



Persecuted Christians In India

By: Dr. Aslam Abdullah

An American human rights activist is on a hunger strike protesting the persecution of Christians and other minorities in India. Pieter Friedrich is an author, activist, and speaker specializing in South Asian affairs. He writes regularly on human rights, supremacist political ideologies, ethnonationalism, and state-sponsored terrorism. Pieter has lectured at Columbia University, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, Carleton University, and St Stephen's College. He is a staunch advocate



for religious liberty and interfaith cooperation; he has spoken at mosques, gurdwaras, churches, and viharas.

The California-based specialist on Hindutva be-

gan his seven-day hunger strike on January 5, four days after the government of India denied the charity founded by the Nobel Laureate, Mother Teresa, the permission

to receive foreign funds to help the poor and the needy in the country. Christians are under attack, and the Hindutva supporters with alle-

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Hunger Strike By An American Activist For Persecuted Christians In India

By: TMO Staff

An American human rights activist is on a hunger strike protesting the persecution of Christians and other minorities in India. Pieter Friedrich is an author, activist, and speaker specializing in South Asian affairs. He writes regularly on human rights, supremacist political



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Omicron Surge Causes COVID-19 Pandemic Record

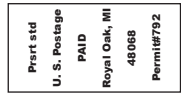


By: Yousuf Ali

The latest situation regarding covid has been severe with the pandemic hitting a record due to rise in the omicron variant. Ac-

cording to CNBC, the US hit a pandemic area with 1 million new infections on January 3rd as reported by Johns Hopkins University.

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Election Not Stolen: Arizona Election Officials Debunk Claims In State Review Of Trump's 2020 Loss



by Tmo Staff

In a report, entitled *Correcting the Record: Maricopa County's In-Depth Analysis of the Senate Inquiry*, which was released Wednesday on the eve of the anniversary of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot attack, the largest county government in Arizona, Maricopa County, confirmed that the 2020 election was not impacted by fraud. The 93-page report was released by Maricopa County Elections Department. In it, the department criticized an audit commissioned by the state's GOP-led Senate, writing that it contained "faulty analysis" and "inaccurate claims." It noted that at least 22 claims were misleading, 42 were inaccurate, and 13 were false.

"After an in-depth analysis and review of the reports and presentations issued by the Senate's contractors, we determined that nearly every finding included faulty analysis, inaccurate claims, misleading conclusions, and a lack of understanding of federal and state election laws," the report read.

Arizona's GOP-controlled Senate has been waiting for Maricopa County's report for weeks as Donald Trump and his allies continue to claim the election was rigged and tallied wrong.

"We have seen how people react when they

think that an election has been stolen. They storm the U.S. Capitol. They threaten to kill and hang and shoot election workers. And they called other Americans traitors," Maricopa County

in Florida called Cyber Ninjas, which was asked to hand recount each county vote.

According to the county's report, Cyber Ninjas used information from a third-party commercial

that the 2020 presidential vote was not marred by fraud. "The November 2020 General Election was administered with integrity and the results were accurate and reliable," officials said in the

ings, Cyber Ninjas are being ordered to pay \$50,000 per day that they delay the release of Arizona audit records. According to NBC News 12, the Senate Republicans' election review was supposed to wrap up in about six weeks; however, it is now entering its ninth month.

The report also included numerous recommendations for changes to Arizona's election law.

A poll conducted by Public Policy Polling and commissioned by End Citizens United and Let America Vote Action Fund found that a majority of Arizona voters support election reform and are in favor of reforming the Senate filibuster to pass such a bill, The Hill reported.

According to the poll, 57% of voters surveyed were in favor of reforming the filibuster. About 59% of respondents cited the threat of election sabotage as a driving factor in their support to reform Senate rules. The poll surveyed 523 Arizona voters between Dec. 27 and Dec. 28. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.3 percentage points.

Read the full 93-page report on the Maricopa County Recorder's Office website here.



Brendan Keefe 
@BrendanKeefe

Read the whole thread. Cyber Ninjas ordered to pay \$50,000 per day, going forward, that they delay release of AZ audit records. CEO's attorney isn't getting paid &

Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Gates said Wednesday, according to The Washington Post. "The American family cannot stand for that. I will not stand for that."

The audit follows an "investigation" by the state Senate in which they concluded that while Biden won ahead of Trump by more than 45,000 votes in the county, various problems were present, including ballots potentially being improperly accepted and counted, or data even being deleted. Trump then claimed that this September report confirmed his claims that the election was stolen. That report was compiled by a private firm based

database to claim that at least 33,000 people may have voted illegally because they moved prior to the election and no longer lived at the address on file with the county. However, this claim was conducted using "soft match" methods that relied on basic data points such as first name, last name, and birth year, leading to the misidentification of people as illegally casting votes. They also claimed that ballot systems were connected to the internet, which allowed for removing data.

