

We Are All Equal: In Observance Of Black History Month – An Imam’s Perspective

By: Imam Mustapha Elturk

Are we not tired of our hypocrisy claiming that all people are created equal as enshrined in the Declaration of Independence? When 200 years later, after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) release, blacks in America revolted against the inhumane treatment and rancid racism that knew no end in sight?

The Civil Rights movement of the 1960s may have reshaped the laws and policies in place but despite these changes, and despite the pleasantries, one finds in the above-stated documents,



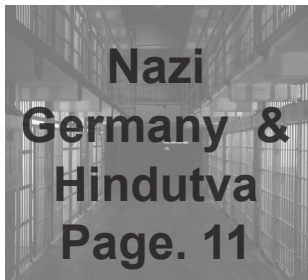
we witnessed one of the heaviest revolts by the African American community (and others) this past summer with the Black Lives Matter

movement revived by the brutal murder of George Floyd.

Why is it that despite our efforts as a nation,

we fall short with each passing generation? We mandate diversity training, develop school

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Remembering Malcolm X On His 56th Assassination Anniversary

By:Quaid Saifee

I’ve had enough of someone else’s propaganda. I’m for truth, no matter who tells it. I’m for justice, no matter who it is for or against. I’m a human being first and foremost, and as such I’m for whoever and whatever benefits humanity as a whole.” – Malcolm X

I just finished listening to the autobiography of Malcolm X (declared



as one of the ten most groundbreaking books of the 20th century by TIME magazine) on Audible and could not resist writing about it. I have been fascinated by Malcolm X for a long time, particularly after watching his famous

1992 biopic by Spike Lee, starring Denzel Washington. There’s also a compelling docu-series on Netflix titled Who Killed Malcolm X, which details his life after his conversion to Orthodox Islam and

Cont. on page 14

Black History Month: Putting Our Differences Aside



By: Victor Ghalib Begg

Black History Month this year began in the wake of a historical swearing-in of a Black female Vice President.

When Kamala Harris took her oath of office on that cloudy afternoon on January 20th, a young black girl, Amanda Gorman, brightened the day

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Biden Announces Plans For COVID-19 Vaccine For Every Adult American

By Nida A. Imam

President Joe Biden informed the nation on March 2, that there will be enough COVID-19 vaccine doses for every adult American by the end of May. The president sees hope with the new date that speeds up the timeline by two months.

"There is light at the end of the tunnel, but we cannot let our guard down now to ensure victory is inevitable, we can't assume that. We must remain vigilant, act fast and aggressively and look out for one another. That's how we're going to get ahead of this virus, get our economy going again and get back to our loved ones," Biden said according to CNN.

Many Americans have been waiting anxiously to get the vaccine, especially with reports from the end of January indicating that several states are experiencing escalating vaccine shortages.

Kentucky's public health commissioner, Steven J. Stack, told The Washing-



ton Post at the time that apportioning limited supply of the vaccine is like sprinkling "pixie dust" across the state.

However, the new deadline does not guarantee that all Americans will receive shots by May 31. Issues with distribution and available resources indicate that it may take much longer for all doses to be administered, CNN noted.

Partnerships between

major U.S. drug makers nevertheless support a rise in optimism for the new target date. The White House announced it was utilizing the Defense Production Act to help equip two Merck facilities to manufacture the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

It was just this past Sunday when news outlets such as ABC News reported that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention gave its

regulatory approval for the Johnson & Johnson one-shot COVID-19 vaccine. There is reason to acknowledge the headway with 4 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the third COVID-19 vaccine, being available to the public immediately.

"We're making progress from the mess we inherited. We're moving in the right direction. And today's announcements are a huge step in our effort

to beat this pandemic," Biden stated Tuesday.

Words of caution also followed the President's recognition of the progress. "Though we celebrate the news of a third vaccine, I urge all Americans, please keep washing your hands. Stay socially distanced. Wear masks keep wearing them. Get vaccinated when it's your turn. Now is not the time to let up,"

Refugees Are Being Removed From Flights To The US

By: Zaid Aleem

According to resettlement organizations that deal directly with refugees, hundreds of refugees who had been accepted — and booked — to travel to the United States are being forced off flights, CNN reports.

After years of record lows under his predecessor, President Joe Biden vowed to expand the number of refugees that will be welcomed to the United States. However, three weeks after declaring that the refugee quota for this year will be changed, Biden has yet to sign the formal determination, leaving refugees abroad in limbo.

Last month, the Biden administration proposed raising the refugee ceiling in the fiscal year 2021 to 62,500, a significant increase from the 15,000 cap put in place under former President Donald Trump. While



these proposals are being made, 60 refugees last week were unbooked from their flights and this week, more than 200 refugees have had their trips postponed, according to a source with knowledge of the matter. In one case, a Congolese family of five

set to depart Uganda, where they've been staying since fleeing war and violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, had their flight canceled this week, said Becca Schwartz, resettlement director of Jewish Social Services of Madison, Wisconsin.

"The President is committed to strengthening the operations of the United States Refugee Admissions Program," a White House spokesperson told CNN. "While no firm numbers have been finalized, the President's view is clear: This program will reflect the

generosity and core values of the United States while benefiting from the many contributions that refugees make to our country."

Biden's proposal not only increased the refugee cap, which dictates how many refugees may be admitted to the U.S. annually but also modified who could come. The refugee cap must be approved by the President after consultation with Congress.

"It's these horrible restrictions that were in the Trump [presidential determination] that remain policy until Biden issues his new [presidential determination]," said Mark Hetfield, president and CEO of HIAS, a refugee resettlement organization.



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Alliance To Save & Protect America From Infiltration By Religious Extremists



The following is a press release from the Alliance to Save and Protect America from Infiltration by Religious Extremists (ASPAIRE)

Activists Protest Against Biden's Choices warning that the President will have another of his nominees rejected if he chooses Sonal Shah accused of links to Hindu supremacists.

Neera Tanden, president of the Center for American Progress, withdrew her nomination to lead the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) this week, Intense lobbying by lawmakers and outside groups started, to push for candidates of their choice. She would have been the first Indian American woman to lead OMB if her nomination had gone through.

After Tanden's withdrawal from the race, there is pressure on President Joe Biden's team to pick yet another Asian American for the post. This is not only because Asian Americans are the fastest-growing demographic group in the United States, but also because the Biden administration has nominated only one Asian American or Pacific Islander in his cabinet, with his choice of Katherine Tai as U.S. trade representative.

Another Indian American Sonal Shah, who founded the White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation, during Barack Obama's presidency and most recently served as national policy director on Pete Buttigieg's presidential campaign, is also in the race for a nomination.

"Hope @JoeBiden and Administration will consider another #AsianAmerican for OMB. This is the moment and it is important for the #AAPI community," she tweeted on Tuesday.

As soon as the possibility of her nomination became evident, Masood Rab of the Coalition of Americans for Pluralism in

India (CAPI), issued a strong statement warning against her nomination.

Several civil rights activists, South Asian progressive activists and protestors against the Donald Trump administration in the US and the Narendra Modi regime in India; including the Alliance to Save and Protect America from Infiltration by Religious Extremists (ASPAIRE), have been in the forefront to campaign against candidates, with direct or indirect links to right-wing Hindu extremist organizations in India; to posts in the US administration.

These activists such as Dr. Shaik Ubaid, had first taken up cudgels against Shah, when she was the first Indian American appointed by Obama's closest advisory team, in 2008. She was called out for her links with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad America (VHPA), a sister wing of VHP, a strident Hindu extremist group in India. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), had in its World Factbook of 2018, labeled VHP as a militant group. This group was instrumental in the 2002 Gujarat pogrom, in which more than 2000 people were brutally killed and about 200,000 people were rendered homeless, triggering national and international outrage.

Shah was the national co-ordinator for VHP America, to raise funds for the 2001 Gujarat earthquake victims, which was accused of helping only Hindu victims, and not the Muslim victims.

