



Meet The Muslims In Biden's Administration



Aisha Shah- Partnership Manager at the White House Office of Digital Strategy



Sameera Fazili – Deputy Director at the US National Economic Council (NEC)



Uzra Zeya – Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights



Ali Zaidi – Deputy National Climate Advisor



Zayn Siddique – White House Deputy Chief of Staff



Zayn Siddique – White House Deputy Chief of Staff



Samiyyah Ali, Deputy Associate Counsel



Farooq Mitha, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense



Dana Shabat, White House Senior Legislative Affairs Advisor



Reema Dodin – Deputy Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs



Salman Ahmed, Director of Policy Planning, State Department

By: TMO Staff

More than 10 Muslim Americans have been selected for positions in the new U.S. administration.

Aisha Shah- Partnership Manager at the White House Office of Digital Strategy

Kashmir-born Shah will play

a key role in the White House Office of Digital Strategy. Shah will be the Partnerships Manager in the digital strategy office that will be headed by Rob Flaherty, Director of Digital Strategy. Raised in Louisiana, Shah graduated

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Meet Saima Mohsin The First Woman, Immigrant, And Muslim U.S. Attorney In American History

by Aysha Qamar

Shortly after Joe Biden was sworn into office as president of the United States, U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider submitted his resignation letter. In his letter, he noted that his position would be given to “one of the finest federal prosecutors I’ve ever known,” Saima Mohsin. “As the first woman, immigrant, Muslim United States Attorney in American history, her service is truly historic,” he continued.

Joining the hundreds of firsts Muslim Americans have seen in the last five years alone, Mohsin immediately assumed office as acting United States attorney after Schneider’s resignation and began her official role as acting U.S. attorney for Michigan’s Eastern District on Feb. 2. According to a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Eastern District of Michigan, Mohsin is not only the first Muslim to be a U.S. attorney in Michigan and the country, but also the first who identifies as a Pakistani American.

“It is a great honor to serve the citizens of the Eastern District of Michigan as Acting United States Attorney. I am deeply committed to fulfilling our core mission to faithfully enforce the law



and seek justice for all,” Mohsin said in a statement, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

According to the Detroit Free Press, Michigan has a significant Muslim population including those who identify as Pakistani-Americans and hold political positions. While some Muslims, including Michigan’s solicitor general, Fadwa Hammoud, have held or hold positions in the Michigan prosecutor’s office, no one has ever held a position as high as Mohsin’s.

As the acting U.S. attorney, Mohsin is the chief federal law enforcement official in the Eastern District of Michigan, which contains approximately 6.5 million people

in 34 counties. The office she has joined has been recognized for its work in prosecutions involving violent crimes, financial fraud, trafficking, civil rights, and terrorism. According to the Justice Department, as acting U.S. attorney Mohsin will manage more than 245 employees, including about 120 assistant U.S. attorneys in Detroit, Flint, and Bay City.

Prior to her current role, Mohsin served as the first assistant United States attorney, a senior managerial position, for three years. In this role, she served as the chief advisor to the U.S. attorney and oversaw multiple litigations and administrative operations. Additionally, Mohsin has also

served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office Violent and Organized Crime Unit, the Drug Task Force, and the General Crimes Unit. With a career of more than 20 years of experience in state and federal courts, Mohsin comes highly qualified and recommended.

“She is a career prosecutor, having served in the US Attorney’s Office since 2002, and prior to that as a Deputy New Jersey Attorney General and an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan,” the Justice Department noted in a press release.

Mohsin is an immigrant from Pakistan and has both a bachelor’s degree and a law degree from Rutgers University in New Jersey. While the position of acting U.S. attorney is not a permanent one and judges can later select an interim U.S. attorney, Mohsin’s appointment is still historical not only for Muslim Americans but women and South Asians from across the diaspora. Identifying as Pakistani American not only allows Mohsin to bring diversity to the position but gives hope and encouragement to those who identify similarly that they too can hold these high positions in government.

A Muslim advocacy and civil rights group told the Free Press they were

not aware of any U.S. attorney or acting U.S. attorney who has been Muslim in the past. This makes this appointment even more monumental. “I do not believe that there has ever been a Muslim U.S. Attorney,” said Gaider Abbas, an attorney with the Council of American Islamic Relations.

While some argue that looking at one’s faith or identity when appointed to such positions takes away from their accomplishments, I disagree. We can celebrate Mohsin’s incredible career as a prosecutor and civil servant while also uplifting her identity. It may seem unimportant to some that she identifies as Muslim, but to the youth and others like myself who grew up not seeing role models in high positions who looked like them, her identity matters. Seeing someone who not only looks like you but comes from the same cultural or religious background and is proud of it reminds us that despite the obstacles of Islamophobia and “otherness” we may face, we can succeed in the careers and roles we wish to. Representation matters. Mohsin may be the first Pakistani Muslim to serve as acting U.S. attorney, but she will certainly not be the last.

Chief Federal Judge In DC Keeps Man Who Was In Pelosi’s Office In Jail

by Zaid Aleem

During a hearing on Thursday, the chief judge of the Washington federal court scorched Capitol riot defendants, calling their actions an assault on American democracy. The judge also ruled that a man who had bragged about putting his foot on the desk of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi should remain in prison while he awaits trial, according to CNN.

“This was not a peaceful protest. Hundreds of people came to Washington, DC, to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power,” Chief Judge Beryl



Howell of the DC District Court said in the hour-long hearing for Capitol riot defendant Richard Barnett on Thursday.

“We’re still living here in Washington, DC, with the consequences of the

violence that this defendant is alleged to have participated in,” she said. “Just outside this courthouse ... are visible reminders of the January 6 riot and assault on the Capitol,” the judge said,

noting that she could see National Guard troops from the window in her chambers in the courthouse.

Barnett is accused of breaching the Capitol’s small grounds, aggressive entrance, disorderly behavior, and stealing of public property after he reportedly took a letter from the office of Pelosi.

“The titles of those offenses don’t even properly capture the scope of what Mr. Barnett is accused of doing here,” Howell said at the hearing.

Prosecutors also noted that Barnett took a stun

gun to the Capitol after acquiring it many days earlier in preparation for the Jan. 6 pro-Trump protest. Law enforcement raided his house after the protest and discovered a receipt for the stun gun, but the stun gun he used during the raid couldn’t be found, prosecutors said. They were warned by Barnett that they would not be able to locate it.

Barnett also has a history of brandishing weapons at rallies, scaring passersby, prosecutors said.



