



Muslims worldwide celebrate the biggest holiday of the year with COVID-19 precautions and creativity

By: Aysha Qamar

Millions of Muslims worldwide this weekend celebrated Eid al-Adha, one of the two Islamic holidays of the year. Celebrated this year between July 30 and Aug. 3, Eid al-Adha, or the “Feast of Sacrifice,” is a holiday meant to commemorate the story of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham). During the holiday, Muslims worldwide sacrifice an animal—most often a goat, sheep, or cow—to distribute the meat to a family in need. The holiday is marked by the end of Hajj, the Mus-



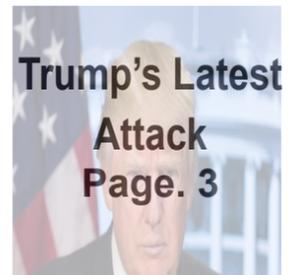
lim pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia—one of the core Islamic pillars of faith. Those who are able to both afford the

five-day trip of Hajj and physically able to complete it without hardship are required in Islam to do so at least once in

their lifetime.

Each year more than 2 million Muslims visit

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ICJ demands Myanmar to stop Rohingyas genocide

By: Dr Aslam Abdullah

The United Nations describes them as the world’s most persecuted community, India, declares them illegal and burns their camps, and the USA offers them political asylum. They are Rohingyas, denied the citizenship of their country, Myanmar, and the apartheid victims, as describes by the South African leader Desmond



Tutu.

Before the present crisis, there were over 1.5 million of them in Myanmar. They are indigenous people of Western Myanmar, who adapted to Arab, Mughal and Portuguese cultures over a millennium. They are the descen-

dants of an autonomous state of Arakan between South East Asia and South Asia. The Myanmar government calls them illegal intruders from Bangladesh and use the term Bangali in-

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President Trump Appointing Anti-Muslim Bigots



By: M. Muhammad Ahmed

The Trump Administration has recently hired two senior high-level

positions who have strong anti-muslim credentials. Mark Kevin Lloyd, who has been

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COVID 19 Forces Muslims to Modify Eid Al-Adha and Hajj practices

By Yousuf Ali

The coronavirus pandemic has caused drastic changes to all countries and people in the world across practically every facet of life. Religious issues are no exception with people of all faiths having to find ways to observe communal aspects of their religion while maintaining safety through social distancing amid the pandemic.

At the present moment, the celebration undergoing the most significant changes would be those related to the sacrificial holiday (Eid al-Adha) and the Hajj rituals which immediately precede it. Usually, millions of people from around the world gather in Mecca to undertake the Hajj rituals, but this year the pilgrimage has been significantly scaled back and limited to people already in Saudi Arabia. Muslims across the world will have to make chang-



es in how they celebrate the Eid al-Adha festival.

Even though Eid is famous for Muslims crowding to mosques to observe Eid prayers and socialize with friends and families, the situation requires them not to en-

gage in such practices for the safety of themselves and others. In countries where the governments directly plan and regulate religious holidays, strict rules are being imposed for the safety of their populations.

According to Reuters, Oman will be doing the following, "[t]he Gulf state will also implement a daily curfew from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. during the period, which includes the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday period. Shops

and public spaces will be closed during the hours of curfew."

All of this is an attempt to prevent massive gatherings which would pose a danger to public

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Trump's latest attack on undocumented immigrants is a pathetic attempt to garner electoral support

By: TMO Staff

Donald Trump continues to find new ways to attack immigrants. Unsuccessful in his various attempts to end programs for immigrants in the U.S., such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, Trump is doing all he can to eliminate representation undocumented immigrants have in the country. First, he tried to exclude undocumented immigrants from taking part in the U.S. census by adding a question on citizenship, now Trump is working to exclude undocumented folks from congressional apportionment. Doing so is not only unconstitutional but a clear ploy to move Democratic states to Republican states.

Dozens of states, cities, and countries partnered together Friday to urge a federal court to block Trump's July 21 directive to exclude undocumented citizens when apportioning congressional seats. The plaintiffs including New York State called the directive an "exclusionary policy" that has a "plainly xenophobic and discriminatory purpose" as other immigrant-related policies crafted by the administration have been.

"There used to be a time when you could proudly declare, 'I am a citizen of the United States,'" Trump said in a written statement after signing the memorandum, according to The New York Times. "But now, the radical left is trying to erase the existence of this concept and conceal the number of illegal aliens in our country. This is all part of a broader left-wing effort to erode the rights of Americans citizens, and I will not stand for it."

Participation in the census has historically been open to all residents of the U.S. regardless of immigration status. An accurate census count allows for state funding to be allocated for not only age-based programs but for nonprofits and resources for specific cultures and communities. Without an accurate census count, the government is unable to provide the appropriate funding for local communities. According to the plaintiff's Trump's directive would exclude millions of people from being connected from the country's population, noting

that everyone in the U.S. must be counted as per the Constitution, which requires count based on the "whole number of persons" in each state, Reuters reported. Trump in return argued in his momentum that undocumented folk should not be counted as they arrived in the country "illegally."

The census apportionment count determines how communities receive funding and resources in addition to determining how many House seats each state should have. Not counting undocumented immigrants when allocating House districts would result in the number of House seats each state has to change significantly. The House of Representatives, currently controlled by Democrats and made up of 435 members, would be at risk should the momentum take effect.

According to a study by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), a group that supports limiting immigration, excluding immigrants from the census congressional apportionment would take away seats from some states while giving more to others. The study found that at least three seats would be redistributed in 2020 should undocumented folk be excluded. According to the study, California, New York, and Texas would all lose a seat while Ohio, Alabama, and Minnesota would each gain one. CIS, an organization with known white supremacist ties, is the go-to think tank for anti-immigrants, the Southern Poverty Law Center reported. Its reports are often cited by alt-right media and anti-immigrant politicians to exaggerate the criminality of immigrants. In this case, studies by CIS on the effects of Trump's directive on congressional apportionment are being used to support it. CIS believes that allowing immigrants to participate in the census gives undue seats to some states.

While noting the directive would likely not hold up in court, Steven Camarota, the research director for the center, said: "the president has done the country an important service by reminding us that tolerating large-scale illegal immigration creates a number of unavoidable consequences,

including diluting the political representation of American citizens in Congress and the Electoral College." The fact that an anti-immigrant hate group supports Trump's directive says enough. Hate groups like CIS want to see such memorandums in action to take away representation from immigrants.

Trump's plan to eliminate the participation of undocumented immigrants from the census count failed last year when the Supreme Court blocked him from adding a citizenship question to the census. The administration planned to use this question to not only collect information on undocumented immigrants but discourage them from participating in such an important count. In this attempt, the president seems to be desperately working to ensure reelection.

"This is his go-to play every time that he's feeling cornered or he's feeling like he's losing," Marielena Hincapié, the executive director of the National Immigration Law Center told The New York Times. "He uses immigrants and immigration to divide and distract, and at the same time he sends that chilling effect through all immigrant communities who have already been living in fear under his administration."

But despite Trump signing the directive on July 21, the Census Bureau's website still upholds the following statement in its question-and-answer section: "Yes, all people (citizens and noncitizens) with a usual residence in the 50 states are to be included in the census and thus in the apportionment counts."

According to Reuters, a judge overseeing the case to block the directive on behalf of New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, and others asked that a three-judge panel address the complaint on Friday. While the Trump administration has not yet commented on the issue, a response from Trump is due Aug. 17. While this pathetic attempt to garner electoral support is unlikely to succeed, it is another example of how low the Trump administration can fall in its efforts to eliminate the voices of undocumented immigrants.

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CAPI Panel Discussion: Solutions To Counter Police Violence Against Black Americans



By: Areena Chavda

The Coalition of Americans for Pluralism in India (C.A.P.I.) paid tribute to the Black Heroes Fallen as a result of Police Atrocities by holding a Panel Discussion regarding their sacrifices. C.A.P.I. Michigan sought to find solutions to counter the growing police violence against Black Americans. This is a resurfacing issue that has kept growing in the past few decades. A total of five speakers from different communities and racial backgrounds came forward to speak about the issue and to propose possible solutions. The five speakers were;

1. Imam Khalid Griggs. (Director, ICNA Council for Social Justice)
2. Imad Hamad. (Executive Director, American Human Rights Council (AHRC))
3. Mark Crain. (Executive Director, Dream of Detroit),
4. Bill Meyer. (Executive Director, OneHamtramck LLC)

Saima Khalil. (Attorney and candidate for the Macomb County Prosecutor)

Masood Rab started the event with a statement from the Islamic holy scripture of Quran,

"We created the human race from a single male

and a single female, and brought forth (from them) nations and tribes to get to know each other and live together. The sign of the successful ones among you in the sight of God Almighty is the piety in them which grows in their lifestyles thru adapting the Divine Dictates." (Chapter 49, Verse 13)

He also reminded of the saying of Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) "A white has no superiority over a black, nor a black has any superiority over a white – except by piety and good action."