Shah's consistent support for Ekal Vidyalayas, a movement founded by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), with the major objective of countering Christianity among Adivasis (forest people) who are the aboriginals in India, and her refusal to publicly decry the 2002 pogrom and subsequent events in India, is a cause for

worry for many.

Ekal Vidyalayas has the support of the Human Resources Ministry of Government of India and works towards conditioning young minds against religious minorities, raising concerns that she had not fully distanced herself from VHP's intolerant, anti-minority ideology. She had in her defense, launched into a tirade that the actual target of the attack was the newly elected first black President Obama. The only thing she had stated in her defense was that she was unaware of VHP's activities.

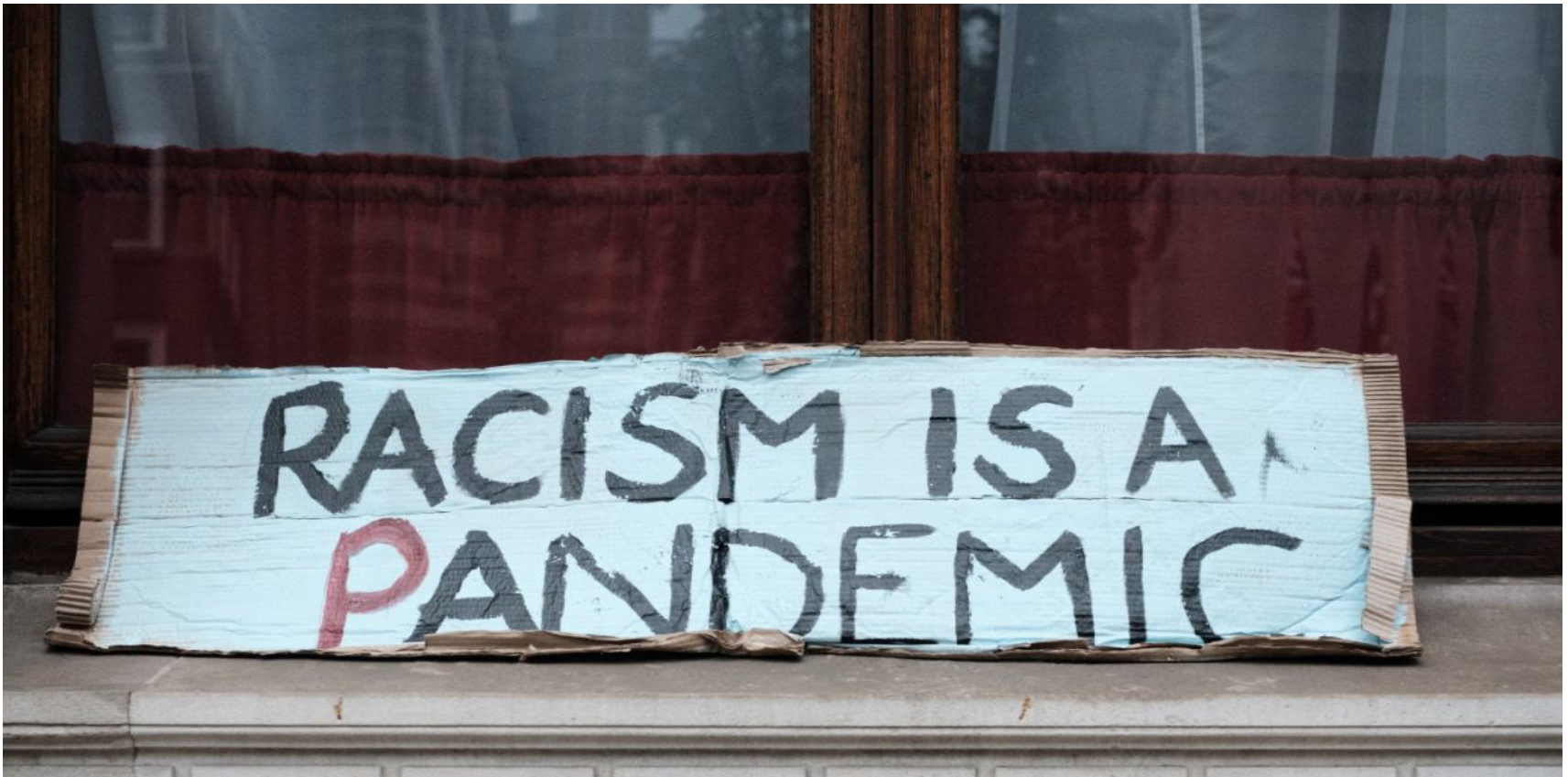
Her father Ramesh Shah was the vice-president of the Overseas Friends of Bharatiya Janata Party (OFBJP), and had campaigned extensively for L K Advani, prime minister aspirant and architect of the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992, which has seared the Hindu-Muslim unity in the country like none other. OFBJP too is under the scanner these days for lobbying for a foreign government without first registering with the US government; as required by the US laws.

She was running for the post of energy secretary then. But was moved to the office of social innovation and civic participation in the white house instead, following the outrage against her.

The others in the race for the top post in OMB include Shalunda Young, an African American, who is the present pick for the post of deputy director of OMB and can be easily elevated to the top of the agency. Among the Asian American's in the running besides Sonal Shah, are Chris Lu, who served as cabinet secretary during the Obama administration and Nani Coloretti, who was deputy secretary of Housing and Urban Development also during the Obama administration.

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Hundreds Of Volunteers Are Escorting Elderly Asian Americans To Help Keep Them Safe From Attacks



By: Aysha Qamar

The COVID-19 pandemic has coincided with an increase in racism and crimes against the Asian community. Because of the spread of misinformation, the use of xenophobic language, and the first case of the virus being traced to China, some individuals have blamed the Asian community for spreading the pandemic in the U.S. As a result, thousands of people who appear to be East Asian have been subjected to not only racist verbal attacks but physical attacks, as well. Between March and December 2020, more than 2,800 cases of anti-Asian crimes were reported across the U.S. According to a report by Stop AAPI Hate, a majority of these incidents involved Asian Americans over the age of 60.

Following multiple attacks on elderly Asian Americans in California, volunteers from all backgrounds have come together in solidarity to support the Asian American community. In an effort to make them feel safe, these volunteers are working on a project called Compassion in Oakland, which allows individuals of all ages to accompany and escort Asian Americans concerned about their safety around the city of Oakland.

According to CNN, the initiative was started on social media by 26-year-old Jacob Azevedo, who felt exhausted by the violence he was seeing daily in his community. "I wasn't intending to be some kind of vigilante," Azevedo told CNN. "I just wanted to offer people some kind of comfort."

Azevedo, who is of Latino descent, noted that this was an opportunity for all minority groups to come together in solidarity with the Asian American community. He acknowledged the rise in crimes against Asian Americans and the language used by politicians that contributed to it. "This is important because this community just needs healing," Azevedo said. "There's a lot of racial tensions going on because of the previous president's rhetoric but in general, our communities need healing. This is an issue that's been ongoing for a while."

His idea to help create safety measures for vulnerable community members resonated with hundreds of people, prompting almost 300 volunteers to sign up to protect the Asian American community, CNN reported.

Activists noted that crimes against the Asian American community

are not new or isolated to COVID-19, but have been underreported and often not given a lot of attention. "This is a problem and issue that doesn't get a lot of attention, especially in low-income communities," Cynthia Choi, Stop AAPI Hate Co-Founder, told CNN. "And of course the pandemic, I think has exacerbated the conditions and exposed racial disparities."

While the U.S. has a history of targeting Asian Americans during public health crises, the recent wave of crimes can be attributed to racist coverage and language used by Donald Trump and his supporters. As president, Trump not only failed to handle the crisis but consistently used language like "Kung Flu" and "Chinese virus" to

refer to COVID-19. Multiple reports examining the link between political rhetoric and anti-Asian bias found that discrimination against the Asian American community increased after the use of such terms, Daily Kos reported.

Choi applauded the support and the community action initiatives being taken against these injustices and noted the impact such initiatives have. "In Oakland, they're planning this action and it's really less about controlling and more about supporting the community and showing up," Choi said. "It's showing our elders who are afraid, afraid to leave their house that we're here, we want to support you, we're holding you right now."