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ISIS Attacks Rekindle Iraqi-Saudi Conflict



by Rasha Al Aqeedi

Reposted from the Center for Global Policy

The recent suicide bombings in Baghdad have created a ripple effect that demands more attention. Iranian-backed militias have formally accused the Gulf states of supporting ISIS and waged their own drone war from Iraqi soil against Saudi Arabia. Further escalation can exacerbate instability in the region without an effective U.S. policy for dealing with aggressive nonstate armed groups.

On Jan. 21, two suicide bombers detonated their explosive vests in Baghdad's Tayaran Square, killing 32 Iraqi civilians and injuring more than 100. The method of the bombings suggests ISIS involvement for the first time in three years. After less than 12 hours, ISIS claimed responsibility in a statement hailing the attacks as a victory against Shiite Iraqis.

These latest suicide attacks show that the group can still make use of human lapses and exploit holes in Baghdad's tightened security measures. They also point to the difficulty in sending car bombs and planting IEDs in major cities — core tactics for ISIS in its underground insurgency phase. Checkpoints in all the major areas, intense background surveillance on all points of entry into Baghdad from other provinces, intelligence and informant tips on bomb manufacturing in the outskirts, and periodic raids to disrupt sleeper cells have contributed to the noticeable decrease in attacks in the capital.

It is too soon to suggest the

most recent bombing is an isolated attack, but it does not necessarily prove an increase in ISIS capability to operate freely in populated areas nor that the group has ended its three-year hiatus in Baghdad. However, the timing of the attack and the events it set in motion are crucial given the new but relatively familiar U.S. administration and rising regional tensions as Iran seeks to strengthen its position before possibly re-entering the nuclear deal.

The Specter of Saudi Involvement and Militia Retaliation

These rare attacks in the context of a long absence of ISIS activity in the Iraqi capital has many among the public (based on media interviews and reactions) believing that the suicide bombings were directly carried out or at least facilitated by the ruling political parties and their armed wings, given that campaigning has begun for the general elections due in October. There is no evidence that the attack was an inside job. However, the accusations reflect the continued discontent and distrust Iraqis have toward the entire political system.

In the aftermath of the attack, the discourse shifted into various claims over the identities of the suicide bombers. Before ISIS claimed responsibility, social media accounts affiliated with the self-proclaimed resistance in Iraq — a group of Shiite militias that include some members of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) and other non-state actors — claimed the suicide bombers were Saudi nationals. Sana'a al-Musawi, a member of Parliament from the

Fatah Alliance — the political arm of the PMF — also alleged that the perpetrators were Saudi. A spokesperson for the parliament's security and defense committee shot down the allegations — saying that the attackers were Iraqi nationals.

Linking ISIS to Saudi Arabia is neither new nor restricted to ideological militias. A mainstream conviction in Iraq is that the kingdom shares some responsibility for the extremist ideology behind all Sunni terrorist groups. However, newly formed resistance militias in Iraq accused Saudi Arabia of sending the bombers and coordinating the attack in Tayaran Square. They also claimed to have executed a swift act of retaliation against the kingdom less than 48 hours later. These new militias are not part of the state-sponsored PMF units but are suspected to be splinter groups created for the purpose of outsourcing some activity that state-sponsored militias can no longer carry out with impunity.

On Jan. 23, Saudi air defenses thwarted what appeared to be a missile or drone aimed toward the capital, Riyadh. Usually such attacks are seen as the world of the al-Houthi armed rebel group in north Yemen, which has significantly enhanced its offensive operations thanks to cooperation with and backing from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The al-Houthi rebels have used long-range missiles and drones to attack Saudi Arabia's facilities over the past five years of the grinding war in Yemen. However,

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Did The Proud Boys Know That Their Leader, Enrique Tarrio, Was A Police Informant?

by Aysha Qamar

In a weird turn of events, Enrique Tarrio, a chairman for the extremist organization Proud Boys, who organized a massive event in Portland, Oregon, last year, has a past as an informer for federal and local law enforcement, Reuters reported. A federal court proceeding transcript from 2014, obtained by the outlet, found that Tarrio had been working undercover for investigators since his arrest in 2012.

During the Miami hearing, a federal prosecutor, a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent, and Tarrio's lawyer detailed Tarrio's undercover work and claimed he had helped authorities prosecute at least 13 people in multiple cases involving drugs, gambling, and human smuggling.

However, in an interview with Reuters on Tuesday, Tarrio denied working undercover and providing information on others. "I don't know any of this," he said, referring to what was shared in the transcript. "I don't recall any of this."

According to the transcript, both the prosecutor and Tarrio's defense attorney requested a reduction in Tarrio's prison statement due to his involvement as an informant. While Tarrio acknowledged the reduction in his sentence from 30 months to 16 months, he insisted it was made because he and his co-defendants cleared up questions about their own case.

In regards to a smuggling case, Jeffrey Feiler, Tarrio's attorney, said that Tarrio, "at his own risk, in an undercover role met and negotiated to pay \$11,000 to members of that ring to bring in fictitious family members of his from another country."

Oddly enough, not only do the court transcripts contradict Tarrio's denial, but so do statements from the federal prosecutor.



"He cooperated with local and federal law enforcement, to aid in the prosecution of those running other, separate criminal enterprises, ranging from running marijuana grow houses in Miami to operating pharmaceutical fraud schemes," prosecutor Vanessa Singh Johannes confirmed to Reuters.

Tarrio gained public attention after becoming the national chairman for the Proud Boys in 2018. The group began gaining further national attention after Donald Trump mentioned the hate group during a presidential debate. Instead of denouncing white supremacy as he was asked to do, Trump gave the group orders: "Proud Boys: Stand back and stand by," he said. "But I'll tell you what, somebody's got to do something about antifa and the left because this is not a right-wing problem, this is a left-wing [problem]."

As a violent Trump supporter, Tarrio organized protests and other events and encouraged a "war" after Trump lost the election last year. While he was arrested on Jan. 4, two days before the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, by Washington police, at least five Proud Boys members were charged in the riot. Tarrio was charged with possessing two high-capacity rifle magazines and burning a Black Lives Matter

banner during a protest in December. It's interesting how convenient it was that he was arrested before other serious crimes took place. While there is no evidence that he has cooperated with federal authorities since his Miami hearing, the timing of his arrest makes one wonder if he was still working with the FBI.

Additionally, the documents discovered by Reuters shed light on the fact that the leader of the Proud Boys group has repeatedly said in interviews he would never let police know of Proud Boys' plans, but he may have been collaborating with criminal investigators on multiple occasions in the past.