In the latest report by Maricopa County, officials debunked these claims and confirmed

report.

"This has been proven through statutorily required accuracy tests, court cases, hand counts performed by the political parties, and post-election audits. The Elections Department followed all federal and state election laws."

The report's three main takeaways that debunk Trump's claims?

Only certified software was used for all tested software, systems, and equipment; malware was not installed or found; and no evidence of outside involvement or internet connectivity was found.

As a result of the find-



29004 W. EIGHT MILE ROAD
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FAX: 248-476-8926

E-MAIL: info@muslimobserver.com

www.MuslimObserver.com

Established in 1998

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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Hundreds Of Virginia High School Students Protest After Muslim Girl Is Allegedly Attacked At School



By: Rehan Qamar

More than 350 students from Fairfax High School in Virginia walked out in protest Thursday to show their solidarity with a student who was allegedly attacked in an Islamophobic incident. According to a Change.org petition, a Black Muslim student, identified as Ekran Mohammad, was allegedly harassed by a group of boys, who threw her onto a desk and removed her hijab on Tuesday.

Both the attackers and the victim were reported to have received equal punishment and made to have in-school suspension in the same room, students told NBC News. After expressing that she felt unseen, the victim's classmates not only came together but marched in protest for her. "If we don't feel safe in our environment, in our school, then something has to be done," Mohammad said. Not only was Mohammad's experience allegedly not taken seriously, but suspending her in the same room as her attackers raised questions by students and others alike.

Initial investigations by the City of Fairfax Police Department announced Saturday that the altercation was not a hate crime, but the student impacted and others have disagreed. While direct racial slurs were allegedly not used, other Islamophobic comments were made prior to the incident.

"There's multiple witnesses who can attest to racist and Islamophobic comments and overtures being made immediately prior to the incident into the assault," said Abed Ayoub, legal director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, which represents the 16-year-old student.

One student told NBC News that she and her friends were working on a project when a group of students began to harass them. They were "making these Islamophobic jokes, talking about Jewish people and Nazis, creating the Islamic symbol and putting an X across it," a student identified as Eliza Gill said.

That's when Mohammad confronted one of the boys and reportedly "lightly shoved him away," to which he reacted violently. "[He] threw me across the room. I hit my left side on the desk, and my chest hit the chair," Mohammad said. He allegedly then removed her hijab.

"I was definitely in shock. I couldn't process what just happened, so I was standing there when my teacher finally lifted her up," Gill said, noting that Mohammad was knocked to the ground after the incident. "That's when I could actually process it in my head, and I ran after her."

Following the incident, Mohammad allegedly spent the evening in the emergency room during which medical reports show contusions and bruises.

This evidence was given to the police, WTOP reported.

Unfortunately, students have expressed that such incidents are not new to the school. But despite this, "the school isn't doing much to avoid it," a student told ABC7. "The hate is so prominent," another student added.

"It's extremely difficult to learn somewhere where you don't even feel like you're accepted," student Hussein Hamdan told NBC News.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, has called on law enforcement to launch a hate crime investigation. "This incident must be investigated as a possible hate crime by law enforcement, and the alleged assailant must be suspended while the investigation takes place," CAIR spokesman Ibrahim Hooper said.

Investigations into the incident are ongoing, according to a press release issued by the city's police department. The police department also noted that it was not notified by the school regarding the assault instead heard about it due to the student rally.

"It's the students that brought attention to this, and we need to remember that," Ayoub said. "We need to empower them and realize the important role they played in standing up for one of their own."

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India Investigates Fake Website That Offered Muslim Women For Sale



By: Diksha Madhok
(CNN)

The Indian government says it is investigating a website that purported to offer Muslim women for sale, the second time in less than a year that a fake online auction of this kind has sparked outrage in the country.

The website was created on GitHub, an American coding platform which developers use to build and host software. It was called “Bulli Bai,” a phrase that combines vulgar slang for the word “penis” in southern India with a word common in northern India meaning “maid,” according to Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of Indian fact-checking website Alt News.

He told CNN Business that the site posted photos of 100 Muslim women, and that he had taken screenshots of all of them before they were deleted.

The page has since been removed, and there’s no indication that it had any practical use beyond using a fake auction to harass and troll Muslim women.

GitHub, which is owned by Microsoft (MSFT), said it had taken down an account.

“GitHub has longstanding policies against

content and conduct involving harassment, discrimination, and inciting violence,” a spokesperson said. “We suspended a user account following the investigation of reports of such activity, all of which violate our policies.”

According to Zubair — who is helping police with the investigation — the page included photos of Pakistani Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai and prominent Indian actress Shabana Azmi. Several journalists and activists in the country also posted screenshots of the site after finding their photos listed next to the words, “Your Bulli Bai of the Day is.”

