

The Evil Axis Of Zionism And Christian Evangelism In The Destruction Of The World

By: Dr. Aslam Abdullah

The current wave of aggression against the Palestinians was inevitable. The domestic politics of the apartheid state necessitated it to survive the politics of hate and white supremacy played by groups that have dangerous motives to expand the constantly expanding state of Israel.

Netanyahu, the prime minister and the voice of Zionist extremists and Christians for Israel, was unable to secure a clear victory during the last three elections. His backers wanted him in power to pursue the dream of a Greater Israel with the marginalization of the



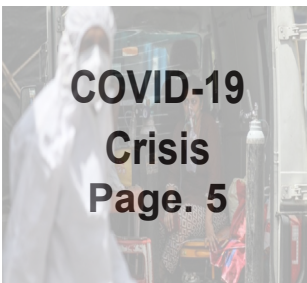
Palestinians to enable the return of Jesus to the holy land to establish the Kingdom of God for the next 1,000 years.

The slaughter of Palestinians would pave the

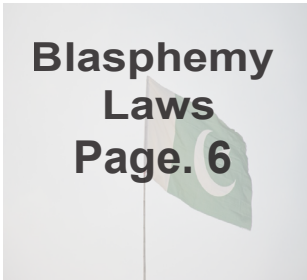
wave for Netanyahu to continue to lead the apartheid state to a world full of chaos and destruction as long as its Jewish citizens continue to live on over \$3 billion

aid given by U.S. taxpayers officially and \$10 billion-plus given unofficially by the Christians for Israel.

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Over 100 Democratic Party Leaders Demand The White House Recognize Dignity Rights In Palestine Instead Of Another Hollow Eid Greeting

By: Nadia Ahmed

Dear President Biden,

In lieu of flowers or condolences for martyred Palestinian children or even a White House Eid celebration, we request



the United States recognize dignity rights worldwide. A first step in recognizing our humani-

ty would be to not allow a policy of mass slaughter in the sacred Islamic

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Thousands Protest In Solidarity For Palestine Nationwide



By TMO Staff

Across the country, protests are taking place in the masses in support of Palestine and its freedom. Thousands of Americans gathered on Sunday, May 16 at the Ford Community and

performing art center in Dearborn, Michigan to show their solidarity for their brothers and sisters of Palestine. There were both men and women, young children and even the elderly at

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Muslim Peace Coalition Condemns Masjid Al Aqsa Attack

By: Dr Shaik Ubaid

Co-Chair Muslim Peace Coalition

Muslim Peace Coalition, the premier and oldest Muslim anti-war coalition in the US, is greatly alarmed over the attacks on one of the holiest shrines of Islam the Harem ash Shareef, housing the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem and on the worshippers praying in it, during the holiest of the months for Muslims – Ramadan.

We unequivocally condemn the apartheid policy to occupy Muslim homes in Jerusalem by evicting the people who have been living there for generations, and the threats to demolish the Al Aqsa mosque by the Israeli terrorist groups who are being allowed to march into the Muslim and Christian Arab areas.

We are greatly disappointed that the US government did not take prompt actions to quell Israeli attacks and provocation in Ramadan which has emboldened the right-wing extremist Israeli government to unleash indiscriminate areal bombing in the densely populated Gaza. killing scores of women and children and decimating whole families.

Unfortunately, the last US administration had surrendered the American foreign policy on the Middle East to the most extreme among the Israeli political parties and to the evangelical extremists in the United States who believe that expelling Palestinians will expedite the second coming of Jesus Christ which would then lead to the extermination of Jews and Muslims from the Middle East!

We have been alarmed at the rise of religious extremism, ultra-nationalism and fascism in different parts of the world especially in the United States, Brazil, India, Israel and many countries of Europe.

The raging COVID-19 pandemic and the existential threat by climate change have undermined the prompt requirement for the world to unite, abandoning intolerance and hatred; and combat the external threats to the very existence of our species and the earth itself.

We urge President Biden to demand that Israel must stop its policy of evicting Arabs



from their homes especially in Jerusalem and stop all forms of persecution including an end to ecoterrorism whereby Palestinian-owned olive and date orchards are destroyed and the water supply stolen by illegal settlers. The Homeland Security and the FBI must investigate the transfer of enormous funds from the United States to the militant settlers including the terrorist groups among them.

We, the undersigned demand that the president moves the American embassy back to Tel Aviv to give a clear message to the right-wing extremist government of Israel that it cannot take the US support for granted and cannot jeopardize regional stability and world peace through its racist actions and apartheid policy.

We ask that the US encourage free and fair elections in Palestine and bring the elected governments of Israel and Palestine to the negotiating table after putting an end to illegal construction on occupied Arab lands and moving the US embassy back to Tel Aviv.

We also condemn the weak response from the Arab governments and demand that they break all relations with the apartheid Israeli regime and relaunch the economic boycott. It was the economic boycott that caused an end to apartheid in South Africa.

We strongly advise our fellow Muslim leaders all over the US to suspend their interfaith dialogue with those Jewish groups and synagogues which refuse to denounce the apartheid Israeli policies and put an end to letting extremist and Islamophobic hate peddlers such as Pamela Geller use the Orthodox synagogues to raise funds.

It is time for the Muslim leadership and for all people of conscience to take a stand that Arab lives matter, that Brown lives matter, that Muslim lives matter; that Jewish life is not worth more than a Muslim or Christian Arab's life and that every life is a sacred trust from our Creator who holds justice and sanctity of life very dear.

Allah, the God Almighty says in the Quran:

"O You who believe! Be upholders of justice, bearing witness for God alone, even against yourselves or your parents and relatives. Whether they are rich or poor, God is well able to look after them. Do not follow your own desires and deviate from the truth. If you twist or turn away, God is aware of what you do." — (Surah An-Nisa, 4:135)

"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice. Excellent is that which Allah instructs you. Indeed, Allah is ever Hearing and Seeing." — (Surah An-Nisa, 4:58)

For this reason, We decreed for the children of Isr' that whoever kills a person not in retaliation for a person killed, nor (as a punishment) for spreading disorder on the earth, is as if he has killed the whole of humankind, and whoever saves the life of a person is as if he has saved the life of the whole of humankind. Certainly, Our messengers have come to them with clear signs. Then, after all that, many of them are there to commit excesses on the earth. (5:32)

Prophet Muhammad said, "Beware of the supplication of the oppressed, for there is no barrier between it and Allah." (Source: Sahih al-Bukhi 4090)

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Al Aqsa Updates



At least 163 Palestinians and six Israeli police officers have been hurt in clashes in Jerusalem, Palestinian medics and Israeli police say.

Most were injured at the Al-Aqsa mosque, where Israeli police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades as Palestinians threw stones and bottles.

Tensions have been rising over the potential eviction of Palestinians from land claimed by Jewish settlers.

The Red Crescent has opened a field hospital to treat the wounded.

The Al-Aqsa mosque complex in Jerusalem's Old City is one of Islam's most revered locations, but its location is also the holiest site in Judaism, known as the Temple Mount.

The site is a frequent flashpoint for violence, which unfolded again on Friday night after thousands had gathered there to observe the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Israeli police said they had used force to "restore order" due to the "rioting of thousands of worshippers" after evening prayers.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, meanwhile, said he "held [Israel] responsible for the dangerous developments

and sinful attacks".

