



Muslims across America are endorsing Bernie Sander

By M. Muhammad Ahmed

As the 2020 US presidential elections are heating up, American Muslims across the country are overwhelmingly backing Bernie Sanders as the Democratic presidential candidate. The largest Muslim civic engagement organization, Emgage Action recently endorsed Senator Bernie Sanders for the President of the United States and has started to work with his team.



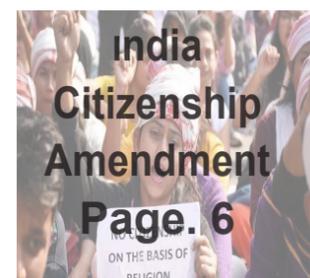
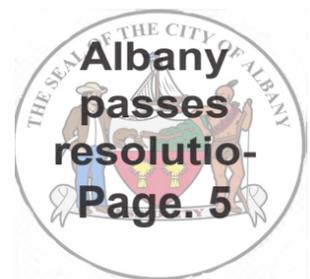
In their statement, Emgage Action stated, “More than any other presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders has built a historically inclusive move-

ment: one that is grounded in the belief that all humans are equal and worthy of a dignified life. We are proud to stand

by his side.” Mohammad Gula who is the National Organizing Director for Emgage spoke at a Bernie rally, declaring,

“Bernie sees me for who I am. he sees us for who we are”. Emgage, the

Cont. on page 13



Joe Biden Appoints Senior Advisor on Muslim Engagement: Farooq Mitha

This interview was a TMO staff exclusive.

Vice President Joe Biden’s Presidential campaign has appointed Farooq Mitha as senior advisor on Muslim American engagement. Farooq has been a long-standing supporter of the campaign, helping in many areas including Muslim engagement and in this role he will expand these efforts by



reaching out to Muslim communities across the country, engaging them on issues that are important to our communities and helping organize Muslims to support Biden’s campaign. Farooq has deep ties to our communities

nationally and has a long track record of working with our communities, supporting political campaigns and serving in government under the Obama administration. Raised in Florida, he is

Cont. on page 10

Mobilizing the Mosque: The Upshot of Muslim Swing Voters



By Nadia B. Ahmad

Voter data indicates that American Muslims are registering to vote in record numbers. The Presidential primaries have drawn interest and intrigue among Ameri-

can Muslims, who in the past have felt ignored or even like a political liability.

According to a study from the Institute for Social Policy and Under-

Cont. on page 12

Post paid
U.S. Postage
PAID
Royal Oak, MI
48068
Permit #792



IMAN FUND
ALLIED ASSET ADVISORS

INVESTING WITH ISLAMIC VALUES
(877) 417-6161 | WWW.IMANFUND.COM
To open an IRA, Roth IRA, 401k Roll Over Call an Advisor



IMAN FUND
ALLIED ASSET ADVISORS

The fund’s investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The statutory and summary prospectuses contain this and other important information about the investment company, and it may be obtained by calling (877) 417-6161. *Read it carefully before investing. Mutual fund investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible. It is possible that the Islamic Shari’ah restrictions placed on investments and reflected in the main investment strategies may result in the Fund not performing as well as mutual funds not subject to such restrictions.*

Quasar Distributors, LLC., Distributor



Tel: (248) 476-8926 Fax: (248) 476-8926 info@muslimobserver.com www.muslimobserver.com

The Coronavirus is spreading across Continents

By TMO Staff

The Coronavirus is the newest strain in viruses to infect humans globally. The virus is animal-borne, meaning it can come from animals that are carrying the virus. The virus affects the respiratory system of humans and causes pneumonia which becomes the cause of death for those infected.

The virus is said to originate from China from the Wuhan province. It has been found that the Wuhan strain is linked to the seafood that sold in the city and number of animals, especially wild animals present in the city. In response to the viral spread, the Chinese government has banned selling all wild animals in markets. The province has been quarantined by the national government so that the spread of the virus may be slowed down. However, it may have been done too late. The virus has

already spread to multiple provinces in China and there are now 2,000 people in China that are confirmed to be sick with the virus. China has been the source of past viruses in flu season such as the bird flu. There have been at least 56 people in China who have died because of the virus.

The virus has spread to several countries in Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore. Adding on to that list is also Nepal, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Macao, and Hong Kong. People in Africa and Europe are concerned with the virus spreading to their countries and are trying to prep their medical facilities just in case someone is infected. Australia and France also have confirmed cases with infected people.

The United States, being oceans away, now has five confirmed cases of people infected with the

virus. A man in Washington State was the first, then a woman in Illinois, a man in California and a fifth individual in Arizona. It was found that all of these people had recently traveled to Wuhan, China. There are unconfirmed or suspected individuals that may or may not have the virus but they are being quarantined to their homes.

The disease can spread easily if birds have it and they migrate to another location. Humans can get it if they came into contact with an infected animal or human. It can spread to a new location if the human travels from an infected place to a new location, which will everyone at the new location at risk of getting infected. This is why governments are trying to stop people from traveling especially by plane because they do not want this virus spreading to every single country in the world, especially

countries that do not have the capacity to handle a dangerous virus.

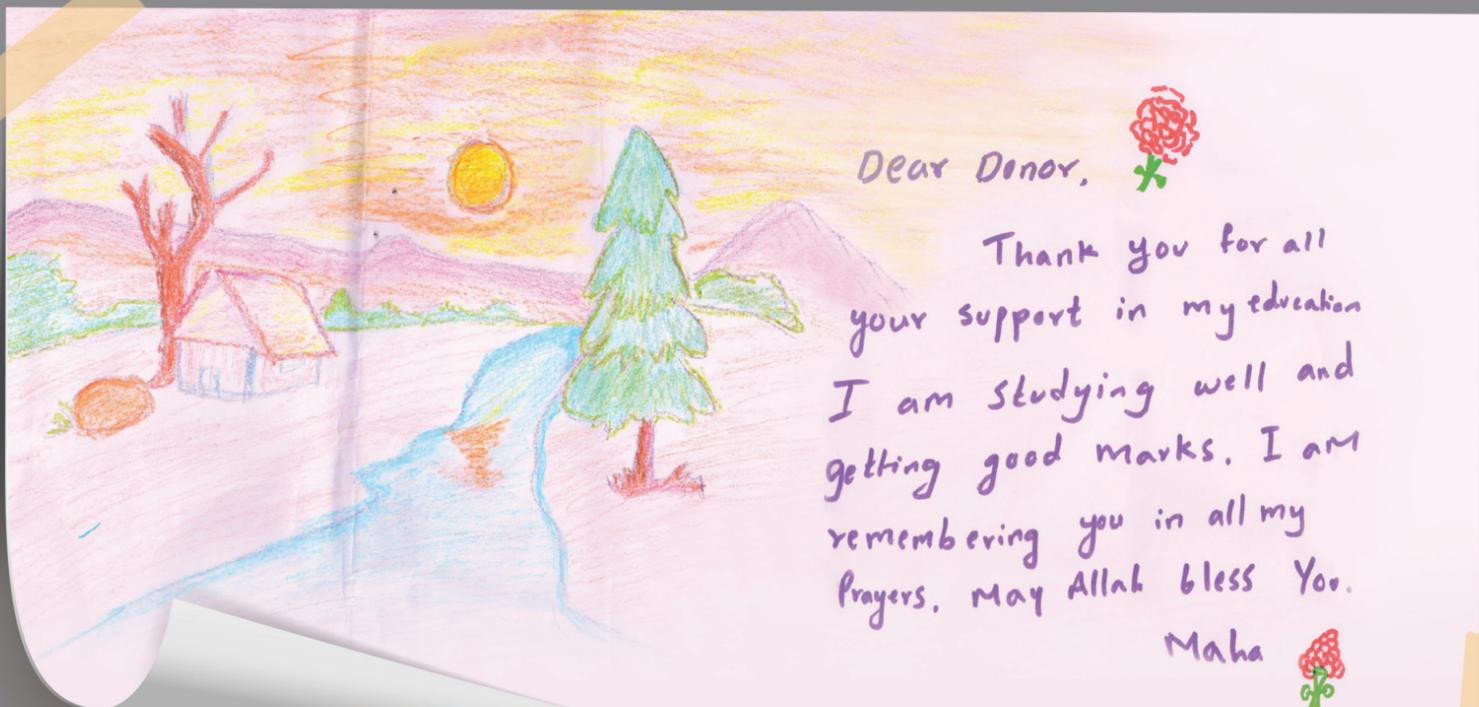
There have been some links to a laboratory in Wuhan that allegedly contained research and strains of the virus. Others have speculated that the virus may have been part of China's covert biological weapons program. The Wuhan Institute of Virology is said to be the only place in China to handle deadly viruses, so it might be the reason why Wuhan became the center of the outbreak.

Public officials in all countries have asked people to stay home if they do not feel well or go to the nearest medical facility to see a doctor and get a correct diagnosis. They said it is important to call ahead if a person believes they have the coronavirus. The symptoms of the virus are dry cough, difficulty breathing, possible

diarrhea and body aches. Severe symptoms include pneumonia, kidney failure, and even death. It is important to see a doctor if anyone has these symptoms, so they may be treated as quickly as possible. The symptoms match those of a cold or flu, so it's best to get it looked by a doctor to see what a person is actually sick with.