Shujat Khan then proceeded with moderating the meeting.

Imam Khalid Griggs

In his statement, Mr. Griggs targeted the structural racism that runs this country. Among the points that he raised was that opportunities are denied to individuals because of their race, religion or gender every day. This structural racism has to be opposed if change is to be brought. Another common factor that was stressed was the need to be anti-racist. Imam Griggs went on to address Muslims, telling them that their teachings tell them to be anti-racist. Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) was known to be anti-racist, believing in equality for all. In order

to bring positive change, everyone needs to come together despite differences in culture, race, gender, and religion.

The policing system was discussed next. The American policing system has racism built into every aspect. There is no national database outlining the police who have killed others because of discrimination. Derek Chauvin, the police officer who killed George Floyd, had a history of discrimination yet no one questioned it. The policing system not only overlooks police who have a history of discrimination but it protects them. Police unions are powerful enough to prevent prosecution. This has to stop. The very people who are supposed to

protect civilians are the ones oppressing them. Police officers use excessive amounts of force simply because they can. Of course, not all police officers are racist or bad but when enough of them are, the public stops trusting them as a group. When police officers start to reflect their personal discriminatory feelings onto the public, that's when the problem starts. Mark Crain stressed the need to defund the police and refund the people. Anything that gives the police more money or resources is not a viable solution. Oppression should not be rewarded with more money. These funds can be redirected towards other pressing issues such as healthcare or education.

Another problem that was talked about is the fact that the public's voice is not being heard. Racism is embedded in the legal community. There is no oversight or advisory board that deals with problems and issues like the one that George Floyd and many members of the Black community face. Ms. Saima Khalil, candidate for County Prosecutor for Macomb County MI, stressed the need to hold the prosecutor's office accountable. The public pressure is needed to make the necessary changes. The public needs to be made aware of the law and loopholes they are living under. They need to be made

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Jewish People Who Have Recovered From COVID Have Donated Half of All the Plasma Used in US Treatments

By McKinley Corbley

Reposted from The Good News Network

Since Hasidic and Jewish Orthodox communities were some of the first to suffer the worst COVID-19 outbreaks, they are now turning their experiences into a nationwide movement that has already saved thousands of lives.

Out of all the COVID-19 treatments that are currently being researched in the US, convalescent plasma therapy has been shown to be particularly promising—especially for severe cases of the virus. The treatment involves drawing blood plasma out of an individual who has recovered from and built up an immunity to COVID-19, testing the blood for the related antibody, and then injecting it into a sick patient so that the antibody can attack the virus for its new host.

When Dr. Michael



Joyner first began spearheading the treatment's research at the Mayo Clinic back in mid-April, one of the biggest hurdles for its progress was obtaining blood plasma from people who had already recovered from the novel coronavirus.

Joyner knew that many Jewish communities in New York City had been hard-hit by the virus prior to the city's lockdown because of how its large

religious families tend to be more closely-knit—so he hosted a conference call with several of the city's most prominent rabbis and asked them for help.

Just 36 hours later, more than 1,000 vials of plasma from Jewish people who had recovered from the virus were delivered to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. The delivery was not just an astonishing feat of organized

community speed, it was also a medical success: more than 60% of the donations tested positive for antibodies proven to be effective in fighting COVID-19.

Since that initial donation, Jewish communities across the country have hosted plasma drives to help save at-risk COVID patients.

"There's no way we'd be able to treat so many people without them,"

Dr. Joyner told NBC News. "They were the straw that serves the drink in a lot of ways."

Additionally, their donations have been sent to research facilities around the world to help further the treatment's development for more widespread use.

To date, more than 36,000 American people have been treated with antibody-rich plasma transfusions—and more than half of those blood donations have come from Jewish people.

"Because we were ravaged by COVID so early on, we recognized that we had the opportunity to give back to the scientific community and to our fellow brothers who are suffering," Dr. Israel Zyskind, a Brooklyn pediatrician and Jewish practitioner, told NBC. "We don't just care about ourselves, we care about everyone, and we will do what we can."

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People of all Faiths Gather at Time Square condemning India's Hate and Bigotry

By: TMO staff Writer

People of all religions responded to the call of The "Coalition to Stop Genocide in India", a broad coalition of Indian Americans and US-based civil rights organizations and activists and organized a rally at Times Square on August 5, to protest the celebration of the destruction of the Babri Mosque in India. The main organizer of the festivities was the American Indian Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a front for several Hindu supremacist groups in the US.

Protesters held placards and chanted slogans to highlight massive human rights abuses by India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They reminded the supremacists that normalizing hate and bigotry is not part of civil society. Members of the ruling party demolished Babri Masjid in India in 1992, after a campaign of hatred, intolerance against the country's Muslim minority, and distortion of fact about the mosque's origins.

"Sadly, far-right extremists in both India and the United States have especially taken to demonizing and denigrating Muslims. I condemn any attack on an individual or group because of their faith and stand with my Muslim siblings here in my district and India as they fight for dignity and human rights," said New York City Councilmember Daniel Dromm, who joined the rally. "I also thank all the Hindus and others who have taken a stand against dog-whistle propaganda cloaked as cultural celebrations," added Mr. Dromm.

"Islamophobia has escalated to the level of ethnic cleansing in numerous countries, including India. From lynching to pogroms, to the cultural genocide exemplified by the establishment of a temple on the site of a demolished mosque, anti-Muslim bigotry is government policy in India," said Mr. Nihad



Awad National Executive Director of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR). "The Muslim world and the international community must unite in opposition to the far-right Modi government before its fascist, Nazi-inspired ideology causes further damage to religious minorities," Mr. Awad added.

Mr. Brad Lander, another New York City councilmember, said, "We all have a responsibility for speaking out against Islamophobia, whether it comes from our country, or even our community." Mr. Lander further added, "As a New Yorker, and as a progressive Jew, I stand with our Muslim neighbors, here in NYC and those in Kashmir and throughout India who are facing nationalist and Islamophobic hatred and violence."

"Political Hinduism is NOT a religious issue, it's a class issue, and final victory is possible by uniting the workers, peasants, and the socially oppressed sections. Today's protest in New York has brought various sections together to challenge the Hindutva project", said S. Karthikeyan of Ambedkar King Study Circle (AKSC).

Ms. Ania of Coalition against Fascism in India (CAFI) said. "Choosing August 5 to celebrate is a new act of aggression against the Kashmiris. We reject this cynical use of religion to entrench hate and kill India democracy."

The Coalition to Stop Genocide in India in-

cludes dozens of organizations, including Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), Coalition Against Fascism in India, Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR), Boston Coalition, Organization for Minorities in India (OFMI), South Asia Solidarity Initiative, Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA), Ambedkar King Study Circle (AKSC), Council for Minority Rights in India (CMRI), North American Indian Muslim Association (NAIMA), Ambedkar International Mission, Coalition of Seattle Indian Americans, Guru Ravidas Sabha, Periyar International USA, Ambedkar International Mission Society, Canada, Students Against Hindutva Ideology (SAHI) and International Society for Peace and Justice.

Earlier, the Coalition succeeded in persuading the officials to stop promoting the celebration at the main billboard at Times Square by the supremacists.

Jagdish Sewhani, President of the American India Public Affairs Committee, was confident that on August 5, thousands of Hindutva supporters would gather on Times Square to celebrate the construction of Ram Mandir at the site where the Babri Masjid, a 400-year-old Muslim place once stood.

He was certain Branded Cities, an advertising company he had contact-

ed, would put billboards on the giant NASDAQ screen and the 17,000 square-foot-wrap around LED display screen broadcasting the Ram Temple construction ceremony. With the help of other Hindutva organizations that owe loyalty to the fascist group RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad, he wanted to broadcast the event from 8 am to 10 am with the 3D portraits of the temple's design, Ram's paintings and pictures of Modi laying the foundation.

The RSS and VHP affiliates had also sent emails. They made lengthy phone calls to Modi supporters all over America to be present on Times Square to celebrate the destruction of the Babri Masjid some 28 years ago. Many had made reservations also. However, they were not aware that New York's prominent citizens and over 20 human rights organizations had written a letter to New York Mayor Bill de Blasio opposing the display of Ram Mandir ceremony in India. The letter said that the purpose of such a publicity was to dehumanize Muslim New Yorkers and celebrate human rights abuses against Muslims in India." The signatories further explained in the letter. "Our Coalition stands opposed to the far-right Hindutva nationalism of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government in India. We are writing to ask you how New York City, a city that claims to have inclusive and egalitarian

values, can allow such a brazen celebration of hatred and Islamophobia."