An Aqsa official called for calm over the mosque's loudspeakers. "Police must immediately stop firing stun grenades at worshippers, and the youth must calm down and be quiet!", Reuters news agency quoted them as saying.

The Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service said 88 of the injured Palestinians were taken to hospital after they were hit with rubber-coated metal bullets. Police said some of the six officers injured needed medical treatment.

The international community also appealed for de-escalation on Friday, as anger mounted over the threatened eviction of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem's Shaikh Jarrah district.

A US State Department spokeswoman said Washington was "deeply concerned about the heightened tensions". The European Union condemned the violence and said "perpetrators on all sides must be held accountable".

The UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, urged all parties to "respect the status quo of holy sites in Jerusalem's Old City in the interest of peace &

stability." 1px transparent line

The UN has said Israel should call off any evictions and employ "maximum restraint in the use of force" against protesters.

The League of Arab States, or Arab League, called on the international community to intervene to prevent any evictions.

Israel's Supreme Court will hold a hearing on the long-running legal case on Monday.

Tension has been high throughout the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Before the latest violence in the Al-Aqsa compound, there were Palestinian protests over

Israeli barricades erected outside Jerusalem's Old City. There has been nightly unrest over possible Palestinian evictions in nearby Sheikh Jarrah.

Elsewhere in the occupied West Bank, two Palestinians were shot dead after firing at an Israeli military base on Friday. Earlier in the week, a Palestinian gunman killed an Israeli religious student and a Palestinian teenager was killed in clashes with Israeli forces searching for him.

The international calls for calm and restraint show recognition of the dangers if this escalation continues.

And there is deep concern about what could happen on Monday.

Israel's Supreme Court is

due to hold a hearing on the Sheikh Jarrah case as Israelis mark Jerusalem Day. The annual celebration of the capture of the east of the city during the 1967 Middle East War includes a flag march in the Old City that typically leads to clashes with local Palestinians.

Israel has occupied East Jerusalem since the 1967 Middle East war and considers the entire city its capital, though this is not recognized by the vast majority of the international community.

Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the future capital of a hoped-for independent state.

Report from the BBC



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India's COVID-19 Crisis

by Zaid Aleem

India, the second most populated country in the world and home to the world's worst coronavirus outbreak, is currently in shambles with a healthcare system that is overwhelmed like nothing before. Reuters reported on Monday, India's armed forces were directed to assist in the fight against a surge in new coronavirus infections, while nations such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States promised immediate medical assistance in an effort to contain the outbreak.

World Health Organization (WHO) leader Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the situation as "beyond heartbreaking," adding that WHO is sending additional personnel and equipment, including oxygen concentrator units.

In a meeting with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief of Defense Staff General



Bipin Rawat said oxygen would be sent to hospitals from armed forces reserves and retired medical military personnel would join COVID-19 health facilities.

Where possible, military medical infrastructure will be made available to civilians, a government statement said, as new coronavirus infections hit a record peak for the fifth day.

"Air, Rail, Road & Sea; Heaven & earth are

being moved to overcome challenges thrown up by this wave of COVID19," Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Twitter.

Modi said he had discussed the situation with US Vice President Joe Biden, including supply chains for COVID-19 vaccine raw materials and medicines. Biden said on Sunday that his country would send medical supplies to India to assist in the war against the pandemic.

In the face of what he termed a "storm" of infections, Modi has urged all people to get vaccinated and exercise vigilance, while hospitals and doctors in some northern states have issued urgent notices stating that they are unable to cope with the influx.

Bodies were being burned in temporary cremation centers in some of the worst-affected areas.

The southern state of

Karnataka, home to the tech city of Bengaluru, ordered a 14-day lockdown from Tuesday, joining the western industrial state of Maharashtra, where lockdowns run until May 1, although some states were also set to lift lockdown measures this week. These two states are amongst the worst hit in the current outbreak and the lockdowns should hopefully bring down the Covid-positive case count over the next few weeks.

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Blasphemy Laws In Pakistan: A Deeper Look

By Mahvish Akhtar

We are all well aware of Pakistan's very strict blasphemy laws. It's not just about the laws, customs and emotions have a lot to do with how incidents unfold in any given situation. In most cases, these types of issues don't even reach the courts or to the right authorities. The public sees fit to deal with these issues on their own because religion is everyone's personal business. Most individuals don't really know the law, they just believe they do and purely react on emotion.

The Law: 295-C-use of derogatory remarks, etc. in respect of the Holy Prophet

Whoever, by words, either spoken or written or by visible representation or by any imputation, innuendo, insinuation, directly or indirectly defiles the sacred name of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.

No doubt we have seen a lot of violence in the name of upholding this law. Some of it much recently. This issue became much more relevant when the people of Pakistan came out on the streets this month to protest the incidents taking place in France. Every time this has occurred the public has asked for someone's head. That has been the sad truth about these situations. This is where we try to find the motive and try to find where these laws have come from and why they have become so commonplace in places like Pakistan. Why is it that we deem it okay to be so disconnected from human life? We should never accept disrespect for our religion and our Holy book and our Holy Prophet (peace be upon



him), however, should we as a people be so comfortable with asking for the death of others knowing full well what that entails.

Blasphemy law was not born with Pakistan, in fact, Pakistan inherited it along with the rest of the country from the sub-continent. British rulers introduced this law in 1860 to satisfy fights between Hindus and Muslims at the time. Violent, satisfying and vengeful, case closed. Even so it was a rarely used solution. Until the 70s when Bhutto took power in Pakistan and revamped the constitution. He was looking to crack down on anyone he thought to be "non-Muslim" disguised as "Muslim" particularly cracking down on the Ahmedis. Anytime a new leader takes charge they need a new agenda. A new slogan to bring the people in their corner. This was one of his calls to bring the public to his side. Even in that era this law was not as popular or used because this was a more "secular" time for Pakistan. Pakistan has always been

the Islamic Republic, but every regime brings with it, its own flair and its own character.

Then again in the 1980s General Zia-ul Haq revisited the relevance of this law like never before. According to the CRSS over 80 Blasphemy cases were filed during his Presidency. As mentioned above our connection to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and our love for him is already great and there are always people ready to exploit any such emotion and turn it into weakness.

We are at that point where we don't even know if we understand what this law stands for anymore. What was the purpose of this law? Should this law have ever existed in the first place? When people take the law into their own hands are they following the law or essentially breaking it? So many questions have been raised in the years since President Zia-ul-Haq has made this law a household discussion, and the law of the land so to

speak.

This discussion has sparked anguish and raised problematic actions since France, and other incidents surrounding that debate. The dilemma is that this is not just one debate. When an issue is opened up, we tend to revisit every little event and situation that we feel is related to it. Pakistanis in their own way are trying to send a message to the world that our religion and our religious figures are important to us and an attack on them is an attack on us. There is nothing wrong with that message and there is nothing wrong with sending that message to the right people in the right way.

We have never been united on how to send this message properly. We don't have many examples from history on how we should go about doing such a thing. After all, the Prophet (peace be upon him) himself did not punish individuals for this type of crime.

