I hope we take a moment to breathe under the hum of the circling ceiling fans in each of our mosques.

And commit all those precious moments to memory.

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## CONTINUED STORY

**Cont. from page 1**  
**Muslim Invention**

eating a particular berry. Instead of just eating the berries they were taken and boiled to create "al-qahwa".

**2. Clocks**

An ingenious man called al-Jazari from Diyarbakir in South-East Turkey was a pious Muslim and a highly skilled engineer who gave birth to the concept of automatic machines. By 1206, al-Jazari had made numerous clocks of all shapes and sizes. Just as we need time today to structure our lives, so did Muslims over seven hundred years ago. Al-Jazari was sticking to the long Muslim tradition of clock-making. They knew it was important to know the time so it could be used well through doing good deeds: knowing when to pray at the right time each day and announce the call to prayer in mosques.

**3. Camera**

Ibn al-Haitham revolutionized optics, taking the subject from one being discussed philosophically to an actual science based on experiments. He rejected the Greek idea that an invisible light emitting from the eye caused sight, and instead rightly stated that vision was caused by light reflecting off an object and entering the eye.

**4. Cleanliness**

A Muslim's faith is based on purity and cleanliness, whether it is in its physical or spiritual form. In the Islamic world of the 10th century, the products found in bathroom cabinets and hygiene practices could compete with those we have today. In the 13th century, the same engi-

neer, al-Jazari, wrote a book describing mechanical devices, including "wudhu" machines. This machine was mobile, and it was brought in front of a guest. The guest would then tap the head and water would ensue in eight short bursts, providing enough water for ablution. This method also conserved water.

Muslims wanted to be really clean and not just splash themselves with water, so they made soap by mixing oil (usually olive oil) with "al-qali", a salt-like substance. This was then boiled to achieve the right mix, left to harden and used in the hammams, the bath houses.

Al-Kindi also wrote a book on perfumes called "Book of the Chemistry of Perfume and Distillations". He was best known as a philosopher, but was also a pharmacist, ophthalmologist, physicist, mathematician, geographer, astronomer and chemist. His book contained more than a hundred recipes for fragrant oils, salves and aromatic waters. The centuries-old tradition of perfume-making was all made possible by Muslim chemists and their methods of distillation: they distilled plants and flowers and made perfumes and substances for therapeutic pharmacy.

**5. Universities**

The quest for knowledge is close to the heart of Muslims. In the Quran, they are urged to seek knowledge, and to observe and reflect. So Fatima al-Fihri, a devout and pious young woman, wanted to give the Fez community a learning centre. Like some of the grand mosques, al-Qarawiyyin in Fez soon developed into a place

for religious instruction and political discussion. It gradually extended its education to all subjects, particularly the natural sciences, and so it earned its name as one of the first universities in history.

Apart from astronomy, there were studies of the Quran and theology, of law, rhetoric, prose and verse writing, logic, arithmetic, geography and medicine. There were also courses on grammar, Muslim history, and elements of chemistry and mathematics. This variety of topics and the high quality of its teaching drew scholars and students from all over. Still operating almost 1,200 years later, Hassani says he hopes the center will remind people that learning is at the core of the Islamic tradition and that the story of the al-Firhi sisters will inspire young Muslim women around the world today.

**6. Flying machine**

Abbas ibn Firnas was the first person to make a real attempt to construct a flying machine and actually fly. In the 9th century he designed a winged apparatus which roughly resembled a bird costume. In his most famous trial, near Cordoba in Spain, Firnas flew upward for a few moments, before plummeting to the ground and partially breaking his back. His designs would have undoubtedly been an inspiration for the famous Italian artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci some six hundred years later.

**7. Surgical instruments**

If we journeyed back into the 10th century, we could look over

the shoulder of a cutting-edge surgeon called Abul Qasim Khalaf ibn al-Abbad al-Zahrawi, a man known in the West as Abulcasis. He wrote al-Tadrif, his medical encyclopedia which included a treatise called "On Surgery". This held a staggering collection of over two hundred surgical tools. Using instruments for surgery was a revolutionary concept because it enabled science to change from being speculative to something experimental. This was the first treatise in the history of medicine to illustrate the use of surgical instruments. In fact, their design was so accurate that they have had only a few changes in a millennium. It were these illustrations that laid the foundations for surgery in Europe.