The signatories included Hindus for Human Rights and Coalition Against Fascism in India, among many others.

The letter also referred to the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 by Hindutva fascists. It called on the major to prevent the AIPAC from projecting Islamophobic billboards in Times Square. The signatories explained that the August 5, the celebration was a warning to India's religious minorities that unless they accept the RSS ideology, their places of worship would not be safe. Many New Yorkers felt that the slogan Jai Shri Ram on the billboard would bolden the Hindutva terrorists to lynch and kill members of the minority communities.

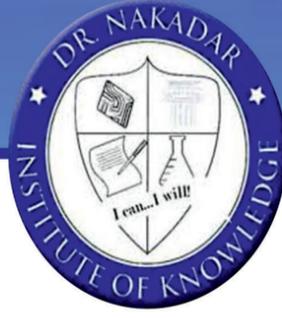
India's Supreme Court had declared the destruction of Babri Masjid illegal while handing it to Hindus.

The City heard its citizens' voices and refused to run a digital advertisement on the main screen for the Hindutva fascist group.

Reports from New York suggest that the Indian embassy officials were in contact with the RSS affiliated. Outfits in the USA and kept an eye on the Coalition activities.

Dr. Shaik Ubaid, the President of ImanNet, described it as a victory for pluralism, human rights, and the rule of law. He urged the US government to investigate the donations fascist groups in the US offer to RSS and other Hindu supremacist outfits in India.

The Coalition had also contacted the governor, senators, and members of the House of Representatives. Reports from Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Detroit, Dallas, and other cities also suggest that the Modi and RSS supporters held extensive celebrations in their temples to endorse the Masjid demolition.



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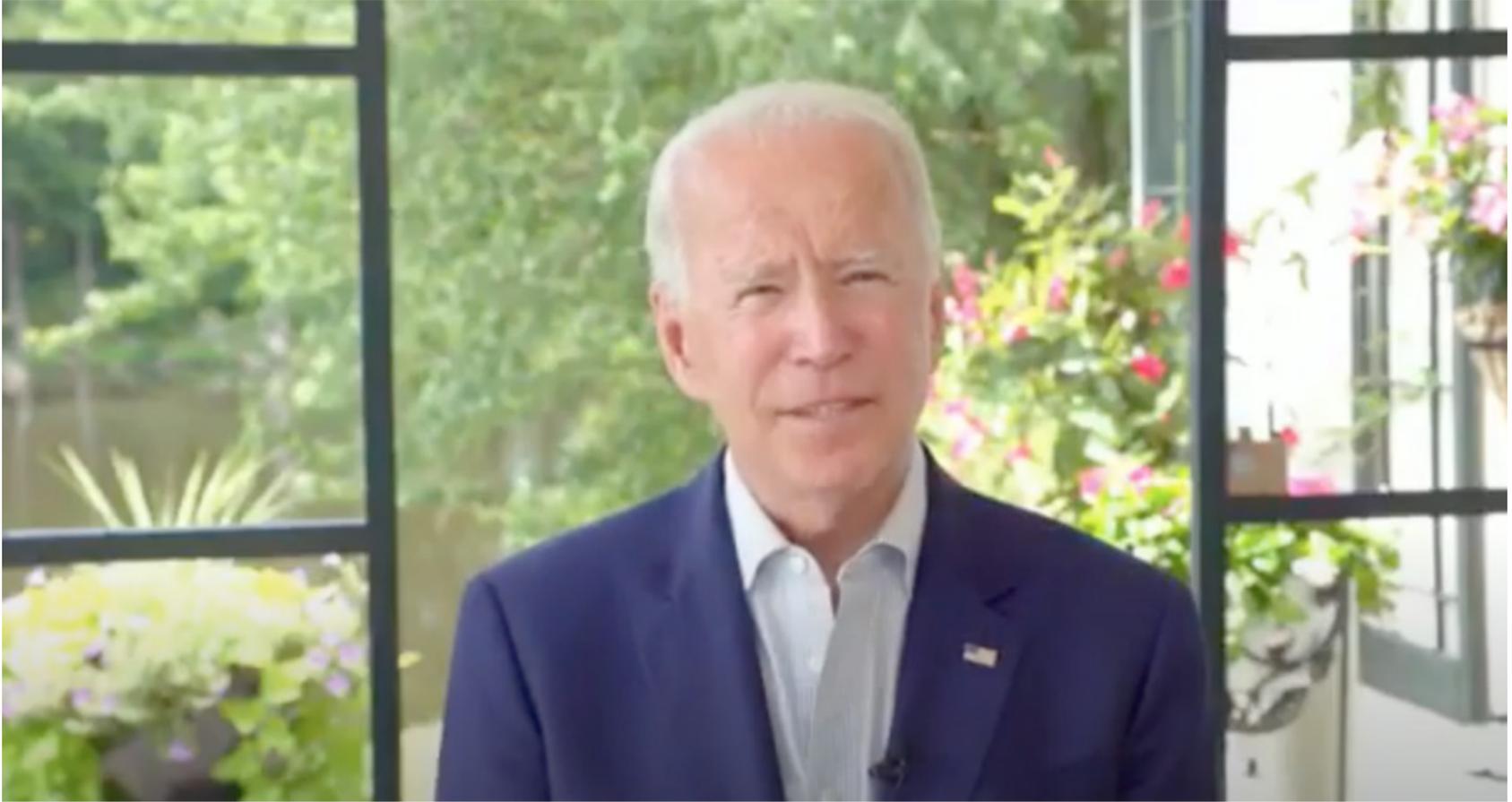
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Biden Pledges To Address Islamophobia And End 'Vile Muslim Ban' In Appearance At Muslim Voter Summit



By: TMO Staff

Presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden addressed the country's largest Muslim American PAC, Emgage Action, on Monday during the organization's annual Million Muslim Votes Summit. The summit aims to motivate Muslim Americans to increase voter turnout in November. Biden spoke to the group as the first Democratic candidate to directly appeal to a large Muslim audience, organizers for the event told NPR. At least 3,000 people RSVP'd for the live-streamed event, Emgage Action said. As *The Washington Post* notes, in the past candidates have been "cautious" in conducting direct outreach to the Muslim community. Both former President Barack Obama and 2016 Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton did not attend any Emgage Action events.

During the summit, Biden vowed to end the Trump administration's "vile Muslim ban" on his first day in office in addition to addressing issues of Islamophobia through hate crimes legislation like the Jabara-Heyer No Hate Act and the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act. "Donald Trump has fanned the flames of hate in this country across

the board through his words, his policies, his appointments, his deeds and he continues to fan those flames," Biden said. "Under this administration, we've seen an unconscionable rise in Islamophobia."

He added that the Trump administration has targeted both Black and brown communities and urged Muslim Americans to join Biden "in the fight to rip this poison from the government root and stem." Biden appealed to the Muslim American community by noting that he did not want to just earn votes because of Trump's lack of leadership, but because Biden wants to "work in partnership" with the community to uplift voices and "rebuild" the nation. "Muslim American voices matter to our communities, to our country," Biden said. "But we all know that your voice hasn't always gotten recognized or represented."

Prior to the summit, Emgage Action organized a letter for Muslim American elected officials to formally endorse their support for Biden. Among those who signed were Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, and Indiana Rep. Andre Carson. "Our number one goal is to

remove Donald Trump from office and to replace him with someone who can begin to heal our nation," the letter, obtained by the Associated Press, said. "A Biden administration will move the nation forward on many of the issues we care about," it continued, referring to issues of racial injustice and immigration, among others.

Following Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders' announcement of the end of his campaign, the organization announced its support for Biden in April. Muslim Americans widely supported Sanders for his consistent engagement with the community. Last year, Biden was criticized for his absence at the national Islamic Society of North America (ICNA) convention, which was attended by Sanders and then-Democratic presidential candidate Julian Castro.

Speaking on Islamophobia, Biden noted the importance of education, stating that he wished the Islamic faith was taught more often in schools. He did not mention terrorism or Islamic extremism as Trump has done in statements to Muslim communities. In an attempt to wish Muslim Americans a happy

Ramadan during his first year in office, Trump defaulted to talking about terrorism, highlighting his xenophobic mentality.

While in the past Biden has been criticized by Muslims for his lack of support and for hiring an outreach coordinator who openly supports Islamophobic leaders, during the summit he focused on positive contributions made by Muslim Americans and said he would prioritize humanitarian crises in Syria, Yemen, and Gaza—all Muslim majority areas. To show his commitment to the Muslim community, Biden even hired new staff to address the issue of staffer Amit Jani's known support for Narendra Modi, including hiring a Muslim American, Farooq Mitha, as senior advisor for Muslim engagement.