Every time a minority says or does something

we dislike we take it upon ourselves to teach them a lesson. This brings a whole slew of questions that need to be asked that usually go unanswered on both sides. The problem is not just as simple as some people who are unhinged or who don't understand the system. We have a bigger systematic problem, such as organizations like Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan.

Are we always sure of the intent on both sides? If the case never goes to court, how can one ever be sure of what actually happened?

The list of questions and problems is long and winding. We need to start somewhere though. Banning organizations that hinders free speech for minorities and creates chaos in the country is a good place. We also need to start looking at what it means to have a law that puts our minorities at a great disadvantage without any understanding or representation.

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Giving While Muslim

By Muhi Khwaja

American Muslim Community Foundation, Co-Founder and Director of Development & Philanthropy

This article was previously published on Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy's blog and republished with permission from the author.

Each and every person can be a philanthropist, and I believe philanthropy is more about generosity than it is about wealth. As a Muslim, I am invited by my faith to give of what I love. In Ramadan, all around the world, Muslims join in fasting and charitable giving through acts known as zakat and sadaqa. There is a hadith or saying in our tradition by the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon him) that: "The best charity that is given is during Ramadan."

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic lunar calendar and in 2021 falls between April 12 and May 12. Billions of Muslims increase their spiritual worship and inward reflection towards God. It's also the busiest time for Muslim nonprofits.

As Muslims around the world celebrate a second Ramadan amid the pandemic which has changed both gathering practices as well as revealed a widening wealth gap, I am reflecting on the generosity within our communities. According to a survey conducted by the Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research last year, 57% of respondents intended to donate more to relief organizations, 35% intended to donate more to educational organizations, and 39% intended to donate more to the mosque compared to Ramadan in 2019.

Dr. Shariq Siddiqui, assistant professor at Indiana University and Director of the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative, claims that nearly 80 to 90 percent of annual budgets for Muslim-led organizations are raised in the month before, the month of, and the month after Ramadan.

To bolster Muslim philanthropy in the U.S., in 2016 I started the American Muslim Community Foundation (AMCF). Five years into our work, our team has helped start 115 Donor Advised Funds, manage eight Giving Circles, host eight nonprofit endowments, and incubate 15 fiscal sponsorships.

As a student in the Graduate Certificate program in Philanthropic Studies at Indiana University, I have access to some of the best practitioners in the industry. Additionally, my classmates also lead nonprofit organizations and fundraising departments all across the country. The Zakat Foundation started a fellowship program for Muslim nonprofit leaders and in our Islam & Philanthropy course, we deep dove into topics around Giving While Muslim.

Reflecting on Muslim Philanthropy

In her research about the impacts of 9/11 and Muslim philanthropy, AMCF's Research and Strategies Fellow and

recently awarded 2021-2022 Lake dissertation fellow, Esra Tunc, found that many relief-based agencies faced particular challenges after 9/11 and were subject to surveillance due to the fear of terrorism. Three of the largest Muslim charities of the time — the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, the Benevolence International Foundation, and the Global Relief Foundation — were shut down shortly after 9/11. Many of these and other charities encountered decreases in the donations they received because of fear that Muslim-focused or Muslim-led charities might support religious extremism, especially those operating in a

transnational context. Donors became weary of organizations working in international relief and giving to any organizations with the word Islam or Muslim in the title. At this point, resources from the community shifted to social service and civil rights advocacy organizations. Additionally, the U.S. government



Muhi Khwaja

began providing Countering Violence Extremism grants which were focused on surveillance of marginalized and minority communities. Aimed at promoting justice and protecting democracy, these grants were in effect hurting the communities they were claiming to serve. In some cases, philanthropy from other sources supported organizations that targeted Muslim communities or nonprofit leaders. This is the reality for Muslim donors and nonprofit leaders.

AMCF Reimagines Philanthropy and Looks Ahead

To meet immediate needs, AMCF's COVID-19 Response Fund for Nonprofits raised and distributed \$360,000 in 2020 to more than 60 organizations. The racial justice reckoning in the U.S. has also laid bare the broken systems within our society. At AMCF, our charitable giving supports local communities across the

ized communities will continue to suffer. This is why AMCF joined Amalgamated Foundation's effort, "Hate is Not Charitable" campaign and urges hosts of Donor Advised Funds to be proactive in their vetting of charities they give to and commit to not supporting hate groups that have targeted the LGBTQIA+, Muslim, and immigrant communities.

In continuing our efforts to help nonprofit organizations and raise up donors, AMCF is committed to hosting and promoting Giving Circles. With the help of Philanthropy Together's Launchpad for Hosts, AMCF launched the American Muslim Women's Giving Circle in Women's History Month earlier this year. More than \$12,000 has been pooled together into a communal fund. Another Giving Circle in its planning stages will focus on interfaith initiatives.

As an example, the Bay Area Giving Collective (BACG) will distribute \$105,000 in Ramadan to Mu'eed, an Oakland-based nonprofit

providing meals to families in need, and Tayba Foundation, a Muslim-led, national organization educating incarcerated individuals and their families and

country impacting racial equity, social justice, and basic needs of everyday Americans. We believe if the philanthropic community as a whole doesn't take a stand now, minority and marginal-

Muslim Giving Primarily Motivated by Religious Obligation, Sense That Those with More Should Help Those with Less

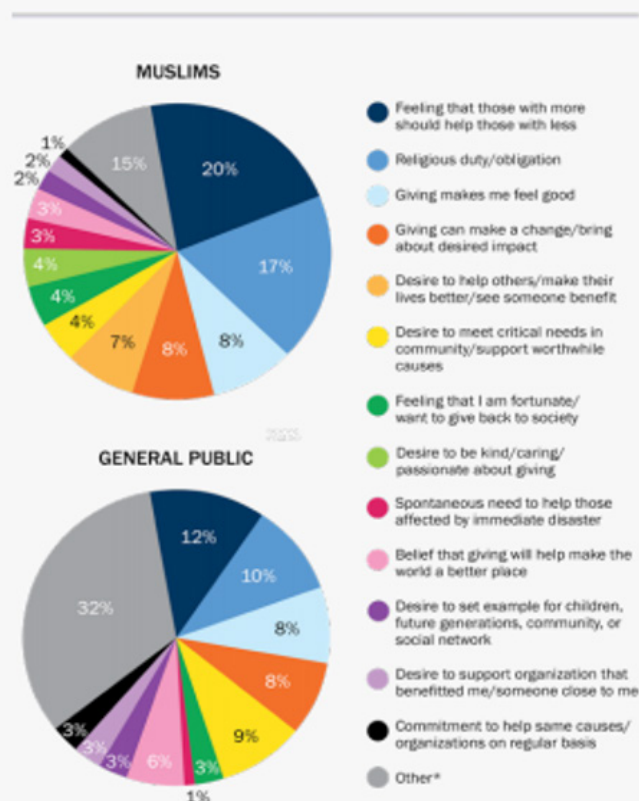


FIGURE 1: Thinking of your overall giving, can you tell me what motivates you to give? (% Motivated to give by each category shown) Base: Total respondents who have contributed money to a cause/institution associated with or outside of faith community, 2018

*Other = Commitment to help co-religionists; desire to help those in need, no matter gender, race, religion/social justice; being asked to give by friend/associate; desire to live up to values instilled in me by parents/grandparents; giving is expected in my network; desire to leave lasting legacy; and "other"