Pregnant women, young children, diabetic people, people with cardiovascular issues and anyone with a weak immune system is at vulnerable to being infected. However, anyone can be at risk of being infected because the virus can easily be spread.

Doctors and scientists are asking people to wash hands thoroughly and practice coughing etiquette when around others. It is important to stay clean in order to decrease the chances of being infected.



Artwork by orphan beneficiary Maha K

You can help more
orphans like Maha
for less than \$2/day.

Donate today at [ZAKAT.ORG](https://www.zakat.org)



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA



29004 W. EIGHT MILE ROAD
 FARMINGTON, MI 48336
 TEL: 248-426-7777
 FAX: 248-476-8926
 E-MAIL: info@muslimobserver.com
 www.MuslimObserver.com

Established in 1998

FOUNDER

A. RAHEMAN NAKADAR, M.D.

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dr. Aslam Abdullah

dr.aslamabdullah@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Aysha Qamar

editor@muslimobserver.com

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Javeria Ahmed

marketing@muslimobserver.com

VIDEO MEDIA DIRECTOR

Samana Shaikh

samana@muslimobserver.com

CHICAGO COORDINATOR

Mujeeb Osman

chicago@muslimobserver.com

HOUSTON COORDINATOR

Ilyas Choudry

houston@muslimobserver.com

TMO Inc. Board of Directors

President: Dr. Iltefat Hamzavi

Vice President: Dr. Abdalmajid Katranji

Dr. Muzammil Ahmed

Dr. Mohammed Saleem

REPORTERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Noor Salem

Marina Ali

Susan Schwartz

Soura Alzubaidi

Marium Mohiuddin

Sameed Khan

Mohammad Hakeem

Fatima Ahmed

Rabia Toor

Saba Maroof

TMO WELCOMES Letters to the Editor and written compositions relevant to the subject matter of this newspaper. Address them to "The Editor" at the above address. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and content. Major editing is consultatively done.

SUBMISSIONS: We welcome submissions. Please send to submissions@muslimobserver.com, subject "submission." We ask that no submissions be made on behalf of others. By submitting articles you are promising us that you are the author of the article, and granting us a license to print it without paying you. Any items received by us, whether pictures or text, become the property of The Muslim Observer. At your request, we will try to return them, but if we do not return them we incur no liability. We reserve the right to make [sometimes extensive] edits — both in body and in title, before any submission goes to print, and by sending us your article you assent to this. TMO does not necessarily agree with the opinions of its writers. Contents © 2015 The Muslim Observer.

DISCLAIMER: Between the front and back pages of the Muslim Observer are printed the varying and sometimes controversial views (whether in text or graphics) of people who have submitted articles - not every word of these articles has necessarily been reviewed for content, and the views submitted and expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Muslim Observer or its principals, staff, independent contractors, or advertisers.

Trump praises Modi's leadership and India's 'religious freedom' despite ongoing attacks on Muslims



By: TMO Staff

Deadly protests overshadowed Donald Trump's recent two-day visit to India, with at least 53 people killed and more than 150 injured in New Delhi, officials said Thursday. The death toll continues to rise. Trump arrived in India for his first official visit to the country amid rising political tensions and the worst riots the country has seen in years. While many in the state of Gujarat welcomed and celebrated Trump's visit, protests in New Delhi began before his arrival and his support for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership continued as violence escalated in the city.

Even as dozens experienced terror at the hands of Hindu nationalists, Modi hosted a lavish ceremony for Trump on Tuesday. While Trump did not secure a trade deal during his visit as planned, he announced an agreement between the countries, according to which India will spend \$3 billion on the purchase of U.S. military helicopters. Trump also applauded the Hindu nationalist prime minister on his leadership and passion for "religious freedom."

A group of Hindus carrying iron rods hurled rocks and attacked Muslims in New Delhi, the Associated Press reported. Muslim-owned shops and homes were set on fire, while Muslim shrines and mosques were vandalized, burned, and

invaded by intruders carrying weapons. Despite knowing about the violence, when asked about protests and violence against Muslims in the country, Trump told reporters that Modi was an incredible leader who supports "religious freedom" and tolerance. During the event in Gujarat, Trump built upon his praise of the prime minister, applauding Modi's so-called efforts to end "radical Islamic terrorism" and drawing parallels to the Islamophobic efforts of his own administration back in the U.S. "India is a country that proudly embraces freedom, liberty, individual rights, the rule of law and the dignity of every human being," Trump said. "Your unity is an inspiration to the world."

Widespread unrest has erupted in India since Modi's government passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in December. The legislation shields persecuted or marginalized minorities who came to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan before 2015 by fast-tracking citizenship for them, but the new law makes no mention of protections for Muslims. First introduced in the Indian Parliament in July 2016, the original version of the legislation did not factor religion as a criterion for obtaining citizenship.

Under Modi, approximately 200 million Muslims in India, about 13% of the population, have faced a variety of threats since the passing of the CAA.

The law has been compared to Trump's xenophobic Muslim ban under which people from a number of majority-Muslim countries were banned from entering the U.S. Asked about the CAA and riots against it during his visit, Trump avoided the topic. "I don't want to discuss that," he told a reporter during a press conference Tuesday. "I want to leave that to India, and hopefully they're going to make the right decision for the people." He also defended Modi: "The prime minister was incredible in what he told me. He wants people to have religious freedom and very strongly."

The exclusion of Muslims from protections under the CAA gives rise to fears of Muslims ending up in mass detention camps, as has happened to Muslim minorities in China. In rural Assam, where the current protests began, those whose names do not appear in the National Register of Citizens of India (NRC) have been told that they must provide proof they are citizens. Generations of Muslims who first came as asylum-seekers from all over South Asia reside in this state; most do not have any paperwork, including birth certificates. According to Vox, a quarter of the people in Assam are illiterate. Without paperwork to prove their citizenship, Muslim residents of Assam may be left stateless. While residents will have the chance to sub-

Cont. on page 13

The Air Force has updated its dress code policy to include hijabs and turbans

by Aysha Qamar

In a move towards increasing religious inclusion and accommodation, the US Air Force has updated its dress code policy to include an approval process for Muslims and Sikhs to wear turbans, beards, and hijabs. The updated “Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel” policy, announced on Feb 7., allows for formal requests of waivers to wear religious articles of faith to be approved as long as they are professional, “neat and conservative.”

Requests will only be denied if they are “based on real (not theoretical) compelling government interest,” including safety. In addition to permitting religious garments, the updated policy includes new hair guidelines that allow airmen to keep unshorn beards or hair; according to the update, beards longer than two inches must be rolled or tied. In the case of an emergency where a gas mask is required, the Air Force can order an airman to remove their hijab or turban or have them immediately shave. According to the Air Force Times, before denying a request, the Reserve or Guard must first “consult with the Air Force personnel directorate and obtain a legal review from the Air Force.”

According to the policy,



for hijabs and turbans to be worn they must be made of a “subdued material in a color that closely resembles the assigned uniform,” including black, brown, green, tan, or navy blue. The material cannot have any designs, only an airman wearing the Airman Battle Uniform or Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform can wear a camouflage hijab or turban to match, the guidelines stated. An airman may also be directed to wear fire-resistant material by a commander.

The update requires that all requests must be reviewed within 30 days for cases in the U.S. and 60 days for all other cases. Prior to the update, a timeline was not in place for accommodation requests, individual

requests by Sikhs and Muslims serving in the Air Force were granted on a case-by-case basis, but the approval process was often lengthy, CNN reported.

In 2018 Staff Sgt. Abdul Rahman Gaitan became the first Muslim airman to receive a beard waiver for religious reasons, according to the Air Force Times. The following year in 2019, Airman First Class Harpreetinder Singh Bajwa became the first active-duty Sikh airman allowed to wear a turban, beard and long hair, as per religious obligation his hair is kept and covered in his turban. Most recently, in 2019 Capt. Maysaa Ouza made history as the first Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps officer to wear the hijab.

Religious civil rights organizations have spoken up in support of the updates made including the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Sikh Coalition. “We support these new guidelines as a step toward religious accommodation and inclusion for military personnel of all faiths,” Ibrahim Hooper, CAIR’s national communications director, said in a statement. “Thousands of American Muslims and members of other minority faiths serve in our nation’s military and should be able to practice their faith while serving.”

According to the Air Force Times, the Sikh Coalition has helped more than 20 Sikh Americans serve in the military, including Airman First Class Singh Bajwa.

“I am grateful to hear of this policy change, because it codifies in writing what I already know: The U.S. Air Force values the service and contribution of religious minorities like me,” Singh Bajwa said in a statement. “Accommodations, after all, aren’t about special treatment — they are about ensuring that religiously observant Sikhs and others don’t have to choose between staying true to our faith and serving our country.”