**8. Maps**

Maps have helped people find their way for about 3,500 years, the earliest ones being on clay tablets. The introduction of paper was a huge leap forward in the art of map making. Modern technology uses a system of satellites and other receiving devices to compute positions on the earth. Back in history, maps were made from travellers' and pilgrims' accounts. The bug of traveling had bitten the 7th century Muslims, and they soon began to leave their homes for trade and for religious reasons, to explore the world they lived in. They walked routes, sometimes simply gathering knowledge about new places, and when they returned they gave accounts of the ways they had trodden and the people and sights they had encountered. First this was by word of mouth, but with the introduction

of paper in Baghdad in the 8th century, the first maps and travel guides could be produced.

**9. Music**

Do 20th century artists and singers know that much of their craft lies in the hands of Muslims from the 9th century? These artists, al-Kindi in particular, used musical notation: the system of writing down music. They also named the notes of a musical scale with syllables instead of letters, called solmization. These syllables make up the basic scale in music today and we are all familiar with doh, ray, me, far, so, la, tee. The Arabic alphabet for these notes is Dal, Ra, Mim, Fa, Sad, Lam, Sin. The phonetic similarity between today's scale and the Arabic alphabet used in the 9th century is astonishing. On top of that, Muslims were also developing musical instruments.

**10. Algebra**

The word "algebra" comes from the title of a Persian mathematician's famous 9th-century treatise "Kitab al-Jabr Wa l-Mugabala" which roughly translates into "The Book of Reasoning and Balancing". Al-Khwarizmi introduces the beginnings of the algebra. It's important to understand just how significant this new idea was. In fact, it was a revolutionary move away from the Greek concept of mathematics, which was essentially based on geometry. The same mathematician, Al-Khwarizmi, was also the first to introduce the concept of raising a number to a power.

**Originally posted on MVSLM**

**Cont. from page 1.**  
**Women's Day**

women have created throughout the world.

Muslim women are breaking barriers worldwide, these women can and will speak up and deserve to be heard. Muslim Women's Day gives space to honor the resilient Muslim women in our lives. Too often Muslim women are misrepresented or overshadowed not only in the media but

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**Cont. from page 2.**  
**Reflections And Lessons**

default has a right to the most deadly weapons enables the most dangerous and hateful individuals. Those suggesting that individuals have to be ready to fight or kill their potential assailants in order to be safe may only end up compounding the problem by creating a society of people who are constantly on edge. Additionally, we must

dispense with the false narrative that such tragedies are somehow the fault of Muslims or their religion.

Despite the overwhelming support from world leaders, some individuals disgraced themselves in their response to the idea of 50 Muslims being killed. Thankfully, the prime minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern was unequivocal in her opposition to the attack and even took mea-

sure to limit the sale of assault weapons in her country within days.

However, some responses revealed a far uglier side of society. In particular, one Australian, the country from which the suspect is, senator Fraser Anning released a statement suggesting that Muslim immigration was to blame and that Muslims were mostly aggressors and rarely victims. Within a day of that statement,

an Australian teenager egged him on the face.

To that, I simply say Fraser Anning may have been the victim today, but he has spent the past 20 years demonizing Muslims facilitating a climate in which tragedies such as the one we saw in New Zealand are possible. If he wants such behavior to stop, he should look inwards and show a genuine capacity to change before getting any sympathy. On a serious note, Anning is probably expressing a sentiment which many in society share but have the better sense to say, and that is sufficient reason to remain vigilant.

Without any doubt, the New Zealand Massacre was a tragedy from which we all have a lot to learn. For Muslims,

they must be sure not to be naive about the threat to their safety posed by members of the society.

We should still continue our outreach efforts to those sympathetic to us and win over those who are persuadable. At the same time, there are some people with a visceral hatred of us and our religion who will always exist.

While we may not convince them otherwise, we should make sure to highlight the reality of this threat and do our best to disarm them, thereby preventing attacks like these on Muslims and other people whom they hate. These are some productive steps that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of such tragedies.



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