"Well if you're in the Proud Boys, you've gotta be pretty nervous," said Kendall Coffey, former U.S. attorney for the

Southern District of Florida, according to NBC News. "Because if this person was working as a confidential informant, almost like an undercover agent or secret agent, you are wondering, 'What is it that he could be saying about us some day?'"

If he was, there is no doubt that Tarrio has now denied helping law enforcement out of fear of backlash.

In a statement to Reuters, Johannes noted that she was surprised to see that the defendant, who she prosecuted in the past, has been a key contributor to violent political movements. "I knew that he was a fraudster, but had no reason to know that he was also a domestic terrorist," she said.

Officials are still in the process of investigating the role extremist groups

like the Proud Boys played in the insurrection of the Capitol. While Tarrio wasn't present during the incident, he did make a trip to Washington, D.C. days prior. Who knows what his plans were then. Even if he did help investigators in the past, that does not dismiss the actions he has carried out or encouraged in these last few years.

So far, at least 150 people have been charged in association with the crimes committed at the Capitol at the start of this month. Despite what charges the rioters who invaded the Capitol on Jan. 6 face, the conspiracy theories, groups, and ideology they followed still remain. Until those factors are addressed, violence of this nature will continue.



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Myanmar's Military Coup

By Nida A. Imam

The military of Myanmar (also known as Burma) announced on Monday that it has taken control of the country. This comes a decade after the military had agreed to let a civilian government be in power. The coup left the country distressed and troubled, having previously endured around 50 years of oppressive military regime rule before 2011.

Myanmar's military seized power after detaining Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratically elected leaders. Aung San Suu Kyi, not too long ago, defended the military in the treatment of Rohingya Muslims. According to Al Jazeera: "The Nobel peace laureate rejected the allegations that Myanmar's military — that for 15 years kept her under house arrest — committed genocide against the mostly Muslim Rohingya minority in her country as incomplete and misleading"



As BBC News states, perhaps Aung San Suu Kyi, is indeed a Myanmar democracy icon who fell from grace. Additionally, the current state of Myanmar includes troops patrolling the streets, enforcement of a nighttime curfew and a one-year state of emergency declaration. The military took control after Aung San Suu Kyi's party, National League

for Democracy (NLD), landslide win in the general election this past November, as reported by BBC News. The opposition party backed by the military claim the election fraudulent. According to CNN, U.S. President Joe Biden mentioned the possibility of new sanctions. The Biden administration is determining whether to call the military take-

over a coup. Labeling the incident as a coup would have implications for U.S. assistance to the country's government, officials noted. "The United States removed sanctions on Burma over the past decade based on progress toward democracy," Biden said in a statement Monday. "The reversal of that progress will necessitate an immediate review of

our sanction laws and authorities, followed by appropriate action." The military coup this week has also raised concerns and doubts in Myanmar's neighboring country Bangladesh that the new regime may not honor promises to repatriate Rohingya Muslim refugees currently in Bangladesh, according to Forbes

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Trump's Money Matters

By TMO Staff

Although it has been more than 10 days since the former president left the White House, he is still all over the news. Whether it is regarding the donations he has received or intractable donations his administration has made while he was in office. Even the deteriorating financial status of his company has also received some spotlight recently.

According to The Washington Post, financial disclosure forms filed by the 45th president as he left office disclosed that his hotels, resorts and other properties had lost more than \$120 million in revenue last year. This was mainly due to closures and decline in business with most people staying home because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Trump's loyal supporter base has also made monetary contributions to support him. Donald Trump's new political committee took in more than \$30 million in



the final weeks of 2020, CNN reported.

One big donor, Southern grocery store chain Publix's heiress Julie Jenkins Fancelli, donated \$300,000 to the Jan. 6 rally in Washington, D.C. that occurred before the deadly Capitol riot, according to Newsweek. Publix's attempted to distance itself from Fancelli, a keen Trump supporter and one of the late founder George W. Jenkins' seven children. The

company announced that Fancelli is "not an employee" and not involved in the company's operations. Publix's statement comes in response to consumer boycott plans.

The monetary support may be needed as Trump could face substantial legal expenses in the impeachment trial in the Senate scheduled to begin in less than a week.

Publix is not the only company to distance itself from Trump and his

support base. The financial technology company Stipe Inc., in an effort to cut off his campaign for violating its policies against encouraging violence, stopped processing donation payments directly to him from donors.

According to The Wall Street Journal: "Visitors to the Trump campaign website who click on a button to contribute are directed to a webpage hosted by WinRed, the

small-dollar fundraising platform for Republican candidates and political-action committees."

Another controversy that has news channels reporting on is the discovery that the Trump administration spent \$200 million to send more than 8,700 ventilators to countries around the world in 2020. With limited information on the exact final location of these ventilators, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) continues to assess the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) actions to locate all ventilators provided abroad, a new report found.

Although his presidential term has come to an end, with new controversies coming forth along with an impeachment trial scheduled for next week, it seems quite possible and probable that Trump will be a highlight of many news stories to come for some time.

United States Sees Minor Decline In COVID-19 Cases

By: TMO Staff

Despite a COVID-19 case count upward of 24 million in the United States, along with a steady growth in coronavirus related deaths, a medical expert said the U.S. now has an opportunity to "get a hold of the pandemic.", CNN reported.

"We're going to see a lot of deaths in the next two months but there is a ray of sunshine," Dr. Jonathan Reiner, a George Washington University medical professor and CNN medical analyst, said Monday on "New Day."

"Over the last four days for the first time in months, we've seen a steady decline ... a thousand per day fewer hospitalizations in the United States," he said. "We've seen the same



trend in new cases."

Nationally, hospitalizations are now around 124,000 per day, down from 132,000 a few weeks ago. Reiner also said testing has increased in recent weeks, but test positivity has

dropped to around 11% from a peak of 14% a few weeks ago.

"All of those metrics point to the conclusion that we may have passed the peak," he noted. "If we stay put now and we mask up and we get

vaccines into arms as quickly as possible, we can start to get a hold of this pandemic."

With the new administration coming into power this week, President-elect Joe Biden will sign an executive

order requiring masks on federal property and for interstate travel. Biden has said he'll use part of his inaugural address to urge Americans to commit to wearing masks for at least 100 days to help slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic that has now killed almost 400,000 Americans. Biden is expected to sign this order within the first 10 days of his presidency.

"This is a patriotic act," Biden said in a speech in Wilmington, Delaware, on Friday outlining his plan to accelerate vaccinations against the virus. "We're asking you, we're in a war with this virus."