The page caused outrage on Twitter over the weekend. Politicians from opposition parties urged the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to take action against the online harassment and targeting of Muslim women.

“To ‘sell’ someone online is a cybercrime and I call on the police to take immediate action,” tweeted Congress leader Shashi Tharoor. “The perpetrators deserve exemplary & condign punishment.”

On Sunday, India’s technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tweeted that the government “is working with police or-

ganizations in Delhi and Mumbai on this matter.”

“The entire website seems to have been designed with the intent of embarrassing and insulting Muslim women,” wrote journalist Ismat Ara in a complaint filed with Delhi Police cybersecurity authorities. Ara, who found her photo on the site, tweeted a copy of her police complaint.

This isn’t the first time Muslim women in India have faced this kind of online harassment. Last July, photos of more than 80 Muslim women — including journalists, writers and influencers — were posted on a mock app called Sulli Deals, a derogatory term for Muslim women typically used by right-wing Hindu men. Users were offered

a chance to “buy” the women like commodities in an auction on the site, which was also hosted on GitHub.

At that time, Muslim women told CNN that the online abuse they are facing is indicative of the mood toward Muslims in India since Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu-nationalist BJP came to power in 2014.

In recent years, reports of anti-Muslim hate crimes have increased, and several BJP-ruled states have passed legislation that critics say has contributed to a rise in religious polarization.

This weekend, a Twitter user Hiba Bég said that her pictures were used in both instances. “I have censored myself, I hardly speak here anymore, but

still, I am being sold online, I’m being made ‘deals’ out of,” she tweeted. “How many online deals will it take for us to see action?”

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The National Security Policy Of Pakistan

By Mahvish Akhtar

A new era is beginning in Pakistan. It could be a change for the better or a failing government’s last attempt at survival. The country approved its first National Security Policy (NSP) 2022-2026 on Monday. Prime Minister Imran Khan called it a “historic moment” for the country. This is the first National Security Policy in Pakistan’s 74-year history.

The NSP was approved during the 36th meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC). The Prime Minister of the country was the chairperson of the committee according to a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office. According to the statement, The attendees included Federal Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Information and Broadcasting, Interior, Finance, Human Rights, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, all Services Chiefs, National Security Advisor, and senior civil and military officers.



National Security Advisor (NS) Mr. Moeed Yusuf, presented the NSP for approval. He highlighted that Pakistan was moving towards a “Comprehensive National Security Framework”. Talking about the country’s external relations, the NSA said that the

agenda of this security policy is peace with “neighboring and other countries.” Mr. Yusuf also emphasized, “The Policy would not have seen the light of day without the Prime Minister’s constant leadership and encouragement”. Explaining what this pol-

icy exists to accomplish, the NSA said, “economic security is the core for human and military security”. He clarified that the policy prioritizes the security of the citizens of Pakistan. PM Khan said during the meeting that the security of Pakistan lies in the

security of its citizens and reminded everyone that Pakistan was well prepared to meet any internal and external threat. The Prime Minister of Pakistan ensured the public that the policy is public-centric. This

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Meet Shahana Hanif, The First Muslim Woman Elected To New York City Council

by Aysha Qamar

Asian Americans have made history by being elected in record numbers in major cities nationwide. “Firsts” have made headlines across the nation, including in cities as diverse as New York. This year, marking the highest percentage of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) representation the council has ever had, the New York City Council welcomed not one but five Asian Americans.

Among the five elected was Shahana Hanif. As a newly elected member of the New York City Council, Hanif is not only one of the first South Asians but also the first Muslim woman to be elected to the council. We had the opportunity to speak with her in regards to her new position and what it meant to her and the community.

Here’s what we asked.

How did your upbringing as a Bangladeshi American Muslim impact, if at all, your decision to enter politics?

I was born and raised in Kensington, the largest working-class Bangladeshi Muslim enclave in Brooklyn, and I couldn’t imagine entering politics anywhere else. My lived experiences as a Bangladeshi American Muslim in Brooklyn politicized me to be the woman I am today and influenced my decision to run for office.

The Bangladeshi community in Kensington, and more broadly working-class South Asians and Muslims across NYC, has been ignored and underserved by our city government for far too long. I ran to change that and to fight locally for the changes all our communities need.

Hanif said that her upbringing allowed her to see how politics and civic engagement in New York City have “failed to include the needs of those who are most marginalized.” She noted that her own district schools are “deeply segregated by race and class,” that “more affluent nearby



neighborhoods have more robust public services and open spaces,” and that “government outreach and programs are not accessible to non-English speaking community members across the district.”

“We deserve a government that doesn’t rest until working-class people are liberated from violent systems of oppression that cause and reinforce pain and harm,” Hanif said. “Local government is capable of looking out for our communities block by block, and that’s the kind of government I’m fighting for.”

When asked about the significance of being New York City’s first Muslim woman to be elected to the city council, Hanif spoke of her post 9/11 experience.