While many advocates praised the updates, they also acknowledged that more needs to be done. According to CNN, the Sikh American Veterans Alliance (SAVA) called on the US military to allow religious minorities to serve without exception. “The Department of Defense should have a consistent and department wide policy on religious accommodation,” Kamal Singh Kalsi, SAVA’s President said. “Those who are committed and qualified to serve our country in uniform should be able to do so in a more streamlined and efficient manner.” In 2017, the U.S. Army became the first service to allow Muslim and Sikh soldiers to wear religious articles of faith- it took the Air Force three years to follow in its steps.

Muslims are the second-largest religious group in 20 US states

By: TMO Staff

Christianity is the dominant religion in the US. However, the position of the second-largest religion in the US varies. Some twenty states across Middle America and the South have Muslims as the second-largest religious community. Buddhist make the second largest religious community in Alaska, Hawaii and 11 other Western States, Hindus and Bahais are the second largest group in Arizona and Delaware and South Carolina respectively, Jews are the



second largest community in 14 Northeast states. The data is compiled by the Association of Stat-

isticians of American Religious Bodies.

According to the 2010

Census, Christians of various denominations are 70 percent of the population. Among

Christians evangelical Protestants are 25.4%, mainline Protestants 14.7%, Historically Black Protestants 6.5%, Catholics 20.8%, Mormons 1.6%, Orthodox Christians .5% and Jehova’s Witness .8%. Other Christians make .4%.

Among non-Christian faiths, Jews are 1.99 % Muslims .9%, Buddhists .7%, Hindus .7%, and other religions or atheists and agnostics are 1.8%

Based on data from the Association of Statistician

Albany passes resolution against anti-Muslim discriminatory laws in India

by Dr. Shaik Ubaid

Muslim Peace Coalition-New York Welcomes anti-Fascism resolution by Albany City's legislative council that it passed on March 2, 2020 in support of India's persecuted Muslim.

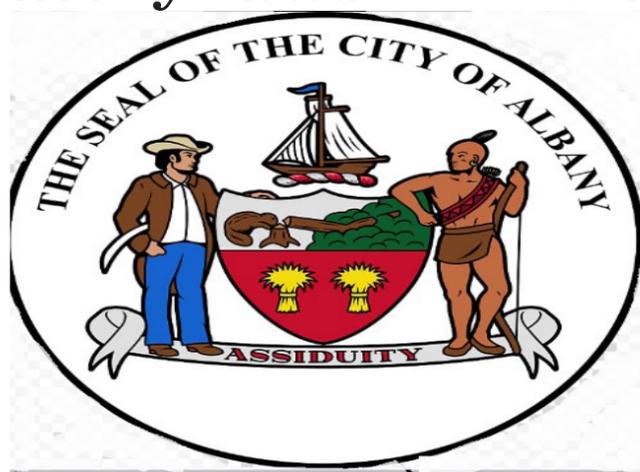
Albany became the third US city after Seattle, Washington and Cambridge, Massachusetts to pass such a resolution

The resolution was introduced by council member Alfredo Bavarian and was passed unanimously. Balarin says he authored the resolution to take action against the injustices in India. "We need to speak just as loudly to our friends when they act against our values as we do to our foes. We're here to do that today at the local level, and encourage work to be done at the federal level," said Balarin.

The Muslim Advocacy Group of New York, an Albany based group of Indian Americans had

worked with the Capital District Coalition Against Islamophobia, New York State Council of Churches, anti-war groups, Indian Minorities Advocacy Network (ImanNet), moderate Hindus and Muslim communities of the Capital District to mobilize support for the resolution.

Albany Common Council President Corey Ellis says resolution coming before the Common Council reaffirms Albany as a welcoming city and expresses solidarity with its South Asian community regardless of religion and caste. "Basically, they're standing up for their brothers and sisters in India, where I guess the government is now requiring people to show proof of identity. And when you start seeing that, it concerns you, when a government wants people to show proof with birth certificates, who they are and their identity. And so this group feels like this



is the start of dividing the country. It could be the start of something even bigger that they're trying to prevent. And we've known in past when governments begin to try to identify people by birthrights and things of that nature, that things have happened. And so I think this group is standing up against the government and trying to say, in trying to get as many partners throughout, not just in Albany, but everywhere to say this, you know, this practice is wrong."

Among those who spoke

at the Council meeting was Rev. Peter Cook, executive director of New York State Council of Churches who mentioned that Christians too along with Muslims, face persecution at the hands of the Hindu supremacist government of India.

Dr. Shak Ubaid of ImanNet brought to the attention of the media, during a press conference that was held before the Council meeting that Hindutva supremacists have infiltrated the power centers of the US. He gave the example of Amit Jani, a high-level

official in the Biden campaign who is close to the Hindutva supremacist movement.

The press conference was also addressed by Syed Zahoor of the Muslim Advocacy Council who explained how the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act will combine with the National Register of Citizens to disenfranchise Muslims just as the Nuremberg laws by the Nazi party disenfranchised the German Jews.

Later several members of the Indian Muslim community and some Hindus spoke eloquently at the Council meeting about the anti-Muslim pogrom in Delhi and Gujarat that were unleashed during the time of President Trump's visit to India last week. They urged the Council to pass the resolution

MUSLIM PEACE COALITION-USA <http://muslimpeacecoalition-usa.com/>

Sharia Compliant Investment Solutions

Our no-load mutual funds follow a value investment style, diversify across industries, and choose equities in accordance with Islamic principles. Isn't it nice to know there's a Sharia compliant mutual fund with a low minimum investment of \$250? (It's even lower for IRAs, Health Savings Accounts or Education Savings Accounts.) Open an account today and start investing in your future.

Amana Income Fund seeks current income by investing primarily in dividend-paying stocks. The Fund seeks capital preservation as a secondary objective. Established: 1986

Amana Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing in companies expected to grow earnings and stock prices faster than the economy. Established: 1994



Amana Mutual Funds Trust

www.amanafunds.com

1-888-73-AMANA

The Amana Funds limit the stocks they purchase to those consistent with Islamic principles, which limits opportunities and may increase risk. Please consider an investment's objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. To obtain a free prospectus that contains this and other important information about the Amana Funds, please call toll-free 888/73-AMANA or visit www.amanafunds.com. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. Distributed by Saturna Brokerage Services, member FINRA/SIPC. SBS and wholly-owned subsidiary of Saturna Capital Corporation, adviser to the Amana Mutual Funds Trust.

Diary of a Teenager – Reflections on Rohingya & Genocide in a Modern World

By Amal Ali

In the music world, most remember August of 2017 to be the month that Havana (by Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug) was released. If you're like me, you remember it as the month where Taylor Swift erased everything from her social media accounts mysteriously before announcing the release date of her highly anticipated sixth studio album, reputation.

Many of us in the U.S. remember what happened in Charlottesville, VA, where violence erupted at a "Unite the Right" rally during the hot summer days of August 11th and 12th, eliciting a highly criticized response from President Donald Trump. Also that month, North America experienced a total solar eclipse, receiving widespread media coverage; and Hurricane Harvey hit Texas causing considerable destruction.

But far away from the world of pop music sensations, turmoil in American politics and natural phenomenon, one of the world's worst cases of ethnic cleansing was happening in the little state of Rakhine in Myanmar to the Rohingya Muslims.

This past December I had the privilege of traveling to and volunteering at the refugee camps with the Deccan Alumni Association of North America (DAANA), my father's medical college alumni group. It was his second time lending his skills as a pulmonologist in the refugee camps and local hospital and my first time going with him.

Throughout our time in the camps and at the clinic, we heard several heartbreaking stories about the lives the Rohingyas lived before the massacre and how quickly and brutally everything was taken away. As many of us have been reflecting on the 75th remembrance of the Holocaust, I can't get the stories told to me and what I witnessed in the Rohingya refugee camps

of Bangladesh out of my head.

One such story was Hasina's, a refugee I had the honor of interviewing; she had lived in a relatively comfortable family on a farm before the genocide took her everything away from her. "My house was burned down by the military," Hasina said.* "We had to flee overnight through forests and hills and then cross the river to Bangladesh on a boat." Several atrocities were committed by Myanmar's army during her flight, but the details of these occurrences are much too painful for Hasina, and many refugees like her, to revisit.

"I miss my home," Hasina told me when I asked what she missed the most about her life before. I asked what she wished would change in the camps. She said, "The military is very oppressive to women. I am happy here with what I have, but I am vulnerable."

Why Are Rohingya Muslims Targets?

The displacement and genocide of Rohingya Muslims represent the culmination of a long history of racial discrimination and persecution based on culture and religion in Myanmar; a timeline that started in the 1940's when Myanmar (known as Burma at the time) gained its independence and denied citizenship and legal status to the Rohingyas.

Myanmar has always had a dominant Buddhist population, making the Rohingyas an ethnic, religious and linguistic minority group in the country, as they are Sunni Muslims. However, the minority group traces back its origins in the country all the way to settlement in the Arakan kingdom in the 15th century, making them a thoroughly well-established population in Myanmar.

In the late 1980's when Burma was officially renamed Myanmar, Rohingyas were again denied their citizenship

and were not recognized as an ethnic minority. In 2014 they were completely excluded from Myanmar's national census, signifying the increasing efforts of the country's government to "erase" the population.

