



## How You Can Help Afghan Refugees During The Current Crisis

By: Aysha Qamar

Since the withdrawal of American and NATO forces from Afghanistan in July, the Taliban has quickly taken control of large parts of Afghanistan. The government has fallen and the president has fled. While this is horrific for all Afghan people, women face the worst of it. Devastating videos and photos of people trying to flee the country are circulating on social media and other platforms.

Under Taliban rule, women were subject to persistent human rights violations, including denied employment and education, being forced



to wear the burqa, and being forbidden from leaving their homes with-

out a male "guardian." While the Taliban claims

they have changed their

*Cont. on page 14*

**Afghanistan  
And Pakistan  
Page. 6**

**Remembers  
Dr. Ghazi-  
Page. 7**

**Refugees  
Return  
Page. 10**

## Under Taliban Rule, Afghanistan's Banking System Is Imploding

By: Zaid Aleem

The Taliban's control in Afghanistan is in jeopardy: the country's banking system is on the danger of collapsing, according to CNN reports.

Afghanistan's banks are still closed over two weeks after the Taliban took power. As a result, many individuals in the country are cash-strapped. One current



employee of Afghanistan's national bank told CNN, "No one has money." Many families don't have enough money for their everyday expenses, according to the employee, who requested anonymity due to concerns

for their safety.

All of this increases the possibility of a major economic and humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan just weeks after the Taliban took

*Cont. on page 13*

## Biden's Declining Approval Ratings



By: TMO Staff


President Joe Biden has the lowest popularity rating of his term. He now has a polling average of around 47%. This is down from 51% at the start of the month,

52% at the end of last month, and 52% at the start of June (54 percent), according to CNN.

It would be simple to blame Biden's slide on

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# Op Ed: Why The Recent Ruling By The EU On The Hijab Ban Is So Problematic



**By: Jamilah Moktadir**

It's no secret that The EU has a problem with Muslim women, a bold statement I know, but its animosity runs deep into the surface. Recent rulings via The EU's highest courts allow companies, under 'certain conditions,' to ban against visible religious and political symbols. This legislation was triggered by two German Muslim women who were demanded to remove their hijab in the name of neutrality in the workplace. What a lack of forbearance! This is an excuse for the EU to continue its history of prolifically breeding islamophobia, and we are no longer accepting it.

This so-called 'neutrality' is to 'prevent social disputes,' as put by the Court of Justice of the European Union. The problem with neutrality is that it ardently cannot be achieved, it will simply be avoided. So, the way I see it, the EU is actively contributing to institutionally oppress Muslim women in oppose to fighting the rising Islamophobia. The court is aggressively reinforcing

the oppression Muslims face on a daily in Europe, insinuating a Muslim woman's choice of wearing a hijab is political. The Hijab is not a playground for legislation and debate, the EU is purposely isolating millions of Muslims, almost into second-class citizens. This ban will disproportionately affect Muslim women, and therefore is an Islamophobic attack.

This legislation is even more disheartening given the context. Although the courts enforced similar Islamophobic ratifications in 2017, this ban comes at a time of growing anti-Islamic hate. The hypocrisy of Europe is astonishing, politicians outright spill Islamophobic oratory, rarely being held accountable. For example, Austrian official Sebastian Kurz stating, "Turkey is a better place for Afghan Refugees" a not so surprising view, this is a too common theme of Muslim migrants often being scapegoated and loaded into turkey due to certain 'cultural alliances.' But Turkey fails to possess the capacity, they have been pleading

with the EU since 2016 to share the responsibility of these innocent individuals, yet EU states seem to only fetishize the cheap labour and completely disregard the human that comes alongside it.

There is no denying that Islamophobia and orientalism are synonymous. Whilst the majority of migrants are in fact Muslim, the categorification of refugees into a single religion subsequently leads to these individuals being subjected to dehumanisation and discrimination, not only by state officials but individuals too. Taking away the individuality of a refugee certainly helps them to be manipulated, then legislation like this is easier to pass as their cultural differences were never encouraged to be respected. It also contributes to the erasure of culture, the forced nature of an asylum seeker to feel grateful to a nation that caused their suffering is incredibly shameful, they should not be belittled into hiding their culture or religion in the name of hospitality. Your liberal 'tolerance' should be ac-

cepting and welcoming.

Similarly, for the Muslim populations, the orientalist view that classifies Islam as oppressive and 'backward' definitely has not been revoked. The idea that Muslim women need saving from the oppression of eastern men is astonishing since Islam was one of the earliest religions to provide women with religious and social rights — owning land, access to their own money and even keeping their own last name — we do not fall under our husbands' ownership. This positive narrative did not fit the colonial west, and we can so zealously see in the attitudes of the EU that this orientalism is being upheld. We cannot expect to decolonise the mindsets of individuals when legislators inject islamophobia in the west like the British with opium in the east, but it is difficult to understand the EU's validity when they stand for progression and female liberation; it seems the tables have turned.

Rumki C, an advocate for the #Handsofmyhijab campaign adds to this

idea:

The European Ban on the Hijab has been a slow progression over the years as the hijab ban, itself, has been a topic of debate in many European countries including Sweden, where I am based. As a matter of fact, there are also cities in Sweden where hijab has already been banned. This all seems to have been inspired by other countries having banned hijab, including Germany, France and Switzerland. Only recently, in June of this year, France banned the hijab whereby women under the age of 18 are forbidden from wearing the headscarf and mothers with headscarves from accompanying their children on school field trips. So, I joined a movement: the "#Handsofmyhijab" campaign was begun by Somali-Norwegian Hijabi model, Rawdah Mohamed. I was honoured to have my image featured alongside hers, on The Guardian's Instagram page.

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FOUNDER

**A. RAHEMAN NAKADAR, M.D.**

EDITOR IN CHIEF

**Dr. Aslam Abdullah**

dr.aslamabdullah@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR

**Aysha Qamar**

editor@muslimobserver.com

MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Javeria Ahmed**

marketing@muslimobserver.com

COPY EDITOR

**Nida A. Imam**

CHICAGO COORDINATOR

**Mujeeb Osman**

chicago@muslimobserver.com

HOUSTON COORDINATOR

**Ilyas Choudry**

houston@muslimobserver.com

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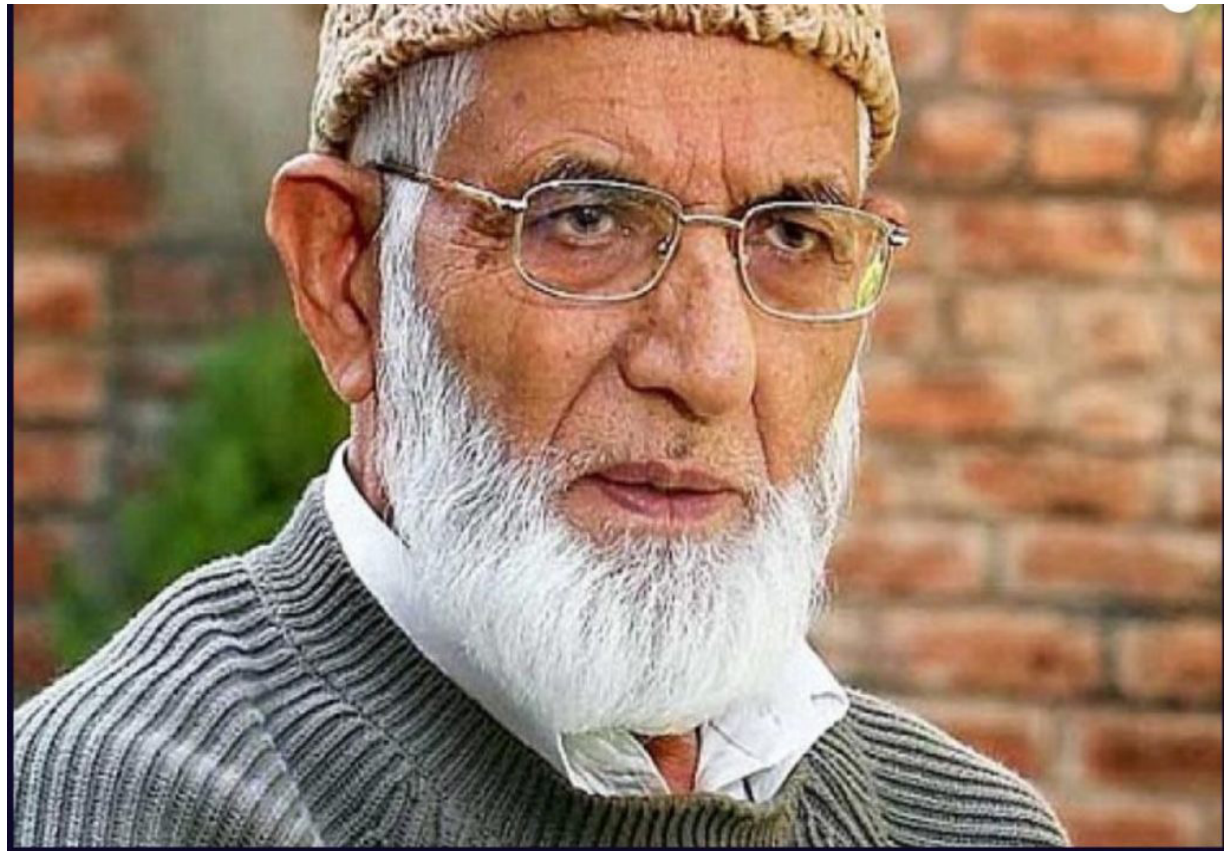
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# Geelani: The Gallant Freedom Fighter