Mitha told the Associated Press that outreach to Muslim American voters is a priority for Biden and referred to his own appointment as an example. "A Biden presidency offers Muslims an opportunity to be engaged with government, rather than being shut out like many other groups that have been alienated and demonized by the Trump administration," he told the Associated Press. "Muslim communities

can have an outsized impact in many states and we are working every day to earn their support."

Emgage Action has a number of chapters across the country, including in swing states. Muslim elected officials and activists from across the country spoke on the importance of voting and representation of the Muslim community in the political sphere. "Emgage Action's Million Muslim Votes Summit was a great event attended by thousands of people across country, Vice President Biden's participation was historic and set a new tone for how Democrats engage with Muslim communities for years to come," Mitha said in an emailed statement to *Daily Kos*.

**If you want
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Hate, hurt and healing: Pharmacology professor questions if we are ready to let go of hate

By: Samina Salim

I turned off the front porch lights and opened the television as Darjeeling tea slowly brewed to perfection permeating the air with a calming scent. It is a typical weekday morning.

The news is grim, highlighting the heavy toll of American lives lost to COVID-19. The current stats are followed by the usual news of crime, violence and a whole lot of hate.

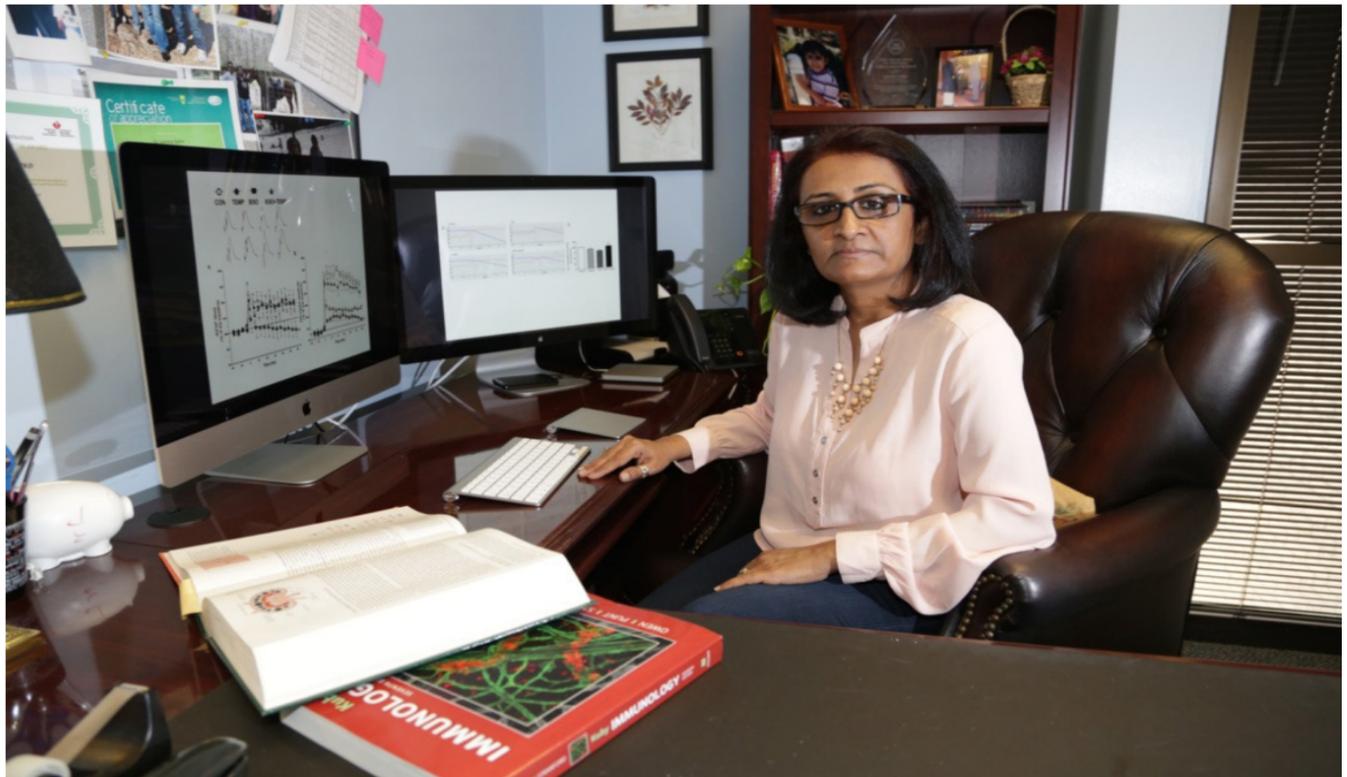
I switched off the television and instead looked out of the window to admire the elegance of the magnolia tree in the backyard.

Truly, hate is suffocating and nature is liberating.

I, like so many of us, dream of a hate-free world in which everyone is kind, considerate, honest and full of love. In reality everyone seems angry, hateful, insecure, hurt, upset and annoyed.

We are a society that has learned to hate the "other" so much, that we have almost normalized hate and discarded reconciliation.

Peace seems a scarce option and often considered a virtue of the weak. I believe that we have reached a point where the fatigue of hate is consuming us all. Clearly,



hate is not geographically defined.

Racism in America, drug violence in South America, Syrian refugee crisis in the Middle East, Rohingya desperation in Myanmar, lynching in India and Uyghur plight in China top the diary of present day hatred in addition to our daily dose of divisive and hateful American politics.

The baggage of hurt we have accumulated over the years is weighing heavy. Another George Floyd could easily push us to complete numbness or full crazy. We hear and see hate after hate and move on, unaware

that the subconscious stores the hurt, leaving a weary soul.

We don't talk about this for fear of being judged and be seen as vulnerable and controversial. So we continue to be oblivious to everything and the burden gets heavier and heavier, denting our psyche in ways that we often fail to notice.

Whether it is racism, communalism or fascism, it is fear and mistrust of the "other" that triggers the feelings of superiority, eventuating into hatred as a habit. Habits are hard to break.

It is comforting that

efforts are being made to address hate and stop discrimination. Agreeably, this is no easy fix. Recognition of injustice and suffering, cultivation of love and trust takes time. Token initiatives won't do it. Workshops and webinars are insufficient.

If we truly intend on addressing hate, the first step is to explore our own emotions, share our vulnerabilities and make sincere attempts to engage. Opening up to friends and neighbors will serve as an important precursor to meaningful conversations.

Healing requires an

accepting environment where one could address hurt, both personal and societal. Are we ready to build that environment?

Can we acknowledge and respect each other's differences? Can we listen with compassion and curiosity? Can we honor and appreciate each other's opinion without branding anyone?

If yes, healing is accessible and peace is reachable.

This article was first published on The Daily Cougar and republished here with permission from the author.

Op Ed: Pro-Israeli Lobbyists target Ilhan and Rashida

by TMO Staff

When anyone suggests that Pro-Israeli Americans are trying to influence US elections, the label of antisemitism becomes a badge of shame for him or her. If that individual happens to a congressperson, the pro-Israeli groups gang up against him or her. They use all means to defeat the congressmen. It is a visible pattern in the US. The pro-Israeli Americans do not let voices critical to the apartheid state of Israel echo the chambers of power. They use all tactics to bring down the individual.

Now, they are playing the same game with

Ilhan Omar, the Minnesota congressperson running for reelection. The pro-Israeli groups are investing heavily in her opponent in the Democratic primary that would take place on August 11.

Four Democrats, Les Lester, John Mason, Daniel Partic Mccarthy, and Antone Melton-Meaux, are contesting Ilhan Omar. The Pro-Israeli groups and individuals have put their money on Melton-Meaux and invested \$2 million on him. Ilhan is not the only one. The lobby has targetted many progressive members of Congress spending millions of dollars on their campaigns. For instance, the Democratic Majority

For Israel, a PAC with ties to AIPAC, spent millions to defeat Jamaal Bowman in a New York Primary

A Pro-Israeli PAC donated \$350,000 to Melton-Meaux. Two former AIPAC staffers are organizers of that PAC. Another Pro-Israeli PAC Norpac gave \$150,000 to Ilhan's opponents. Stars and Stripes Forever and Americans for Tomorrow's Future, big donors to Trump spent \$700,000 character assassinating Ilhan and proving her anti-Semitic.

The AIPAC connections are especially notable because the group claims that it doesn't spend on specific races, but it ap-

pears to get around that by having its leadership set up super PACs.

Former Texas Democratic Rep. Gene Green, who ran the House Democratic Israel Working Group, spent \$663,000 worth of ads critical of Ilhan and other progressive leaders. The group works closely with AIPAC.

Interestingly, the Pro-Israeli group did not target Rep. Betty McCollum, a white woman representing the district next to Omar's, who declared Israel an apartheid state. The Pro-Israeli groups are focusing on people of color and progressives.