In August of 2017, a militant wing named the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked some military and police outposts, resulting in the death of 70 people. This began a brutal crackdown on the Rohingyas by the Myanmar army; 7,000 were massacred in that month alone, after which 700,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh. Thousands more escaped to Indonesia, India and Malaysia.

Since then the population of the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh has increased to more than a million people. The United Nations and several charities, including DAANA, have devoted lots of time and money to the well being of these refugees.

Those Who Suffer the Most

Immediately after and during the massacre, Myanmar's army committed crimes too horrifying to describe against Rohingya women. Such crimes are incredibly sensitive subjects for many refugees, but some yearn for their stories to be heard. On our last day in Bangladesh, my father and I spoke to Ayaz Mahamud, who is a social worker with Terre Des Hommes and is dedicated to assisting rape and sexual assault victims in the camps. He told us the stories of two women in the camps, whose stories represented the thousands of women assaulted by the military.

"A lot of these women suffer from mental illnesses because of what they've been through, like post traumatic stress disorder and eating disorders," Ayaz said. "Many of them cannot sleep at night either because they hear the sounds of bullets whenever they close their

eyes."

After the massacre, many children had been so traumatized that they seemed to develop undiagnosed mental disabilities very similar to autism. Ayaz told us that when he went to the schools and asked some of the Rohingya children to draw for them, they would draw horrifying scenes from the massacre depicting weapons, death and destruction. It was the only world that they knew.

Many children also drew their family relatives, who passed away in the genocide.

Earlier before we met Ayaz, we had traveled into the camps, which was where we met Hasina. While in her home, I tried to speak with the large group of children who had huddled behind the window to listen. Through their broken English, there was one phrase in particular that we could decipher, and it was thoroughly chilling to hear, "I will kill you." Many children said it with a laugh.

I realized that perhaps this was a phrase they heard from the military when they were fleeing, and it was some of the only English they could remember. It was obvious that the children did not know the meaning of what they were saying, and it truly broke my heart once I connected it to what they had been through.

Ayaz told us about another incredible woman, Mumtaz, whose story of her flight from Myanmar reveals the true nature of the massacre. "She heard gunshots in the night and immediately started to run with her children and husband," Ayaz recalls. "She tried to cross the river, but it was too difficult to do with four children. Where she was stopped is now the site of a mass grave that the military started digging that night."

We even went to a section of this river one day during our time in the refugee camps and tried to imagine what had

happened on this body of water three years ago. It was simply chilling.

The more I hear the stories, the more vivid I become that Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi still continues to deny that a genocide even occurred in the first place at the International Court of Justice. Her Nobel Peace Prize, awarded to her in 1991, needs to be revoked.

The details Ayaz shared with us about what happened afterwards are nearly too horrendous to share. Babies snatched from mothers and thrown into rivers, one of them being Mumtaz's son. Homes being set on fire and military officials throwing people into the fires. Men being lined up on their knees and shot dead, one by one. And, women stripped of their valuables and then assaulted and raped while their family members were forced to watch.

When we visited a hospital established by the HOPE Foundation in Cox Bazar, we met Syed Fakhrul Huda (Fakhar), who told us about the awful things refugees experienced after those who survived crossing the river first arrived in Bangladesh. "Since they were technically encroaching on the natural habitat of the elephants, several were trampled and died," Fakhar said. Imagine surviving a massacre only to be killed by the elephants when you finally found somewhere you thought you could be safe.

"It was a very, very long time before the camps reached a point where they are today. Initially people were just sleeping on the ground, and several got sick and died very quickly," Fakhar added. "The camps you see today, with field hospitals and food distribution and wells, looked nothing like this even a few months ago."

Even though the camps I visited were much more organized with huts and even a small shopping

Cont. on page 15

Netflix Documentary Inspires Reopening of Malcolm X Assassination Investigation

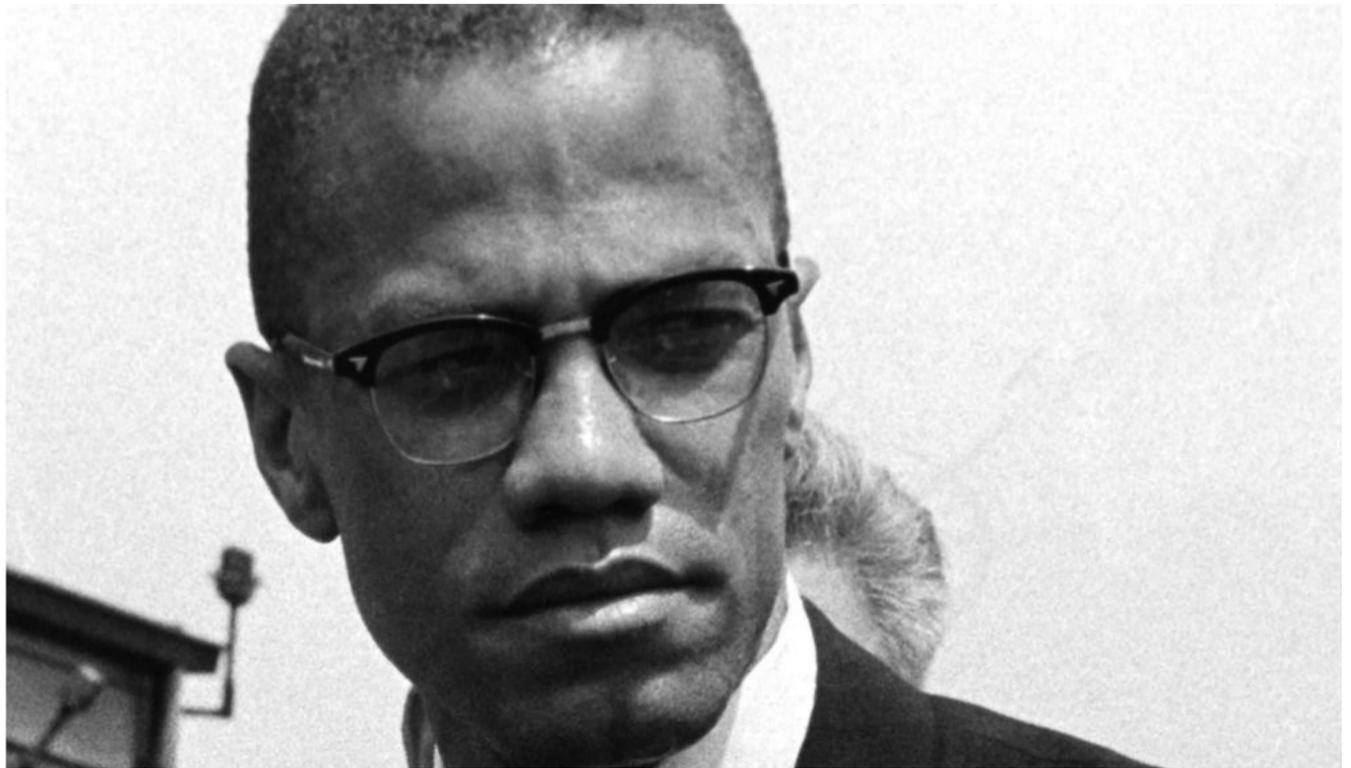
By Yousuf Ali

Netflix released a 6-part documentary series entitled "Who Killed Malcolm X?", featuring the story of a historian seeking what he believes to be hidden truths behind the killing of the famed activist and orator El-Hajj Malik el-Shabbaz or Malcolm X on Feb. 7. The documentary has gathered much interest since its release prompting advocates to look into the case of Malcolm X's murder.

In the first episode, Abdur Rahman Muhammad said, "[t]he first time I saw those bullet wounds, I thought, 'Why doesn't someone want to get to the bottom of this?' So I started asking questions. ... What is the real story?" The documentary featured several forms of investigation including growing through court documents, interviews with former Nation of Islam Members, old newspaper stories and more. The questions highlighted in the documentary raised doubt on the official story of Malcolm X's death and inspired a re-opening of the investigation into the assassination, NPR reported.

The initial trial resulted in the conviction of three men. The conviction of these men was one of the many questions brought to surface. According to court records, those convicted and sentenced to life were the following: Thomas Hagan (who had also been called Talmadge Hayer and Mujahid Abdul Halim), Khalil Islam (known then as Thomas 15X Johnson), and Aziz". Even though Hagan confessed to the murder, he argued that the others were not involved with the Nation of Islam.

Later Hagan gave the name of four other men,



who he claimed were accomplices in the assassination. Despite this, no investigation was opened at the time. This and other developments attracted the interest of the Innocence Project, which specializes in exonerating wrongly convicted individuals, specifically those convicted of murder. This inspired District Attorney [Cy] Vance, who met with the advocacy organization and legal representation in regards to the issue.