*By: Dr. Aslam Abdullah*

Immediately after the Friday prayer, I spotted him at the corner of the Masjid at the compound of Jama e Islami in Delhi. People were still praying, but I decided to get closer to his row of prayer to ensure I do not lose his sight. He finished the prayers, and I rushed to him. He remembered me. I told him about the demise of Dr. Fathi Osman, who he had hosted in Srinagar in 1983 for more than a week. I briefed him about Dr. Osman's book *The Concepts of the Quran*.

He invited me to his residence in Delhi. There he spent 4 hours explaining his vision of Kashmir, Islam, and the Muslim world. A calm and composed man who never raised his voice, was in tears whenever he talked about the sacrifices of the people of Kashmir for their right to self-determination.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani was a towering Kashmiri intellectual, organizer, activist, orator, thinker, and motivator. He dedicated his life to the freedom of his people and sacrificed everything one can think of. My admiration for him goes back to 1979 when I first visited Kashmir to research youth unemployment. Together with him, I attended several youth camps and learned about his struggles.

In 1983, the chief editor of *Islamic World View*, Dr. Fathi Osma, and I visited the valley of Kashmir for more than two weeks. We met him several times and learned his view on

a free Kashmir.

The right to self-determination was his call. Moreover, he wanted a good status for his people. In his vision for a free Kashmir, minorities were equal; women had complete freedom, education was free, scientific development was essential, removal of unemployment was necessary, and peace and law and order was the top priority. There was no place for discrimination on any basis in Kashmir.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani (29 September 1929 – 1 September 2021)[5] was a liberation leader in Jammu and Kashmir. He was a member of Jamaat-e-Islami Kashmir but later on founded Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, and served as its chairman. He was an MLA from the Sopore constituency of Jammu and Kashmir in 1972, 1977, and 1987. He quit the Hurriyat in June 2020.

Syed Ali Geelani was born in Sopore Baramulla, North Kashmir, on 29 September 1929. He finished his studies at the Oriental College, Lahore (in present-day Pakistan).

Syed Ali Shah Geelani received the invitation to participate in the annual meeting of the foreign ministers of member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Kashmir Contact Group held in New York from 27 September 2015.

On 29 November 2010, Geelani, along with writer Arundhati Roy, activist Varavara Rao and three others,[24] was charged for sedition. The

charges, which carried a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, were the result of a self-titled seminar they gave in New Delhi, "Azadi-the Only Way" on 21 October, at which Geelani was heckled.

Geelani lived in Hyderpora, Srinagar. Geelani has two sons; Nayeem and Naseem, and four daughters; Anisha, Farhat Jabeen, Zamshida, and Chamshida. Anisha and Farhat are Geelani's daughters from his second marriage. Nayeem and his wife are both doctors who used to live and practice medicine in Rawalpindi Pakistan, but they returned to India in 2010. Geelani's younger son, Naseem works at an agricultural university in Srinagar.[37] Geelani's grandson Izhaar is a crew member in a private airline in India. Geelani's daughter Farhat is a Madani teacher in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and her husband is an engineer there. Geelani's other grandchildren are studying in leading schools of India. His cousin Ghulam Nabi Fai is presently in the USA. Ruwa Shah, daughter of Kashmiri freedom fighter Altaf Ahmad Shah (SAS Geelani's son-in-law) is a journalist. She previously worked as a journalist in India with organizations including the dawn, IANS, Quint, and The Indian Express, since 2014.

Geelani's passport was seized in 1981 due to accusations of "anti-India" activities. Except for his Hajj pilgrimage in 2006, he has not been allowed to leave India. He was diag-

*Cont. on page 13*

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# Afghanistan's New Government



**By: Mahvish Akhtar**

The Taliban are busy forming their new government. So far, the reports say they have chosen Sheikh Haibatullah Akhundzada as the country's supreme leader. Bilal Karimi, a member of the Taliban's cultural commission, on the plans for the new government, including Sheikh Haibatullah's new role, which is not yet confirmed.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar might be in charge of day-to-day affairs. Baradar acted as the chief negotiator for the group in peace talks with the United States in Qatar, presiding over the agreement that led to the American withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Other important posts in the government, according to the Times, might go to Sirajuddin Haqqani, another deputy and an influential operations leader within the organization, and Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqoob, who is the son of the Taliban founder, Mullah Muhammad Omar. It is unclear if leaders from the previous leadership will be involved in this government at all.

Speaking to a Pakistani news channel, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid explained, "First of all, entering Kabul all of a sudden and taking over governance like this was un-

anticipated. We desire to hold wide-ranging talks regarding the formation of a government so that a strong government can be formed."

Mujahid also hinted towards the Taliban's desire for an "end to war" and the "creation of a system, with everyone's input, that represents the wishes of the people."

When asked explicitly about previous leaders such as Rashid Dostum and their involvement in the new government, Mujahid said that the Taliban also wish for "new faces" to be part of the government.

We wish to begin a new chapter and include people who do not only enjoy popular support but are deserving of being the people's representatives.

"But this does not in any way mean that all the past leaders will be sidelined. We will routinely consult them and seek their advice," he said.

Abdul Rashid Dostum was the chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff during President Hamid Karzai's administration. While he was respected and revered by many, he is also considered a war criminal in the country because of his massacre of over 1000 Taliban fighters through suffocation in the 'Dasht-e-Laal Massacre.' The International Criminal Court was reportedly planning

an investigation into the incident.

As the Taliban form the new government and get ready to announce it to the world, the humanitarian crisis seems to worsen for the region. United Nations has reported that one out of three Afghans is going hungry.

According to Al Jazeera, food prices have risen by roughly 50%, and petrol prices by as much as 75%, in recent days.

Western Union has, however, resumed its services once again in Afghanistan. This will alleviate some financial chaos and bring ease to those who have loved ones across the borders since Western Union has stations in over 200 countries.

Nevertheless, most governments are not ready to accept the Taliban

government or resume business as usual with them. British foreign secretary Dominic Raab has said a "direct engagement" was required with the Taliban. On Thursday, during a diplomatic mission to Doha, he said, "The reality is we will not be recognizing the Taliban any time in the foreseeable future, but I think there is an important scope for engagement and dialogue."

Qatar has also been working with the Taliban to reopen Kabul's airport since the bombing, according to Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. He emphasized, "as soon as possible," adding that the Gulf state was also seeking technical assistance from Turkey to help in the process.

Problems in dealing with the newly forming

Afghan government or the ideology they might bring to the table don't end at the higher level of government. They are not just humanitarian, either. On that note, Afghanistan accounts for 80% of the world's opium supply. The farmers in Afghanistan have voiced their concern that the Taliban have halted their work.