The combination of a vaccination drive and a mandate to mask-up will hopefully bring down the deaths that are a result of this deadly virus.

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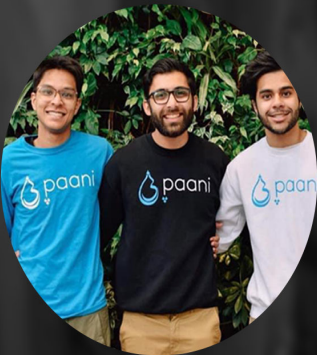
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Guide: Help With Funeral Costs

By: Dr. Aslam Abdullah

Nearly 8,000 people die in the U.S. each day. The rising burial cost has made it difficult for some 40 percent of families to afford it. Even though we put a religious tag on the dead body, the Creator wants us to be respectful to everyone who returns to him. Burial, cremation, leaving dead bodies to vultures are part of our traditions. They are in practice throughout our history. Muslims, Jews, part of Hindus and Christians, and some Buddhists and atheists believe in burial. The cost of a burial is higher than cremation.

Like the rest of the population, Muslims have many families who find it hard to bear a simple burial cost. Whenever any family faces such a situation, the community comes forward and raise the necessary funds. Still, the estimates are that one in every hundred dead Muslims may face cremation due to several factors.

Financial assistance is available to help pay for



some or all of the burial costs for low-income families, the working poor, and senior citizens living on a limited income.

Some states might offer direct financial help for paying funeral bills, caskets, transportation costs if the death was out of state to families in hardship. The Funeral Consumers Alliance provides advice and services to deserving families. The FCA is a non-profit group and partners with several affiliates that operate across the nation.

The phone number of the main office of Funeral

Consumers Alliance is 1-802-482-3437.

Social Security Administration might help individuals who are currently receiving Social Security payments from the federal government.

Alabama – According to Alabama law, each county needs to pay the necessary burial expenses and funeral costs of someone who has died in the county, provided they don't have financial means.

Alaska – Assistance is only offered for tribal members.

Arizona – Limited burial/cremation expenses may be available. Call your local county office.

Arkansas – Each County Judge offers a Paupers fund to the indigent and low income. This fund is payable to the funeral home for individuals with no insurance or cash to pay for a funeral.

California – No statewide assistance is available. Call your local coroner's office for advice and the county before contacting a funeral home.

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

offers Burial Assistance.

Connecticut Department of Social Services – This government agency will pay up to \$1800, less any assets in the deceased's estate, toward funeral or burial expenses.

Delaware – May contribute up to \$400 for pauper burial in one of three county cemeteries.

Florida Health and Human Services provides proper burial arrangements for poverty-stricken residents and whose bodies are unclaimed.

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United States Congress Says China's Treatment Of Uyghurs Potentially Constitutes Genocide

By Yousuf Ali

For several years, China has faced increased scrutiny regarding its treatment of its Turkic Uyghurs minority in the Northwestern Part of China they call Xinjiang and the Uyghurs call East Turkestan. China has never had a particularly good relationship with Uyghurs due to ethnic and ideological differences, but it has faced increasing accusations of genocidal like practices in a bid to purge Uyghurs of their separate culture and religion. Recently, the U.S. Congress commissioned a report saying that the Chinese treatment of the Uyghur people potentially constitutes genocide opening the way for further sanctions against the People's Republic of China.

The name of the commission is Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and they said



new findings lend further support to genocide allegations. According to Reuters, "The CECC report called for a formal U.S. "determination on whether atrocities are being committed" in Xinjiang, something required within 90 days of U.S. legislation passed on Dec. 27. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in his final days in office before President-elect Joe Biden succeeds President Donald Trump on Jan. 20, has already been weighing a determination. But given the cur-

rent turmoil in Washington, officials have played down the possibility of an announcement before that." Congressman Jim McGovern (Dem) condemned China's actions against the Uyghurs and called for the incoming Biden administration to take action against China because of it.

The report came days after the United Kingdom announced its intentions to clamp down and sanction firms linked to China's practices in Xinjiang. Despite this, the British government

is still pursuing a trade deal with China. In turn, some rebels within the Conservative Party there are attempting to block it. The specific findings of genocide involved measures to restrict Uyghur women from giving birth. This came days after the Chinese embassy proudly tweeted. Their success in stopping Uyghur women from becoming "baby-making machines": "Zenz said his findings represented the strongest evidence yet that Beijing's Xinjiang policies met one of

the criteria cited in the U.N. genocide convention, namely 'imposing measures intended to prevent births within the (targeted) group.' A U.S. genocide declaration would mean countries would have to think hard about allowing companies to do business with Xinjiang, a leading global supplier of cotton. It would also raise pressure for further U.S. sanctions. On Wednesday, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the United States was imposing a region-wide ban on all cotton and tomato products from Xinjiang over allegations that they are made with forced labor by detained Uyghurs."

It should be noted that Muslim-majority countries have been relatively silent regarding the plight of the Uyghurs despite sharing their religion.

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Giving Refugees Employment Opportunities Through Remote Work

by Lorraine Charles

Reposted from the Center for Global Policy

Conflict in the Middle East has resulted not only in the loss of life but also in loss of livelihood for millions of refugees. The economic consequences of societies that have collapsed due to conflict have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has created an even more urgent need for alternative solutions for refugee resilience.

Remote work has proved a viable way for much of the global workforce to be employed, and despite legislative and structural challenges, it also could be a feasible approach for refugee employment. Increasing remote work opportunities addresses not only refugee livelihoods but also the significant talent gap experienced by many U.S. companies, a situation which, if not rectified, could result in slower economic growth or economic contraction.

In order to fully operationalize this proposal,



the Biden administration U.S. government needs to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, engaging the private sector, international organizations, and NGOs that support refugee resilience. The U.S. government can lead the way domestically by engaging with local actors, and internationally by providing a successful model for other industrialized nations to follow.

Consequences of the Pandemic

As COVID-19 continues to significantly disrupt

the world's economies and societies, technology has changed the way we work. Companies no longer need only to depend on talent available in their physical location. Employment that is no longer bound by geography, takes into account the opportunities offered by technology, and utilizes online management and payment systems has created a new way for many to work: remotely.

At the same time, international attention has become focused on viable

options for livelihoods for refugees and other displaced populations. Protracted refugee crises in the Middle East and elsewhere have placed host governments under significant pressure to accommodate the needs of individuals who have sought refuge in their countries.