I was politicized during 9/11, and inherent to my fight for liberation is to build power with Muslim Americans and faith communities. After 9/11, the Patriot Act and expansion of the homeland security apparatus across the U.S. brought on a wave of targeting and surveillance upon Muslim families, community organizations, campuses, and mosques. The Muslim kids on my block and I gathered to

do something: We wrote to then-President Bush asking for protections, protections for Muslim youth like us who want to grow up in a city without surveillance and discrimination.

We never heard from him, but we continued to meet because we learned that we needed to keep each other and our families safe. Years later, and in the wake of continued racial and xenophobic violence, I co-founded the Muslim Writers Collective, which cultivated a

and the responsibility of advocating and making change for my communities.

Hanif also shared what ignited her passion for health care and language access, two issues that are a priority to her.

My story is a familiar one to many who live with chronic illness and disabilities. I am a Lupus survivor, and since my diagnosis at 17, I have not rested in fighting to create a feminist, livable city that radically prioritizes physical and mental

tals and at home.

My immigrant family, not having the English proficiency to navigate a nebulous health care system, was left at the mercy of an uncaring bureaucracy as I fought for my life.

My disability justice advocacy has taught me the importance of leadership and policy that is centered on care and access. I had to crowdfund at a young age to pay for my medical expenses. I struggled with severe self-esteem [issues] while



Shahana Hanif 
@ShahanaFromBK



I was born & raised in Brooklyn.
I'm the daughter of Bangladeshi
Muslim immigrants, a Lupus
survivor, & an activist.

powerful space for organizing young Muslims across New York City and the U.S. to share their stories and strategies for resilience and joy. My win comes from a deep history of Muslim feminist organizing and I know how powerful it is to hold this position

health care and language access for all. Lupus nearly killed me and took a crippling toll on my physical and emotional health. I underwent aggressive chemotherapy for months, lost all my hair, developed a chronic joint disease, and was left bedridden in hospi-

my body deteriorated with disabilities.

I applied for Access-A-Ride and was denied. I took to our streets for basic accessibility improvements, like elevators at train stations. As a disabled Brooklyn

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Jewish, Muslim Volunteers Deliver Gifts To Kids In Southwest Detroit On Christmas Day



by Nushrat Rahman

Republished from the Detroit Free Press

On Christmas Day, Santa delivered gifts to kids in southwest Detroit.

Decked out in red, with a bag of presents in tow, he greeted families Saturday morning with a cheery “Merry Christmas.”

“We hope to put a smile on your faces and make you feel loved a little bit,” he told Mandy Gutierrez and her family as they huddled around their door.

Santa — played by Ray Hillenbrand, 60, of Rochester Hills — was part of a caravan of about 100 volunteers who took toys — basketballs, board games and stuffed animals — to about 250 families across southwest Detroit.

It’s a 20-year tradition, said Jimmy Tuman, founder and executive director of Jimmy’s Kids, the nonprofit behind the Christmas Day giving.

“People who come here — Christians, Jews and Muslims — all come together, support each other, watch out for each other, take care of

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Islamophobia: A New Religion Crafted By Atheists, Christian Evangelists, Hindu Fascists And Zionists



By: TMO Staff

Photo: In this picture, the holiest of Hindu religious leaders and RSS and BJP spokespersons can be seen instigating Hindu masses, police, and military to organize genocide of Muslims. The leaders met between December 17 and 19 to declare war on Islam and Muslims

Islamophobia is a worldwide hate movement run by an axis of evil. It comprises the Israeli-controlled Zionists, Indian RAW-inspired Hindu fascists (R.A.W. is India's premier intelligence agency run by the upper castes), and right-wing Christian evangelicals manipulated white supremacists. In addition, depending on their political interests, some liberal groups and other religious entities such as Buddhists and atheists also benefit from the hate movement. It's a new religion built on hating Muslims and Islam. Its places of worship are synagogues, churches, temples, and social halls where hate against Muslims is promoted, and its holy books are the statements of hate mongers. Even though there is nothing common among the contradictory belief systems of these religious groups, they have developed an axis of evil leading the world to conflicts and wars to promote the agenda rul-

ers like Nero, Mussolini, and Hitler pursued. Hate and blood of Muslims are their pursuits.

The resources to most hate groups come from secret government funds, religious establishments, and their supporters, foundations, trusts, and industrialists with a religious zeal.

The hate movement works like an industry, raising billions of dollars and employing hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. Wherever Muslims are, Islamophobia is present, including countries with a Muslim majority.

The purpose is simple and well-defined.

Project Islam as a faith unfit to the modern world.

Show Muslims as vicious, violent, homophobic, and anti-human rights.

Present the Quran, the scripture of Islam, as a textbook of terror.