The farmers in opium-producing provinces say that the price of opium in the country has risen from \$70 per kg to \$200 per kg. The Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid has repeatedly maintained that the organization would not allow opium or other narcotics within the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. How this affects the rest of the world and how quickly remains to be seen.



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# Op Ed: Women, The Taliban And The World

By: TMO Staff

Some 50 million sex workers known as prostitutes exist in our world today. Eighty percent of them are female and range in age between 13-25. Ninety percent of all prostitutes are dependent on a male pimp. Additionally, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Seventy percent of them are female, and 50 percent are children.

According to the UN, 37,000 girls under the age of 18 get married each day. If present trends continue, more than 140 million girls will get married before 18 in the next decade.

India burns a bride every 90 minutes on dowry issues. Furthermore, Indian families have aborted more than 10 million female fetuses since the 1990s.

Approximately 35% of women worldwide have

experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime. Yet, less than 10% seek assistance from law enforcement.

Estimates published by WHO indicate that about 1 in 3 (30%) women worldwide are subject to physical and sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

After the Taliban take over, the world and its intellectuals suddenly have become concerned about 14 million women in Afghanistan. But, unfortunately, the world has failed to protect women in general as it has continued to use them in the image almost all religions promote in their religious literature—the secular world is no different.

“Women exist to provide sexual pleasure to men.”

“They are the daughters of Satan.”

“They are dirty and not worthy of visiting places of worship during their

menstruation.

“They are good to advertise products showing their semi-naked body or even faces.”

“They are subservient to men.”

“Men are their owners.”

Don’t a great majority of the world’s culture and religions have these beliefs mentioned above?

Only a small group of men and women believe that God is not unjust to condemn half of humanity into an abyss of humiliation and subjugation to prove his sovereignty.

The Taliban’s basic understanding of the role of women in society comes from the interpretation of religious text and jurisprudence written by male scholars who practiced slavery, concubinage in the medieval ages. Slavery and the concubinage were in defiance of the basic Quranic concept of the dignity of human beings, an essential principle in Islam. Moreover, the jurispru-

dence promoted patriarchy with little regard to women’s services in the preservation of human society.

It was the responsibility of Muslim scholars to question the medieval ideas and practices and define a universal charter to restore the dignity of women, and not just Muslim women. Their focus was not to secure the equality and freedom of women, but to impose arbitrary restrictions securing the interests of men.

The Taliban are a product of a worldwide culture. It’s a culture that promotes patriarchy and promotes women as an object or commodity. If the world and religious leadership were serious about the status of women, they would have worked to eliminate prostitution, dowry deaths, female infanticide, rape, violence, and subjugation. Instead, it does not care about the dignity of women because its power

elites are the product of a patriarchal system that only secures male interests.

The world would listen to them only when women assert their independence and challenge their religious texts that restrict their freedoms. It is not feminism. It is the restoration of human dignity as bestowed by the creator.

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# Increased Tensions Between Afghanistan And Pakistan

By Mahvish Akhtar

Tensions have been increasing between Pakistan and Afghanistan as the borders between the two countries stayed closed for weeks. After a brief closure, the borders are open for trade and light pedestrian traffic. Pakistan has been afraid of the fighting to spill over into its side of the border. The process of vetting and looking through the paperwork for the Afghans coming into Pakistan has gotten much stricter than ever before. Where there used to be hundreds and thousands crossing the border, now there are less than a hundred allowed to pass through in a day. Pakistani security officials say they don't want any militants to enter disguised as civilians, so they are extra vigilant.

Pakistan has tried to take itself out of the blame zone by putting the responsibility on other parties. On Wednesday, Pakistan's information minister said that the fault lay with the Afghan military, who could

not hold their ground. "With the 8th Province falling to Taliban, people of Afghanistan and people of USA must question so-called leadership of Afghanistan where \$2 trillion vanished that they received to build Afghan National Army?" He continued. In the Afghan government, "how come all ministers and generals became billionaires but people of Afghanistan are suffering due to poverty? Who is responsible for these sufferings? Corruption of Leadership drowns the nations, and Afghanistan is an example of that."

Within Afghanistan, however, there has been an anti-Pakistan trending hashtag #SanctionPakistan. The Afghans blame Pakistan for strengthening the Taliban over the people of Afghanistan. Afghans are also bitter about the strict rules at the borders in the current months. Many Journalists, media personalities, and right-wing activists are leading the charge on this campaign against

Pakistan. This hashtag has been used more than 730,000 times, according to Aljazeera. It's being claimed that if you are a true Afghani, a friend of the Afghan people, you will spread the word on social media about this hashtag.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, however, has denied the reports that Pakistan had anything to do with aiding the Taliban in taking over Afghanistan. "This is absolute nonsense," he said of the claims that Pakistani fighters had crossed the border to help the Taliban. Energy Minister Azhar termed these allegations baseless and wrote in a tweet that "Afghan government should own its failures; Pakistan strongly desires for peace and stability in Afghanistan."

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Saturday that Pakistan is playing an essential role in peace and stability in Afghanistan. On Friday, in a weekly media briefing,

Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said, "urged to the importance of the early and smooth transition of power in Afghanistan and to the need for all Afghan sides to engage and work out an inclusive political settlement. "We are closely following the developments taking place in Afghanistan and are in contact with the international community on this issue."

He also said that the continued engagement by the international community was also critical for achieving durable peace, security, and development in Afghanistan. "As for Pakistan, we are committed to working together with the international community to advance our shared objectives in Afghanistan. We have consistently highlighted the need for a political solution and have supported every effort for peace in Afghanistan. We have remained part of all mechanisms, regional and international, aimed at bringing peace and

stability in Afghanistan," he added.

Tensions are high between the two countries, and the governments are not seeing eye to eye on many issues right now. Recently ousted President Ashraf Ghani also blames Pakistan for not protecting him and his forces from a homegrown invasion which he feels were supported by the closest bordered allies. Nevertheless, there is enormous public support for the Afghan crisis among the People of Pakistan. Humanitarian and aid work from NGOs from across Pakistan has sped up since before the civil war. As the country finds itself more and more devastated by war, the new rule, and uncertainty, the Pakistanis, like many other countries, are coming to help regardless of the politics, the consensus, or lack thereof from their governments.

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# The Community Remembers Dr. Ghazi

By: TMO Staff.

“The death of a scholar brings void all over the world.” It is an expression found in almost all the cultures in the world with minor differences. On August 22, the internet community and the people of Chicago witnessed it when a group of Muslims observed a four-hour-long program to remember Dr. Abidullah Ghazi about four months after his demise upon the completion of his wife’s iddat. Dr. Ghazi was a poet, writer, researcher, scholar, orator, a religious leader in the traditional way, a spiritual guide, and a modernist. With his wife, Dr. Tasneema Ghazi, he was the founder of the world’s only international children’s curriculum development institution.

The program was the brainchild of his admirers, students, and friends, who gathered Muslims worldwide to pay glowing tribute to the scholar who left a permanent imprint in the field of Muslim education for children. Intellectuals, activists, and family members from the United States, Singapore, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom shared their interaction with him and shed light on his personality, a mix of traditions and modernity with a sense of responsibility to God and His creation.

IQRA International Educational Foundation and Light Upon Light decided to jointly organize this program. Dr. Hafiz Ikhlas Ansari, Dr. Tasneema Ghazi, Seemi Bushra Ghazi, Shagufta Hashmi, Dr. Ahmadullah Siddiqi, Dr. Musa Azam, Dr. Ahmed Murad, Maulana Qari Adnan, Amin Haider, Dr. Aslam Abdullah, Jawed Aslam, Professor Masroor Qureshi, and Shahab Khan were the members of the organizing committee.

The memorial service was a fitting tribute to one of the best-known educationists in America. As described by his wife and co-founder of IQRA during her keynote address, she said, “he was a visionary who perceived the needs of the



emerging generation in the field of education and created the infrastructure to achieve it.” His son described him as a practical man who knew how to weave dreams and put them into reality. His long-time disciple, Dr. Ahmadullah Siddiqi, quoting from his autobiographies, highlighted his vision of a pluralistic community that learns from its traditions and adapts modernity within its value system.