Despite massive investment on candidates recruited to toe the

apartheid state's line, Ilhan still maintains over 35 percent lead over her pro_israeli rival. Seventy-four percent of her District voters approve her work while only 17 percent are dissatisfied. Several Pro-Israel super PACs and wealthy Trump supporters have backed City Council President Brenda Jones' campaign against Rep. Rashida Tlaib.

A survey of 500 voters by Michigan pollster Ed Sarpoly of Target-Insyght found Rashida Tlaib leading her rival by 28 points with a margin of error of 4.5 percent.

Iranian Response to Attacks on its Nuclear Program



The Navigator

CENTER for
GLOBAL POLICY

Iranian Response to Attacks
on its Nuclear Program

Issue No. 155

By: Scott Stewart

In the wake of several recent incidents that appear to have targeted Iranian missile and nuclear production facilities, the Iranian government likely will feel pressured to retaliate using terrorism. However, Tehran's own terrorism capabilities are extremely limited, and current constraints on its proxies are likely to make them reluctant to conduct major attacks on Iran's behalf.

A number of mysterious incidents have occurred in Iran over the past several weeks, among which were the June 25 explosion at a ballistic missile production facility in Khojir and the July 2 explosion in a factory at Iran's main nuclear production facility in Natanz that was reportedly producing a new generation of centrifuges. Due to the opaque nature of Iran, it is difficult to get a clear idea of exactly what is happening and whether these fires and explosions are linked. We don't know for certain if these incidents are attacks or merely industrial accidents that outside forces are trying to claim as attacks to cause internal problems for Iran.

No matter the causes of these incidents, from the Iranian perspective there have simply been too many to treat them as accidents, and therefore it is only reasonable to assume that Tehran will respond as if they were attacks. Based on capability and past Iranian behavior, it is safe to assume the Islamic Republic will retaliate using

terrorism. In response to these threats, Israeli and U.S. intelligence collection will redouble their monitoring of Iranian government and proxy group operations in an attempt to determine what approach Iran will take and thwart any attacks.

A shadowy, previously unknown group calling itself the "Cheetahs of the Homeland" claimed credit for the Natanz explosion in a series of videos and messages posted to social media. Some of these messages were sent to the BBC Persian monitoring service before the Natanz incident hit the news wires, raising the possibility that the authors of these messages had some advanced knowledge of the incident. However, many Iran watchers are skeptical that the Cheetahs of the Homeland is a real organization, raising suspicion that the claims were an attempt to obfuscate the actor behind them. Nevertheless, the claims have served to reinforce the belief by some inside Iran that the Natanz incident was intentional.

This theory is supported by a history of attacks on Iran's nuclear program. Natanz itself was the target of the 2010 Stuxnet cyberattack, and between 2007 and 2012, five Iranian nuclear scientists were assassinated in a campaign that journalists Yossi Melman and Dan Raviv claim in their book "Spies Against Armageddon: Inside Israel's Secret Wars" was conducted by Israeli Mos-

sad. Given this history, then, it is not surprising that many suspect an Israeli hand in the incidents that appear to be targeting Iran's nuclear program.

Iranian authorities have threatened to retaliate if they determine the incidents were sabotage attacks. Indeed, given the pressure on the Iranian government from internal hawks in light of recent events such as the Jan. 3, 2020, U.S. airstrike that killed Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) commander Qassem Soleimani, it may feel the need to retaliate for internal political purposes even if it learns these were in fact accidents.

Possible Responses

The pressure on the Iranian government for a response makes it important to examine the tools it has should it decide to retaliate. The first option it has is conventional military forces, as seen when Iran retaliated against the Soleimani killing by launching a volley of ballistic missiles at a section of the Ain al-Asad airbase in western Iraq where U.S. personnel were stationed. Such forces also were used in September 2019 when, in response to sanctions against Iran's oil industry, the IRGC attacked Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq and Khurais oil processing facilities with cruise missiles and drones.

If the Iranians believe the United States was responsible for the recent incidents, additional attacks against U.S.

military personnel and installations in Iraq, the Persian Gulf, or the Strait of Hormuz are possible. However, if Tehran blames Israel, it will be much more difficult to use conventional military force against Israeli targets due to geographic constraints. While Iran does have ballistic missiles that are capable of reaching Israel from Iran, it is difficult to imagine the Iranians using them in an attack against Israel — a ballistic missile attack against a nuclear armed country is very dangerous.

There is also a possibility of using IRGC personnel stationed in Syria to conduct an attack targeting Israel using shorter-range missile systems and drones, but Israel has been conducting a persistent campaign of airstrikes against IRGC personnel and weapons systems in Syria for the past several years, and with Israeli attention attuned so carefully to IRGC activity in Syria, it would be difficult to conduct a substantial attack using such systems without preparations being detected and pre-empted by Israeli airstrikes. The same set of circumstances applies to Iranian forces in Iraq; since July 2019, Israel has conducted a number of airstrikes against IRGC and Iranian-backed Popular Mobilization Unit bases in Iraq, purportedly striking missile systems and arms depots.

Another possible avenue for Iranian retaliation is via cyberattacks. In

response to the Stuxnet attack, Iranian advanced persistent threat groups became very active, beginning with the 2012 Shamoon attacks. Since that time these groups have been, well, persistent: They have not stopped attacking targets in the United States, Israel, and the Gulf and therefore don't need a proximate cause to launch further attacks. In May, Israel's National Cyber Directorate announced it had prevented a major Iranian cyberattack against Israel's water system. A few days later, a disruptive cyberattack was launched against Shahid Rajaae, Iran's largest port. While the attack was somewhat restrained, it appears to have been a message sent by Israel to Iran not to attempt to conduct similar attacks going forward.

While Iran is a rising cyber power, it remains outclassed by Israel and the United States. It is harder to defend against cyberattacks than it is to conduct them, meaning that Iran is vulnerable to retaliation should it attempt to significantly escalate cyberattacks against Israel. However, I do expect them to continue their longstanding campaign of lower-stakes cyberattacks against Israel and other rivals.

It is also possible that Iran will attempt to use its array of militant proxy groups to increase the tempo and scale of insurgent attacks against military targets as a

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CONTINUED STORY

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CAPI

aware of what each policy does. Awareness with public pressure can bring the much-needed change to bring the prosecutors on the people's side.

The crime against George Floyd affirms racism as a universal challenge. Imad Hamad calls this our "unfortunate reality." This problem is something that will follow humanity to the end but that does not mean that we surrender to it or accept it. We might not be able to abolish it but we can make our society a thousand times better than what it is now. Even though this racism is deep-rooted into America, it can still be fixed. One thing is clear: enough is enough. We have crossed the point of no return. In order to bring change, we – as people- have to stick together.

Bill Meyer stressed the need for dialog and partnership is constantly. We need to stop sugarcoating the issue. Change is overdue and we need to move

forward united against all those who oppress minorities in any country of the world. Whether it be police oppressing blacks in the US, or the RSS oppressing Muslims in Kashmir and India, we need to fight for human rights as a whole. Br. Sujat pointed out during the discussion that RSS's reach in America, known as HSS, needs to be banned to bring justice to minorities around the world. These unalienable rights are being stripped away from minorities in all corners of our world.

Each of the speakers was asked a question. These questions sought answers that might lead towards what the next step to change would be.

Imam Griggs was asked whether nonviolence results in change; This ideology has not dismantled white supremacy until now. Both Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. both used non-violence to speak up both near both of their lives, it was violence that brought change. We need to regard non-violence as

a tactic not a philosophy of life, Imam Griggs stated. The phrase no justice no peace starts to take on a deeper meaning after learning about the lives of our activists in the past.

Imad Hamad was asked how we, as a community, can go after organizations that are known to oppress minorities;

"We cannot be selective or optional with human rights," he replied. We need to acknowledge that everyone has God given rights that are not man made. These rights cannot be stripped from anyone and we cannot allow them to be stripped off of anyone. Aggression against minorities needs to be condemned. The double standards set by those in power need to be abolished. We need to band together as people and dismantle the system that allows others to have their unalienable rights taken away. We need to stop discriminating against others of different cultures and focus on what is important.

Mark Crain was asked

whether implementing social behavior testing for police departments would reduce the number of discriminatory officers in the field; He stressed one thing and one thing only: any policy that gives the police more resources and money cannot be a viable solution. The reward for oppression should not be larger budgets. These budgets can easily be reallocated and can result in having a more militarized police force. Defunding the police and refunding the people was Mr. Crain's solution for police violence. Funding pillars of society such as education and healthcare is more effective than militarizing the police. Bill Meyer was asked if teaching about race and religion in school curriculums was an effective way to combat racist; Starting conversation and educating others about racism from a young age prevents racism in the future. Educating little kids about these issues can teach them that the color of someone's skin does not

make someone inferior or superior.