Now more than ever the Asian American community needs our support. There are multiple ways we can show our support during this time, from checking in with your family and friends in the AAPI community to calling members of Congress to hold our representatives accountable for what actions they are taking to protect the community and ensure safety. Raising awareness is the first step and we must all do our part in not allowing these violent attacks to slip under the radar.

If you are in the Oakland area and are interested in volunteering with Compassion in Oakland or are in need of a chaperone, you can find more information here.



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Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf's Story Of Basketball And Sacrifices

By: Zain Ahmed

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf made a massive, but also an impactful decision by choosing not to stand for the national anthem over 20 years ago. According to The Undeclared, Abdul-Rauf continued this ritual before each National Basketball Association (NBA) game, despite it hurting his career and situation financially.

Abdul-Rauf was looking to have a successful basketball career, despite standing at just 6-foot-1. He entered the 1990 NBA draft, after averaging 29 points per game in his two seasons playing college basketball with Louisiana State University according to sports reference, and would eventually be selected with the third pick by the Denver Nuggets. Abdul-Rauf would start his career on a high note, as he would prove to be a productive player in the league, and even had a 51 point game once against the Utah Jazz,



which also included nine 3-pointers according to The New YorkTimes.

Towards the beginning of his career, Abdul-Rauf would often do something else on the side while the national anthem was playing, which nobody noticed or suspected. In March of 1996, the NBA suspended him for a game and gave him a \$32,000 fine, The Undeclared reported He would then start to stand and pray while the national anthem was playing, which was acceptable to

the league.

"You can't be for God and for oppression. It's clear in the Quran," Abdul-Rauf said according to The Undeclared. He viewed the American flag as a symbol of oppression and racism.

Eventually, he started to get fewer minutes on the floor and lost his starting spot. He then spent two years out of the league, including a year in Turkey according to CBS News. He then only got to play one more

year in the NBA with the Vancouver Grizzlies, before having to officially leave the NBA at just 31-years-old.

The downfall of Abdul-Rauf was not because of his play on the court, but rather something else. In an interview with The Undeclared, he stated: "It's kind of like a setup. You know, trying to set you up to fail and so when they get rid of you, they can blame it on that as opposed to, it was really because he took these positions. They

don't want these type of examples to spread, so they've got to make an example of individuals like this."

After his departure from the NBA, Abdul-Rauf would spend several years playing overseas in several different countries, on a much lower salary than what he would be earning in the NBA. But despite these losses, he still has no regrets and values other things over that. He told the Denver Post: "As far as I'm concerned, I was supposed to go through that, and as long as I could gain not just experience but grow from it, I'm not going to regret that."

Additionally, he told The Undeclared: "It's priceless to know that I can go to sleep knowing that I stood my principles. Whether I go broke, whether they take my life, whatever it is, I stood on principles. To me, that is worth more than wealth and fame."

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Manikfan: A Man In A Million

By Mohammad Nasir Jawed

“We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.” – J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series

When Ali Manikfan dropped out after fifth grade, no one had expected him to do magic to reach the acme of fame that he is basking in today. He didn't do it either. He simply developed his interests in marine life into passion and pursued it with all his sincerity and steadiness.

A frail-looking, down-to-earth and quiet person, Manikfan was never a center of attraction in his locality in Kozhikode – a coastal city in the southern state of Kerala – till the Indian TV channels beamed the news of him being chosen for one of the best highest civilian awards of the country. When, on January 26 this year, India finally honored him with Padma Shari Award, Manikfan became a much talked about person in the town, and nationwide, as the award is given for one's achievement in the field of arts, education and social work. The people took note of his exemplary works; and more than that his quiet life which is full of inspiration and thought-provoking. Till then they only knew that he was a retired official from Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) living there, and was originally from Lakshadweep.

Manikfan was born on March 16, 1938 to an Indian couple – Musa Manikfan and Fatima Maneka in Minicoy, an island city in the Indian province of Lakshadweep archipelago. After having received education under the tutelage of Islamic scholars, he was sent to Kannur, a coastal city in the Kerala state to receive a formal education. He did not have much of his primary education: yet he went on to become a scholar par excellence and a multi-faceted personality. He did it all



silently, as he probably knew that the silence is beauty – and golden too.

Manikfan took a keen interest in marine life owing mainly to his proximity to sea as also to his penchant for natural life; he did extensive self-research in the area. He would study fishes in the sea off the Minicoy islands. This keen observation turned into a passion for fishes, motivating him to study more about fishes. His proclivity for research got him a job at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in 1956, where he discovered a rare fish which has been named after him – Abudehduf Manikfani.

His self-study was not limited to marine research. He studied biology, geography, astronomy, social sciences and humanities as well. He got more closely to nature and began living on plants, leaves and different fruits.

Besides being a fisheries specialist, he became a technical expert as an agronomist and a traditional shipbuilder. In 1981, Oman invited Manikfan at the instance of Timothy Severin – an Irish explorer and scholar – to build the replica of an ancient Arabian ship, believed to be used by Sinbad the Sailor, during his voyages. Since Severin wanted the ship to be made without metals, Manikfan and his team used timber and coir to make a 27-me-

ter-long ship in one year. Named “Sohar” after the town of Sohar in Oman, the ship is now kept in a museum in Oman.

Manikfan currently lives in a rented accommodation along with his wife in Olavanna Town in Kerala. He is multilingual and can speak and write in 14 languages including English, Hindi, Malayalam, Arabic, Latin, French, Russian, German, Sinhalese, Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil and Urdu.

This rich scientific life proves an important fact, which is that an ambitious person can acquire knowledge even if he does not have formal qualifications, or the reasons for formal education are prepared for him.

Manikfan later worked with scholars from Australia and Italy, besides those in India in various scientific fields that were not necessarily restricted to marine sciences, as he did research in the field of history, diesel and gasoline engines. He worked as a field researcher in the collection and identification of marine samples, and he also collected marine samples for Dr. Nils Finn Munch Petersen at the University of Copenhagen from Lakshadweep, the Maldives and Andaman and Nicobar regions, and collected samples from the coast of Oman for scientific studies. He published scientific research on marine organisms in cooperation with Dr. S.

Jones, a marine biologist.

His other interest was in agriculture where he expanded his study to convert a barren 15-acre land at Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu into a lush green farmland using indigenous methods of cultivation. His interest in locally developed technology could also be seen in his building of residential premises where he used traditional materials.

One of Manikfan's innovations is that he built a motorcycle powered by a cylinder with the help of an old spray engine, using the pedal to start the engine, and he traveled with his son Musa from Tamil Nadu to New Delhi, where he used to travel at a rate of 60 to 70 km per day. Although its top speed is only 35 km per hour, Ali Manikfan claims that it is much cheaper and more efficient than those gasoline-powered bikes.

The Lunar Calendar

In 1965 when some nasty controversy arose among Muslims in Minikoy on the actual date of Eid Al-Fitr celebrations, which is based on the appearance of moon, Manikfan set himself on a project to improvise the Hijri calendar with the aim to synchronize the lunar dates so that there is no controversy as regards the important events in Islam.

The project necessitated Manikfan to go to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia where he met with Prof.

Dr. Saleh Al-Athel, the former president of the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, and discussed in detail the possible changes in the established rules for calculating the beginning of the months in the Umm Al-Qura calendar.

His efforts bore fruits as he developed a calendar using astronomical algorithms, and which became a reference point for Muslims in the southern states of India.

Conclusion

Quietly working his way to global fame, the 82-year-old Ali Manikfan has justified the old adage that silence is indeed golden. By doing so, he has redefined leadership too – that it is self-made, which comes from a sincere and a life lived on certain principles. It inspires others by one's exemplary character and hard work. He recalibrated the role of a leader, who do not necessarily need followers, or a crowd of fans, or a media glare to be taken note of.

The recipient of India's one of the best civilian awards put the betterment of mankind ahead of earning a name or fame for himself.

The way Manikfan gained knowledge in several fields, threw all the existing methods of having education out of the window of traditions, rules and rituals.