Since 1982, when the Israelis organized a conference on Islam and terrorism, the Islamophobes have published more than 3 million articles, documentaries, books, and pamphlets denouncing Islam, Muslims, and the scriptures of Islam in different languages of the world. In addition, more than 3,000 public officials holding important government positions have

condemned Islam. As a result, over a million incidents of hate against Islam and Muslims have occurred worldwide, including countries such as Vietnam, Chad, Central Africa, Brazil, and Mexico.

Unfortunately, Muslims have not monitored or responded to Islamophobia effectively. There is no single authentic Muslim body anywhere dedicated to documenting every Islamophobic incident at any level systematically.

What happened in the U.S. on December 14, 2021, is a remarkable event that Muslims should pay close attention to. The U.S. House of Representatives approved with 219-212 votes, Congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Jan Schakowsky's Combating International Islamophobia Act (H.R. 5665).

All Republicans except one opposed it. Nevertheless, Ilhan Omar and her colleagues created history, and the U.S. warned Islamophobes worldwide that they were under its watch.

Addressing the Congress, Rep Ilhan Omar said: Some cynics would rather see us divided on racial, ethnic, gender, and religious lines. But as Americans, we should stand united against all forms of bigotry. Congress members referred

to human rights violations of Muslims in India, Myanmar, and China expressly. It is a significant achievement of Ilhan Omar and her colleagues when the pro-Israeli lobby and the supporters of the Hindu national organizations, RSS and B.J.P., with the help of right-wing Christian organizations, are vowing to remove her in the 2022 midterm elections.

The Combating International Islamophobia Act establishes a particular envoy office at the U.S. State Department to monitor and combat international Islamophobia.

The Office shall monitor and combat Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement in foreign countries. The Bill establishes the Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Islamophobia, heading the Office.

The Bill also requires specific existing annual reports to Congress about human rights and religious freedom in foreign countries to include information about Islamophobia.

It would include information about

- (1) acts of physical violence or harassment of Muslim people,
- (2) instances of propaganda in government and non-government media

that attempt to justify or promote hatred or incite violence against Muslim people, and

(3) actions taken by a country's government to respond to such acts. The Office shall coordinate and assist in preparing these portions of the reports. During the Act's floor debate, the Biden-Harris Administration expressed solidarity with the Act.

Now the responsibility of Muslims, wherever they are, is to monitor and report any Islamophobic incident. Of course, the State Department officials would collect information. But they cannot have their staff present everywhere in the world. So they will rely on information they receive through published and non-published, but well-documented sources. In every country, Muslims should have a body monitoring Islamophobic incidents, and through U.S. embassies channel it to the state department. Organizations like CAIR, MPAC, or Islamicity can also create web-based platforms to record such events. However, Muslims have to be at the forefront of the fight against Islamophobia. We cannot always complain, we have to be proactive in promoting our narrative.



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*Cont. from page 7.
Christmas Day*

each other. It really is a little bit of world peace in southwest Detroit,” said Tuman, 80 of Royal Oak.

In the parking lot of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Detroit, bags of gifts were loaded into cars and on their way to families “who don’t know we’re coming,” Tuman said.

Ray Hillenbrand, 60, of Rochester Hills puts on his best Santa suit before handing out toys to unsuspecting families in Southwest Detroit as part of Jimmy’s Kids toy giveaway, a Mitzvah Day event, where volunteers of various faiths come together to help Detroit area nonprofits on Christmas Day. I

Howard Lazar has been volunteering with Jimmy’s Kids for 11 years. It’s a reminder of the Hebrew phrase “Tikun Olam,” or repairing the world, he said.

“I feel lucky to give back. I feel lucky to be able to do something that’s outside of myself,” said Lazar, 54, of Farmington Hills, who also brought his four kids to volunteer.

It’s a way for the Muslim community to give back, too, said Husain Haidri with the Michigan Muslim Community Council.

“One of the other things that we recognize is lacking in the public discourse today is some empathy and that’s the result of not being able to spend time with people that don’t look like you, or pray like you, so this is really an exercise in some interfaith work and also an exercise in empathy,” said Haidri, 21 of Canton.

The gift deliveries were part of Mitzvah Day, where volunteers of various faiths come together to help metro Detroit nonprofits on Christmas Day. In its 25th year, Mitzvah Day this time around is really Mitzvah weekend, running from Dec. 24-26 to expand the outreach and offer alternatives to Jewish volunteers who observe the Sabbath.

Historically, Mitzvah Day is the single largest day of volunteering by Detroit’s Jewish com-



munity, according to the Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee. The word “mitzvah” is Hebrew for “commandment,” and refers to performing a good deed.

The idea is to lend a hand to nonprofits during the holiday. Volunteer efforts span about 30 organizations across metro Detroit, from before the weekend to Christmas Day itself, said Asher Lopatin, executive director of the Jewish

Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee, on Thursday.