The meeting ended with Imam Khalid praying for positive change and justice. One thing that stood out throughout the meeting was the fact that speaking up brings change. All the protesters who are risking their lives by speaking up are the ones pushing for change. Their united voice stands strong and unwavering. Public pressure is essential if justice is to be brought. If America's discriminatory system is to change for the better, the people have to fight for it. The people have to stand as one and uphold America's true ideals.

Watch the full discussion:

<https://youtu.be/s0im-q3u7sNQ>

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DTE

COMMUNITY COMES FIRST

Community is what holds us together, and makes us stronger. So DTE is supporting our neighbors.

Donating 2 million masks to emergency personnel, and 600,000 to small businesses as they reopen. Providing essential meals and shelter to more than half a million families. And leading a coalition to provide tablets and internet access to 51,000 school children so they can continue to learn at home.

Community matters. And to DTE, all of Michigan is our community.

Taking direct aim at Trump's xenophobia, House Democrats pass NO BAN Act

By: Aysha Qamar

For the past four years, advocates nationwide have been fighting the Trump administration's xenophobic policies, including the Muslim Ban. In a historic moment that brought the nation one step closer to passing a civil rights law repealing such existing bans, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act) on Wednesday. The NO BAN Act serves as the first potential piece of legislation to address Muslim civil rights. With its passage in the House, the bill now lies in the hands of the U.S. Senate to pass into law.

In addition to repealing bans against Muslim-majority countries, African countries, refugees, and asylum seekers, the bill will prohibit religious discrimination in immigration policies and impose limitations on how the administration is able to restrict immigrant entry, including requiring "a compelling government interest" for restrictions to be made. Under the current version, the NO BAN Act will also "amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion and ensure that no president will ever again be able to ban an entire community without accountability," according to civil rights organization Muslim Advocates.



"As the No Ban Act moves to the Senate, we encourage our communities to get involved and learn more about root causes, the history of the ban, and draw connections that build inter-community and intra-community solidarity. The only way we will produce transformative and lasting change is if we divest from playing into the hierarchies of the good citizen, immigrant, and Muslim that have often been at the expense of our own communities. Most importantly, we recommend that our communities hold on to visions of freedom and collective liberation to share what would humane and just immigration, refugee, and asylum policies, laws, and systems look like," the Justice for Muslims Collective, a Muslim based advocacy organization said in a statement.

The NO BAN Act was introduced in April 2019 by Sen. Chris Coons

of Delaware and Rep. Judy Chu of California; in February the House Judiciary Committee voted 22-10 in support of the NO BAN Act during the chamber's first-ever hearing on Muslim civil rights. The House vote was previously scheduled for March but delayed due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Organizations throughout the country came together to advocate against Donald Trump's discriminatory bans that not only separated families but increased violence against minorities nationwide. Daily Kos joined a coalition of nine different organizations to deliver more than 150,000 signatures to the office of Rep. Judy Chu calling for the House to pass the bill.

Stories of individuals affected by the ban were shared during the bill's hearing. Civil rights organizations applauded the House's decision to pass the NO BAN Act and called on the Sen-

ate to do the same. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization issued a statement on its website in which it thanked the House for its support toward Muslim Americans and urged the Senate to uphold the Constitution over bigotry.

"The only thing now standing in the way of Congress adopting the NO BAN Act is the willingness of U.S. Senate Republican leadership to show some moral backbone and fight back against Trump's discriminatory, hateful, and un-American Muslim and African bans," CAIR National Government Affairs Director Robert McCaw said. "If Republicans do not support the NO BAN Act, they can count on history remembering them for standing with a bigoted policy instead of the Constitution.

The bill saw a number of revisions as members

of Congress and activists joined to ensure no president would follow in Trump's footsteps and enforce xenophobic policies that bar individuals from entering the country based on their identity. While it passed in the House, many fear the bill may not pass the Senate due to strong opposition from Republicans and the White House, leaving it up for debate as the 2020 presidential elections draw near.

"It's a very clear signal about what the House Democratic Caucus stands for," Tom Jawetz, vice president of immigration policy at the Center for American Progress think tank said, as reported by Vox. "An incoming Biden administration can and should eliminate these bans by the stroke of a pen on day one. But that act itself will not stop a future administration from trying to shape an immigration system in his or her own anti-immigrant, racist image. This bill imposes important procedural and substantive constraints on that authority."

On Monday, presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden pledged to end the Trump administration's "vile Muslim ban" on his first day in office in addition to addressing issues of Islamophobia through hate crimes legislation like the Jabara-Heyer No Hate Act and the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act. "Muslim

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The world apparel Industry profits from forced Uyghur Muslim Labor

by TMO Staff

The entire apparel industry is minting money of products manufactured by Forced Uyghur Muslim Labor in China, say more than 200 human rights and labor groups worldwide. The Coalition to end Forced Labor in the Uyghur region says that 80 percent of the cotton used in apparel and other fabrics in China came from the Xinjiang region where

Uyghur Muslims work as unpaid slaves.

The group is demanding that every company with ties to China "exit the Uyghur Region at every level of their supply chain, from cotton to finished products, to prevent the use of forced labor of Uyghurs and other groups in other facilities, and to end relationships with suppliers supporting the forced labor system." They are

demanding companies to reach this goal in 12 months.

Exiting the Uyghur slave trade means not just ending operations in Xinjiang, but cutting ties to any Chinese company or facility that itself has ties to Xinjiang, even if the facilities the companies use are not there. It adds that companies have "no credible explanation" for how they can do business in China

without profiting from slavery.

"Global brands need to ask themselves how comfortable they are contributing to a genocidal policy against the Uyghur people," Omer Kanat, the executive director of the Uyghur Human Rights Project, said in a press statement.

China runs over 1,000 concentration camps in Xinjiang, the home to

most of the country's Muslim population. The Chinese government calls these camps, the vocational, and cultural training centers. It indoctrinates prisoners and forces them to renounce Islam and the Uyghur language. The government officials torture, rape, force sterilization, abortion, and other atrocities against the coun-

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Bride in viral video moments before Beirut blast in Lebanon attended to victims in wedding dress

By: TMO Staff

In what started off as a day of celebration, a viral video depicts a bride in Lebanon posing for a wedding shoot moments before a massive explosion in Beirut killed at least 135 and injured thousands. Seconds into the video, a loud blast can be heard during which the wedding photographer, identified as Mahmoud Nakib, turns to show the increasing damage, smoke-filled air, and people running for safety. But instead of thinking of herself, the viral video's bride Dr. Israa al Seblani acted on her healthcare professional instincts and attended victims of the blast, despite the attire she was in.

Seblani, a doctor from Michigan, arrived in Lebanon three weeks ago to get married. Prior to fleeing central Beirut's Saifi square, the young doctor helped to check injured individuals nearby while still in her white floor-length wedding gown. A day after the explosion both Seblani and Ahmad Subeih, her husband, spoke to Reuters on their difficulty in processing what had happened. Thankful to be alive, the couple shared their experience and remaining shock.



"I have been preparing for my big day for two weeks and I was so happy like all other girls, 'I am getting married'. My parents are going to be happy seeing me in a white dress, I will be looking like a princess," she told Reuters. "What happened during the explosion here—there is no word to explain ... I was shocked, I was wondering what happened, am I going to die? How am I going to die?"

According to officials, at least 135 were killed and with more than 5,000 wounded, the death toll is expected to rise. The explosion was the worst of its kind to strike Lebanon, a country with a history of destruction, including a civil war

lasting from 1975 to 1990 and ongoing conflicts with Israel, ABC News reported. Officials believe the blast was caused by more than 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate, a compound that had been stored for at least six years at the port. Investigations on how the blast occurred are ongoing. In an interview with Jordan's state-owned channel Al Mamlaka, Beirut's governor Marwan Aboud said that "half of Beirut's population have homes that are unlivable for the foreseeable future—for the next two weeks."

Recalling the incident to Reuters, Subeih shared that he had "never heard anything similar to the sound of this explo-

sion," and still remains in shock. "I feel so sad about what happened to other people, about what happened to Lebanon," Seblani added. "When I woke up and saw the damage that happened to Beirut, the one thing I said was thank God we are still alive."

In an interview with WXYZ Detroit, Seblani shared that she has been delaying her wedding for the last three years due to her husband's immigration status. Subeih still awaits U.S. approval on his documents and as a result, Seblani must plan to return to the U.S. without him. While she loves Lebanon, following the blast, Seblani expressed that living there is not an option. In a

video shared on Twitter, Seblani expressed her fear and teared up as she pleaded for the U.S. government to approve her husband's paperwork so he could join her in the U.S.

But despite the circumstances, the newlywed bride is trying to be positive. "There is a lot of damage, many people were killed and wounded. But also if I want to look at us, myself, my husband, the photographer—how we escaped unharmed, I thank God for protecting us," she said to Reuters. "This alone makes me feel optimistic and to keep the joy of the occasion that I came here to celebrate."