"I hope these investigations will bring about clarity and transparency regarding this devastating, criminal act against my family and all the devoted followers of a beloved Malcolm. My father lived his life advocating for and in the pursuance of truth. He deserves the same dedication to truth from all of us," Malcolm X's daughter Ilyasah Shabazz said



EXPERIENCE MATTERS | SPECIALIZING IN FRANCHISE REALES SINCE 1978

FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES

SAMPLE OF AVAILABLE FRANCHISE REALES | EXISTING LOCATIONS

www.nationalfranchisesales.com



4 UNITS | WESTERN US
LIST PRICE - \$1.675M



8+ UNITS | SO. CALIFORNIA
Additional Unit Available Eastern US



MULTIPLE UNITS AVAILABLE EASTERN US



5 UNITS + DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS
Additional Unit Available Western US



CONTACT YOUR NFS ADVISOR FOR DETAILS



12 UNITS | NORTHEAST
LIST PRICE - \$5.05M
Additional Units Available Across the US



MULTIPLE UNITS AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE



MULTIPLE UNITS AVAILABLE CALIFORNIA



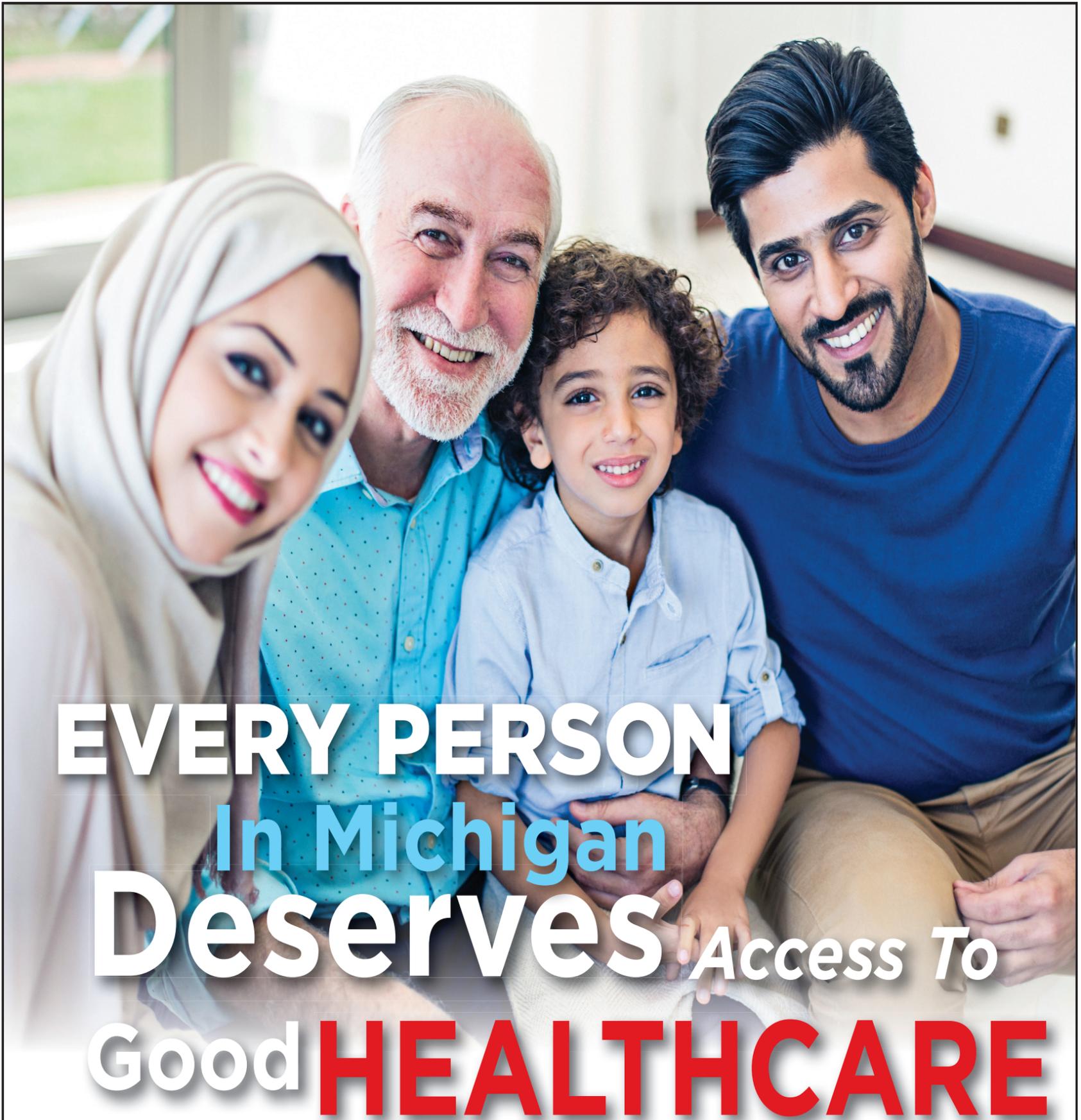
OPPORTUNITIES OF SCALE CONTACT YOUR NFS ADVISOR

ADDITIONAL FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

949.428.0480

nfs@nationalfranchisesales.com

If you want to advertise in TMO, Please email: marketing@muslimobserver.com



To fund life-saving programs like MIChild, urgent care, Medicaid and Medicare YOU and YOUR FAMILY must be counted in the 2020 CENSUS this spring.

The **2020 CENSUS** is quick and **EASY** to fill out. Use it to count **EVERYONE** in your home. And by law, it is **100% CONFIDENTIAL**



m.n.a. 
Michigan Nonprofit Association

For more information go to
www.mivoicerecounts.org

Census 2020: An Introduction

By Hayg Oshagan

Wayne State University
Director of New Michigan Media

What is the census?

The U. S. Constitution requires that the federal government count every person living in the U.S. The U.S. Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790.

Why is the Census important?

Every year, the federal government gives money it has collected from taxes back to the states. How much money a state gets depends on how many people live in that state. And the count of how many people live in a state is determined every 10 years by the Census. So if a state has a low Census count, it will get less money from the federal government, every year, for the 10 years after the Census count. Recently, Michigan has gotten about \$30 billion a year based on the 2010 Census. In addition to federal funds, how many representatives a state has in the U.S. Congress also depends on a state's population, which is determined by the Census. Because of a low Census count, Michigan lost a Congressional seat in 2010, going from 15 Congressmen and Congresswomen in the U.S. House of Representatives, to the current 14.

What is the money used for?

The \$30 billion Michigan gets every year is used by the state, used by counties, used by Native American tribes, and used by cities for programs that serve our communities. This is money that funds our kids' education (student loans, Pell grants, school lunches and breakfasts, Headstart, school funding), helps with health care (Medicare, Medicaid, Urgent Care, children's health insurance/MI Child), is used for food assistance (Supplemental Nutrition, Bridge Cards, Meals on Wheels), housing loans, road construction, transit, and any program that helps our communities grow and prosper.

What happens if the count is low?

Michigan, and every county and city in Michigan, gets a lot less money for all the programs the Census pays for. As an example, for Detroit, every person not counted would cost the city \$5,500 every year for 10 years. If 3% of Detroiters don't get counted (about 20,000 people), Detroit would lose \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

Who should be counted?

Everyone. The Census counts everyone who is living in America. It doesn't matter if you are a citizen or not a citizen, if you have a Green Card, or a visitor visa, or an expired visa, a student with an F1 visa or an employee with an H-1b visa, if you live in the U.S., you count for the Census.

The only people not counted are those who are here as tourists, and are planning to return to their home country. Everyone else counts. Make sure to count everyone in

your household, including children and newborns. And if you sublet to anyone, you need to count them too.

What is a household?

For the Census, a household is an address. The Census does not have names, it only has addresses. There are about 140 million addresses in the U.S., and the Census is sent to each of those addresses. People who live in groups with a single address (jails, hospitals, nursing homes, school dormitories, etc.) are also counted.

Is the Census confidential?

The United State has a law specifically for the Census, to make sure it is 100% confidential. The Census Act, Title 13, of the United States Code, has the strictest confidentiality laws on the federal books.

The information collected by the Census CANNOT be shared with ANY other agency. It cannot be given to ICE, to the FBI,

to Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the IRS, local police, the sheriff, social service agencies, insurance companies, businesses or anyone. For any reason. And over the last 50+ years, this law has never been broken, not even once.

How many questions are on the Census?

The Census is 9 questions. That's it. And there is no question about your citizenship or visa status. The Census only cares to know if you live in the U.S.

What comes in the mail?

In the past, the Census was a paper questionnaire. This year, most people will get a card in the mail with a unique ID that you use to fill out the Census online. Where the internet is slow, people will get the paper version to fill out and send back. People can also call in and complete the Census on the phone.

The Census is mailed on March 12. If you don't

respond, you will get reminders on March 16, March 23, April 8, and April 20.

Will someone knock on my door?

If you don't send the Census back by the end of April, Census workers will come to your door. They have badges and identification from the Census Bureau, and they will ask you to complete the Census. It is much better to fill it out on your own, and not wait for the Census workers to come by. We get a much better count that way.

We only have one chance to get counted. There is a lot of funding tied to the U.S. Census that helps everyone in our communities, from our children to the elderly. Make sure to fill it out when you get it. The 10 minutes we spend filling out the Census now will affect our communities for the next 10 years.