Trinity Lutheran Church needed volunteers to serve breakfast and prepare lunch on Saturday. Western Oakland Meals on Wheels called for people to help deliver holiday meals to seniors in the parts of the county.

On Sunday, Lopatin said he plans to head over to the social service agency Crossroads of Michigan with his children and

father-in-law to give out food.

“Even though Christmas is a Christian holiday, Mitzvah Day is a way of involving everybody in a celebration of humanity,” said Lopatin, rabbi for the Kehillat Etz Chayim, a modern orthodox congregation in Huntington Woods and Oak Park.

Ray Hillenbrand, 60, of Rochester Hills knocks on the door of Mandy Gutierrez as she gathers her children to be surprised by Santa. The family cat Loco stands by

while Hillenbrand waits to hand out toys to the unsuspecting family in Southwest Detroit.

Lopatin estimated anywhere from 300 to 600 volunteers to help out over the holiday weekend.

“In Detroit, so many of us live in different neighborhoods, different communities. We don’t get to mix as much as we want to. This really feels like almost a flagship for our desire to do things together,” Lopatin said.

CAIR-Ohio Leader Found To Be Spy For Anti-Muslim Hate Group

by TMO Staff

In news that has disheartened the Muslim community across the country, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)—the largest U.S. Muslim advocacy organization—has fired the head of its Ohio chapter after allegations that he shared confidential information with an anti-Muslim hate organization.

According to a news release by CAIR-Ohio, Ohio Chapter Director Romin Iqbal admitted to working with the Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT), a self-described “data center on radical Islamist terrorist groups,” when confronted with the evidence of his misconduct.

“After being confronted with clear evidence of misconduct, Iqbal admitted that he had been secretly working with the anti-Muslim hate group,” CAIR said in the news release. “This betrayal and violation of trust was planned and purposeful, taking place over a period of years.”

According to Reuters, a Georgetown University research project on Islamophobia found that the founder of the IPT, Steven Emerson, has “a history of promoting falsified information and conspiracy theories about Islam and Muslims.” Emerson is also considered an anti-Muslim activist by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

In an emailed statement to Reuters, the IPT alleged that CAIR has ties to the Palestinian militant group Hamas and said it would “not hesitate to uncover and publicly expose radical Islamist activity on American soil by groups like CAIR, which threaten our national security.” CAIR has denied those claims.

The news of Iqbal’s termination follows efforts by CAIR’s national office to investigate evidence that indicated IPT was attempting to infiltrate Muslim American organizations, including CAIR, using “moles.”



After hiring a specialist, the national organization found that Iqbal had been sharing information, “including surreptitiously recorded conversations, strategic plans and private emails,” with the IPT.

“It is a complete act of betrayal,” Whitney Siddiqi, CAIR-Ohio community affairs director, said during a news conference Wednesday morning, according to WVXU. “He was sharing confidential information, audio recordings of meetings with our national leadership and emails.”

According to a press release, evidence CAIR received last year also showed that IPT was “communicating with and providing assistance to Israeli intelligence with the office of then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.”

But that’s not all: Hours after Iqbal’s termination, the CAIR-Ohio office in Columbus also discovered recent “suspicious purchases” from ammunition and gun retailers made on a credit card

that was administered by Iqbal, according to Siddiqi. The office also received a package on Tuesday containing parts to an AR-15 rifle.

“We know this is heart-breaking. We know it’s shocking,” Siddiqi said. “We know it is honestly a feeling that many of us can’t describe right now. But our work to protect Muslims, to defend Muslims transcends any one individual and, if anything, this has motivated us, this has reinvigorated us to do the work that we do.”

While CAIR cannot confirm Iqbal made the purchases, it is considering taking legal action against Iqbal for his alleged breaches of duty, CAIR’s Executive Director Nihad Awad told NPR.

“For years, Mr. Iqbal was secretly sharing confidential information about our civil rights work—including surreptitiously recorded conversations, strategic plans and private emails—with anti-Muslim extremists,” Awad said according to

NPR. “He did this in violation of his ethical duties to the organization and his moral duty to protect the Ohio Muslim community.”

According to The Columbus Dispatch, Iqbal has been outspoken against issues of Islamophobia and working with CAIR since 2006. Since his work primarily dealt with combatting anti-Muslim hate groups, his involvement in one came as a shock to colleagues and the Muslim community as a whole.

The breaking of the trust the community had in him devastated them the most.

“The majority of our Muslim community are first-generation immigrants, so working with them, building trust is very important,” Imran Malik, a first-generation Pakistani immigrant and an interfaith director at the Noor Islamic Cultural Center, told the Columbus Dispatch. “This is someone who was trusted as a leader, a caretaker and was put on a pedestal. And this

just completely shattered that trust that would take years and years to rebuild.”

But despite the heartache, the community holds strong and sees this issue as a lesson to grow and prioritize safety.