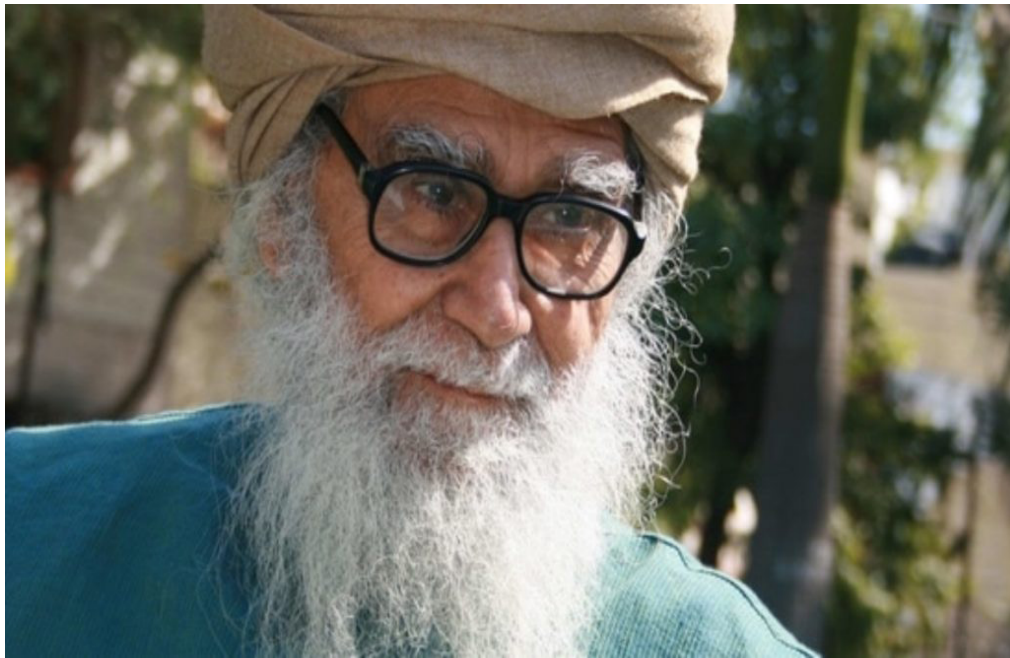
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Maulana Wahiduddin Khan: A Positive Thinker

by Dr. Aslam Abdullah

The last time I saw him was January 2020. When I was in India and attended his lecture in the basement of his home, he delivered via intercom. Later, his son, Sani Asnain, invited me to meet Maulana Wahiduddin Khan in his private room. A Kashmiri pundit family was already there explaining their understanding of his writing. He was almost 88, but he recognized me, mentioned my late father's name, and asked a few questions about President Trump and his popularity in America.

Whenever I visited India, I always visited his residence to listen to his lectures. He never missed the interaction with young men and women who attended his session like a religious ritual. He was a soft-spoken humble man whose memory was sharp until his last days. He was cordial to everyone. Even in his disagreement, he kept Islamic ethics above all other things. His concern was the peaceful coexistence of religions, and he advocated Hindu-Muslim unity and harmony. He believed in salvation through Marifah and not through actions only. In Sufism and Alevism,



Marifah (Arabic: ?????, 'knowledge') describes the mystical intuitive knowledge of spiritual truth reached through ecstatic experiences, rather than revealed or rationally acquired. A seeker of Marifah is called 'Arif, "the one who knows."

He was a philosopher, a journalist, a scholar, and above all, a positive thinker and edited Al-Jamiat, an Urdu daily published by Jamiat ul Ulama of India. He produced his magazine Ar Risala and authored over 200 books translated into English, Arabic, Hindi, and many other languages. The former ruler of Libya, Muammar Qaddafi, whose Green Book he translated into

Urdu, admired him for his positive thinking and even financed many of his projects.

Maulana was once a member of Jamat Islami and a fan of Syed Abul Ala Maududi. Later, he regretted his association with Syed Maududi in his book Tabeer ki Ghalti (Mistaken Interpretation), a critique of Jamat Islami.

The Maulana was born in a north Indian village of Bhadaria in Azamgarh on January 1, 1925. He died on April 21 2021 in the Nizamuddin area of Delhi, not far from the shrine of Khwaja Nizamuddin and the headquarters of Tablee-

ghi Jamat. A peace activist known for having written a commentary on the Quran and translated it into contemporary English, he was in the 500 Most Influential Muslims of the world.

Khan received the Demiurgus Peace International Award, under the patronage of the former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev; India's third-highest civilian honor, the Padma Bhushan, in January 2000; the National Citizens' Award, presented by Mother Teresa and the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award (2009). Maulana Wahiduddin Khan received Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest

civilian award, for his contribution to spiritualism.

He started The Ar-Risala (The Message) Urdu magazine in 1976, consisting of almost entirely his articles and writing. An English edition of the magazine began in February 1984, and a Hindi version started in December 1990. His major writings included Hijacking — A Crime, Rights of Women in Islam, The Concept of Charity in Islam, and The Concept of Jihad.

He wrote extensively on multiple issues. Some of his titles are:

The Prophet of Peace

The Quran: A New Translation

A Treasury of the Quran

Tazkirul Quran

Indian Muslims: The Need for a Positive Outlook

Introducing Islam: A Simple Introduction to Islam

Islam Rediscovered: Discovering Islam From its Original Sources

Islam and Peace

Islam: Creator of the Modern Age

Words of the Prophet Muhammad

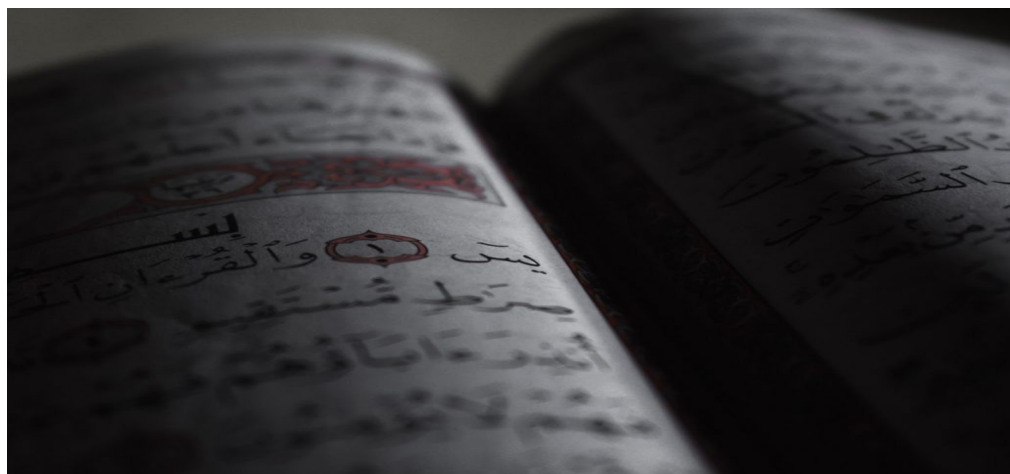
The Issue of Blasphemy

Ramadan Reflections: A Preference For Rattlesnakes Over The Racism Of The Mosque

By Nadia Ahmad

When author Layla Abdullah-Poulos wrote in Haute Hijab that she was detached from her local mosque because of the racism and sexism she encountered, I felt that same strand of discomfort.