Manikfan dropped out of primary school, yet his passion for education propelled him to the dizzying heights of success, name and fame. He said – and proved – that formal education was artificial and pointless; and stressed on gaining wisdom by observing the environment and its beauty and living in it without any exploitation.

When asked if he thinks he has been sufficiently recognized for all his achievements, he replied: “There are several varieties of flowers that bloom and disappear in the wilderness without being taken note of its fragrance by anyone. This is my life.”



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Death Sentence Commuted For Saudi Man Jailed As A Teen

By Nida A. Imam

The Specialized Criminal Court of Saudi Arabia has reduced a Saudi man's sentence from life to 10-years in prison. The man, identified as Ali al-Nimr by his father Mohammed al-Nimr, was arrested and sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia for involvement in anti-government protests when he was a teen.

According to CNN, Ali al-Nimr was arrested in 2012, at the age of 17, for being a part of protests demanding social and political reforms in Qatif, a province in Saudi Arabia. His final appeal was rejected in 2015, and he was to face beheading.

Ali al-Nimr's sentence was commuted per a royal decree in regards to people who committed crimes as minors. Last year in April, Saudi Arabia announced that it would abolish the death penalty for people who committed crimes as minors. Ali al-Nimr, the nephew of the executed



firebrand cleric Nimr al-Nimr, has been a prominent case since the abolishment announcement.

Per Human Rights Commission (HRC)'s statement, anyone convicted of crimes as a minor would not receive a sentence longer than 10-years in a juvenile detention facility.

According to Mohammed al-Nimr, his son is 26-years-old now and therefore should be released in eight or nine months since he has already spent more than nine years in prison.

"His health is good, but he has been in prison for more than nine years. He spent more than seven years with the threat of

execution hanging over his head every day, every hour and every minute. After the verdict, he was able to breathe. Starting today, he is looking forward to freedom," Mohammed al-Nimr told CNN.

As Ali al-Nimr's family waits for his release, there's hope to see many others, similar individ-

uals, released in the future.

"My family and I are happy. I hope all those arrested in my country and elsewhere (will) be released," Mohammed al-Nimr said.

AHRC Urges End To Yemen's Humanitarian Crisis

The following is a press release from The American Human Rights Council (AHRC-USA)

The American Human Rights Council (AHRC-USA) welcomes the Biden administration's effort to help end war in Yemen and bring closure to years of a bloody war that claimed more than a hundred thousand lives.

Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world and is the poorest Arab country. Even before the war, Yemen had serious infrastructure and capacity problems. The ongoing war, compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic, has made Yemen one of the worst crises of the twenty-first century.

The Yemeni people deserve an end to this ongoing human tragedy. AHRC recognizes that the conflict in Yemen is a regional conflict as well. The conflict is a political conflict that needs a political solution. Only sustained involvement of the



great powers can bring an end to the conflict.

The people of Yemen have suffered immensely. This suffering was aggravated by including Yemen in the Muslim Ban. President Biden has undone this ban and now Yemeni Americans can provide immigration

benefits to their families. This is a good development. A great development would be the ending of the war.

AHRC calls upon all Yemeni parties to engage in constructive and genuine dialogue seeking peace, reconciliation, healing and unity. President

Biden has promised to end the war in Yemen and we believe that he has the tools to bring the war to an end.

"We are optimistic that the current administration has the political will to bring the war in Yemen to an end," said Imad Hamad, AHRC

Executive Director. "We hope that when the war ends, generous donors from around the world help the Yemenis rebuild what the war has destroyed," concluded Hamad.

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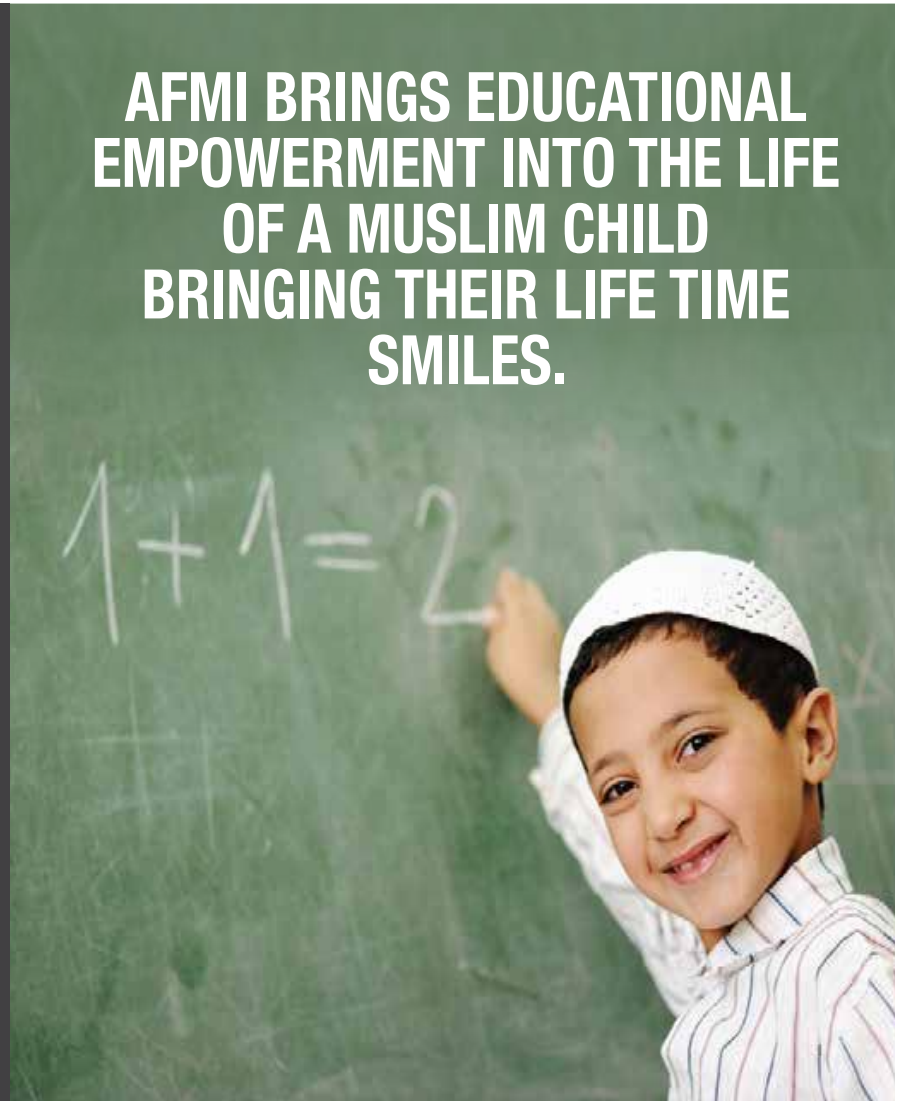