As financial pressures, shrinking economies, and rising unemployment plague many refugee-hosting countries in the Middle East, the presence of large refugee populations has creat-

ed additional burdens. There is a growing need to find innovative and viable solutions for employment, not only for migrant and refugee populations but also for host communities via a scalable, sustainable, and replicable model for job creation. Technology and remote work can provide this solution.

Thus far, the response of the international community and host nations to create jobs for refugees has been piecemeal, inconsistent, and siloed and has not resulted in wide-scale employment. The solution lies in the cooperation of various actors: governments, U.N. agencies and NGOs, training providers, and the private sector.

The COVID pandemic, and the accompanying technology revolution, has provided opportunities for nations interested in identifying employment solutions for migrating populations and the nations who host them. Host nations

Cont on page 12.

NFL Hires Robert Saleh As First Muslim Head Coach

by Rehan Qamar

After being elected to multiple seats for the first time in a number of states, representation for American Muslims continues from the political arena to the sports field. In a historical announcement made Thursday, the New York Jets named Robert Saleh as their new head coach.

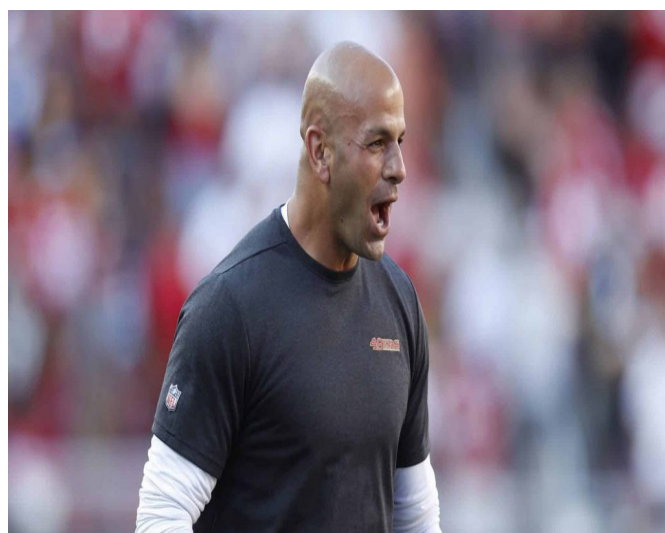
Saleh, a Michigan native of Lebanese descent, will serve as the fourth person of color running a National Football League (NFL) team, and the first Muslim head coach in NFL history. A former San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator, Saleh will replace Adam Gase as the Jets' 20th coach, the announcement read. Additionally, he is the second minority coach to be hired by the Jets in the last six years, the first being Todd Bowles in 2015.

According to The American-Arab Anti-Discrimi-

nation Committee, a civil rights group, Saleh will be the third Arab American head coach in the NFL after Abe Gbron and Rich Kotite. Both Gbron and Kotite are also of Lebanese origin. The Washington Post noted Saleh was also the first Arab American coordinator in the league's history.

With 16 years of experience in the NFL working with Houston, Seattle, Tennessee, and San Francisco, Saleh was a sought-after individual, with interviews with at least four other teams.

In a story published by the Post before last year's Super Bowl, Saleh shared his family's history of immigration from Lebanon. Saleh's success in sports follows generations working in factories to provide a better future for family members despite language barriers. "For me to have the opportunity to coach, and



kind of create another trail, has been good," Saleh told the Post. "That is pretty cool."

According to The New York Times, the tragic Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack pushed Saleh to follow his dreams of pursuing the NFL. After Saleh's brother David survived the incident, Saleh realized life was too short not to give coaching a chance. David had been in the South Tower but was able to escape before it collapsed.

"His love and passion for football is ultimately why he wanted to get into coaching," David Saleh told The Detroit News in 2020. "He just didn't want to leave the game."

Matthew Jaber Stiffler, the head of research at the Arab American National Museum, noted that many Lebanese Americans, who are majority Christian, often do not identify as Arab. Saleh identifying as both Muslim and Arab in such a field is thus not just a

win for Muslim representation, but encouragement for others who may look like him. It allows young children of color to have role models in fields they may want to pursue.

"To have somebody in a visible position, who is proudly Arab, proudly Muslim—but that also he's just a football coach too, when it comes down to it—it helps to just normalize the experience of Muslim Americans," Stiffler said.

Saleh's appointment has received positive feedback from not only Muslim Americans but others nationwide and globally. The appointment was welcomed by a number of organizations including the Council on American-Islamic Relations. The positive news comes at a time of distress in the country and gives hope that a better future awaits.

Off-Duty Cops From Across The Country Identified As Participants In Capitol Insurrection



by Aysha Qamar

Following the violent Capitol takeover on Jan. 6, members of the FBI and Washington, D.C. police are asking people to identify anyone who may have been involved in the attack. As names and photos continue to be shared on social media and other platforms, the truth that the rioters were not only working-class or “blue collar MAGA” is coming to light. Some Trump supporters who wreaked havoc have been identified as not only lawyers and CEOs but off-duty police officials. Off-duty and former law enforcement officers were identified from at least six states including Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, California, Texas, Virginia, and Washington State. The individuals have either faced suspensions or been referred for internal reviews following social media posts, The New York Times reported.

Many of the posts in question were made and shared by the officers themselves. According to The Root, the increasing number of investigations into officer attendance and conduct follows an announcement from the Seattle Police Department on Friday. The announcement confirmed that two officers were placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into their involvement in the Capitol invasion.

While being present outside the Capitol building while riots took place is not a criminal activity, those who participated in invading the building did take in criminal actions. Investigators are working to examine whether or not the officers identified took part.

According to Politico, a current Metro D.C. police officer shared a Facebook post in which he noted that off-duty officers and members of the military who participated in the

riots flashed their badges and I.D. cards in an attempt to invade the building. “If these people can storm the Capitol building with no regard to punishment, you have to wonder how much they abuse their powers when they put on their uniforms,” the officer wrote on Facebook. Capitol police noted that more than 50 law enforcement officers who responded to the violence on Wednesday were injured by the white supremacists.

Additionally, two Black officers who were on duty during the attack told BuzzFeed News that off-duty officers were among the rioters. One of the Black officers, who requested to remain anonymous, shared that off-duty officials not only flashed their badges but attempted to explain that this movement was supposed to help them.

“You have the nerve to be holding a Blue Lives Matter flag, and you are out there fucking us up,”

the officer said he told one group of protesters inside the Capitol. “[One guy] pulled out his badge and he said, ‘We’re doing this for you.’ Another guy had his badge. So I was like, ‘Well, you gotta be kidding.’”