Abdullah-Poulos wrote: "While my husband's heart is attached to our local mosque, mine is far from it. I have developed an allergy to attending and subsequent triggers that make me anxious about going. I don't want to go to any community iftars during Ramadan or Eid prayer. My dubious relationship with this house of Allah and the worshippers who commonly attend not only



infuses me with pain, it makes me resentful as [my husband] gets to walk out the door, confident that he belongs while I remain alienated."

The passage also struck a nerve with me, because I was multigenerational unmosqued. My grandmothers and their female

ancestors grew up not going to the masjid in their native lands. They were glad to go to the United States because that's something they had been deprived.

Yet there is a divide between having a place to pray and feeling welcomed in the mosque. A place where one finds

sakina and serenity. And a place where there is a sense of belonging.

Regrettably, I haven't missed going to the mosque in the pandemic. It was just another public space I was made to feel less than.

I most admired my mother when she would give

(what we refer to in our family) "a class" at the mosque meetings. She would be the only woman disagreeing in the dialogues reserved for men. The women were there as the background. She would break down why an issue was wrong. It was always brilliant and eloquent, and no one could disagree. Since they couldn't respond in fashion, they would move on to another point as if they heard nothing and do whatever they wanted anyway. So tribal. So quaint. At some point she would become just as disenchanted as me, but she kept going.

A few weeks ago she

Cont on page 11.



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The Latest In Pakistan And French Relations

By Mahvish Akhtar

France finds itself engulfed in yet another controversy with Muslim countries worldwide including Pakistan and surrounding areas; although it doesn't seem like France is bothered by any of it. In an email, the embassy informed the French citizens and employees to find their way home, "Due to the serious threats to French interests in Pakistan French nationals and French companies are advised to temporarily leave the country. The departures will be carried out by existing commercial airlines."

The anti-French Protest in the country have been ongoing since last year, and the demand for the French embassy to be closed down have also been circulating since then. The protests and the marches have been led primarily by Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP). The reason has been the French government's approval and praise of the cartoon controversy of Prophet Muhammad(PBUH) from the French Newspaper Charlie Hebdo. It's no secret that this has always been a sensitive topic for Muslims around the world, and it's also no secret that France and French President Emmanuel Macron has always been insensitive to Muslims and Islam.

However, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has been clear that we cannot be so callose as to destroy our own country and lay waste to where we live by continu-



ing to have these marches and so-called walks. At the start of the protests, he condemned TLP's behavior and asked them to stop their acts.

Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan is a Sunni sect of Pakistan, they are considered a far-right group. They have a very strong street presence, which means they have a massive amount of strength in numbers and the ability to gather people on the streets to do their bidding. They are known for their strong opinions about Blasphemy laws and the opposition of anyone who stands against them. This is why at any time France comes into question they are at the forefront of the issue.

As things started to escalate with the French

government, and their hate and dislike towards the Muslims and their disdain for everything that Islam stands for became more apparent, the protests that had started by just a tiny portion of the population gained significant momentum.

French government's introduction of the new bill was the last straw for most Muslims. Pakistan's TLP took full advantage of this situation. The protests and marches were at their full height. The demand was to close the French embassy and send everyone back to France. The request was not as unreasonable as was the way it was being made.

Once again, the Prime Minister demanded that the organization show some sense and not burn

down their own home because someone else somewhere else is trying to hurt us. The pleas fell on deaf ears, there have been 3 deaths in these clashes so far that we know of. The government has now banned TLP and has declared them a terrorist organization. Their leader, Saad Hussain Rizvi was arrested. Which in turn has created more unrest.

For the time being the issues have been muddled. We are not sure what everyone is out on the streets to achieve at this point. Some people want the French problem resolved, which cannot be resolved by marching on the streets of Pakistan. Now people say they are marching for the freedom of their leader because he was fighting for justice.

It is hard to tell because emotions are high, and no one is ready to listen to anyone but their own voice. Since the ban, however, things have started to calm down because the instigators have been taken off the streets. The remainder of the people will hopefully gradually disperse as they are calmed by the French Embassy closing and our Prime Minister taking a stand on issues related to the matters that are important to our country regarding this issue.

We will analyze what this situation means for Pakistan and the neighboring countries in the upcoming days.

Cont. from page 7. Giving While Muslim

helping them with reentry initiatives.

AMCF has also helped to distribute over \$3.5 million to over 275 nonprofits since 2017 and is working to ensure greater transparency in the sector by participating in giving surveys and share our anonymized data on the grants we have made from our Donor Advised Funds. This will ensure more representation is shared with faith and philanthropy

initiatives and provide a lens at Muslim philanthropy. In our podcast, #MuslimPhilanthropy launched in 2020, we've brought on mainstream philanthropic funders, everyday donors, and nonprofit leaders to share their insights on charitable giving, capacity building, and organizational development.

According to The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding and Lake Institute's American Muslim Philanthropy report in 2019, Muslims are just as likely to give

to causes outside of the Muslim community than they are to causes within in. So this Ramadan, I invite you to learn more about Muslim-led philanthropy in your community, and check out the incredible organizations that Muslims are supporting in their zakat and sadaqa this year. You're sure to discover someone and something new!

ABOUT American Muslim Community Foundation

Founded in 2016, Amer-

ican Muslim Community Foundation is a grassroots, national nonprofit organization in the United States. Our focus is on creating Donor Advised Funds, Giving Circles, distributing grants, partnering on fiscal sponsorships, & building endowments for the American Muslim community. <https://amuslimcf.org>

ABOUT Muhi Khwaja

Muhi co-founded American Muslim Community Foundation in 2016 and has been a nonprofit fundraiser and leader

since 2009. Outside of philanthropy, Muhi enjoys riding his motorcycle, hiking, and spending time with his wife Natalie, cat Ninja, Dog Atlas, and chickens Thelma & Louise.

Questions for Reflection

What surprised you most about the trends in Muslim giving?

In what ways does your own giving impact the larger community in which you live?

Stimulus, Stimulus And Stimulus

by Zaid Aleem

Americans nationwide have begun receiving their stimulus checks. President Joe Biden signed his sweeping \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 economic relief package into law on March 11. He had originally been expected to sign it on March 12, according to CNN. Congress passed the relief package, which has been Biden's first and most pressing legislative priority since taking office in January, on March 10.

The package includes up to \$1,400 per person in stimulus grants that would reach about 90% of families, a \$300 federal increase to weekly unemployment insurance, a \$3,600 per child extension of the child tax credit, and \$350 billion in state and local funding to help small businesses hit hard by the pandemic as well as vaccine research, growth, and delivery. Additionally, billions of dollars are set aside for K-12 schools to help students return to the classroom. Some provisions are made for vaccine distribution as well.



Families get an additional \$1,400 per child. A married couple with two children, for example, could receive up to \$5,600. The full amount goes to individuals earning less than \$75,000 of adjusted gross income, heads of households (like single parents) earning less than \$112,500 and married couples earning

less than \$150,000. But then the payments phase out as income goes up — faster than previous stimulus payments.