“This is going to be a learning process internally for our communities that we rethink who do we put forward as our ambassador, as our advocate, as a decision-maker,” Malik said. “There has to be a more diligent process of vetting that needs to go into these kinds of community decisions.”

As a precaution, CAIR is asking local mosques and community members to stay vigilant and to work on their security measures.

“We were shocked and saddened to learn about this betrayal and incredible violation of trust,” said Nabeel Raazi, Columbus-Cincinnati Board chair of CAIR-Ohio.

Cont on page 13.

CONTINUED STORY

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| <p>Cont. from page 1. Omicron Surge</p> <p>For context, it was less than 1% at the beginning of December meaning that its numbers skyrocketed in about a month. Furthermore, on Tuesday President Joe Biden said people who are fully vaccinated, particularly those who have received boosters, are highly protected against severe illness</p> | <p>from omicron even if they are infected. “You can still get Covid, but it’s highly unlikely, very unlikely, that you’ll become seriously ill,” Biden said in regards to those who have taken precautions. “We’re seeing Covid-19 cases among vaccinated workplaces across America, including here at the White House, but if you’re vaccinated and boosted, you are highly</p> | <p>protected.”</p> <p>CNBC cited a study by the UK Health Security Agency that says that the Pfizer and Moderna two dose vaccines are only about 10% effective at preventing infections from people with omicron and who were symptomatic.</p> <p>Additionally, “Booster doses, on the other hand, provide the best protection and are up to 75%</p> | <p>effective at preventing symptomatic infection, the U.K. Health Security Agency found.”</p> <p>According to Fast Company, the parts of the country where it is spreading are as follows: “the South Central and Northeast regions showing the highest proportions at 98.2% and 98%, respectively. The region that includes the lower Midwestern states</p> | <p>of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa had the lowest proportion at 77.4%.” Even though it is less deadly, data suggests it is not as severe as the other variant the Fast Company reports “the sheer size of caseloads means hospital systems in many areas are at risk of becoming quickly overwhelmed.”</p> |
| <p>Cont. from page 5. Policy Of Pakistan</p> <p>includes physical and especially economic safety. He further clarified that internal and external safety will stem into military safety.</p> <p>Under NSP many new changes will be implemented while old ones will be renovated for the better. under the agricultural transformation plan, the government has, for the first time ever, chalked out a comprehensive strategy and has been implementing it on an urgent basis. “Mechanization of agriculture sector, provision of quality seed, efficient water management system and assistance in livestock farming is transforming the sector into a high yielding economic entity,” Mr. Khan said.</p> <p>Kissan Card (farmer card) has been used to help farmers get subsidies on products they</p> | <p>need in bulk such as fertilizer, and genetic improvement of livestock. This has yielded good results in the previous year, with improvements made to this under NSP’s umbrella, the government aims to achieve even better results in the future.</p> <p>A comprehensive institutional reform regarding research institutes has been proposed where 65% of the intended interventions have already been implemented with a special focus on cotton research institutes.</p> <p>The Centre of Excellence regarding agricultural research is being launched soon in Punjab and other provinces with a focused approach on crops and especially those crops that will substantially reduce dependence on imports.</p> <p>Continued successful relations with china in regards to sharing information and technology to grow farming</p> | <p>and agriculture has been a major part of this agreement. The meeting was informed about the progress on collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Research. The Pakistani government also aims to increase diversity in this field to bring out new ideas and support Existing research, the report said.</p> <p>Shrimp farming was a major discussion point of the meeting and reforms are included in the final approved policy. There are many areas in Pakistan where Shrimp and Fish farming is one of the major revenue generators. More research and assistance would be provided to farmers in this area as well.</p> <p>Under the special economic zones, PM Khan said the government’s focus would increase investment in the SEZs for the establishment of export-oriented industries. He also said the govern-</p> | <p>ment’s business-friendly policies and focus on ease of doing business had already started producing positive results. The Prime Minister added, “Increased investment of overseas Pakistanis and foreign investors is the result of the trust which the government has earned by its effective policy measures.”</p> <p>There are four major SEZ)s which are Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rashakai, Dhabeji, and Bostan. These four are already operational with a total count of 21 SEZs of varying sizes on the way. A convenient model is being created for investors by the BoI Media Network of Pakistan to assist in providing basic amenities such as electricity, gas, water, and construction permits.</p> <p>A unified compliance regime has also been formulated for services under the provincial and federal governments. A proposal regarding the</p> | <p>empowerment of management companies to obtain No Objection Certificates (NOC) and other permits on behalf of the investors was also given.</p> <p>On Dec 29 Foreign Minister Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi commented on recent changes taking place in government. He emphasized that “Pakistan’s foreign policy must respond adequately to the shifting trends and must navigate through this external environment to ensure the security of Pakistan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, and advancement of development agenda.”</p> <p>However, the Prime Minister has ensured the fact that this policy will ensure instability within the country and strength at the borders. This is also a way to extend relationships with neighboring countries.</p> <p>How successful this strategy is, remains to be seen.</p> |
| <p>Cont. from page 6. Shahana Hanif</p> <p>College student, I worked closely with the Center for Student Disability Services to fully understand my rights.</p> <p>As a public housing tenant organizer at CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities, I advocated for a schedule that allowed me to telework and organize from home once a week. I’ve carried this over to every job I’ve had. My rheumatologist and other</p> | <p>specialists during my Lupus treatment journey told me it would take a lot of grit and strength to survive.</p> <p>Now, I am channeling that strength to lead our city and fight for every single New Yorker who is also struggling to survive.</p> <p>Outside of health care and language access advocacy, Hanif’s top priority is desegregated public education.</p> <p>Throughout my life, I have attended schools in</p> | <p>Brooklyn from PS 230 to Brooklyn College. We must integrate our public schools. Admissions screens are discriminatory and racist and reinforce segregation. To achieve real equity and a desegregated public school system, I support eliminating standardized admissions exams and screens from the admissions process for our public schools. Desegregation doesn’t end with admissions.</p> <p>Removing police in schools, exploring redis-</p> | <p>tricting, mandating and evaluating culturally responsive pedagogy, retaining and maintaining teachers of color, creating smaller class sizes, and rethinking PTA fundraising are all tangible steps the council can take to make the K-12 public education system more equitable and inclusive. Housing justice and affordable housing will also be a key issue in my term as council member.</p> <p>When asked about what advice she would give others, especially young</p> | <p>South Asian and Muslim women who wish to get involved with politics and/or run for office someday, Hanif emphasized the word “trust.”</p> <p>“Trust your experience and voice, find a good team—this includes a support system of friends, family, and community folks—lift up and lean on other South Asian and Muslim organizers, and read Stacey Abrams’ ‘Our Time Is Now!’” she said.</p> |
| <p>Cont. from page 12. CAIR-Ohio Leader</p> <p>“Our first priority is the safety and security of our community. We are now even more committed to defending and protecting Ohio Muslims from the</p> | <p>anti-Muslim extremists who will clearly stop at nothing to try to harm us.”</p> <p>Additionally, the Columbus Community Relations Commission has taken this opportunity</p> | <p>to remind residents to report discrimination and civil rights cases to the city.</p> <p>“No one should experience discrimination or feel unsafe because of their religious be-</p> | <p>liefs,” said Carla Williams-Scott, director of the city’s Department of Neighborhoods. “Should you experience discrimination, the Community Relations Commission is here to help.”</p> | <p>Local law enforcement is looking into the incident and the FBI has also been notified of Iqbal’s actions.</p> |