The second officer recalled that he and other officers engaged in hand-to-hand combat in an attempt to fight off mob members and were outnumbered 10 to one. “We were telling them to back up and get away and stop, and they’re telling us, they are on our side, and they’re doing this for us, and they’re saying this as I’m getting punched in my face by one of them ... That happened to a lot of us. We were getting pepper-sprayed in the face by those protesters, I’m not going to even call them protestors, by those domestic terrorists,” the officer told BuzzFeed News.

Police officials were not the only public service

members found taking part in Wednesday’s riots. NBC News reported that the names of multiple members of the New York Fire Department have been turned over to the FBI based on photographs of them participating in the failed coup. Members of the Sanford Fire Department in Florida are also being investigated after photos emerged online.

According to Reuters, at least one firefighter has been placed on administrative leave. Dozens of people have been criminally charged as the FBI seeks more information from the public to identify the criminals involved. Officials have urged media companies to preserve photos, videos, and other data related to the riots and crime scenes.

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Op Ed: Double Standards In Initial Media Reaction To DC Riots



By Yousuf Ali

Last week, the United States witnessed events that can only be described as unprecedented in the nation’s history. For the first time in hundreds of years, the capital of Washington D.C. was threatened by rioters. The last time anything comparable happened was when the British burned the White House in the War of 1812. This understandably prompted satirical comparisons to countries like Somalia, Nicaragua and Afghanistan with the world’s oldest democracy becoming the laughing

stock of the world. An even more pernicious and serious point was the fact that violent rioters broke into the legislature, threatened the congress and delayed the formal certification of the election results.

This was directly preceded by a large Trump rally lamenting an allegedly stolen election. Despite the violent and disruptive nature of these events, many media outlets incorrectly referred to the people responsible as “protestors”. One cannot help but wonder how the media would react were it Muslims or

people of color who did the same thing.

To begin, these people were using violence and intimidation to further a political goal: overturning the election results. That is a textbook example of terrorism, yet many commentators and outlets have been reluctant to designate them as such. For sure, it is wrong to designate them as “protestors” who pursue their goals through legitimate channels and don’t resort to political violence. Even more significant is to think about how little security there was and

imagine how much more force would have been used against a group of Muslims attempting to undermine the American government.

There seems to be a tolerance of political violence from right-wing white men but extreme scrutiny for other communities which in term allows the former to thrive with little to no accountability. The result is we only find out about them after they have already plotted to commit acts of violence or already did in the case of these latest riots. If we want to have a serious discussion of

the reduction of violence in our society, we have to recognize the problematic tendencies of our current discourse.

If you want to write for TMO,

Please email:

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Cont. from page 10. Refugees Employment

stand to benefit greatly from a larger pool of legal taxable income but must take steps toward legitimizing remote work for refugees previously excluded from legal employment. This policy change has the potential to positively impact the lives of refugees, making them less dependent on assistance and allowing international donors, including the United States, to reduce the aid provided to host countries.

The United States is well positioned to lead the movement to provide remote work for refugees. It is a country of migra-

tion with large refugee resettlement quotas, and it provides significant amounts of humanitarian and developmental aid. Most importantly, it hosts the world’s largest companies, many of which have recently announced they would be permanently allowing for remote work. Most crucially, the United States consistently experiences a skills shortage; essentially, there is insufficient talent to fill the available jobs in the U.S. economy. This places the United States in a unique position to lead a call for remote work for refugees.

A multi-stakeholder approach is required. This needs to involve the U.S.

government (as well as those of other industrialized nations) to influence policy, both internationally and domestically, as well as to provide funding via its national aid agencies. Private actors are also needed to hire and mentor refugees, fund programs, and solve the structural challenges (financial and contracting) that hinder success. As U.S. companies are already leading the global transformation toward a remote workforce, targeted action by the U.S. government, both internationally and domestically, is needed to facilitate this. Training providers (NGOs and private companies) are needed to provide refugees with the skills

to work remotely, and U.N. agencies and NGOs are needed to work with governments to facilitate cooperation among the various actors.

Barriers to Refugee Integration

With resettlement only an option for very few refugees and repatriation elusive due to protracted crises, local integration seems to be the only option for the majority of refugees. Host countries in the Middle East are reluctant to integrate refugees, viewing their presence as only temporary and a threat to their societies and economies. This perception of temporariness is reflected in refugees’ lack of access to labor markets.

In many refugee-hosting countries in the Middle East, refugees are denied access to employment due to a combination of legislative and structural barriers. Governments impose protectionist mechanisms that deny or limit legal access to employment in the domestic labor market for refugees. Other barriers exist, related to quotas, denial of employment in specific sectors or professions, administrative procedures, or lack of freedom of movement. Without the ability to work formally, self-reliance is almost impossible for refugees.

**Cont. from page 3.
ISIS Attacks**

the rebel group – which often boasts about its ability to move the war inside Saudi borders – denied involvement in the Jan. 23 attack. Soon after, an unknown Iraq-based group calling itself Alwiya al Wa'ad al Haq (The True Promise Brigades) issued a statement claiming responsibility for the drone attack on Saudi Arabia and threatening a second attack on Dubai. The “Brigades” appear to be one of several new militia groups, judging from the praise and support the statement received on official resistance social media channels.

According to the statement, the drone attacks were in retaliation for the Gulf Arab states’ alleged support to ISIS. The group added that a drone would be sent to Riyadh “for every suicide attack” in Iraq. The United States denounced the attack in a public statement without naming the perpetrators. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia did not comment on the Iraqi militia’s claims though it did condemn the twin bombings. Abu Ali Al Askari, a security official with Kataib Hezbollah, praised the attack and congratulated the group. Two days later, Saudi forces intercepted what they described as a “hostile air target” aimed toward Riyadh. The al-Houthi fighters once again denied involvement, and the True Promise Brigades claimed responsibility.

While both attacks did happen, neither the militia’s claims nor the al-Houthi fighters’ denials could be verified. Saudi authorities have not released information confirming the trajectories of the objects the Saudis intercepted in the attempted attacks. But an attack on Saudi Arabia from Iraq would represent a complicated challenge for the governments in Baghdad, Riyadh, and Washington. Iran’s Role in Iraq-Based Militias

An ISIS attack on Iraqi soil is seldom an isolated event without accompanying chaos and fur-

ther implications. The group exploits the public confusion and media attention created by an attack while assessing the possible reactions of the security apparatuses and coalition forces to strategize for the next phase. ISIS is usually not the only group reaping benefits.