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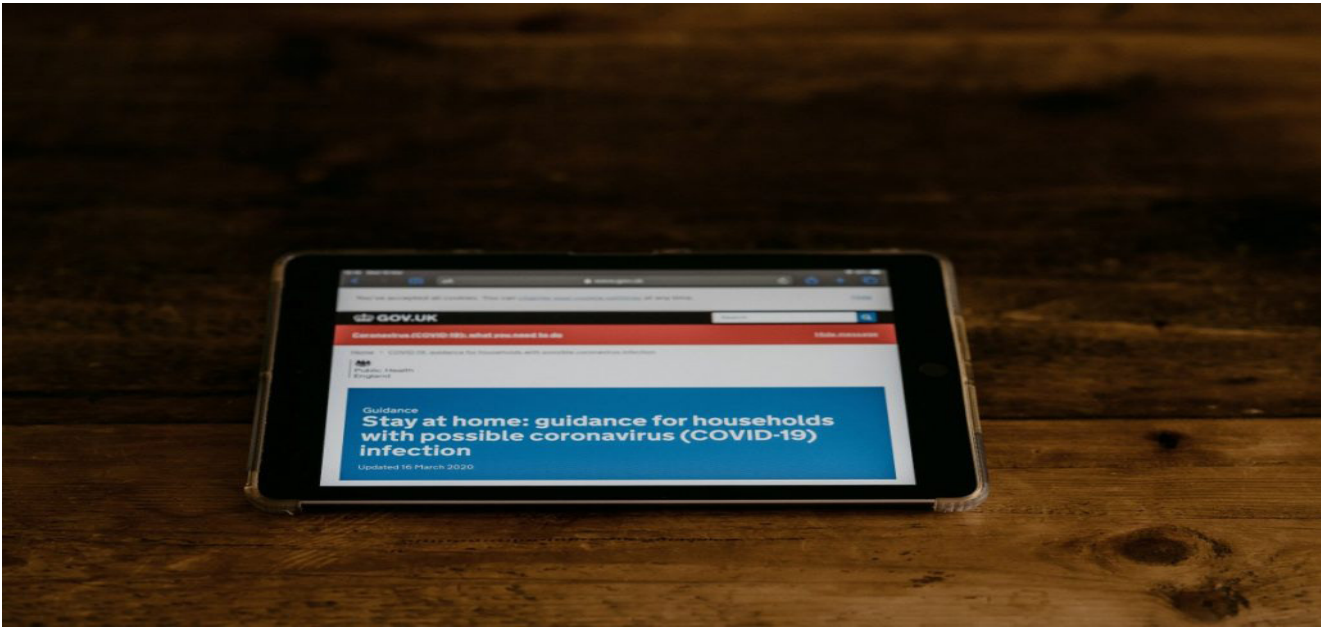
Half A Million And Counting

by Zaid Aleem

As the U.S. prepares to reach a horrific new milestone—half a million Covid—19 fatalities—officials say the nation is now nearing the end of its brutal war against the epidemic. This grim milestone has taken the country just over a year to reach since the first known COVID-19 death, according to CNN.

And another 91,000 Americans are projected to die from the disease by June 1, according to the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Plans are underway for President Joe Biden to mark the 500,000 deaths as soon as Monday. A White House official said the President is preparing to give remarks and hold a candle-lighting ceremony at the White House around sundown if the threshold is reached.

Decreases in new



Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations in recent weeks have prompted some state and local leaders to loosen restrictions.	driver of the trajectory of the epidemic over the next four months is how individuals will respond to steady declines in daily cases and deaths,” the IHME team wrote.	43.6 million people have received at least the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, according to CDC data. More than 18.8 million Americans have been fully vaccinated with a second dose. That’s about 5.7% of the US population.	herd immunity to take effect against the virus. The IHME team wrote they do not expect the country will reach herd immunity before next winter.
But as new coronavirus variants spread, health experts say it’s critical to double down on safety measures to prevent yet another catastrophic surge.	“More rapid increases in mobility or reductions in mask use can easily lead to increasing cases and deaths in many states in April.”	Dr. Anthony Fauci estimates between 70% to 85% of the US population needs to be immune for	“The model suggests that we should have a quiet summer,” IHME Director Dr. Chris Murray said.
“The most uncertain	Meanwhile, more than		

A Houston Doctor Was Charged For Administering The COVID-19 Vaccine

By: TMO Staff

Everyone seems to be talking about the COVID-19 vaccine, from our new president to even tabloids reporting about celebrities who have received the vaccine so far. The precious medicine seems to have caught many people’s attention. But a less reported fact is that once a vial of the COVID-19 vaccine is opened, it must be administered before it expires in 12-hours.

As a result of preserving this vaccine, one physician in Texas found himself in a conflicting situation— he had to find at least 10 individuals to administer the vaccine within six hours. While Hasan Gokal was able to successfully find individuals to administer the vaccine to, he was later charged for theft by the county.

According to The New York Times, moments before going on his quest to find eligible individuals, Gokal spoke to a county public health official and was given an OK to find people to administer the remaining vaccines.



While it was difficult he was able to administer the vaccine to 10 vulnerable individuals including his wife, who has pulmonary sarcoidosis. Gokal administered the vaccine to his wife 15-minutes before it expired.	60s and 70s with health issues to a mother with a child on a ventilator. Several days after he informed his supervisor and submitted paperwork for the 10 people he vaccinated, he was fired from his job. Per the Harris County’s Office of District Attorney website, he was charged with stealing a vial of COVID-19 vaccine.	cess to be there,” Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg said. “What he did was illegal and he’ll be held accountable under the law.” The website noted that a Class A Misdemeanor carries a penalty of up to a year in prison and a \$4,000 fine. While the charges were dismissed by a judge in late January due to lack of probable cause, Gokal’s reputation remains damaged and he is currently jobless as the county district attorney plans to challenge the	case in trial. Despite this, Gokal continues to help the community and volunteer locally at clinics for those without insurance. “It is difficult to understand any justification for charging any well-intentioned physician in this situation with a criminal offense,” the Texas Medical Association and the Harris County Medical Society said in a statement.
According to WebMD, Gokal either met people he vaccinated at his home or traveled to their home to make use of the doses. He gave the doses to acquaintances and strangers, from several men and women in their	“He abused his position to place his friends and family in line in front of people who had gone through the lawful pro-		

Op Ed: Nazi Germany And Hindutva India, A Fascist Road To Ethnic Purity

By Burhanulhaq Brula

In the summer of 2019, Tabrez Ansari, a 24-year-old Muslim man in the Jharkhand state of India, was accused of stealing a motorbike by a Hindu mob. Ansari was tied to a pole and forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram," a Hindu slogan that translates to "Hail Lord Ram." For twelve horrific hours, he was flogged with metal rods. Two police officers were later suspended because they failed to inform senior officials about the case and "tried to stop it themselves." Whether the police officers truly attempted to save Ansari is questionable, considering the twelve hours it took for the police to finally break up the mob. Astonishingly, the police decided to take him to the police station first, to file charges for his alleged theft of a motorbike, even though he was in serious need of medical attention. He was not taken to a hospital until four days later when his condition worsened. He died at the hospital due to a skull fracture and other bodily injuries.

Alarming, Ansari is one of many similar cases. Muslims in India are in greater danger today than ever before, and much of the threat can be traced to the ruling party in India, the Bharatiya Janata Party, and the ideology it stands for, Hindutva (an ideology distinct from the religion of Hinduism). The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is an extremist Hindu nationalist movement and one of the main promoters of the Hindutva ideology. One of the founders of the RSS, Madhavrao Sadashivrao Golwalkar, was an open admirer of Adolf Hitler and his policy towards the Jews of Europe. Golwalkar claimed that Germany demonstrated that a multi-racial and multi-cultural nation cannot flourish and in that, he wrote, there was "a good lesson for us in Hindustan [India] to learn and profit by." In fact, it was an RSS



member who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi due to Gandhi's "soft" attitude towards Muslims. Throughout the history of modern India, the RSS has been responsible for numerous hate crimes towards Muslims and other minorities including Christians, Sikhs, and even lower caste Hindus such as Dalits. With six million members, the RSS — effectively the parent organization to the ruling BJP — has dominated politics in India since 2014. Subsequently, the hate-mongering and systematic oppression of Muslims has risen to unprecedented levels, and the steps that are being taken by the Indian government to alienate and perhaps eliminate Muslims from India are shockingly similar to the steps that the Nazis implemented against the Jewish community of Germany in the mid 20th century.

Parallels Between Anti-Semitic and Anti-Muslim Rhetoric

Prior to systematically murdering Jews in concentration camps, the Nazis undertook certain steps to alienate Jews from German society and to create public hatred towards them. The first of these was anti-Jewish rhetoric in posters, newspapers, and especially public speeches and radio addresses. Adolf Hitler would often refer to Jews as "traitors" and "enemies" to ensure that Jews were seen as

pariahs in society.

As early as 2015, just one year after the BJP took power, a BJP member of parliament, Sakshi Maharaj, addressed the killing of Mohammad Akhlaq, a Muslim who was accused of illegally slaughtering cows for beef. He stated, "We won't remain silent if somebody tries to kill our mother. We are ready to kill and be killed." In 2017, Raman Singh, BJP chief minister in the state of Chhattisgarh, blatantly stated that "We will hang those who kill cows," while Vikram Saini, a BJP lawmaker from Uttar Pradesh, claimed that he would "break the hands and legs of those who do not consider cows their mother and kill them."