The bill, unlike Biden's original plan, would not reinstate required compensated family and sick leave, which was accepted in a previous Covid relief package. However,

after October 1, it will continue to grant tax refunds to employees who willingly want to provide the incentive.

The package will make federal premium subsidies for Affordable Care Act policies more generous and would eliminate the maximum income cap for two years. The bills

will bolster subsidies for lower-income enrollees, eliminating their premiums completely for two years and will do the same for those collecting unemployment benefits in 2021.

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Cont. from page 8. **Ramadan Reflections**

told me, "When I'm on a board, people need to be ready to hear from me."

One place I can never find that sakina was my childhood mosque. The one I saw built from the ground up. I witnessed all the community fights. I stood in the corner and watched the fiery feuds erupt over receipts and contracts. I would get kicked out for running around. There is not much else for a kid to do.

I discovered a loose board on the fence behind the mosque. Or maybe someone else had discovered it. It didn't matter. All that was of concern was that the fence had an opening that we could

escape. We would remove that one wood piece and put it back. I didn't go by myself. I was too smart for that. I would go with my sister and a couple of friends. It was the best part of the mosque. I could run out to the water retention ditch with raised berms on the side. We didn't have to put up with anyone there. We could stare at the clouds and chat without having to worry about anything. I also realized the ditch was there to prevent flooding. We knew we could only go away long enough for the next prayer, or someone would miss us. When other kids threatened to tell on us, we invited them along, and they never told either.

When I told my dad a year ago that's what I would do as a kid, "Going to the ditch was the best part of the masjid."

My dad said that there were rattlesnakes there.

"Well, I never got bit by a rattlesnake in my life."

I did, though, feel the venom of racism. I watched who was welcome and who wasn't. That has remained constant. I'm in that hypersensitive category, they think. I want to move to that anti-racist, decolonizing space away from the postcolonial diaspora which brought its racist baggage and assumed white fragility and converted it into a brand of Arab and desi fragility.

I cannot fully explain

how simple interactions can trigger such a response in me. It's easier for me to get flustered than to actually share the blow-by-blow of elitism and sexism of the heteropatriarchy. Eventually, I stopped going. I would go years without going to the mosque unless to go appease my parents.

I'm told it's something in my heart if I feel this sense of detachment from the mosque. Maybe I just see the bias and prejudices where others don't. It seems easier to distance myself from the mosque than get people to change.

We face problems as a Muslim community because our racism, colorism, classism, and sexism

prevent us from speaking truth to power. We are better silent in our corner of the mosque than challenging the major social issues of our times, like education, healthcare, homelessness, militarism, corporatism, and gun control. We work on band-aid solutions to what amounts to a dam breach. We cannot lose our concern for social justice. We blend in even with our hijabs and beards.

Is being so calm and collected as a community our preferred space? We may be a planet on the move. But we are still so stagnant when it comes to the groundbreaking work needed for race relations.

‘A Victory For Those Who Champion Humanity Over Inhumanity’: Jury Finds Derek Chauvin Guilty On All Accounts

by Nida A. Imam

Following the arrest and murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man from Minneapolis, nationwide protests and international anger ensued starting May 25, 2020. Floyd was arrested for using a counterfeit \$20 bill to buy cigarettes from a convenience store. After his arrest, he was brutally killed when an officer, identified as Derek Chauvin, placed his knee on Floyd’s neck for more than nine minutes. Floyd’s brutal death sparked police accountability and brutality protests across the country and revived the Black Lives Matter movement.

Eleven months after his death, many would say justice was finally served with former police officer Chauvin being convicted for murder. “This is a victory for those who champion humanity over inhumanity, those who champion justice over injustice, those who champion morals over immo-



ality,” George Floyd’s family attorney Ben Crump said in a press conference on Tuesday, after the jury reached their guilty verdict decision for Chauvin’s trial, according to CNN.

After deliberating for 10 hours over two days, the jurors came to their decision of convicting Chauvin of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter.

“I was just praying they would find him guilty,” Philonise Floyd, Floyd’s younger brother, told CNN. “As an African

American, we usually never get justice.”

Although Minnesota’s sentencing guidelines recommend about 12.5 years in prison for each murder charge, Chauvin could face up to 40 years in prison for second-degree murder and up to 25 years for third-degree murder per CNN. For the manslaughter charge, Minnesota guidelines recommend four years. Though, Chauvin can serve up to 10 years for manslaughter. Judge Peter Cahill, the judge in the trial, revoked Chauvin’s bail and noted that Chauvin will be sentenced in eight weeks.

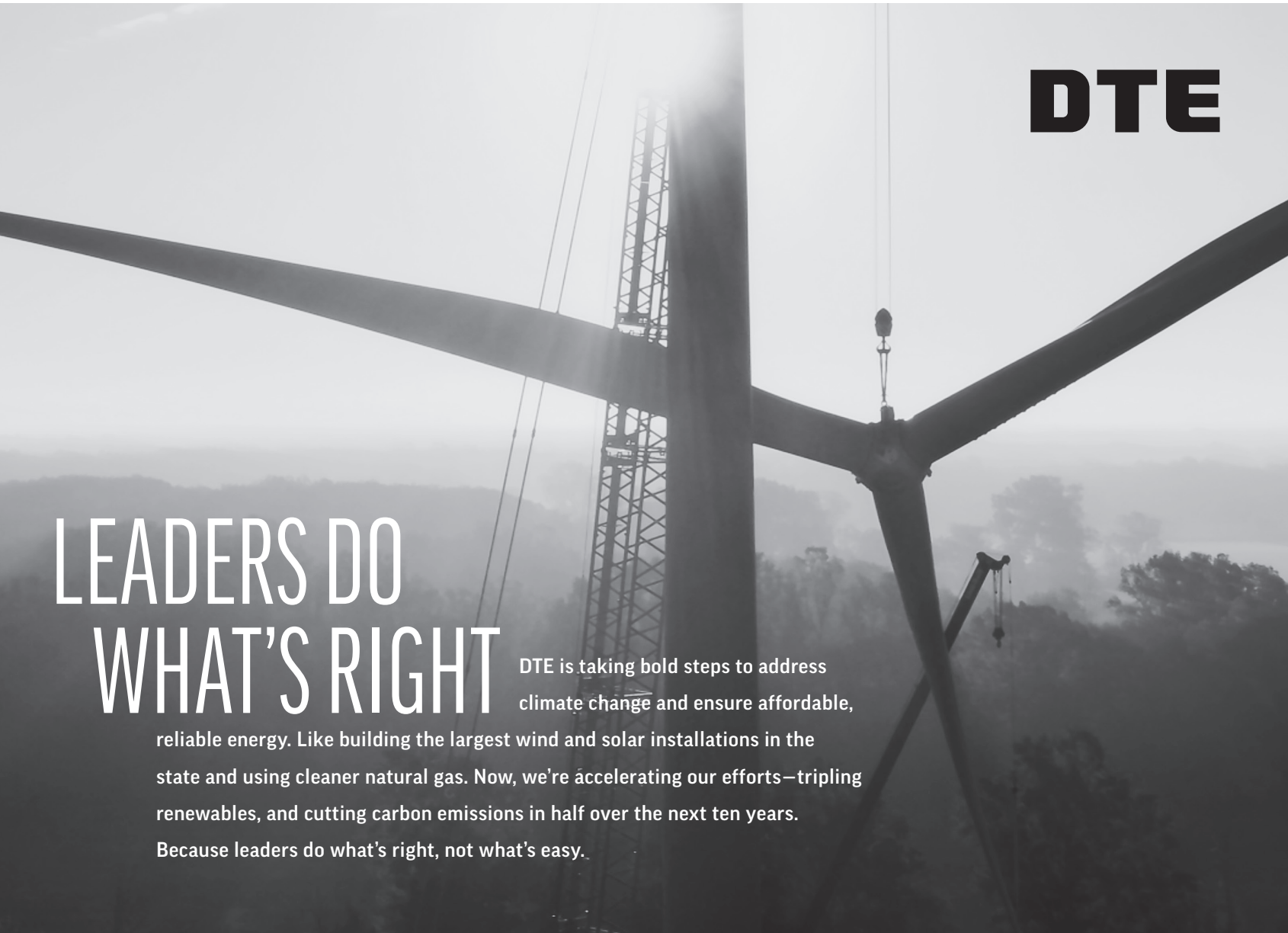
According to NPR, while the defense attorney Eric Nelson argued during the case that Chauvin followed his training and questioned whether Floyd’s heart condition and drugs in his system played a role in his death, the prosecution argued that Chauvin’s restraint amounted to unreasonable, excessive force and that Floyd died of a resulting lack of oxygen due to Chauvin kneeling on him for more than nine minutes.