During the program, the organizing committee released two significant works. Dr. Hafiz Ikhlas Ansari’s work on IQRA’s curriculum and Dr. Abidullah Ghazi’s four-volume autobiography.

Speakers drawn from different walks of life paid rich tribute to Dr. Ghazi. Among them were: Shahab Khan, Dr. Tasneema, Abdullah Mitchell, Dr. A. Siddiqi, Dr. Ashhad Jamal Naddwi, Prof. Omer Muzaffar, Amin Haider, Prof. Masroor Quraishi, Dr. Khutb Uddin, Dr. Omar Shaheen, Dr. Aslam Abdullah, Dr. Seema Imam, Habeeb Quadri, Dr. Hafiz Ikhlas Ansari, Dr. Kaiserduddin, Dr. Wasiullah Khan, Dr. Shiakh Mohammed ArRae, Sister Azra Taufiq (Australia), Dr. Hannan (Singapore), Mufti Barkatullah (U.K.), Salman Ansari (Saudi Arabia), Maulana Jahangir (Pakistan), Moulana Sufyaan Qasmi (India), Rashid Ghazi, Saba Ghazi, and Tayyab Yunus.

The organizing committee also awarded the following individuals for their services. Dr. Rami Nashashibi, Dr. Saba Khan, Ismail Umar, and Mirza Muhammad Baig. The program concluded

with the dua by Dr. Hafiz Ikhlas Ansari. This program was sponsored by IQRA, Sahara Home Care, IFANCA, G.C.S. Technology Solutions, Al-Furqaan Foundation, Saturna Capital, WCMIR, Elmhurst University, IMRC, Gain Peace,

Helping Hand, WCMIR, and the East-West University.

Here is a short biographical note of each of the speakers:

Mr. Shahab Khan has been working at IQRA’ International Educational Foundation since 2002. Throughout his time at IQRA’ he has gone through multiple job designations and promotions. Currently, he holds the role of IQRA’ Book Service Director. He has strived to promote IQRA’s publications across North America and Overseas countries. In 2008, Mr. Khan had received the employee appreciation award. He has had the privilege to visit many institutions across the country with Dr. Abidullah Ghazi, one of the most memorable being the Parliament of World Religions. Moulana Mohammad Sufyan Qasmi comes from the Great Qasmi Intellectual Dynasty. He is the grandson of Maulana Qari Mohammad Tayyib. Maulana Muhammad Sufyan Qasmi is the Rector of Darul Uloom Waqf

Deoband, a member of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, and the Editor in Chief of monthly Urdu Magazine Nida-e Darul Uloom Waqf Deoband. He was graduated at Darul Uloom Deoband

and later moved to Al-Azhar, Cairo, for further higher studies in Islamic religious sciences. Here is his video presentation.

Abdullah Mitchell is the Executive Director of the Council of Islamic Organization of Greater

Chicago, CIOGC. He is a licensed attorney in Illinois and chairman of the Leadership Development Institute, and is a board member of Masjid Al-Taqwa.

Dr. Hafiz Ikhlas Ansari is Chairman of the organizing community of this program. He is a highly proficient and experienced Educator and author with over 25 years of involvement in curriculum design, development, and implementation to cater to the different learning needs and achieve the desired learning outcomes. He has rich experience developing, producing, and publishing syllabus, textbooks, workbooks, teacher’s guides, and other administrative, educational materials. Currently, he is teaching at MCC Academy and performing Imam responsibilities with M.E.C. Masjid. Dr. Ansari Completed hifzh (memorization of Qur’an) and graduated from Madrasah Arabia Tajweedul Qur’an in Pakistan, earned a master’s degree in Islamic Studies from Karachi University, and relocated to Singapore

for further education, and completed Masters’ degree in Information Systems & Computer Science. He recently completed his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies and is associated with educational

institutions like Yale and interfaith groups that promote peace, harmony, tolerance, social justice, and basic human rights through religious education, interaction, and dialog.

Dr. Mohammad Ahmadullah Siddiqi is a board member and treasurer of the World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations, WCMIR. He has taught for 28 years and served as director of the Journalism program and chair of the English and Journalism department at Western Illinois University, besides serving as Executive director of Sound Vision from 2015 to 2017 and Dean of Academic and Students Affairs at Northwest Suburban College from

2017 to 2020. Dr. Siddiqi has presented papers and conducted seminars in professional conferences in more than 100 cities in North America and over 30 countries worldwide.

Imam Musa Azam has served as an Imam and Religious leader in the U.S.A. for the Muslim communities over the last 30 years. In 2016 he represented Muslims for peace at the United Nations and had given presentations on Islam to United States government agencies and officials. He is one of the founders of Tawhid Center, LUL (Light Upon Light), and SIFCA (Shura of Islamic Family Counselors of America). He has served as Regional Director of IRUSA (Islamic Relief U.S.A.), H.N.F. (Human Nessecity Foundation), and the director of development at Sound Vision Foundation. He is a Board of Directors at WCMIR (World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations). (<https://wcmir.org>). In 2019 Imam Musa earned his Ph.D. in Midea’s Influence and American Muslims’ Response with

Comparative Religions at the Graduate Theological Foundation, an affiliate of Oxford University. Originally from Hyderabad, India. Dr. Imam

**Cont. on page 12**

# Thousands Call Poison Control After Using Livestock Dewormer To Treat Coronavirus Infection

BY: TMO Staff

Once again, we've reached the part of the pandemic where people ingest random chemicals to treat COVID-19 at home. The overwhelming majority of such people have decided COVID-19 vaccines are too risky or otherwise dangerous. While it may seem obvious to most of us, this is not a good idea. However, many conservatives seem to think otherwise and are willing to die trying to prove themselves right. Despite warnings from the FDA not to take it, anti-vaxxers nationwide have been taking ivermectin, a livestock dewormer. There is no evidence that this drug works as an effective treatment for COVID-19. Despite this, conservative media outlets, including Fox News, have pushed for it.

As a result, calls to poison control centers nationwide have increased at alarming rates. In some states, data has



found over 100% increases in calls from last year to this. Sadly, it has come to this. Still, as COVID-19 cases increase among the unvaccinated nationwide, officials are urging individuals who are infected to stay home and isolate and not take these unauthorized medications.

Last week in a public tweet, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued another public warning about taking these medications with a link to an FDA information page titled "Why you should not use Ivermectin to treat or prevent

COVID-19."

"Seriously, y'all. Stop it," the tweet said.

While bottles of the chemical note that it is "not for human consumption," it's for deworming cattle and horses, people seem to still not understand until after they have taken it. According to Texas Public Radio (TPR), people call poison control facilities after experiencing severe symptoms and pain.

"Nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. However, you can have further problems, including

mental status changes, coma, even seizures. And there have been deaths reported. No, I haven't seen any deaths here in Texas, but these are things that are reported by the manufacturer with people who use large doses," Dr. Shawn Varney, Medical Director of Texas Poison Center, told TPR.

Within a year, Texas reported an increase of 552% of cases reported of ivermectin poisoning statewide," ABC News affiliate WFAA reported. Health care professionals believe the number is likely underreported

because it's self-reported.

Mississippi faces a similar dilemma. With the highest number of new cases of COVID-19 across the country, Mississippi is also battling a surge in calls to poison control.

"At least 70% of the recent [poison control] calls have been related to ingestion of livestock or animal formulations of ivermectin purchased at livestock supply centers," a letter from the Mississippi Department of Health to the MS Health Alert Network on Friday said. It also warned health professionals of the spike in poisonings from individuals digesting ivermectin in the state.

"Animal drugs are highly concentrated for large animals and can be highly toxic in humans," the letter continued. "Patients should be advised to not take any medications intended to treat animals and should

*Cont. on page 13*

## Sharia-Based Afghanistan: What Sharia?

By: TMO Staff

People, in general, view the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan as a bad omen for women and minorities. President Biden expressed that concern in his address to the nation, echoing the sentiments of women's groups worldwide, including Afghani women. However, so far, the Taliban have not given any policy statement that substantiates the expressed fears. On the contrary, after meeting the Taliban leaders, Afghan female health workers returned reassured of non-interference in their work.