Whereas Adolf Hitler regularly blamed Jews for societal issues such as German poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity, Anant Kumar Hedge of the BJP parliament nonsensically blamed Muslims for spreading the coronavirus, calling it "Corona Jihad." Another politician, Raja Singh, has called for Rohingya Muslim immigrants to be shot, has called Muslims traitors, and threatened to demolish mosques. Even at the highest level of government, Islamophobic remarks are made. Prime minister Narendra Modi and the president of the BJP, Amit Shah, regularly refer to Muslims as "termites," "traitors," and

"infiltrators," much like Adolf Hitler attaching similar labels to Jews during public addresses. A shocking Facebook post by Sunita Singh Gaud, the leader of the BJP's women's wing, called for "Hindu brothers" to gang-rape Muslim women on the streets and "hang them in the middle of the bazaar for others to see." The striking parallels between the Nazi party's and the BJP's hate-mongering attitude towards minorities are indeed disturbing, and it has led inevitably to public sentiment turning against Muslims.

Marriage Laws: 'Race-mixing' and 'Love Jihad'

The Nazis also claimed that "race-mixing" through marriage weakened Germany. "The Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour" prohibited marriage and extramarital relations between Jews and persons of German blood. These were declared strictly criminal acts and the law was enforced starting in 1935.

Recently, the state of Uttar Pradesh in India introduced the "Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Ordinance" which effectively bans interfaith marriages due to fears of what many Hindu nationalists call "love jihad." They claim that Muslim men "lure" Hindu women into marriage and then "force" them to convert to Islam. However, when ordered

by a court to look into the matter, India's National Investigation Agency found no evidence of coercion or "love jihad" after investigating numerous interfaith marriages. Although arrests have been made under the new law, perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the law is the symbolic alienation of Muslims and the implication that Muslims are trying to "take over" Hindu India. Equally troubling is that other Indian states are adopting similar laws. Protests have been raised against the religiously discriminatory law in the officially secular nation of India but to no avail.

Citizenship Barriers: India's Red Letter

In 1935, the Nazi government adopted the Nuremberg Laws that declared that reclassified Jewish citizens as state subjects with no citizenship rights. This disenfranchising decree was perhaps one of the most effective in establishing Jews as pariahs, paving the way for further injustice and intolerance.

Instead of outwardly declaring Muslims as foreigners in India today, the BJP has cleverly and systematically managed to create a path towards that very objective. In 2019, the BJP declared plans to extend nationwide the National Register of Citizens (NRC), the register having already

Cont on page 13.

Blackout Continues In Texas, As Republicans Blame Everything But The Real Problem

by Mark Sumner

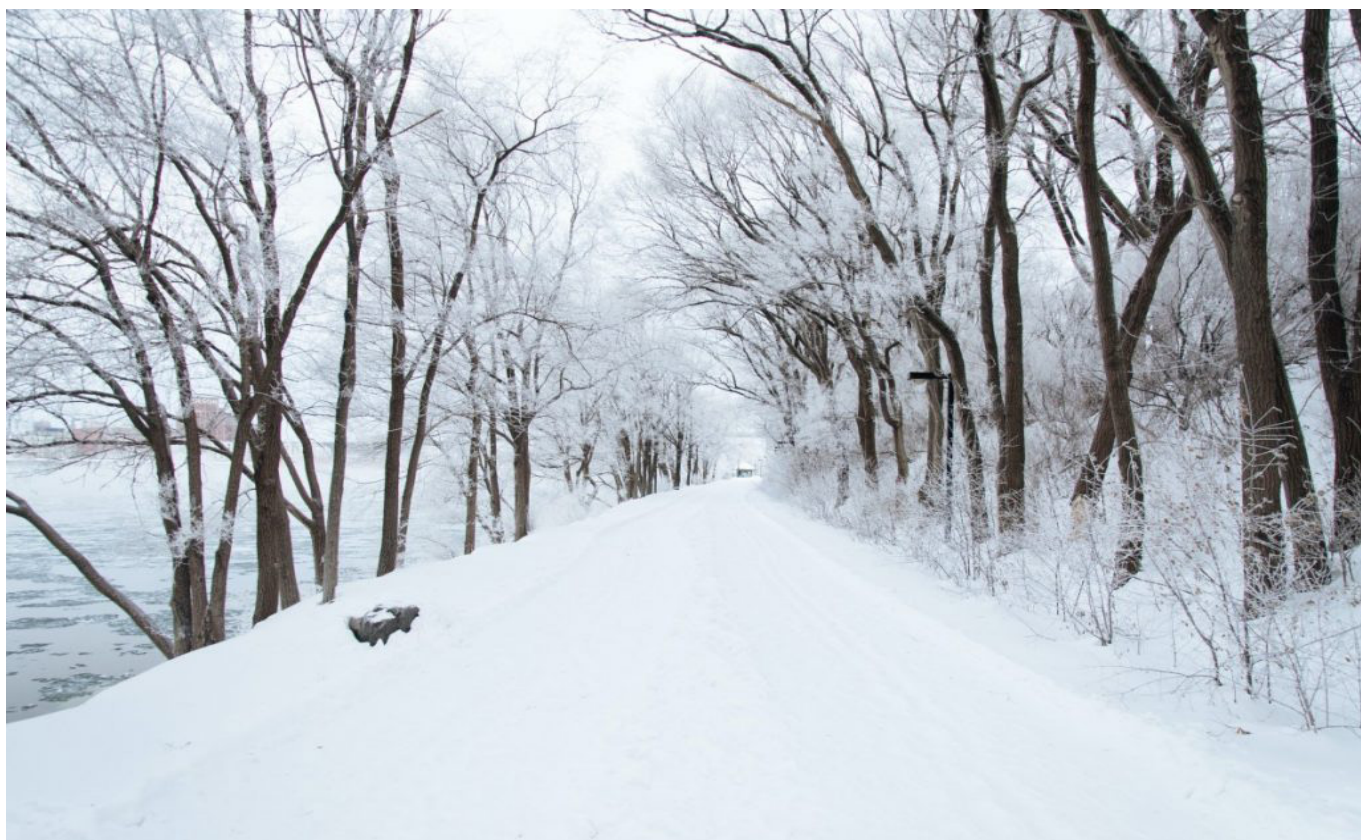
This story has been re-published from Daily Kos. Millions of homes in Texas are still without power as a prolonged blackout continues. Meanwhile, the temperature in Austin, Texas, is expected to approach freezing for the first time in days ... as the city is hit by a massive ice storm that's expected to bring down trees and power lines. As a bonus, the cold weather has also broken water lines in multiple Texas towns and cities. In some areas, the prolonged outage has become genuinely life-threatening.

Fox News and Republican politicians—including Texas Gov. Greg Abbott—have been taking this “opportunity” to attack Texas’ use of wind energy, call for the burning of more fossil fuels, and to make claims that green power is “deadly.” However, the statistics provided by Texas own grid managers show that wind continues to produce more power than projected for this time of year, with the great majority of outages in exactly the gas- and coal-based plants that Fox has been touting.

Meanwhile, far from being off line, wind generators are enjoying a fat payday. Thanks to the way power prices fluctuate in Texas, Bloomberg reports that a 100Mw windfarm that could normally expect to clear \$40,000 on any two days in February, instead racked up over \$9.5 million on Monday and Tuesday thanks to record spikes in Texas power market.

In 2003, Australia installed a pair of wind turbines at its Mawson Research Station in Antarctica. One of those turbines failed ... after 14 years of operating in extreme conditions where temperatures are regularly far below zero and winds exceed 100 mph. The other turbine is still operating, providing 300 kW to power the research post.

At the opposite end of the world, Norway installed



a pair of 100Mw turbines in Svalbard, the most northerly town in the world. Further south, but still within the Arctic circle, the fishing and tourist town of Havøysund, Norway, is home to Arctic Wind. Greenland also has been moving to wind power since 2008.