Iranian influence on Iraq’s security apparatuses arguably began with the U.S. invasion. Badr Corps – the Iranian-officered military wing of the Iran-based Shiite Islamist party, Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq – and its leader Hadi al-Ameri played a significant part early on in putting Iraq’s Interior Ministry almost entirely under Iran’s sway. The influence was subtle, largely due to the presence of the U.S. military. Following the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq, the country plummeted into violence caused by the groups that were predecessors of ISIS. Iran’s security strategy was considered a failure that allowed Iraqi villages and cities to fall simultaneously to ISIS in late 2013.

Ironically, it would be ISIS that presented Iran with an opportunity for redemption. With Gen. Qassem Soleimani at the helm of IRGC’s Qods Force, Iran exploited Iraq’s defeated military forces and public panic to enhance and expand its regional influence. In Iraq and under the pretext of fighting ISIS, the IRGC-QF infiltrated nearly all of Iraq’s fighting forces. The creation of the PMF was a crucial step in cementing Iran’s military domination of Iraq. This left the United States and its coalition to begrudgingly tolerate Tehran’s presence and at times offer direct support when the threat of ISIS peaked.

Often associated with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani’s ambiguous fatwa, the PMF started out with local volunteers to fight ISIS, then gradually imposed itself as an official part of Iraq’s security sector. The most powerful militias in the PMF, like Kataib Hezbollah, are committed to protecting Iran’s interests in Iraq

and were operating in a somewhat permissive environment until 2019, when the United States began designating PMF leaders as terrorists and targeting some of their weapon arsenals and convoys. One way to avoid accountability was to create new groups unaffiliated with the PMF. Militias such as Usbat al-Thaireen (League of Revolutionaries) and Raba’ Allah (Fellows of Allah) carried out attacks against U.S. military convoys and the U.S. Embassy, raided public venues deemed too “westernized,” kidnapped and assassinated activists, and threatened personal freedoms. These groups have largely contained their activity within Iraq’s borders, but the recent attacks on Riyadh are a huge escalation that once again exploits ISIS activity inside Iraq to serve Iran’s regional ambitions at the expense of Iraq’s stability.

If Iraq-based militias are responsible for the attacks, as per their own admission, this would be an embarrassment for Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi amid increasingly warming ties between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the escalation adds another security concern in the region that the Biden administration will have to factor in as it moves to re-enter the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, also known as the Iran nuclear deal.

The Biden Administration

Though Iraq is once again the center of ISIS and militia activity, regional conflict, and growing popular discontent with the government, the Biden administration does not appear to have a significant strategy for the country – a grave mistake shared by the Trump and Obama administrations. Viewing Iraq strictly in terms of Washington’s relationship with Iran has created a situation in which non-state armed groups are strengthened while Iraq’s sovereignty is weakened.

ISIS and Shiite resistance groups have created a “seesaw” effect in Iraq in the sense that

weakening one group strengthens the other, and always at an immense cost for the Iraqi people. Confronting a potential ISIS comeback should always be a priority for the United States and the coalition without hesitation – and without consequently enhancing other rogue groups. There is room for the Biden administration to navigate these complexities by assessing where both previous administrations went wrong and formulating a policy that does not require military escalation.

In 2014, the United States intervened too little, too late to the ISIS surge that claimed large swaths of Iraq. Coalition airpower was essential in wiping out ISIS capabilities, but the lacerated Iraqi military, with the exception of the U.S. trained Counter Terrorism Service, gave room for non-conventional IRGC-backed groups to claim an outsized role on the ground. The context today is different. Iraq’s military is more capable and less prone to collapse than it was six years ago.

Increased U.S. cooperation with a formal security apparatus could marginalize and restrict the militias’ role. It could also decrease their legitimacy and credibility without resorting to military confrontation or escalation that could threaten Iraq’s stability. The new administration is facing perhaps a more entrenched Iranian influence in Iraq than its predecessors faced. But that presence is also less organized, less popular, and more aggressive in the aftermath of the loss of Soleimani.

Washington should use these circumstances when renegotiating the nuclear deal with Iran. The influence of IRGC-backed militias in Iraq has been wrongly portrayed as organic and popular when it is in fact the outcome of a weak political system and coercion through intimidation. Iran has used this outcome to its benefit in diplomacy when negotiating the nuclear deal, so countering it by the same diplomatic means should not be ruled out.

Saudi Arabia has not yet commented on the Iraq-based militia’s claims of responsibility for the recent attacks on Riyadh. One plausible reason is the kingdom prefers, for the time being, to stick the accusation to the al-Houthi fighters as Washington reviews its terrorist classification of the pro-Iranian Yemeni movement and its excessive weapon sales to the Gulf states. Another reason could be Riyadh’s relatively good ties with the current Iraqi government – another contrast to Iraq’s position in 2014 and a good incentive to build on. Nonetheless, Riyadh will not tolerate further aggression from Iraq-based militia groups, which would complicate any future security compact in the region.

The compartmentalization of security threats and challenges in the region has left Iraq a victim to different forms of chaos and terrorism that have, in all scenarios, caused immense backlash. The United States should focus on a policy that does not by default strengthen any hostile power in Iraq, and that can only be achieved by formulating a clear policy toward Baghdad that views it as part of a regional solution rather than a byproduct of an unpopular, disavowed war.

Rasha al-Aqeedi is a Senior Analyst and the Head of the Nonstate Actors program in the Human Security Unit at the Center for Global Policy. Prior to joining CGP, al-Aqeedi was the editor in charge of “Irfaa Sawtak”, a U.S.-based platform that offers insights into post-conflict communities in Iraq and Syria.. She has also served as a Fellow with the Foreign Policy Research Institute and George Washington University’s Program on Extremism and tweets at @RashaAlAqeedi

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not an official policy or position of the Center for Global Policy.

Cont. from page 1.
Meet The Muslims In Biden's Administration

from Davidson College. She previously served as a Digital Partnerships Manager for the Biden-Harris campaign.

Sameera Fazili – Deputy Director at the US National Economic Council (NEC)

Fazili is the second Kashmiri-origin Indian-American appointed to a key position in the Biden administration. As part of the council, she will coordinate the economic policy-making process and provide advice to the president. Fazili is a graduate of Yale Law School and Harvard College.

"It is a proud moment for the entire Kashmir," her uncle Rouf Fazili said. "She was not born here and her parents left the Valley in 1970-71, but she has a strong affinity with Kashmir."

Uzra Zeya – Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights

Zeya is an Indian-American who most recently served as CEO and President of the Alliance for Peacebuilding, where she drew on over two decades of diplomatic experience in Near East, South Asian, European, human rights, and multilateral affairs.