**PAVE THE WAY TO
YOUR FUTURE CAREER**

**Master's in Islamic
Economics & Finance**
 Now Available at Guidance College

Live Online Evening Courses Accessible to US and Canadian Students
 Perfect for the Busy Professional to Achieve without Disrupting Your Schedule

832.517.2988 | www.guidancecollege.org/maef | admissions@guidancecollege.org

**Cont. from page 1.
Farooq Mitha**

an attorney and a former Fulbright Fellow in the middle east who has been an avid community advocate. While Farooq is engaged with team Biden in his individual capacity, he has a long history of lifting the Muslim community's civic engagement voice as a co-founder of Emgage, a leading civic engagement organization. He was also a co-founder of the Florida Muslim Chamber of Commerce. The Biden campaign gave the Muslim Observer an exclusive opportunity to be the first to speak to Farooq about his role and Vice President Biden's engagement of Muslim Americans before Michigan's March 10th primary. Below is a synopsis of our conversation with Farooq.

TMO: What has been VP Biden's history of engagement with the Muslim community?

Farooq: VP Biden has a long track record of engaging Muslim Americans and Muslim communities abroad. He has visited beautiful mosques around the world, spoken with imams, participated in Iftars, and learned from Muslim community leaders throughout his career in public service. As a United States Senator and VP, Biden spoke at the Islamic Society of Delaware in Wilmington and as Vice President, he was proud to represent our country abroad and lead visits to culturally and historically important Islamic religious sites. As a candidate for President, VP Biden has directly engaged Muslims in Michigan by visiting a Muslim-owned small business in Dearborn, MI and meeting with community leaders to discuss important issues to the community. He also met with Muslim and Asian American leaders in Los Angeles and Nevada. The campaign has also engaged Muslim communities in Iowa at satellite caucus locations, which for the first time were in mosques, through hosting house parties with surrogates in early states and sending senior surrogates to Islamic centers to engage community members during

Friday prayers in states like Virginia. Finally, the campaign has hosted several conference calls with Muslim community members with policy advisors on a range of domestic and foreign policy issues.

TMO: VP Biden has seen a lot of tragedy in his life and has demonstrated a lot of sacrifice. What do you think drives him? Why does he keep him going, after accomplishing so much over his lifetime?

Farooq: When VP Biden announced his candidacy for President, he specifically referenced the violent protests of white nationalists in Charlottesville, VA as a fundamental reason he decided to run. He has been very clear that restoring the soul of our nation is an issue that drives him and that another four years of a Trump Presidency would fundamentally alter our nation's character. This is especially true when you think about this administration's Muslim Ban, which violates the fundamental values of our nation as a pluralistic society where immigrants historically have found refuge and a nation where anyone regardless of their faith, culture or ethnicity can achieve their personal aspirations. VP Biden has committed to immediately repealing this ban because he understands that Muslim Americans are essential to the American fabric.

TMO: Does VP Biden appreciate that there is significant diversity among the Muslim community and is he committed to reflecting that diversity in his administration should he become President?

Farooq: VP Biden understands that the Muslim American community is not monolithic and that in fact what we have across the country are Muslim American communities, plural. He also understands that it's important not to view the Muslim American community through a security lens and that our communities contribute to the fabric of our nation in many ways. The VP has also committed to ensuring his administration represents all the diverse communities that make

up our nation at the most senior levels of government. Specifically, to Muslim communities, he has committed to restoring the Muslim Community Liaison position in the White House Office of Public Engagement, which was established during the Obama-Biden administration so there is consistent communication with Muslim American communities.

TMO: Given the overwhelming support for Senator Sanders in the Muslim community, do you think their turnout can be counted upon for VP Biden in the chance that he is the winner of the primaries?

Farooq: Yes. First, I think the Sanders campaign should be commended for their engagement of the Muslim community. All the efforts from all campaigns to engage Muslim Americans to show the importance of this community to our country and the increasing civic and political capacity our communities have built over the last two decades. I also think that our communities are as determined as ever to defeat Donald Trump and will turnout for the Democratic nominee in November. This should not be taken for granted, though, and the Biden campaign will continue actively engaging our communities in the remaining primary states and in the general election if he is the nominee. This election is too important and all of us recognize that every vote counts.

TMO: A majority of the African-American community has come out in support of VP Biden across the country. Do you think African American Muslims share a similar viewpoint? What is the root of the support he receives in your opinion?

Farooq: I think the root of African American support for VP Biden stems from his long-standing engagement and relationships within African American communities in Delaware and across the country. These relationships stem from his long track record in public service as a United States Senator and serving as Vice President to President Barack

Obama, our nation's first African American President. I also think that VP Biden's track record on fighting for working people, standing up to discrimination and championing criminal justice reform are keys to this support. As for African American Muslims, I think that the African American community is not monolithic like the broader Muslim community, but I believe that he has strong support among African American Muslims.

TMO: VP Biden is firmly entrenched and part of the establishment, a good portion of his donors come from large PACs and Wall Street donors. Can Americans in general and Muslims expect any real change?

Farooq: First I want to dispel the notion that VP Biden's support is from PACs and Wall Street donors. Our campaign does not take money from PACs or lobbyists and is privileged to have support from across every demographic that makes up this nation. In fact, the campaign's average contribution is less than \$50 and as the campaign has grown, we have seen a significant increase in small online donations, including tens of thousands of new, grassroots donors in the last week. I believe that Muslims can expect real change. VP Biden has a very progressive policy agenda of things that he can actually get done and pay for. VP Biden has very detailed plans on expanding Obamacare, tackling climate change, criminal justice reform, immigration and creating opportunities for minority-owned businesses. His experience and relationships put him in a position to get to work on day one and execute on his plans that will change the lives of all Americans including Muslim Americans. Part of my outreach will be to meet with community leaders, engage them on these issues that impact our communities on a daily basis and to ensure Muslim communities are part of this change.

TMO: The voter turnout in the primaries has been mediocre and younger voters do not seem to be

getting involved. Voter dissatisfaction was a big reason many people did not come out during the 2016 elections or simply voted for Trump. How is VP Biden different than Secretary Clinton and do you think people will come out to vote for him in a general election?

Farooq: I don't really want to comment on Secretary Clinton, but I do want to talk about VP Biden's campaign. First, we've seen significant increases in turnout in several states, including my neighboring state of Virginia. Additionally, VP Biden has a strong track record of support from working-class families from across the country. I think that when you look at his performance on Super Tuesday you see a broad, diverse coalition that includes young people that supported his candidacy. The campaign is committed to continuing to engage younger voters on issues that matter to them such as student debt and making college more affordable. Many may not know this, but one of VP Biden's most important proposals on this front is making community college free to expand access to education. The campaign is also committed to working hard to earn votes in states that we did not win in 2016 like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio and Florida. Additionally, I think it's equally important we run a candidate who can help Democrats win down-ticket so we can maintain a majority in the House and try to win back the Senate. VP Biden is the only candidate who has the appeal required to do this.

TMO: There has been significant concern over VP Biden's position on what is currently happening in India in Kashmir and Indian Muslims broadly. There is also concern about individuals on his staff who may not share our views. What can you share about his policy position on these issues?

Farooq: VP Biden is very concerned about the erosion of democratic principles and human rights at home and

Cont. to page 12.

An Appeal from AFMI



For the Relief and Rehabilitation of the Muslim Victims in Delhi (India)

3 days of atrocities committed on Muslims, led by RSS goons,
Killed over 50 Muslims, over 1000 are still missing, scores of homes torched,
Hundreds injured, countless shops destroyed,
19 Mosques set on fire and the number of copies of the Holy Quran burned



Burnt masjid



Burnt Holy Quran



A House On Fire

*This appeal is to help these displaced Muslims,
let us help them to be on their feet again.
Donate generously to rebuild the lives of the victims of terror*

AFMI:
29008 W 8 Mile Rd
Farmington-MI 48336

Send your contribution to
AFMI--501(C)3 organization and your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

For further information please contact the following

South
Mr. Shakeb Mashood
(Houston-TX)
713 294 9992

West Coast
Dr. Aslam Abdullah (LA)
909 489 5989

Midwest
Dr. Mohammed Akber (Springfield -OH),
Dr. M. Sana Ullah Khan (Cleveland-OH)
Dr. Khutub Uddin (IN) 574 386 7131

East Coast
Mr. Saeed Patel (NJ) 201 315 2874
Mr. Babu Khalfan (NY) 917 693 5848

For online Donation : www.afmi.org

**Cont. from page 10.
Farooq Mitha**

abroad. He strongly believes that human rights are at the core of the very idea of America, and the United States is safer when fundamental rights are protected worldwide. During his first year in office, he will convene a summit of the world's democracies, to renew the shared purpose of our allies and partners to protect democracy and human rights at home and abroad and to support civil society organizations from around the globe who stand on the front lines of the growing threats to human rights. Specifically, in India, VP Biden is disappointed by the measures that Prime Minister Modi's BJP government has taken with the implementation and aftermath of the Nation-

al Register of Citizens in Assam and the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act into law. He supports the rights of the Indian people to protest and believes that these measures are inconsistent with the country's long tradition of secularism and sustaining a multi-ethnic and multi-religious democracy. He is also disappointed with measures that the Indian government has taken in recent months in Kashmir and believes it is important to restore peace, full access to communications, and the rule of law for the people of Kashmir.