And in the United States, anyone traveling along Interstate 94 through North Dakota can't help but notice that the area is graced by more than 1,500 wind turbines generating over 3,000 Mw of energy. The temperature in Dallas might have reached 24 degrees on Tuesday, but it was -1 in Fargo. North Dakota's wind turbines kept right on cranking.

In short—wind turbines operate reliably, year in and year out, in conditions far worse than those currently being experienced in Texas. Yes, there are some turbines currently down for maintenance in Texas, but with 10,700 turbines operating, there are always turbines down for maintenance. The current number doesn't seem to be any higher than normal. In fact, while many sources are citing wind as accounting for 13% of the 30 gigawatts of power currently offline in Texas, that's only true if you count the rated power of every turbine offline and ignore the fact that the operat-

ing turbines are actually producing well over their projected rate.

If the wind turbines aren't frozen, then what is? Gas pipelines. Unlike pipelines in Alaska or the Dakotas, those connected Texas fields with storage facilities and power plants are above ground and uninsulated. Methane doesn't actually liquify until it hits a temperature that even Antarctica can't match, but what's in a natural gas pipeline is far from pure methane. It usually includes fluids involved in drilling and fracking as well as a good deal of water vapor. As a result, when those pipelines get cold, they can develop a kind of methane-saturated sludge that severely restricts the flow.

At the same time the pipelines are producing less, demand is going up. Not only is natural gas used at power plants, it's used directly in home and business heating. So everyone wants the gas, just as it's getting more difficult to move. That definitely is happening in Texas. The result is both shortages that have either taken plants offline or reduced their rate of production, while at the same time driving the spot price for natural gas through the roof. Gas that sold for \$4/MMBtu last week, hit \$500 over the weekend and \$1,000 on Tuesday.

Coal plants are also having difficulty. Almost all the coal burned in Texas is sub-bituminous from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming, or lignite from Texas' own fields. Both grades of coal are high in moisture. And since coal is generally shipped in open cars and often stored outside in stockpiles, also subject to local weather. Frozen coal can be hard to remove from train cars, difficult to move down conveyor belts, and clog the crushers that are used to ready it for furnaces. In addition, coal plants and gas plants are steam plants, meaning that they require huge amounts of water. That water also moves around in pipes. When those pipes are exposed and uninsulated, they freeze.

The freezing temperatures in Texas may be a record in some locations, but they were not a surprise. Forecasters could see this wave of extreme cold coming for weeks before it arrived. Even so, there appears to have been no effort made to prepare Texas' power grid for the surge of demand that would come when all that cold air reached all those millions of homes. It appears that way ... because it was that way.

As The Washington Post makes clear, natural gas is by far the largest contributor to the current

power shortfall in Texas. The reason is simple lack of preparation that has nothing to do with engineering. It's simply the system of incentives put in place by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and how Texas created a “Wild West market design based only on short-run prices.” No one prepared because there is no money in preparing. The market is designed to capitalize on high-demand situations, and—as the mid-sized wind farm back at the outset of this article illustrates—situations that are miserable for Texas consumers can be wonderful for Texas operators.

It's no wonder that Fox News is claiming that the “Green New Deal” is killing Texas, even though that legislation has never been passed. And it's no secret why Abbott and others want to find a convenient scapegoat that lets them announce “investigations” that have no intention of changing a thing. Texas' power grid is not only operating as designed, it's a showcase of Republican plans for deregulation and “free markets.”

They can't admit the truth, because what they want is more. Not more power. More of the same system that's keeping Texas in the dark.

Cont. from page 1.
Black History

with her now famous inaugural day poem calling for unity. Her words reverberated across America and around the globe. She asks, in the opening verse of her poem, The Hill We Climb: When day comes we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never-ending shade

We thought that day had come when a black president was elected, only to discover a post racial era yet to dawn in America. In this month, as we remember and honor the contributions of our black sisters and brothers, the answer to those words of Amanda is particularly meaningful. In reciting her poem's closing line, she urged America to come together in the aftermath of race and the capital riots: We

must first put our differences aside

If we can achieve that, celebrating our black history then wouldn't be limited to a single month or needed. We don't confine any other part of America's history into a single season. We don't think of the need for a White History Month.

I imagine as she took her oath of office not far from Lincoln Memorial in making history that day, Kamala Harris thought of the dream Reverend Martin Luther King had envisioned and spoken of at that monument: "a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin".

That would happen only when black lives are as precious as any, and the black history is celebrated as our collective history.

As an immigrant Muslim born in India, I attest that America is the greatest multiracial, multireligious, and multiethnic Republic ever known—the envy of the world. America's black and white historical divide, however, continues to be an aberration to the model it represents. International public support for Black Lives Matter protests over the police killing of a black man was a sad reality.

Achieving the American Dream to me is successfully building a good life with a nice suburban home, a substantial net worth, and good college education for my kids. On the other hand, I find for many of my black friends 'The American Dream' has a somewhat different meaning—to have equal opportunities, equal justice, and equal

rights.

The wave of immigrants of all colors and persuasions from the four corners of the world in our history freely participated in America's economy of abundance—today's arrivals, the minorities like me, are beneficiary of the civil rights Black Americans fought for. The path to my own successes in America is paved by their sacrifices, while they continue to struggle under institutionalized racism to this day.

As we celebrate Black History Month, stories that surfaced in the month are reminders that progress is an uphill battle: like that of a Utah school reexamines allowing parents to opt out of black history month curriculum. Or the news that Black Americans are dying at twice the

rate of White Americans of COVID-19 and yet they're getting vaccinated at half the rate. Many black families aren't equipped with internet and computer access that helped me secure the vaccine appointment for my wife and me—both of us had the 2nd Pfizer shots two weeks ago, confirming to me: the playing field isn't leveled.

Black slaves built the southern economy—an important building block of our nation. The part African slaves contributed to in the birth of the new world is timeless.

Victor Begg is author of the 2019 memoir "Our Muslim Neighbors—Achieving the American Dream; An Immigrant's Memoir." www.Victor-Begg.com

Cont. from page 11.
Hindutva

been implemented in the state of Assam in 2015. Establishing the register is purportedly to identify and deport "illegal immigrants." It dictates that all citizens must provide proof that their families lived in India as early as 1951. Those who cannot produce proof are effectively stripped of their Indian citizenship or declared illegal immigrants. Activists have claimed that Muslims who have lineage tracing back at least to 1951 are being excluded from NRC electoral lists. Fears of mass voter exclusion were raised in the recent 2019 elections when activists claimed that nearly forty million Muslims were barred from voting because they were not included on NRC electoral lists.

The Indian government has, in contrast, provided a fast track to citizenship for refugees through the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The only issue is that the legislation fast tracks citizenship based on religion and applies to Hindus, Buddhists, Jainists, and other "persecuted" religious minorities while glaringly excluding Muslims from the list. This is especially worrying for recent Muslim refugees who fled

the 2017 ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. Much like the Nazis who marked Jewish identification papers with a red-letter J, for Jude (? Jew), to prevent them from obtaining citizenship, the CAA effectively does the same to Muslims, ensuring that they have no path to citizenship and, therefore, establishes them as illegal immigrants. Although India claims to be a secular state, the inclusion of religion as a factor in dictating citizenship status is an act that goes against the very idea of a secular nation.

Hate Crimes and Injustice: India's Ongoing Kristallnacht

Hateful rhetoric and discriminatory social legislation inevitably cause a rise in hate crimes. Deepankar Basu, an economist from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, found that since the BJP and Modi took power in 2014, there has been a 300 percent increase in hate crimes against minorities, especially Muslims. He details his findings in his paper, "Majoritarian Politics and Hate Crimes Against Religious Minorities in India, 2009-2018." He writes:

"Thus, BJP's spectacular electoral victory in 2014 sent a signal to those holding strong anti-Mus-

lim sentiments that such sentiments were widely held in society. Since the election campaigns by key BJP leaders had demonized and vilified Muslims, its victory made it acceptable to verbally and physically attack Muslims. Since key political leaders did not strongly condemn such attacks and law enforcement officials were lax, it reinforced the attacks on Muslims by creating and sustaining a culture of impunity. It is this social atmosphere that encouraged violent, and often lethal, attacks on Muslims across India."