Cont. from page 1. Trump Appointing

appointed as Religious Freedom Adviser at the U.S. Agency for International Development, and Brig. General Anthony Tata (Ret.), nominated to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, have both published offensive, anti-Muslim tirades on social media.

In now-deleted posts, Mr. Lloyd said Islam was "violent in its doctrine and practice," and called the religion "a barbaric cult." In another post, he said people should be forced to eat bacon before buying a gun. He has a long track record of attacking Muslims. In commenting on the Mall of America having so many Muslims visiting, heremarked, "if you are not a Muslim... it's dangerous for you."

Even the Anti-Defamation League has come out criticizing the appointment of Mr Lloyd to the USAID.

Mr. Tata was initially nominated to the top policy position in the Pentagon to oversee national security and defense policies. He received opposition from even fellow Republicans such as the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Jim Inhofe. The reason for the opposition were his extreme views on many subjects, He posted on social media that "Islam was the most oppressive violent religion I know of," and wrote that President Barack Obama was a "terrorist leader" and "did more harm to US vital interests and help Islamic countries than

any president in history."

Other controversial figures Trump has appointed include Gen Michael Flynn as National Security Advisor who referred to Islam as a cancer. Ultimately he was forced to resign for lying to the FBI and other improprieties Other key personnel involved in the Trump white house included top advisors Steve Bannon and Michael Bolton, both of whom espouse the belief that the Islamic world is engaged in a jihad against the Judeo-Christian world. Bannon was the architect of the first Muslim Ban implemented by Trump. Although these key personnel are no longer with the white house, their impact is long lasting.

Trump's political appoin-

tees give main figures behind the Islamophobia industry regular access to the white house to give briefings and develop public policy. Brigitte Gabriel, head of ACT For America, one of the largest anti-Muslim group in America with a multimillion dollar budget, bragged about having a "direct line to Donald Trump," and has given multiple high level briefings according to her organizations website. Richard Spencer, another prominent Islamaphobe, had his offensive material used for FBI briefings until outrage from civil liberty groups forced a retraction. Numerous examples of extremist right wing groups and individuals guiding the policy of the Trump white house.

The Biden campaign has

released a statement about these appointments. The Biden Campaign stated, "In Washington, 'personnel is policy.'" President Trump continually chooses individuals for key roles who espouse beliefs contrary to most deeply held American values. Islam is a faith of peace, and Muslims are a vital part of American history and society. Islamophobia is a pernicious disease. It does not belong in the halls of government. As President, I will appoint individuals who represent the values of our nation and respect all racial, ethnic and religious communities." Biden has appointed a senior advisor, Farooq Mitha, to serve as a liaison to the American Muslim community.

Cont. from page 1.
EID with COVID-19
the kingdom for Hajj and even more, approximately 7 million, visit during the time of umrah. Amidst fear of spreading the novel coronavirus, Saudi Arabia temporarily closed its doors to foreign pilgrims in March. In June, it announced that it would allow up to 1,000 individuals, all from within the kingdom, to attend Hajj. The news devastated millions who planned trips and possibly spent years saving for the religious pilgrimage.

According to the Saudi Health Ministry, there have been no cases of COVID-19 among this year's pilgrims. Those attending Hajj were not only tested for the virus but had their movement monitored using electronic wristbands and were required to quarantine both before and after Hajj.

But Hajj isn't the only thing that has changed amid the pandemic: Globally, Muslims observed Eid al-Adha differently as well.

Many mosques across the world remain closed to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. Where the weather permitted, a majority of Muslim American communities

held Eid prayers outside in open spaces, including local parks and parking lots. For those mosques that remained open for the obligatory morning Eid al-Adha prayer, social distancing limits were in place for how many could attend and how close they could be. In my mosque specifically, three prayers were held at different times in order to observe social distancing and allow for a capped number of individuals in each session.

Attendees had to pre-register at least a week in advance. Prior to entering the mosque, temperatures were checked and individuals were handed plastic bags to place their belongings in, with additional paper sheets (the kind often found in the doctor's office) to place on the ground for praying purposes. We were not allowed to bring our own prayer mats or rugs. Those who did not register were unable to enter the building and prayed outside despite the rain. Like Eid al-Fitr, in which no prayers took place in person, prayers were recorded live and streamed for those at home to watch and participate in.

While I was lucky enough to attend a socially distanced prayer and

experience that aspect of Eid al-Adha, other parts of the holiday remained unfulfilled. Having no family in the U.S., my local Muslim community has become my adopted family. On days like Eid al-Adha, we all gather together, house-hopping from one home to another, enjoying meals with each other. We wear what we consider to be our best clothes and spend time with the community, being thankful for both one another and the ability to give back to those in need.

This Eid al-Adha, while I dressed up and spent time with my parents and siblings, I was unable to see anyone or wish them an Eid Mubarak in person. Like Eid al-Fitr, this Eid I relied on technology to well-wish and celebrate with friends, another privilege many people may not have. Similarly, Muslims across the globe took to Zoom to celebrate with the family members and friends they were unable to see. Many shared their photos on Twitter under #ZoomEid

Each Eid is a social event where Muslims come together and celebrate despite any differences. It's marked by unity and the presence of community, but between the in-

ability to see one another and many unable to even go home to celebrate with family both domestically and abroad, this year has been different. Not only has the novel coronavirus made celebrations and social gatherings difficult, but it has "pushed millions of people around the world closer to the brink of poverty," the Associated Press reported. The price of livestock and meat has significantly increased in various countries around the world, making it difficult for many to afford them and practice the Eid al-Adha traditions they'd normally observe.

During Eid al-Adha, Muslims who are able to do so purchase livestock and, upon sacrifice, distribute the meat into three portions, including one for their family, one for their community, and one for those in need. Most Muslim Americans sponsor these sacrifices to occur in countries abroad, with the meat distributed to poor communities there. Amid hardships resulting from the pandemic, many Muslims were unable to complete this practice. "I could hardly buy food for my family," Abdishakur Dahir, a civil servant in Somalia, told the AP. "We are just surviving

for now. Life is getting tougher by the day." Dahir shared that this Eid al-Adha was the first time he was unable to afford a goat.

It's times like these that the small blessings we have come to mind. While Eid was not the same this year for me as it always has been, I am thankful to have had the ability to purchase food for those in need in addition to having a fully stocked fridge and family members to celebrate with. Alongside losing the ability to purchase meals, people across the world have lost family members and friends amid this pandemic. While we may not be able to celebrate the way we used to, it is important to remember the blessing we have, the severity of this virus, and how many people have been affected by it.

Wishing you all an Eid Mubarak—a blessed day, from my family to yours.

Want to see how Muslim Americans dressed up and celebrated Eid al-Adha? Check out #COVEid on Twitter! If you have any photos you'd like to share, please feel free to do so below!

First published on Daily Kos.

Cont. from page 1.
Rohingyas genocide
stead of Rohingyas. Since 2015, when the Myanmar government launched operation to clean up, thousands have died, and many more have become refugees in neighboring countries. Myanmar's presidential spokesman admitted in 2017 that 176 ethnic Rohingya villages—out of the original 471. The Yale Law School

conducted a study of the persecuted Rohingyas and concluded that the Myanmar government was waging genocide against them. A further investigation by the International State Crime Initiative of the University of London confirmed that.

In its report issued in August 2018, the United Nations held the Myanmar military responsible for the genocide. They

recommended that the military commanding officers face the International Criminal Court.

A year later, The Gambia's President lodged an official application with the ICJ against Myanmar. It documented mass murder, rapes, and destruction of Rohingyas in Rakhine state since 2016.

It explained that these acts violate the Genocide Convention. The ICJ

held a public hearing on 10-12 December 2019. The Gambia's team provided "brutal descriptions" of atrocities, while the Myanmar government avoided using the word "Rohingya."

The ICJ issued a provisional order in December ordering Myanmar to prevent genocidal acts against the Rohingya Muslims during the pendency of the case, and to report regularly on its

implementation.

Myanmar has until January 25, 2021, for its responsive Counter-Memorial. The Gambia submitted its memorial on July 23.

The Court's order "obviously a win for The Gambia, and the Rohingya cause. But it is not enough to help Rohingyas to return to their country and reclaim their citizenship.

Cont. from page 2.
COVID 19 Forces Muslims

safety and the potential to spread a deadly virus. This has also been the

case with Muslim minorities who are doing their best to abide by restrictions placed by their local authorities by continuing restric-

tions on congregational prayers and avoiding mass gatherings.

People attending eid prayer will have to wear masks and bring their

own prayer mats all while maintaining at least a 2 meters distance in accordance with guidance from public health authorities. Neverthe-

less, people have found creative ways such as live streaming and socially distanced outdoor gatherings.