In the three weeks that the trial lasted, the jury was presented medical expert statements, testimonies from dozens

of witnesses, as well as video footage, to help with their verdict.

The trial for the three other former police officers on the scene during Floyd’s arrest is set to begin this summer.

Although April 20 was the day justice prevailed for the wrongful death of Floyd, demanding police accountability remains an active cause. Per a statement by NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson on the NAACP website: “While justice landed Derek Chauvin behind bars for murdering George Floyd, no amount of justice will bring Gianna’s father back. The same way a reasonable police officer would never suffocate an unarmed man to death, a reasonable justice system would recognize its roots in white supremacy and end qualified immunity. Police are here to protect, not lynch. We will not rest until all in our community have the right to breathe.”



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CONTINUED STORY

Cont. from page 1.
Over 100 Democratic
Party Leaders

month of Ramadan. Muslim communities have historically been viewed with suspicion and as sub-human. Our communities seek to live and worship like everyone else.

We must not allow U.S. tax dollars to be the currency for ethnic cleansing for Israeli apartheid. We urge President Biden to slash the defense budget instead of strangling our human rights. President Biden seeks to allocate more money to military aid to Israel (\$3.8 billion) than to the international climate response (\$2.5 billion), according to Stephen Semler, co-founder of the Security Policy Reform Institute. We demand an end to foreign aid to Israel instead of an end to the lives of our brothers and sisters.

We ask the United States demonstrate actual leadership on human rights instead of turning a blind eye to the suffering of our brothers and sisters. We urge the United States to recognize the international standards under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions, and the 1907 Hague Regulations.

Hold the missiles, drones, bombs, cages, interrogations, detentions, incarceration, deportations, CIA covert missions, regime-change operations, economic sanctions, torture, humiliation, forced evictions, land theft, broken promises, lies, empty gestures, hostilities, and most recently the vaccine apartheid.

Otherwise, any and all Eid greetings ring hollow.

Zahra Abbas, DNC Member, Michigan

Nadia Ahmad, DNC Member, Florida

Hanieh Jodat Barnes, ADEM Delegate California Democratic Party

Abdul Rashid Abdullah, Member, Virginia Democratic Party

Ismahan Abdullahi, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Aneesa Ahmad MD, Member, Florida Demo-

cratic Party

Qumrul Ahson, Precinct Captain, Arizona Democratic Party

Aisha al-Adawiya, State of New York

Nazda Alam, State Committee Member, Massachusetts Democratic Party

James Albert, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Terry Altherr, State Committee Member, Massachusetts Democratic Party

Carolina Ampudia, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Samia Assed, Affirmative Action & Platform Committees, State Central Committee, New Mexico Democratic Party

Osman Athar, Member, Texas Democratic Party

Hussam Ayloush, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Clint Barras, 2020 Florida House District Nominee, Florida Democratic Party

Hasina Begum, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Syed Bukhari, Member, New York Democratic Party

Sonya Bykofsky, Town Committee Chair, Massachusetts Democratic Party

Matthew Cappiello, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Katie Chan, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Lily Cheng-Schulting, Alternate to State Central Committee, Nominee State House, Michigan Democratic Party

Salauddin Choudhury, State Executive Board Member, Arizona Democratic Party

Sumaiya Chowdhury, Member, Texas Democratic Party

Jochua Cora Santiago, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Yassar Dahbour, Arab American Caucus, State Executive Board, California Democratic Party

Corrine Daly, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Dr. Sara H. Deen, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Zach Denny, Member-

ship Officer, Progressive Caucus, California Democratic Party

Kat DeNomme, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Adam Duplin, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Natalia Duke, Member, Florida Democratic Party

JohnPaul Easton, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Cheryl Renee Elliott, Past Chair County Central Committee, California Democratic Party

Wasim Entabi, DNC Delegate, Virginia Democratic Party

Ivan Enriquez, 2016 & 2020 DNC Delegate, California Democratic Party

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Terri Falbo, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Sudi Farokhnia, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Lisa Fitzgerald, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Gamal Gasser, Precinct Captain and Former Delegate, Florida Democratic Party

Getulio Gonzalez-Mulattieri, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Tahra Goraya, Town Committee Member and Former Delegate, Massachusetts Democratic Party

Sayan Grover, 2020 DNC Delegate, Kansas Democratic Party

Brandon Harami, Vice Chair, Progressive Caucus, California Democratic Party

Anwer Hasan, 2020 DNC Delegate, Maryland Democratic Party

Ben Hauck, Southern California Vice Chair, Progressive Caucus, California Democratic Party

Sam Hindi, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

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Muhammad Irshad, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Tasneem Islam, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Maya Jamaledidine, Member, Massachusetts Democratic Party

Michaelantonio Jones, 2020 DNC Delegate, Tennessee

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Japheth Kariuki, County Executive Committee Member, Florida Democratic Party

Jimmy Karam, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Thomas Kennedy, DNC Member, Florida

Ayman Khafagi, Past Vice Chair, Progressive Caucus, Michigan Democratic Party

Alexandra Khalel, President, Democratic Progressive Caucus of Tampa Bay, Florida Democratic Party

Aliyah Khan, Member, Virginia Democratic Party

Maryam Khan, Member, Connecticut Democratic Party

Talat Khan, ADEM Delegate, Affirmative Action Committee, Progressive Caucus, Arab American Caucus, California Democratic Party

Kari Khory, San Joaquin County DCC member, Former ADEM Delegate (2019-21), California Democratic Party

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Marium Navid, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Aleena Jun Nawabi, ADEM Delegate, California

Atif Nazir, Progressive Caucus, New Jersey Democratic Party

Mustafa Nizam, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Edward Noguera, County Executive Committee, Florida Democratic Party