In a press conference, a Taliban spokesperson promised freedom to the media, women, and minorities within the framework of Sharia.

The Sharia has different connotations and interpretations for various Muslim schools of thought. Sharia has its roots in divine guidance. The founding principles

are:

Respect for human life and dignity of all, including non-believers, without any discrimination based on gender, status, race, ethnicity, and creed

Respect for the freedom of choice, as long as it does not violate the principle of the common good.

Respect for the right of people to have their privacy and right to religious or no beliefs.

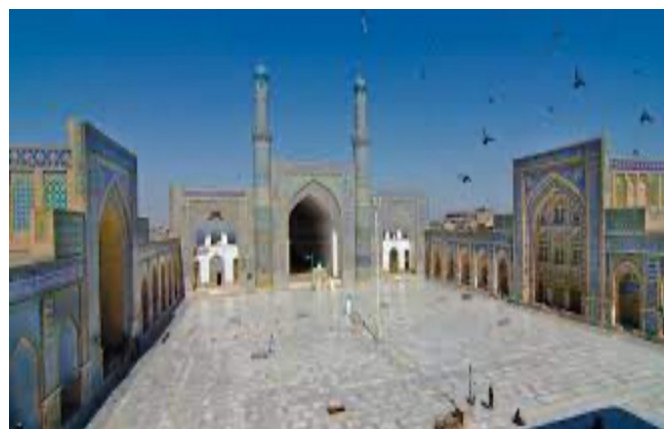
Respect for the right of people to earn their livelihood in a dignified manner, with opportunities open to all.

Respect for the right to dissent peacefully

Respect for the right of people to have equal access to human resources, with provisions to prevent exploitation and monopolization.

Respect for the right to have the education to all.

Respect for the right to have fundamental necessities of life, i.e., home, food, and clothes



Respect for the right to be treated equally in the eyes of the law.

Respect for move freely, fearlessly and independently.

These are Sharia ideals and are hard to find in the constitution of practices in 56 Muslim majority countries. Moreover, they are not present in Muslim polity because Islamic scholarship has remained confined to a narrowly defined understanding of the faith that revolves around Muslims only. Muslims have yet to realize that they are 20 percent of the world population and cannot dictate their ideals of soci-

ety upon others through coercion. Additionally, Muslim jurisprudence has focused on rituals, ignoring the message that highlights research, exploration, development, and well-being.

To expect the Taliban to implement the Sharia ideals in totality, especially when there is no consensus on the definition of the term, is unrealistic. However, there are specific baby steps the new Afghan rulers can adopt.

A constitution that reflects the sharia ideals is a must. Therefore, a group of people with the

expertise to interpret and implement it is a natural step to follow. Do the Taliban have the expertise? Running the affairs of a people is different from fighting a war. In the running of people's matters, the biggest struggle is to fight one's own biases, hatred, and prejudices to preserve the common good. The divine guidance in its final testament, the Quran, reminds people of the following: "If you are useful to people, you will survive and grow." Otherwise, the recorded human history is the testimony of the fall of the mightiest empires. The Sharia is more extensive than beards and thicker than Hijab. If the Taliban remained focused on these two issues, they would bring down their nation like the previous rulers did because, in the eyes of the divine, they are matters of personal choice and not essentials for governance.



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# Refugees Return to Afghanistan



By Mahvish Akhtar

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, Pakistan has deported over 200 Afghan nationals, including women and children, who reached Quetta via Chaman.

“These Afghan families were deported to Afghanistan as they entered Pakistan illegally,” Quetta Division Commissioner Sohail-ur-Rehman Baloch told the media. “Unless the government gives permission for their stay, all Afghan nationals entering Pakistan illegally would be sent back,” he added.

The government is not allowing Afghan citizens to enter Pakistan without legal documents anymore.

However, there are reports that some Afghan families have entered the Noshki district from Helmand province of Afghanistan. The United Nations said on Friday it was bracing for a possible departure from Afghanistan of up to half a million more refugees

by the end of 2021. “The humanitarian emergency currently is inside Afghanistan,” Kelly Clements, the deputy high commissioner of the UNHCR, told reporters. “We are preparing for around 500,000 new refugees in the region. This is a worst-case scenario,” she said.

Since the Taliban came into power about three weeks ago, the humanitarian situation in the country has deteriorated dramatically. Half of the population was already in need of humanitarian assistance, and half of all children under five were estimated to be severely malnourished.

The UNHCR also said, “we are appealing to all countries neighboring Afghanistan to keep their borders open so that those seeking safety can find safety.” Clements meant Iran and Pakistan in particular because these countries host 90% of Afghan refugees and 3 million Afghans without any status. She also urgently appealed for \$300 million in funds.

Despite all this, many are ready to go back to their homeland after being displaced for years. “We emigrated from Afghanistan during bombing and hardships when Muslims were in trouble. Now, praise be to Allah, the situation is normal, so we are returning to Afghanistan,” Molavi Shaib told the AFP while waiting at the border.

Waliur Rahman, another refugee, trying to go home, said, “I am going back to Ghazni, now peace has been established, and we are happy that we are returning to our home. It’s much better to go back and settle there.”

Their words are a stark contrast to the images and words coming out of Kabul airport, where people have been trying to get out of Afghanistan even if they have to cling to the planes’ exteriors.

A Pakistani reporter reporting from inside Afghanistan finds that life seems to be going on as usual in Jalalabad. A prominent Taliban flag flies high in one of

the biggest roundabouts of the city known as Pakhtunistan Chowk. Only miles away is Nangarhar province’s, Governor House. Inside sit gun-wielding Taliban fighters. Hard to believe less than three weeks ago, this country witnessed a regime change through civil war. He says, however, outside the compound walls of the Governor house, people seem to have other things on their minds.

For example, at a bread shop, a vendor Ghulam Rehman says the wheat flour bag they used to get for 1,600 Afghani is now being sold for 2,200 Afghani, Nawab Khan, who runs a small poultry shop, tells us chicken prices have risen by 20-30 Afghani since the Taliban assumed power.

A Taliban fighter stationed at the chowk told the reporter that the police have nothing to worry about. While most people are happy with the regime change, “some elements are provoking the people’s emotions,” he said while holding a

rifle with one hand and a walkie-talkie in the pocket of his vest. He says Afghans are free to wave their national flag, which was used as the symbol of resistance against the Taliban rule during protests in the country in recent days, emphasizing that the people’s “legitimate” demands will be tended to.

So, what is the difference between this and the situation that the public was living with before? “The difference is that the war has ended, and peace has taken hold,” Naik Mohammad, an elderly resident, says. “The Taliban have seized the government, and the system is in their hands. Bribery and corruption were rampant in the past; now the people want to be served, their problems solved,” he continued.

How much truth these statements hold remains to be seen.

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# Afghanistan: Contours Of A Catastrophe.

by Abdul El-Sayed

This post was originally published on The Incision

On Sunday, our wayward 20-year war effort in Afghanistan suffered its final death blow. The Taliban rode the U.S.-manufactured Humvees captured from Afghan security forces into Kabul as Afghan President Ashraf Ghani escaped by helicopter. Within hours, Taliban fighters had taken the presidential palace. Workers rushed to paint over billboards that included images of women. And thousands of Afghans took to the Kabul airport in an attempt to flee — clinging to airplanes as they took off.

As if purposely recreated, the indelible final image of the American war effort in Afghanistan hearkens back to Saigon: a lone helicopter ferrying Americans from the roof of an abandoned U.S. embassy.

Books will be written about the full meaning and consequences of this moment. But I want to offer a few contours as we watch this play out.

It is Biden's fault ... and Trump's, Obama's, and most of all, George W. Bush's.

The speed with which Afghanistan fell to the Taliban is staggering, owing both to tactical blunders on the part of the Biden administration and the lack of leadership, morale, or supplies among Afghan security forces. The speed with which the Taliban took the country underscores the Biden administration's essential rationale for pulling out of Afghanistan in the first place: they had deemed it an unwinnable war. And once they had decided that victory was impossible, every life lost in its pursuit would have been lost in vain. This necessitated as fast a withdrawal as possible. And yet, the tactical blunder came the moment President Biden announced an aggressive timeline for a full drawdown of U.S. troops. With that he had backed himself into a corner. Staying even a day past the drawdown



date would be deemed a domestic political failure. All the Taliban had to do was simply bide their time. The aggressive timeline demoralized Afghan security forces who knew help would not be on the way as the losses piled up.