TMO: What else can you tell us about VP Biden's other foreign policy positions when it relates to issues across the Muslim world.

Farooq: It's no secret that currently there are many issues across the Muslim world. Philosophically, VP Biden is committed to restoring American leadership throughout the world, which is sorely missing and standing up for human rights and democracy with the understanding that we do not have all the answers and cannot dictate the outcomes in complex societies. But he strongly believes that as the world's leading democracy, we have a responsibility to defend and advance liberty and human rights around the world. And what we say and do matters. The VP has been very outspoken about the atrocities against the Rohingya and the Muslim Uyghurs in China with detailed plans on

how his administration can address these issues. Additionally, VP Biden has committed to re-entering the Iran nuclear deal (provided Iran returns to compliance), which he helped deliver in the Obama-Biden administration, ending the war in Yemen and to engage the Israelis and Palestinians to achieve a two-state solution. I am looking forward to engaging Muslim communities and creating opportunities to uplift their voices on these issues to the campaign.

TMO: What makes you the best candidate for this role and what is the campaign's strategy moving forward to reach out to Muslim communities in battleground states?

Farooq: I have a long track record of working

within Muslim American communities, particularly on civic and political engagement. I come from this community and have humbly served it throughout my career. I hope that this history along with the relationships I have developed with community leaders across the country allows me to effectively reach out with the credibility that I have the best interests of our communities in mind. As this campaign moves forward, it will be critical to engage, organize and mobilize our communities to turn out in the remaining primaries and in November. I am committed to doing that and to help ensure that our communities have a voice and are working hand in glove with the campaign.

**Cont. from page 1.
Swing Voters**

standing, a Washington D.C.- and Dearborn, Mich.-based research institute that studies trends impacting American Muslims, 60% of American Muslims polled in a 2016 nationally representative study said they were registered to vote. In 2019, that number went up to 73%.

The Iowa caucuses had mixed results for progressive and moderate Democratic presidential candidates based on who helped caucus in the state. The New Hampshire primary also served up razor-thin victory margins. After Nevada results from this weekend, the field has begun to thin.

Mosques began to be used as caucus satellite sites in Iowa for the first time in 2020, providing unprecedented access to Muslim communities to be a part of the election. The Muslim swing vote will be even more critical in future primaries, which may also be decided by razor-thin margins. The deadline to register to vote or change party affiliation in most states is also approaching.

While some Muslim voters have resigned themselves to a second term for President Donald Trump, others have joined campaigns to get out the vote. This divide

between political apathy and fervent support is similar to historical patterns for other minority groups.

Professor Ibram Kendi at American University notes the phenomenon of the other swing voters who are ignored. The perception of swing voters is they are those who switch back and forth as Republican or Democrat based on the candidate. Kendi says that other swing voters shift between voting Democrat and not voting.

He writes in *The Atlantic* these people are: "Othered because they are typically young and not-white. Othered because they are hardly recognized at the table of political agency. Othered because they are primarily recognized at the table of political shame when they don't vote. Othered because Americans refuse to recognize how voter suppression and depression affect their agency."

Professor Altaf Husain at Howard University says masjid leadership is crucial for civic engagement, "Educating our congregations on the importance of voting, encouraging them to register to vote and then to actually vote are all integral steps to ensuring that individuals with the best solutions to complex social issues are elected."

Minnesota Attorney

General and former U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison emphasizes voter turnout as a key to election victories. In an interview with *Vox* in 2017, when Ellison was the frontrunner for chair of the Democratic National Committee, he called for an attitudinal change in the party, making it clear that a focus on expanding turnout beyond the likely voters in swing states will change the way we approach voting. What Ellison did in 2006 and subsequent years was not only convince people to vote for him, but also to register new voters. Those who had never voted before voted for him.

A 2016 ISPU report indicated that community leaders and activists had to utilize the power of at least 750,000 people across the country sitting at the mosque on Friday. The study indicates that religious associations create an inherent network that can mobilize citizens to vote.

Manal Fakhoury, chairwoman of the civic engagement organization United Voices for America, underscores the importance of political engagement. She points out: "We must understand the value of engagement and add our voice to the conversation. It's time for a political shift and a community awakening."

Trump's strategy for

outreach to evangelicals at churches was especially critical to his support in 2016. Trump knows the power of polarization. Interestingly, Trump's campaign is energized by bigotry. ISPU scholars Youssef Chouhoud and Dalia Mogahed note in ISPU study, *Which Muslims Voted for Trump?* that racial resentment is a consistent factor for Trump supporters: "It is not surprising that Black Muslims are significantly less likely to approve of the president's time in office compared to all other racial and ethnic groups."

In an in-depth report, *American Muslims in the 2016 Election and Beyond: Principles and Strategies for Greater Political Engagement* ISPU scholars Tasneem Siddiqui, Laila Alawa, Youssef Chouhoud, and Dalia Mogahed recommended the following to mobilize voters in the mosque:

- Hold voter registration drives at the mosque.
- Increase voter registration drive effort during Ramadan and Eid, when larger swaths of the community are present.
- Target elder members and young members of the community to run the drives, give everyone a specific role to play.
- Invite local candidates who are running to come to speak at the mosque.
- Arrange buses to take

people to the polls, Muslims and non-Muslims.

• Look beyond the mosque to other Muslim organizations, especially MSAs (college campus-based Muslim Student Associations), with these same tactics.

For many, the 2020 Presidential election is about turning the tide on this cacophonous GOP hate. Cornell Law Professor Aziz Rana says in an interview in *Dissent Magazine*: "One of the biggest challenges facing the left is to restitch its political memory, to develop the cultural institutions (which existed in the past)—from sites of popular education and workplace activism to party structures themselves—that collectively create a daily experience of liberation and community."

Additional data: ISPU infographic on four ways to increase Muslim civic participation from 2019 poll data

If you want to write for TMO, Please email: editor@muslimobserver.com

CONTINUED STORY

**Cont. from page 1.
Bernie Sander**

Muslim Caucus of America, the Arab American Political Action Committee and many other Muslim leaders and organizations have all publicly announced endorsements of Bernie for president.

Sen Bernie Sanders and Sen Corey Booker were the only 2 candidates for president who attended the national gathering of the Islamic Society of North America in Houston in September 2019. Many Muslims felt slighted that Joseph Biden who was also in Houston at the same time and campaigning did not accept an invitation to attend.

A national survey of American Muslims conducted by Emgage Action as part of the endorsement process showed overwhelming support for Bernie Sanders as the presidential candidate with over 75% of the respondents identifying him as their top pick. A survey by the Council of American Islamic Relations conducted in January 2020 also indicated that Sanders had a commanding lead of Muslim Democrats with 39% of the vote prior to the Iowa caucuses, and with Senator Biden in second with 27%. Other prominent Muslim Americans are supporting Bernie due to his stances on economic and social justice issues. Both Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, the first Muslim women U.S. Congressio-

nal representatives and Keith Ellison, former US congressman and current Attorney General for Minnesota were early in endorsing Bernie Sanders. They have been actively campaigning for him.

Rep Omar opened for a Bernie Sanders Rally in St Paul, Minnesota in preparation for Super Tuesday, saying, "we believe in eradicating poverty, we believe in not letting a child go hungry, we believe the lives of people matter ... regardless of where they were born... we believe in Medicare for all... this election is about a lot more than Trump, I don't want to just defeat Trump, I want us to fight for a better future... I want you to vote for the person who will make sure you get that better future — Bernie Sanders!"

However, many seasoned and senior Muslim community leaders are not all enthralled with Bernie. In Michigan, community leaders such as Dr. Mahmoud al-Hadidi, president of the Michigan Muslim Community Council, felt that endorsing far-left candidates is a mistake: "The far-left progressive socialist candidates are less likely to unite the country and win the election. There are more likely to create a division and this can result in the far-right winning moderates over in the election. The American Muslim Community is diverse

politically and no one organization speaks on our behalf."

Farooq Mitha who is one of the co-founders of Emgage has been working with Joseph Biden on a personal level. In a statement, Mitha stated, "Vice President Biden had a track record of getting things done. Right now a country needs a leader that will be ready on day one to address our many challenges and can concurrently unite our country" Kizer Khan, the Gold Star father also has endorsed former Vice President Biden and has coordinated conference calls with him.

Fatima Shamma, a former immigration director for New York City has been organizing meetings to garner support for Michael Bloomberg. Senator Elizabeth Warren also has a Muslim outreach coordinator, Iram Ali, and has developed talking points specifically to address American Muslim community concerns and win the Muslim vote. There is definitely some heterogeneity of political thought present, although mostly on the democratic side of the political spectrum.

The Muslim Public Affairs Council issued a report entitled Muslim Outreach Among Presidential Candidates. Here they documented the level of Engagement by presidential candidates earlier in the election season. Senator Bernie Sanders had the most Muslim staffers. Vice

President Joe Biden had at least 3 Muslim advisors. It seems that most of the candidates recognize the importance of the Muslim vote in key swing states.