Andrew Nowicki, Environmental Caucus, Michigan Democratic Party

Sama Nuzma, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Margaret Okuzumi, ADEM Delegate & County Central Committee, California Democratic Party

Aizat Oladapo, Member, Maryland Democratic Party

Kevin Parker, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Sanjay Patel, DNC Member, Florida

Stacey Patel, State Committeewoman, Florida Democratic Party

Cynthia Peters, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Raffay Piracha, 2020 DNC Delegate, Texas Democratic Party

Amina Pruitt, Community Activist, Florida

Regina Queline Banks, County Campaign Services Chair, California Democratic Party

Socorro Ramos-Aviles, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Tanya Reza, Past Chair of the Progressive Caucus, Michigan Democratic Party

Fauzia Rizvi, ADEM Delegate, California Demo-

CONTINUED STORY

Cont. from page 1.
The Evil Axis

Behind the aggression of Israel is the support of right-wing evangelical Christians who believe that the Jewish state is a divine mandate and every Christian should support it. They think that Jesus would return when all the Jews of the world come together in Israel. In their view, Jesus's return would facilitate the destruction of two-thirds of Jews and the conversion of one-third to Christianity, flourishing a 1000-year kingdom of God on earth.

The Zionists disagree with their theological reasons supporting Israel, but they accept it to strengthen the apartheid state in its present forum. Among the Jews, the opinion has divisions on the fate of Palestin-

ians. The number of Jews who stand for the Palestinian's rights to live with dignity and freedom is small. Jews, by and large, support and have supported aggression against the Palestinians. The Jewish morality revolves around their self-righteousness with little regard to Palestinians, whom they regard as their arch enemies. The Biblical principle that killing a human being without justification is no different from destroying humanity does not apply to killing Palestinians. A Jewish life always has a preference over the other, as the history of apartheid demonstrates.

The U.S. backs Israel because both political parties are under the influence of Christians for Israel and Zionists. The state department

has officials who find justification in the Bible to erosion the human rights of the Palestinians. They often claim that Israel is a democratic country, and their support for the apartheid state is due to its commitment to democracy. Nothing could be further from the truth as the U.S. never promoted democracy in the Arab world and allied with dictators in its long presence in the region. Christian evangelism is the dominant force behind U.S. policy in the Arab and Muslim world. It is difficult for either party to ignore 100 million evangelists found in every state and county.

Those claiming to be liberals are in a state of deception. Their concern for human rights stops when the call for Palestinians dignity arises. They are quick to con-

demn Palestinians when they question the apartheid state's continued occupation, yet stay quiet when Israel murders the Palestinians and violates every civilized norm.

The Jewish voice does not speak the truth and justice in general. It supports apartheid and promotes bigotry, and the Media is in cahoots with the Israeli propaganda.

The ongoing aggression is inbuilt in Israel's policy of territorial aggression and expansion. With the help of American Christians for Israel, the Jewish settlers are attacking Palestinians in their homes to dislodge them. When the original inhabitants resist, the apartheid state retaliate brutally with the U.S. taxpayers' arms and ammunition.

The Palestinians have a

strong case. It is a case that highlights the cause of justice, peace, and dignity versus injustice, terror, and indignity. But the country is not fully aware of their plight and history. The Israelis and the Christians for Israel control the agenda. They are present in every decision-making body. But the Palestinians must realize that there are 131 million Americans who do not identify with Christian Zionists. They are out there. The Palestinians must approach them and ask them to be an ally of the truth and justice. It is the only way to challenge the bigotry of Israel and Christian Zionists. The power elites do not care for human rights. They yield to the truth when a majority speaks it and shows its willingness to change the elites.

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Over 100 Democratic Party Leaders

cratic Party

Ghazala Salam, American Muslim Democratic Caucus, President of Muslim Caucus of America, Florida Democratic Party

M. Emad A Salem, State Democratic Executive Committeeman, Texas Democratic Party

Murad Sarama, 2020 DNC Delegate, Democrats for Justice in Palestine, California Democratic Party

Mariam Shah-Rais, Member, California Democratic Party

Syed Shareef, Member, New Jersey Democratic Party

Liano Sharon, DNC Delegate, Michigan

Tanya Sharon, State Central Committee Delegate, Precinct Delegate, Michigan Democratic Party

Hassan Sheikh, Member, Michigan Democratic Party

Ehab Shehata MD, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Amar Shergill, Progressive Caucus Chair, California Democratic Party

Aftab Siddiqui, Chair, Candidate Recruitment Committee and County

Executive Committee, Texas Democratic Party

Kimberly Sloan, Member, Washington Democratic Party

Rafi Sohail, Member, Minnesota Democratic Party

Norman Solomon, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Nicole Soza, State Committee Woman, Florida Democratic Party

Cameron Stempel, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Christina Stewart, 2020 DNC Delegate, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Waqas Syed, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Nina Tatlock, Board Member Democratic Progressive Caucus of Tampa Bay, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Ryan Trabuco, ADEM Delegate, California Democratic Party

Dakin Weekley, State Committeeman, Florida Democratic Party

Emily Weekley, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Tom Wells, Congressional candidate and Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Susan Willea, Precinct Delegate, State Central

Delegate, Michigan Democratic Party

Laurie Woodward Garcia, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Ross Youmans, Precinct Captain, Florida Democratic Party

Mohammed Yousufuddin, Member, Florida Democratic Party

Mahmoud Zahriya, Arab American Caucus Vice Chair, California Democratic Party

Amna Zuberi, ADEM Delegate, County Race & Gender Quality Committee, Environmental Caucus, California Democratic Party

Cont. from page 1.
Thousands Protest

the protest.

Almost everyone held slogans including the popular one "Free Palestine and stop killing innocent people of Palestine".

Many well-known community members joined the protest including House Representative Rashida Talaib who is of Palestinian origin. She addressed the crowd and thanked individuals for their support.

TMO talked to the people at the protest. They said that they are here to bring attention to the issue and to break the silence and stand for the rights of the Palestinians.





AFMI



The last year was a tough one for many people around the world. For the second time in a row, we will be observing Ramadan in a pandemic. Millions have been left destitute & without income because of the pandemic & its effect on the Indian economy.

In this last year, AFMI has been reaching out with support to the neediest in India

AFMI's initiatives in the last year include: Should read as follows

- ❖ Provided safe drinking water to thousands of flood-affected families in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Launched safe drinking water facility in Rajasthan which currently supports twenty-two villages.
- ❖ Provided meals to thousands of families across India.
- ❖ Helped teaching and other staff of schools with income supports.
- ❖ Provided scholarships to students.
- ❖ Helped schools with construction projects in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and elsewhere.
- ❖ Provided ventilators to hospitals in Gujarat.
- ❖ Provided shelter and clothing to families affected by the pandemic and economic distress.



The need is great, & our resources limited. Let us come together & resolve to do whatever we can to improve the conditions of the needy. Through our collective efforts, we can work wonders.

Please donate generously to AFMI's projects which have real-life impacts on thousands of lives. Donations can be made securely online at www.afmi.org

May these blessed days be a means for us to connect with our Lord and our community, & to share together in gratitude.

Ramadan Mubarak!

ZAKAT FOUNDATION of AMERICA



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