Biden's timeline was the tactical mistake in a broader strategic blunder he inherited ... from every president dating back to George W. Bush, and perhaps even further. Trump's failure was declaring an intention to pull out without securing any real concessions from the Taliban, save that they wouldn't attack U.S. forces on the way out. Obama, despite running in opposition to forever war, took the quagmire he'd been handed from Bush and turned it into ... a forever war. Not only did he surge troops, he vastly expanded the infrastructure of war — the "military-industrial complex" President Dwight Eisenhower had warned of after Korea. The drone war mirroring the U.S. in complex conflicts across seven countries remains one of his few lasting foreign policy legacies.

And then, of course, there was George W. Bush, war-maker in chief. Though his efforts to root out al-Qaida after 9/11 were wholly warranted, he vastly expanded his remit to full-on democracy exportation. Indeed, the logic he built to expand his remit in Afghanistan is what

created the war in Iraq, which of course, pulled attention and resources from the war in Afghanistan.

This moment will forever stain the legacy of Joe Biden's presidency ... as it should stain the legacies of each of the three before him.

This is a tragedy for the rights of millions of Afghans.

In a few weeks, my daughter will go back to preschool. Millions of Afghan girls may not have that opportunity again. As a father — as a human — my heart breaks for them. Though Taliban spokespeople have claimed that Taliban 2.0 will allow girls education, their repressive fundamentalist interpretation of Islam, coupled with reports from cities they've recently captured, suggests that if anything has changed, it's their PR savvy. The Taliban's resurgence is a travesty for human rights, women's rights, basic freedoms, and a free press.

Consider a bacterial infection — trust me for a second. Too often, people stop taking their antibiotics when they're feeling better, only to be hit with a worse version of the infection that is far harder to treat. Doctors tell you to finish the entire course of antibiotics because you have to kill off the whole infection, otherwise the bacteria that survive are the most resistant to the treatment. By this analogy, Taliban 2.0 is likely

to be worse. They've been hardened by 20 years of war and feel vindicated by the complete collapse of Afghan security forces as they laid siege. The threat of resistance is unlikely to shake them.

What's worse is that millions of young Afghans grew up with the promise of basic rights and dignities — even if not in practice, then in principle. They are navigating a new terrain, robbed of the potential they believed they had, that we told them they would have.

Now, you may be thinking: aren't you basically arguing that the war was justified? No. All out war was never going to root out the strain of extremist ideology that had governed Afghanistan in the 90s. War didn't beat communism in Vietnam. War didn't beat Wahhabism in Afghanistan. Why? Violence can't extinguish an idea; only the free and willing exchange of better ideas can do that. So while a targeted effort to uproot al-Qaida was justified, a broader regime-change war in Afghanistan was not. Although we sold it as an effort to free people from a repressive ideology and to give Afghans their basic human rights, our war may, ultimately, have done more to take them away.

Even if war may not be able to change ideas, it can secure oil. And we did get plenty of that. Afghans, and our Earth, are now suffering for it.

Share

This is a cross-generational failure.

The iconic image of the fall of Saigon was taken in 1975. Forty-six years later we failed to learn the lesson. The parallels between Vietnam and Afghanistan are legion and obvious. But I want to focus more on the path-dependency between them: the fact that the same generation that protested in the streets against the Vietnam War launched us into the second (and third) such war in a few short decades.

It's easy to blame boomers as a generation for this war — and so many other travesties of our current circumstance in the U.S. (climate change, rising cost of education, failing public infrastructure, and inequality to name a few) — but I want to call out my own generation for a moment.

We failed the moral test of our generation. I was in college throughout the first several years of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Though I attended rallies against the wars, they were sedate affairs — nothing like the protests that forced policymakers to pay attention in the 60s and 70s. My generation was more interested in internships than international wars in our name.

Back to the boomers. Perhaps they had learned some lessons from Vietnam. Though many of the protests were about atrocities committed over there, so much of the angst was over the drafts that forced a collective generation to have skin in the game. A generation later, lessons learned, there would be no drafts for Afghanistan or Iraq. Our war-making was outsourced to low-income men and women for whom service offered the best shot at stability in an economy that offered none for the latter decade of the wars. Thousands never got to come home. Those who did bear the often invisible scars. Four times as many have died by suicide than have died on the battlefield. Twenty veterans die by

**Cont. on page 13**

**Cont. from page 7.**  
**Dr. Ghazi**

Musa lives with his wife and three kids in North-west Indiana.

Dr. Ashhad Jamaal Nadwi is the Islamic Institute of Research and Publication director in Aligarh, India.

Mr. Omar Muzaffar is the Muslim Chaplain at Loyola University in Chicago, where he counsels and addresses theological, social, and personal issues of students of all sectarian outlooks. During the school year, he also runs classes on scriptures, student life, and other matters.

Brother Amin Haider is a well-known literary personality of the Greater Chicago area.

He is the President of the Urdu Institute that conducts monthly forums on Urdu literary topics. Br. Amin has been the most instrumental figure in keeping the Urdu mushaira tradition alive in North America. He has presented several unique programs on Mirza Ghalib, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Javed Akhtar, Gulzaar sahib etc.

Dr. Khutb M Uddin is a practicing psychiatrist and psychologist in Indiana and Illinois. He is the director of Star Psychiatric Services P.C. in South Bend, IN, and is actively involved in several social, educational, and humanitarian organizations.

He is a visiting professor at Ibne -Khalidun University at Istanbul University. He was the past President of the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origins and has written many books and articles on psychology and behavioral sciences.

Dr. Omar Shaheen is the dean of the Islamic Studies program at Graduate Theological Foundation, Indiana, where he has been teaching since 2004. Shaikh Omar Shaheen is a Jordanian native and came to the U. S. in 1995 and became a U. S. citizen in 2003. He was Imam at the Islamic Center of Tucson, Arizona, from 2000 until 2003, when he co-founded the North American Imams Federation and is currently President of its

executive committee.

Dr. Aslam Abdullah is a resident scholar at Islamicity.org and editor-in-chief of the Muslim Observer newspaper. He is also the Indian Islamic Heritage Project director of the American Federation of Muslims of Indian origin and the interim President of the World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations, WCMIR.

Dr. Seema Imam is a teacher and educator. She has served as a founding principal at one of the most prominent Islamic schools in the Chicagoland area. She is a full professor at National Louis University in teacher preparation for elementary, middle level, and special education teachers, and she holds a Doctorate in Curriculum and Social Inquiry and a second Doctorate in Islamic Education. Dr. Seema was the recipient of IQRA'S Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. She is Chair of the Islamic Schools League of America, a national organization. She is an Activist, Author of numerous chapters and articles, a children's book, "I am Listening," that she co-authored with her son.

Fueled by his life's mission to improve the human condition, Mr. Tayyab Yunus has provided strategic guidance to both Profit and Non-profit organizations for over 20 years. Brother Yunus is an expert at "getting things done" with excellence by creating a strategy around a shared vision, assembling champion lead teams, driving innovation, facilitating execution, and empowering tactics for any size mission. He is the founder and C.E.O. of Intuitive Solutions, President of the Center on Muslim Philanthropy, and Adjunct Faculty at Indiana University's The Fund Raising School at Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Dr. Saba Khan is the first Muslim woman to be elected to serve as a Board Trustee, Village of Morton Grove, Illinois, in 2021. Commissioner, Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals, Village of Morton Grove, IL 2013- 2021. The

Mayor of the Village of Morton Grove appointed her as Commissioner, Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the CIOGC and the Chair of Civic Engagement Committee, CIOGC. Dr. Saba Khan has served as the Board of Directors of the MCC and in various other roles for over a decade. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology and is a clinical assistant professor at the College of Dentistry, the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has received numerous awards for her extensive service to the community.