Cont. from page 12.
Uyghur Muslim Labor

try's helpless natives. The concentration camps also work as factories where the prisoners work as unpaid labor. Two months ago, the

Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), a think tank, identified 83 global companies profiting from Uyghur slave labor. They include Nike, BMW, Apple, Sony, Google, Lacoste, Adidas, and Nintendo.

Following the publication of the report, Adidas exited Xingang. It issued a statement saying, "The Adidas workplace standards strictly prohibit all forms of forced and prison labor and apply to all companies across

our supply chain. Adidas has never sourced goods from Xinjiang. Moreover, after the allegations were made in spring 2019, we immediately and explicitly instructed our suppliers not to source any yarn from the

Xinjiang region." In the third week of July Gap, Patagonia, and Inditex—which owns the company, Zara issued a statement saying that they would not source goods from Xinjiang.

**Cont. from page 10.
Iranian Response**

means of retaliation. These groups include Hezbollah, the Popular Mobilization Units in Iraq, the al-Houthi fighters in Yemen, proxy groups in Afghanistan, and Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza. U.S. troops on the ground in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, in the Persian Gulf, and elsewhere in the region would be vulnerable in more places for such attacks than Israeli forces or interests.

Israel would be most vulnerable to insurgent attacks by Iranian proxies such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria or Gaza-based Palestinian groups such as Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. But with Lebanon in the middle of a crisis due to social, economic and political unrest — not to mention the COVID-19 pandemic — and having suffered significant casualties while supporting the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Hezbollah is not likely to have the appetite to provoke Israel into another full-on border war. Hezbollah does want to please its Iranian patrons, but the group has its own agency: It may choose to act on Iran's orders, but only after first considering its own calculated interests and constraints. For a host of internal and external considerations, the timing doesn't seem to be ideal for a war with Israel.

There is no doubt that the Iranians will continue to fund and arm Palestinian proxies such as Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. However, their ability to smuggle arms into the Gaza strip has been ham-

pered in recent years, especially larger weapons systems such as long-range artillery rockets. Furthermore, even more so than Hezbollah, these Sunni Muslim Palestinian proxies appreciate Iran's largesse but will factor in their own calculations ahead of Iran's wishes when deciding whether to conduct an attack. Because of this, the Palestinian groups will remain a persistent thorn in Israel's side but are unlikely to conduct the type of attack the Iranians would desire as vengeance for the incidents in Iran.

Iranian Terrorism Capabilities

This brings us to the final tool in Iran's retaliatory arsenal: terrorism. Iran's clerical regime has used terrorism for decades to pursue an asymmetric warfare strategy against stronger adversaries, and it has conducted attacks using both government operatives and terrorist proxies. Based on this history, it is quite likely that Iran will use terrorism — such as bombings and armed assaults against noncombatants outside of conflict zones — to retaliate against whoever it believes is the author of the attacks against its nuclear program.

In terms of an indigenous terrorism capability, that role has been assumed in recent decades by members of the IRGC's Quds Force. However, while Quds Force has experienced a great deal of success in paramilitary operations on battlefields close to its core territory in places such as in Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon, it has clearly struggled to project its terrorist capability over distance and in more hostile operation-

al environments. In the wake of the assassination campaign against Iranian nuclear scientists, we saw the IRGC attempt to conduct attacks in several places to include Tbilisi, Bangkok, New Delhi, Istanbul, Baku and Nicosia. Those attacks were either thwarted, aborted, or botched and did not result in any Israeli deaths.

The reason for this lack of success is that conducting terrorist operations in a hostile capital city requires a different skill set than training and leading paramilitary forces to conduct guerrilla warfare. The tradecraft skills required to clandestinely conduct terrorist operations are more akin to the skills required of an intelligence officer than those of a commando. A terrorist operative must be skilled in things such as clandestine travel, covert communications, and conducting the attack cycle, especially during steps where the operative is most vulnerable to detection such as weapons acquisition and surveillance, while practicing exceptional operational security to prevent being detected by the host country's security.

Quds Force has historically struggled to project its terrorist capability due to poor tradecraft, and judging from more recent operations, there is little sign it is improving in this area. In June 2018, Belgian authorities arrested an Iranian-Belgian couple for plotting an attack against a rally being held by an Iranian dissident group in Paris. The pair was found to be transporting a small bomb in their vehicle when they were arrested. The arrest was timed to coincide with the arrests

of an Iranian diplomat in Vienna and other suspects in France and Germany, indicating that the group's poor tradecraft and operational security had allowed the entire network to be identified and monitored by security forces. In October 2019, Albanian police reported that they foiled a plot by Quds Force operatives to attack Iranian dissidents in that country. And in early July 2020, a Mossad spokesman told Israel's Channel 12 news that his service had helped uncover and thwart an Iranian plot to attack Israeli embassies in a number of unidentified countries in Europe and elsewhere.

Hezbollah has had more success than Quds Force. In July 2012, a Hezbollah member launched a suicide bombing attack against a group of Israeli tourists at the airport in Burgas, Bulgaria, that killed five tourists and a Bulgarian bus driver and injured another 32 victims. But Hezbollah also has ample reason to refrain from becoming too active on the terrorist front at this time. Past attacks in places such as Buenos Aires and failed attempts in places like Bangkok have resulted in significant disruption to Hezbollah's finance and logistics networks in those regions. Also, Hezbollah has been hard at work to keep European countries from declaring them terrorists because of the impact that would have on the group's finance and logistics network.

Clearly, the security posture of most countries has changed dramatically in the post-Sept. 11 and post-Islamic State "caliphate" world. It has become much more challenging to conduct

terrorist attacks than it was in the heyday of Iranian terrorism in the 1980s. This poses a huge challenge for Iran and its terrorist proxies. Given the string of incidents in Iran, and Iranian threats of retaliation, the United States, Israel, and other intelligence agencies are undoubtedly redoubling their efforts to monitor the activity of suspected Iranian operatives and proxies, making for an even more challenging environment.

However, despite these challenges and a history of setbacks, Iran is highly likely to continue to attempt to exercise its terrorism capability, and we can expect to see more attempted attacks by the Quds Force and perhaps proxies such as Hezbollah in the months ahead. This likelihood will become even higher if the incidents in Iran were in fact attacks and if more attacks occur.

Scott Stewart is Vice-President of Torch-Stone Global, an international risk mitigation and security firm. Previously, Mr. Stewart was VP of Tactical Analysis at Stratfor (2004-20). Prior to that Stewart was the protective intelligence coordinator at Dell where he served as a member of Michael Dell's executive protection team. He also spent 10 years as a special agent with the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), where he was involved in several high-profile terrorism investigations. Follow him on Twitter at @stick631.

The views expressed herein are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of CGP.

**Cont. from page 12.
NO BAN Act**

communities are the first to feel Donald Trump's assault on Black and brown communities in this country, with his vile Muslim ban. That fight was the opening barrage in what has been nearly four years of constant pressure and insults," Biden said at Emgage Action's Million Muslim Votes Summit.

Four years have passed

since Trump introduced his travel ban targeting Muslim majority countries, as per his campaign promise calling for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States." In February, he expanded this ban to include six additional countries, bringing the total to 13 banned countries. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2017 found that the president has the authority to impose the ban under

existing U.S. immigration law. Unless this legislation passes, the current administration and others that follow will have the ability to suspend or restrict immigrants from entering the U.S. that they claim are a security risk. Xenophobic policies are not new to our country. Laws restricting immigration have throughout our history limited not only Muslims, but also groups such as Jews, Catholics, and

Asians from entering the U.S. While widely advocated by Muslim majority organizations, the NO Ban Act will not serve as a civil rights act just for Muslims but for all individuals and ensure religious discrimination in immigration policy ends for good.

"Today's passage is, nevertheless, a big step forward, but with that comes an intense reminder of the work that still

needs to be done on both sides of the aisle. We can celebrate this victory and simultaneously demand more from both Congress and the White House. We can enact laws and policies that do right by communities of color — in fact, we must," Manar Waheed, senior legislative and advocacy counsel for the ACLU, said in a statement.

First published on Daily Kos

An Appeal from AFMI



burnt house

Houses and business destroyed, a man stands among the ruins, looking at his own burnt house



Many Religious places were also targeted

AFMI is currently assisting the victims in coordination with the local organizations.



AFMI has been in the forefront of providing COVID-19 relief in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Ranchi, Indore, and other towns and cities.



Truck carrying relief material



AFMI working with the local organizations has provided the food/supplies for the relief of those unfortunate migrant workers, of all hues, (irrespective of their religion, caste or creed, or gender) following the nationwide lockdown which has led to mass human migration.

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

Send your contribution to

AFMI: 29008 W 8 Mile Rd, Farmington-MI 48336
 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

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For online Donation : www.afmi.org