But is this importance justified? The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) has shown that the Muslim vote has increased although still is quite low compared to other groups (<https://www.ispu.org/american-muslim-poll-2019-key-findings/>). During the 2018 elections, up to 73% of eligible Muslims were registered to vote, up from 60% in 2016. Although 83% of Muslims reported the intention to vote, only 59% actually showed up to vote, coining the term "inshallah voters." Young Muslim voters aged 18 to 29 had the lowest voter participation of all in 2016: 63% compared to age-matched peers at 85%. The authors of the report concluded that a lack of engagement and community education were major contributing factors.

Emgage published a detailed review of Muslim votes in swing states of Florida, Michigan, Ohio and Virginia in the 2018 election based on their extensive GOTV (get out the vote) work. (<https://www.emgageusa.org/2018-midterm-muslim-voter-turnout/>). Although Muslim voter turnout increased by 25 percentage points (25% turnout in 2014 to 50% turnout in 2018), there

were still proportionately more general voters voting in almost every state compared to Muslim voters. For example, in Michigan, there were 75,000 registered Muslim voters in 2018 and only 50% turned out to vote despite having a Muslim candidate for governor, Abdul El-Sayed and a US Congressional representative, Rashida Tlaib. In contrast, 57% of the general population came out to vote in this off-presidential cycle election. This data shows that Muslim voters are still lagging when it comes to voting, prompting large organizing efforts for the 2020 election.

It is hoped by many Muslim leaders, whether they personally support Senator Sanders or not, that an endorsement of Senator Sanders will drive up voter registration and participation by American Muslims. He has great appeal to Muslims because of the extensive outreach to the American Muslim community. There are also many shared core values regarding social justice, economic equity and health care access. And finally, his foreign policy emphasis on equal valuing of human rights across the world is welcomed by many American Muslims. Whether this increasing participation and support for Senator Sanders will result in another record Muslim turn out remains to be seen. There is still a lot of room for growth in Muslim political power.

**Cont. from page 3.
Trump praises
Modi's**

mit appeals, if those are rejected they may be sent to one of the 10 mass detention camps the Indian government plans to build. According to Reuters, the first camp, where even children will be held, is already under construction.

The Indian government argues that the CAA is not anti-Muslim because Muslims are not a minority and have the ability to seek asylum in neighboring Muslim-majority countries. However, the targeting

of Muslims by Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the ruling Hindu nationalist party, shows that Muslims are not safe. To Muslims around the world, the CAA is clearly part of a Hindu supremacist agenda to make Muslims in India stateless. Many neighboring countries, including Bangladesh, have already said they will not take immigrants, leaving those Muslims in India who do not have paperwork with nowhere to go.

Muslims in India are subject to human rights violations ranging from raids of their homes to

the burning of mosques to being attacked solely for being Muslim. "It is a religious riot that began when the Hindus tried to move Muslim protesters using violence," Sachin Kumar, a civilian, told The Guardian. "It has got completely out of hand. I saw shrines and mosques burning, Muslims' shops were attacked and both sides were throwing stones. Cars were on fire and even the schools have been burned. [...] This is the first time in my life I have ever seen anything like this." Government officials and police are turning a blind eye as violence

sweeps across the country in the name of Hindu nationalism. The violence has prompted the U.S. Embassy in India to issue an advisory for American citizens in the capital city, urging them to "exercise caution," "keep a low profile," and "avoid all areas with demonstrations," CBS News reported.

Religious persecution such as Muslims are facing in India is not isolated to South Asia and, of course, one does not have to be South Asian or Muslim to identify and stand up to violence against minorities or corrupt leadership. Take

action today and stand in solidarity against religious persecution and police brutality. Multiple organizations across the U.S. are gathering together to host events and protests against Hindutva, or Hindu nationalism, and the Indian government. Show up, and ask your local government to pass a resolution condemning efforts to deny religious minorities rights in India. Silence is compliance. Speak up against corruption and persecution everywhere.

If you want to advertise in TMO, Please email:
marketing@muslimobserver.com



DR. NAKADAR INSTITUTE OF KNOWLEDGE

(GOVT. RECOGNISED ENGLISH MEDIUM HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL)
Mehsana (Gujarat) INDIA.

“Support a student to make a better future”

“The key to a dignified living is empowerment through education and freedom through knowledge”

Full scholarship for one child

(includes, tuition, lodging and boarding, books, uniforms, etc.)

\$ 1500
per year/student.

Scholarship for only tuition fee (XI & XII)

(Also includes, transportation, books, uniforms, etc.)

\$ 725
per year/student.

Or you may sponsor a student for their books, uniform, transportation, etc. for

\$ 350
per year

Or you may support a needy student with as little as.

\$ 25
donation

You may donated at:

www.drnik.net and click on donation,

or send your donation to:

Nakadar Foundation,
29004 W 8 Mile Rd
Farmington-MI-48336

Nakadar Foundation 501 (C)
3 organization.

Tax ID # 382541935

Insha Allah, your donations will be a perpetual sadaqa and you will be rewarded by Allah (swt) in this world and the world hereafter

ADVERTISEMENT

*Cont. from page 6.
Diary of a Teenager*

market, our homes in America are complete palaces compared to the living quarters in the camps. The huts barely cover half the space of the smallest New York City apartments, and they have no semblance of kitchens, bathrooms or bedrooms. There is no sense of sanitation or hygiene requirements. There is no heating or air conditioning. We live

like kings and queens compared to the families we met.

It is something we must remember when we ponder when we will get the next iPhone or what outfit we want to buy next.

A Dire Need to Spread More Awareness

There is one thing in common with all of the interviews we conducted in Bangladesh – every single person said they wanted more awareness spread throughout the

world about what was happening to Rohingyas. “We simply want more people to at least acknowledge the horrors that have occurred here,” Ayaz said. “There was news coverage in 2017 when the genocide first occurred, but barely anyone knows the magnitude of the camps here and just how much poverty there is. We need more awareness.”

Another detail I noticed in relistening to the interviews we conduct-

ed was the haunting similarities between the events of the Rohingya massacre and the events of the Holocaust, or even what slaves had to endure on their the long passage to America in the late 1500’s and early 1600’s. We spend a lot of time asserting that we can never let history repeat itself. We say #NeverForget all over social media, and yet here we are.

If religious discrimination was no longer a threat in this world, then there would not be more than a million refugees in this camps, and there would not be concentration camps in China, and the Indian government would not be able to selectively deny citizenship to Muslim refugees.

Yet, here we are.

I write about Rohingya refugees with a deep, deep hope that Insha’Allah I can do just what they yearn for – spread as much awareness as possible. I also hope that raising awareness about the issue can show the world just how much

work we have ahead of us in this new decade. For in the stories of those in the Kutupalong camps, there is a somber reflection on what awful problems our planet still struggles with.

Let me say it again: We have a lot of work ahead of us in this new decade.

Let us begin by laying in bed tonight and thinking about all our blessings – our warm beds, closets full of clothes, dinner on the table, financial security, clean water – all of it. Let us wake up tomorrow morning with the resolve to treat those who are deemed “the undesirables” of our world with a little more love. For at the core of every soul is a yearning to be loved.

*Quotes were translated as they were originally spoken in a Rohingya dialect, so they are as accurate of an approximation we could get.



**Helon Rahman, B.S.M.S
Funeral Director**

(313)366-2310: Office (248)766-4916: Cell
12924 Jos Campau – Detroit, Michigan – 48212
Courteous, Accommodating, Dependable, Affordable
24 Hours/ 7 Days a Week Service
www.rahmanfuneral.com



**ISLAMIC
RELIEF
USA**

ENVISION  A BETTER WORLD

For so many girls in the Middle East, going to school is a wish. Your donation through IRUSA can help provide girls with access to schools and supplies so they can get the education they need to prosper.



YOUR DONATION CAN CHANGE THEIR TOMORROW.

DONATE TODAY: IRUSA.ORG • 1-855-447-1001

P.O. BOX 22250 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304



Hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing toward Turkey as Government forces attack Idlib province.

According to UNICEF, 300,000 children and their families have been uprooted from their homes in Idlib since December.

Our teams are on the ground right now delivering food, shelter and healthcare. We need your help to meet our fundraising goal so we can continue to provide emergency relief.



Innocent families like that of 75-year-old Um Talal have already lost everything, their homes, their livelihood and worst of all, her son and grandson who were traveling home from work and killed by an airstrike. She cries fresh

tears every time she thinks of them.

They are now four generations living in one tent without any means to survive beside the food baskets we bring them each month.

We interviewed this family last week. We don't know if Um Talal's family including several very small children are still in the tent we visited, or if they, like hundreds of thousands of others have had to flee even closer to the Turkish border to an uncertain future.

The situation in Idlib is worse than Aleppo because there's no where left to go...

Please Remember the Forgotten Ones in Syria. Donate Today!

mercyusa.org
734-454-0011



Mercy-USA®

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
44450 Pinetree Dr., Ste. 201
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-3869



 Like us on Facebook!
facebook.com/MercyUSA

 @Mercy-USA