She has extensive experience working in foreign service including being Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Paris for at least three years. After over a decade in foreign affairs and service work she had quit during the Trump

administration due to his policies.

Ali Zaidi – Deputy National Climate Advisor

Zaidi moved to the U.S. from Pakistan at the age of 5-years-old.

As Deputy of National Climate Advisor Zaidi will coordinate climate change work across the White House and federal agencies. He formerly served under the Obama administration and argued that climate change was already negatively impacting the US.

"Climate change is already costing taxpayers," he wrote in a white paper while serving in the Obama administration. "But the costs we are incurring today will be dwarfed by the costs that lie ahead. Without action, taxpayers will face hundreds of billions of dollars in additional costs every year by late in this century as the effects of climate change accelerate."

Zayn Siddique – White House Deputy Chief of Staff

Siddique is the first Bangladeshi-American to be named to a senior position in the Biden administration. Originally from Bangladesh, he was raised in New York. Siddique graduated from Princeton University and Yale Law School. He is the Chief of Staff for the Domestic and Economic Team of the Biden-Harris Transition. He was also a member of Vice President-elect Harris's prep team for the 2020 Vice-Presidential Debate. Before these roles, Siddique was the Deputy Policy Director for Beto O'Rourke's presidential campaign and a Senior

Policy Advisor to his senate campaign.

He also served as a law clerk to Justice Elena Kagan of the US Supreme Court, Judge David Tatel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, and Judge Dean Pregerson of the US District Court for the Central District of California

Reema Dodin – Deputy Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs

Dodin will be the most senior Palestinian-American woman ever to serve in the executive branch. She will work alongside fellow deputy Shuwanza Goff, who will be the first Black woman to hold the position. A longtime staffer for Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, Dodin has served as his deputy chief of staff, floor director, floor counsel, research director and aide to his Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law.

Maher Bitar, Senior Director for Intelligence, White House National Security Council

Another Palestinian-American, Bitar will serve as Senior Director for Intelligence during which he will receive sensitive information from intelligence agencies and coordinate covert operations between the intelligence communities and the White House. The office of the senior director also houses the server that stores the most sensitive classified information.

He formerly served in the National Security Council under the Obama administration, as director for Israeli and Palestin-

ian affairs. He earned his master's degree at Oxford University, writing his dissertation on forced migration at the school's Refugee Studies Center. He has also worked with the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees in Jerusalem.

Samiyyah Ali, Deputy Associate Counsel

Ali has been appointed as a deputy associate counsel in the Office of White House Counsel. As a law graduate, she served as a clerk to Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor of the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018-19 before entering private practice with the litigation firm Wilkinson Stekloff in Washington, D.C. Before her Supreme Court clerkship, Ali was a law clerk for Judge Sri Srinivasan on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for Judge Amul Thapar during his tenure on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Salman Ahmed, Director of Policy Planning, State Department

Ahmed will be joining Biden's foreign policy team as the director of policy planning at the US State Department. He previously served as head of strategic planning in Barrack Obama's National Security Council. Additionally, Ahmed served as the chief of staff of the US Mission to the United Nations and a senior policy advisor to the US Permanent Representative to the UN. He is the second Pakistan-American to be appointed as part of the Biden administration after Zaidi was appointed climate advisor a month before.

Farooq Mitha, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Mitha served as special assistant to the director of the Department of Defense Office of Small Business Programs under the Obama administration and as a senior advisor on Muslim American engagement for the Biden campaign. Farooq has a strong background in international policy and national security. He is proficient in Arabic and has written opinion-editorials offering commentary on issues concerning the Middle East and the American political system, which have been published in domestic and foreign publications.

Dana Shabat, White House Senior Legislative Affairs Advisor

A Jordanian-American Shabat will serve as Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs. She will act as a strategic coordinator for legislative affairs during the transition period for Biden, and legislative assistant to US Senator Michael Bennett. Born in California and raised in Colorado, she graduated from the University of Colorado in 2018, where she studied Psychology and Junior Leadership. Shabat began her legislative career when she joined the US Senate as a trainee in 2017. Her appointment came as Biden announced a transition team that would prioritize "diversity of ideology, background, and talent building to meet the most complex challenges in the United States."

Cont. from page 8.
Funeral Costs

Georgia – No statewide program.

Hawaii – The state provides up to \$400 toward funeral home or crematory expenses. The government may also offer other support as an additional \$400 for cemetery expenses.

Idaho – Funeral assistance varies by county. For example, Twin Falls may offer up to \$895 for Basic Service and \$695 for funeral \$695.

Illinois Department of Human Services operates the Funeral and Burial Unit at (217) 524-5294. This government-run department pays the funeral and burial expenses of a person with limited income and assets. Limits include up to \$1,103 for funeral costs and/or \$552 for burial costs. But the family needs to apply as well. The amount of money spent, including family contribution and state assistance, may not exceed \$2,000 for cemetery costs and \$2,000 in funeral expenses/bills.

Indiana – Offers burial assistance.

Iowa – Provides temporary cash and grant assistance with basic and special needs, such as funeral services or related expenses.

Kansas – No programs are available.

Kentucky can pay for indigent burials. Individuals who are without financial means or insurance can get the cost of a funeral.

Louisiana – Call your local county for advice.

Maine – The state general assistance fund can pay for funerals/burials. It depends on funding levels as well as the qualification of the applicant.

Maryland Department of Human Resources runs the Burial Assistance Program. Aid is only available when their families cannot afford funeral costs on their own. 1-800-332-6347

Massachusetts – The Department of Transitional Assistance is responsible for funeral and burial expenses for those with no

other options or means available to them.

Michigan offers a program known as Home & Burial Services. Burial payment assistance may be available to pay for expenses such as a funeral, the burial itself, church service, or even the costs associated with the donation of a body to a medical school.

Minnesota – Some counties in the state, such as Hennepin, offer Funeral Assistance



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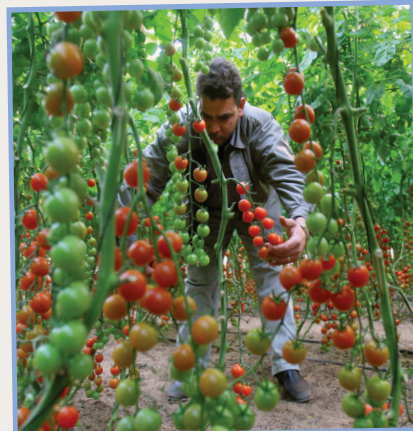
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