Br. Habeeb Qudri is the Principal of the MCC Academy in Morton Grove. He is a popular youth counselor, author, and lecturer on Islam and social problems confronting Muslim youth. He has also served as a part-time staff at Harvard Graduate School of Education professional development programs and on Harvard Graduate School of Education's Principal Advisory Board.=

Dr. Mohammad Kaiseruddin has been active in the Chicago Muslim community for more than 40 years. He has provided leadership and guidance to many Muslim organizations in the greater Chicago area, including as President and several times board member of the Muslim Community Center (MCC), chairman of the CIOGC, and chairman of the Downtown Islamic Center (D.I.C.). He regularly gives Jumma (Friday) and Eid sermons throughout the Chicagoland area. Dr. Kaiseruddin holds a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from Kansas State University and retired after working in a leading engineering company for over forty years.

Dr. Wasiullah Khan is a well-known personality in the Greater Chicago area. He is the founder and Chancellor of East West University. He has dedicated his life to strengthening the cause of education to serve the Muslim and minority communities in North America. He has an M. A. and M. Ed degrees

from Punjab University and a Ph. D. in Educational Administration from Indiana University.

Dr Shk ar Raee is the author of Qaida Noorania, has a degree in Islamic law, and holds an engineering degree. Dr. Raee is a professor at Imam University in Saudi Arabia and has also served as an Imam for over 30yrs in the U. S. The current Imam, Haram Shk Abdullah Awad al Jahni is among his students.

Mirza Muhammad Baig, our host, and owner of Monty's Elegant Banquet does not need any introduction. We are honored to recognize him for providing food packages to the needy around Chicago area regardless of their ethnic or religious identity.

Br. Ismail Umar is a tireless community volunteer who has been serving the masjids throughout America's Midwest region with water and other supplies. We are honored to present the 2021 Masjid Service Award to our dear Brother Ismail Umar.

Rashid Ghazi, son of late Dr. Abidullah Ghazi, is President at Paragon Marketing Group, a Glenview-based corporation. He is also the commissioner of the National Interscholastic Basketball conference. Rashid has a B. A. in Business and Sociology from University of Redlands and an M.B.A. from Kellogg Graduate School of Business.

Saba Ghazi is the middle child of Dr. Abidullah and Dr. Tasneema Ghazi. She has inherited her father's love of visual art and literature. After studying Design at the University of Illinois in Chicago, she earned a Masters's in Interactive Media from New York University. Mother of three children, one of her greatest joys has been writing and designing many of Iqra's publications. Recently she has been exploring the intersections of her Muslim, Indian and American heritage through Art and poetry.

Professor Masroor Ali Quraishi is the chief editor of the Jazba Post online newspaper and

chief editor of The Brij magazine, published in Chicago. She is the former head of the department of Islamic studies at wafaqi Urdu College, Karachi, Associate Professor Wafaqi Urdu University, Pakistan and former member of Curriculum Committee, Kulliyah ma'arife Islamiyah, Karachi University

Dr. Rami Nashashibi is a MacArthur Fellow, a Doctor of Sociology from the University of Chicago, and the Inner-City Muslim Network (IMAN), imacentral.org, a non-profit organization incorporated in 1997. He fosters health, wellness, and healing on Chicago's South Side & Atlanta's west end by organizing social change, cultivating the arts, and operating a holistic health center. He has been featured in several prominent media publications including the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Atlantic, the Chicago Tribune, and multiple stories on PBS, C.B.S., and National Public Radio. Rami has also taught at the Chicago Theological Seminary, a visiting professor of the Sociology of Religion and Muslim Studies.

He serves on the board of directors of the Margaret Casey Foundation. In 2020, Rami debuted as a musician, songwriter, and executive producer of "This Love Thing," a soul-stirring L.P. He has worked with several leading scholars in globalization, African American Studies and Muslim sociology and has contributed chapters to edited volumes by Manning Marable and Saskia Sassen. As a community leader building bridges across racial, religious, and socioeconomic divides to confront the challenges of poverty and disinvestment in urban communities, Dr. Nashashibi has successfully unified a diverse set of constituencies around a shared focus of social justice. He has lectured worldwide on a range of topics related to American Muslim identity, community organizing and social justice issues and has received many prestigious community service awards.

CONTINUED STORY

**Cont. from page 1. Afghanistan's Banking**  
control. The main issue is that Afghanistan's economy is heavily reliant on foreign money and international help, both of which have been mostly banned since Kabul's fall. According to the World Bank, grants account for 75% of Afghanistan's gov-

ernment spending. Afghanistan's banks are still closed, despite the Taliban's order for them and other services to reopen, due to a lack of cash, according to a central bank source. "You've got a stack of cards that is about to come down," a person familiar with the situation

of the Afghan economy told CNN. "As soon as you open the banks, it will expose how fragile the system is." "Afghanistan and its financial sector are at a 'existential flash point,' with the banking industry on the verge of collapse," according to a document released by the Afghan-American

Chamber of Commerce on August 23. A banking and finance working committee comprised of major Afghan commercial banks, consumers, and investors drafted the letter. The Biden administration moved quickly to prevent the Taliban from gaining access to billions of dollars stored by the

US central bank. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has put a hold on \$450 million in funding that were set to arrive in Afghanistan this week. The World Bank then put a stop to financial aid to Afghanistan.

**Cont. from page 1. Biden's Ratings**  
the departure of American soldiers from Afghanistan, but evidence reveals that Biden has been on the decrease for some time. On a number of critical topics, he is actually losing momentum. One of Biden's finest issues, for example,

was the coronavirus epidemic. During last year's election, poll after poll showed that he was trusted more than former President Donald Trump to handle it. Trump would have won in 2020 if people had greater faith in him. For the first six months of his administration, Biden's approval rating

on the coronavirus was regularly in the 60s. This dropped to the upper 50s in July and has now dropped to the 50s in August. Biden's overall approval rating has declined at a similar rate to his coronavirus pandemic approval rating. People are reacting to what they see on the ground, which is an issue

for Biden. As the Delta variant has taken root in the United States, the number of cases and hospitalizations has reached an all-time high. Since the beginning of the spring, when vaccines were readily accessible, more individuals are afraid about contracting the coronavirus. Most Americans think the

worst of the virus is still ahead of us, which is a shift from earlier this year. Biden's scores on the economy have also dropped. Biden's average approval rating on the economy was just 47 percent in August. This is down from the month of July's average of 51 percent.

**Cont. from page 3. Geelani: Freedom Fighter**  
nosed with renal cancer and advised treatment from abroad in the same year. On the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's intervention, the Government returned Geelani's

passport to his son. In 2007, his condition worsened, although it was life-threatening in the early stages of cancer, and surgery was advised. Geelani was set to travel to either the UK or the United States. However, his visa request was rejected by the American Government, citing his

violent approach in the Kashmir conflict, and he went to Mumbai for surgery. His supporters and family alleged that this was a "human rights violation." After the 2019 Pulwama attack, India took stronger action against freedom fighters, includ-

ing Geelani. The Enforcement Directorate levied a penalty of ₹14.40 lakh and ordered the confiscation of nearly ₹6.8 lakh in connection with a Foreign Exchange Management Act case against him for illegal possession of foreign exchange. Geelani reportedly devel-

oped breathing complications and passed away on 01 September 2021 at approximately 10:30 p.m at his Hyderpora residence in Srinagar due to his prolonged illness. May Allah have mercy upon him and inspire his people to achieve freedom from tyranny.

**Cont. from page 8. Poison Control**  
be instructed to only take ivermectin as prescribed by their physician." But Texas and Mississippi are not alone. According to Illinois state's public health director, Ngozi Ezike, the state's poison control center also received numerous calls for other unsafe self-treatments unrelated to COVID-19. Residents reported using

a detergent solution for a sinus rinse, for example, or gargling with bleach a substitute for mouthwash, NBC News reported. In Alabama, people are also calling about ivermectin in fear of overdoses. According to the Alabama Poison Information Center at Children's of Alabama, there have been over 24 ivermectin exposure cases this year, 15 of which were connected to

COVID-19 prevention and treatment, WTVA reported. Other calls have also been reported seeking information about ivermectin. The number of calls inquiring about the drug has more than doubled since 2019. According to WTVA, while federal regulators have approved ivermectin to treat people and animals for some parasitic worms, head lice, and skin conditions, it's not an approved COVID-19

treatment. Human and animal formulations of the drug are not the same; thus, self-dosing is beyond dangerous. Daily Kos reported that calls to poison control facilities nationwide first increased last year following Donald Trump's suggestion that disinfectants be considered a possible treatment for the novel coronavirus. While he later claimed his comment was sarcastic, it wasn't before thou-

sands of people ingested Clorox bleach and other harmful chemicals used for cleaning. In at least five states, poison centers reported they had an increase in calls within 18 hours of Trump's broadcasted stupidity. Imagine if Trump advocated for wearing masks or getting the vaccine; maybe things would be different then.