Mr. Basu emphasizes the role of the BJP government in facilitating the rise in hate crimes, especially the lack of prosecution of perpetrators. Perhaps the most striking evidence of this fact is how in January 2020, a gunman opened fire at a group of Muslim protesters while the Delhi Police looked on without taking any action. Similarly, the Nazi government rarely brought those who committed crimes against Jews to justice. During the Kristallnacht Pogrom (Night of Broken Glass), approximately 1,400 synagogues were burned and 7,000 Jewish-owned stores and hundreds of homes were damaged and looted, and close to one hundred Jews were

murdered, while the Nazi government did virtually nothing to stop the chaos. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not unfamiliar with pogroms such as these, as he was chief minister in the state of Gujarat in 2002 when more than 2,000 Muslims were killed and many Muslim women raped. Due to his role in that pogrom, Modi was barred from entering the U.S. in 2005.

Human Rights Watch has stated that authorities in India's Gujarat state were still "subverting justice, protecting perpetrators, and intimidating those promoting accountability" even a decade after the riots. Recent pogroms such as the 2020 Delhi riots, where nearly fifty Muslims were killed and dozens of mosques were burned, have yet to see perpetrators brought to justice — giving extremists a green light to continue their violence. The parallels between the injustice towards Muslims in India and Jews in Nazi Germany are exemplified by the systematic facilitation of extremist hate and violence against minority groups, yet another step towards ethnic cleansing.

The Final Step

After socially and politically alienating Jews, Adolf Hitler commenced what he called "The Final

Solution." This consisted of the complete extermination of Jews, and in 1938, 30,000 Jews were sent to concentration camps, the first of about six million. Reports have trickled out of Indian Occupied Kashmir of Hindu gangs being given free rein to murder Muslims and loot Muslim properties. Although these crimes are hard to verify due to the tight lockdowns, curfews, and internet blockages the Indian government has imposed, they may not be surprising when put into the context of the BJP's history of dealing with Muslims.

It is important to bear in mind that Adolf Hitler was not the first person in history to ethnically cleanse a people or to commit genocide; he simply followed the steps that allowed him and others before him to do so, gradually and systematically. Now, those very steps are being taken against the Muslims of India, and if we are to learn the lessons of history, there is only one step remaining: full ethnic cleansing, either by forced emigration or the ultimate evil of genocide.

**Cont. from page 1.
We Are All Equal:**

curriculums and hold accountable corporations and institutions that lack diversity, yet we fail to live up to this nation's ideals.

What is truly required is not only a behavior change but, more importantly, a change in attitude—a change in the heart.

As an Imam (Muslim clergy) and co-founding member of the American Human Rights Council, I draw from centuries-old history to seek answers

to our modern-era predicament. Muhammad, the final Prophet in Islam, liberated Arabia from all traces of racism. Black slaves became masters (leaders). He created a community based on equality and fraternity that included Jews, Christians, Ethiopians, Romans, Persians — people from all walks of life. Men and women of all backgrounds belonged to one family.

This revolution for equality and fraternity was sparked through the divine mandate, “O mankind! We created

you (all) from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Surely, the most honorable among you with God is the most righteous. Verily, God is all-knowing, all aware” (Quran, 49:13)

Through the incessant preaching for thirteen years of a power higher than themselves, including accountability in the hereafter, Muhammad was able to transform the hearts of Pagan Arabs who once buried their daughters alive to a nation that came

together for one common cause. He instilled a love so deep for their Creator that the newly minted Muslims had no other choice but to honor God's creation due to their intense belief in Him.

Simply put, our hearts are dead and need revival. Until this time, no diversity training can prevent the atrocities we witness against the African American community and others today. Spirituality, in whatever form you practice, must be revived.

As Brené Brown defines it, “Spirituality is recog-

nizing and celebrating that we are all inextricably connected by a power greater than all of us and that our connection to that power and one another is grounded in love and compassion. Practicing spirituality brings a sense of perspective, meaning, and purpose to our lives.”

In this black history month, let us add a new chapter of spirituality to the cause of equality our future generations will cherish. It's time to end the racial divide.

**Cont. from page 1.
Malcolm X**

then his untimely death, an awesome effort by intrepid citizen-sleuth Abdur-Rahman Muhammad. And don't forget one of the best movies to come out in pandemic, “One Night in Miami”, on Amazon Prime, where Kingsley Ben-Adir stars as Malcolm X.

It would be an understatement to say that there has never been a Muslim leader of Malcolm's caliber in the United States. He ultimately sacrificed his life for the cause of justice for all and in particular for African Americans. What a life! He was only 39 years old when he was assassinated on February 21, 1965 (56 years ago). Malcolm was raised by a single mother after his father was brutally murdered by white supremacists when he was a child, and he later had to witness her institutionalization. His life changed from that of a bright student with promise to one of misery and mischief, which eventually led him to

prison. But when, at the age of 26, he found the cause he could believe in and get behind, he cleaned up his life and joined the organization called the Nation of Islam. He rose through the ranks and became the face of the organization because of his sheer work ethic, drive, intelligence and eloquence.

His speeches are well-known and could not be more powerful coming from a member of an oppressed minority. Whether the majority of the Americans liked it or not, Malcolm X did not shy away from telling the truth. He delivered the bitter truth of the white supremacist mindset held by so many Americans at the time (and even now), a mindset that had even seeped into the Black community (as a type of self-hatred is imposed on all colonized peoples). He was reviled & demonized and was considered militant for speaking the truth to power.

After 12 years with the Nation of Islam, he discovered how deviant the organization and its

leadership were from true Islamic teachings, so he left. He chose his conscience, chose Islam as his religion and travelled to Mecca to perform Hajj, most likely one of the first African Americans to perform the pilgrimage. While there's proof that Malcolm first encountered the story of the Prophet (PBUH) more than a decade earlier and may have been re-evaluating the beliefs and practices of the Nation as early as his first trip to Mecca in 1959. If you look at the timeline of his life, he was really a practicing Sunni Muslim in the public sphere for less than a year before he was assassinated. His outlook on life, humanity and the world changed after he accepted Islam. But his determination to fight for his fellow African Americans never changed.

In his letter from Mecca to his wife and close friends, he wrote, “(But) in the Muslim World, when one accepts Islam and ceases to be white or Negro, Islam recognizes all men as Men because the people here in Arabia

believe that God is One, they believe that all people are also One and that all our brothers and sisters is One Human Family.”

In his last few months on earth, Malcolm preached and worked on the basic precept of Islamic philosophy of the oneness of humanity. I wish that Malcolm had lived for a few more years after his pilgrimage. Just imagine, how his powerful eloquence with the new spiritual understanding would have introduced Islam to many Americans, particularly the youth. Allah's Will was different. Our image of Malcolm X will always be that of a young, brilliant, strong man who was unapologetic about his identity. Malcolm represented such hope for Black America that revered actor Ossie Davis called him, in his eulogy, “our Black shining prince.” Muslims in the U.S., from all ethnic backgrounds, would be wise to see him as our shining prince as well. So, while Malcolm X is no longer with us, I wonder what it means to learn from and

honor his legacy today.

As I think about Malcolm's life and look at the current situation, I wonder about

In mainstream U.S. society, and especially in immigrant Muslim communities, why don't we teach our kids about his life and mission?

What would Malcolm X think about racism within the Muslim community?

When will we finally take on the mantle of true Islamic teaching, so that as Malcolm predicted that “the younger generation of Americans will turn to Islam for spiritual salvation”?

When will we start honoring his legacy by honoring the first Muslims (African American Muslims) of this country and be a part of the larger racial and social justice struggle in America?

The least we can do is to learn about his life and celebrate his legacy by joining his lifetime work of social and racial justice in America, and for that matter, human rights all over the world.

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