**Cont. from page 11. Afghanistan: Catastrophe.**  
suicide every day. The rest of us should have stood for them and the millions more who died as casualties in the countries on whom we made war. This war has fundamentally changed our country. The logic that enabled the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq has fundamentally changed our country. First, they allowed the logic of securitization to trump our deeply held civil liberties and civil

rights. The Patriot Act, which fundamentally usurped basic rights from millions of Americans, could only happen in the wartime atmosphere of the post-9/11 moment. The National Security Agency's domestic spying apparatus could not have been erected without the permission of the logic of a global war on terror, of which the Afghanistan war was an integral part. But then there's also the opportunity cost of war. Our war effort over the past 20 years cost us \$2.26 trillion. Unlike, say, universal childcare or free college or universal health insurance,

nobody ever stopped to ask, "How are we going to pay for that?" Rather, that spending displaced billions and billions we could have spent on those things ... or to rebuild infrastructure that is now far beyond the point of repair. We could have addressed the poverty into which millions fell following the Great Recession. We could have invested in the public health infrastructure that failed so dramatically in the face of COVID-19. We could have invested in a nascent green energy industry. Rather, we invested in a

Department of Defense that crowded out everything else. We manufactured bombs and tanks and rifles to kill people abroad. The war materiel we pumped out would find its way back onto our streets through the 1033 program that repurposed them for police departments, sending the message that we were declaring war at home too. It helped propel a system of policing that would fill up our jails, mostly with young Black and brown men. And it dominated our politics. Not only did Republicans beat their chests for war in Afghan-

istan, but Democrats, not to be out-patrioted on "national security," assented to this vision for a new American imperialism. Any attempt to question it would be marked as "failing to support the troops" or "letting the terrorists win." Twenty years, two trillion dollars, and hundreds of thousands of lives later, here we are. And there they are — millions of Afghans whose lives are little better for our folly, chasing airplanes taking off without them.

**Cont. from page 1**  
**Help Afghan Refugees**

stance on women's rights, their current actions reflect otherwise. According to the International Rescue Committee, there are more than 18 million people in Afghanistan who require humanitarian aid, a number that has doubled in the last year. Additionally, 50% of those in need are women and girls.

Reports have indicated that the Taliban is not only ordering women to leave certain job positions but for religious leaders to provide a list of girls over the age of 15 for Taliban fighters to marry. All the gains Afghan women have made in the past 20+ years are thus under threat.

Thousands of people continue to be displaced as the humanitarian crisis continues. According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), nearly 400,000 people have been forced from their homes since the beginning of the year. They join 2.9 million Afghans who have already been displaced across the country since the end of 2020.

"We are seeing large-scale displacement in what is now a humanitarian emergency," Christopher Boian, a senior communications officer for the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, told The Washington Post in August.

For those who want to help but are not sure how, below are some resources on what to do and how you can help from the comfort of your own home.

**Educate yourself**

**Read to learn more about what is going on so you are informed.**

The Taliban: The Story of the Afghan Warlords, by Ahmed Rashid

No Good Men Among the Living, by Anand Gopal

Dear Zari, by Zarghuna Kargar

We Are Afghan Women, by the George W. Busch Institute

Runaway Women in Post-Taliban Afghanistan, by Sonia Ah-

san-Tirmizi

With All Our Strength, by Anne E. Brodsky

Taliban Narratives, by Thomas H. Johnson

Mountain to Mountain, by Shannon Galpin

An Enemy We Created: The Myth of the Taliban-Al Qaeda Merger in Afghanistan, by Alex Strick Linschoten and Felix Kuehn

Learn how the Taliban achieved this takeover by reading this CNN article or this BBC article

Learn about the impact on women and children by reading through this article from NBC News

Only read and consume trusted media sources and social media.

**Follow and amplify Afghan voices**

Don't only speak out against the humanitarian crisis, but show your solidarity with Afghans by amplifying their voices.

The following accounts are great resources to follow and spread:

Women-owned Afghan media

Rukshana Media

Sahar Speaks

@theafghan

@Bushra\_ebadi

@rustamwahab\_

@unicefghanistan

@omar.haidari

@middleeastmatters

@afghania\_barakzai

**How you can help now**

Call your representatives Demand continued security at Kabul airport so flights can safely resume.

Demand an open-door refugee policy so that the most vulnerable in Afghanistan can leave.

Demand broadening visa eligibility and expedite processing for SIV P1 and P2 visas.

Full script and who to call can be found here.

Volunteer at the airport

Follow this link to help volunteer to help Afghans arriving at the airport. Volunteers are being requested to even just greet individuals to make them feel welcome.

Volunteer services are

also available across the U.S., like airport pick-ups, apartment set-ups, or bringing a meal.

If you are unable to sign up to act as a volunteer in the various locations, organizers are asking people to donate to Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies to help provide food, housing assistance, clothing, and other basic needs.

**Petitions**

Sign this petition that urges the U.S. government to support the most vulnerable and lifts refugee caps.

Sign this petition to protect Afghanistan's human rights defenders.

Sign this petition to President Biden and Congress: Ensure Afghan women's rights alongside peace with the Taliban.

Sign this to raise awareness of the mistreatment of Afghan refugees in Iran.

**Translate**

Know someone who speaks Dari or Pashto? Have them sign up to volunteer as a translator.

Donate extra travel miles or vouchers

Miles4Migrants is accepting donations in the form of air miles for individuals with legal approval for travel who cannot afford the costs.

Follow the link above to learn how you can donate.

Check out this list compiled by The Afghan Resources Project

It's focused on helping Afghans file expedited humanitarian parole

applications and includes training materials, resources, and guides.

**Donate**

Donate to organizations that provide aid to Afghans

Organizations like the United Afghan Association (UAA) are holding drives to collect items that will help Afghan refugees resettle in their new homes. Items are being requested to support children, adults, and families including clothing, toiletries, houseware, food, water, and other necessities.

"This is a humanitarian crisis," said Makeez Sawez, team lead with United Afghan Association. "The word humanitarian has that one key portion, human. It's a human issue, right now. The average citizen in Afghanistan is innocent in what has happened. Our concern is to get as many supplies and support to these people as they migrate to the United States.

"I'm Afghan American," Sawez continued. "As a child of a refugee, I've seen my parents struggle to build a life in the U.S. So, I empathize and sympathize with the situation that's going on right now in Afghanistan."

List includes:

Socks and undergarments

Sweaters and blouses

Shirts, pants, long skirts, and shoes

Feminine products

Diapers of all sizes, baby formula, and baby wipes

Soap, shampoo, and conditioner

Toothpaste and toothbrushes

New pots and pans

New blankets, pillows, towels, napkins, and rugs

Grocery gift cards

Oil, rice, and flour

Tea and coffee

Sugar, spices, and canned foods

Other organizations accepting donations include:

Afghan Aid

International Refugee Assistance Project

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Women for Afghan Women

International Rescue Committee

Committee to Protect Journalists

Mercy Corps

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

HIAS

Be present, show solidarity

Remember to always listen and amplify Afghan refugees. Do what advocates say they need not what you think they need.

Honestly, this thread is golden. It lists things to do and avoid in efforts to support Afghanistan. Take a look for yourself below—it's pretty extensive.



**Bushra Ebadi**

@Bushra\_Ebadi



Looking for ways to support Afghanistan and Afghan people? Here's a list of actions that you can take and avoid.

6:14 PM · Aug 14, 2021

1



# 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](http://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!**

CELEBRATING



YEARS

VISIT [ZAKAT.ORG](http://ZAKAT.ORG)