**Cont. from page 1.
Hunger Strike**

gurdwaras, churches, and viharas.

The California-based specialist on Hindutva began his seven-day hunger strike on January 5, four days after the government of India denied the charity founded by the Nobel Laureate, Mother Teresa, the permission to receive foreign funds to help the poor and the needy in the country. Christians are under attack, and the Hindutva supporters with allegiance to Indian Prime Minister Modi and his BJP party orchestrated more than 700 organized attacks on Christians during 2020 and 2021, destroying churches and disturbing religious services. On December 25, in several places in states run by the BJP, they burned the effigies of Jesus and invaded Church premises where Christian worshippers were praying.

Hindutva groups such as the RSS, Bajrang

Dal, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and the BJP believe that Christianity is a tool of European and American countries to convert India's lower castes and destroy the upper caste-controlled Hinduism.

Christianity is India's third-largest religion after Hinduism and Islam, with about 27.8 million adherents constituting 2.3 percent of the population. The faith that came to India in 52 AD in Kerala with Thomas, the Apostle, now has 42 Christian denominations in India, including Catholics, Protestants, Episcopalians, Oriental orthodox, and Latter-Day Saints, with none having a majority within the faith.

Christians are in the majority in Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh. In addition, they are in significant numbers in Assam, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, God, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andaman Nicobar Islands.

India's Hindutva government has enacted laws against conversion in nine states, fearing an exodus of lower castes to Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, and Buddhism. However, the U.S.-based Pew research recently reported that the fear is imaginary, as Hindus tend to gain more than what they lose through religious switching.

The purpose of the RSS-based campaign is to intimidate Christians and mobilize the Hindu diaspora, especially in America, to fund upper-caste organizations engaged in reconvertng Christians to Hinduism.

India's Christians are highly religious. The Pew research says that 77 percent of Indian Christians pray daily, 89 percent give regular charities to churches and 78 percent listen to the Bible lectures weekly.

Seventy-four percent of Indian Christians identify with lower Dalits and scheduled tribes. Politically, they oppose the ruling BJP for their

continued persecution.

The three main Hindutva groups, the Bajrang Dal, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and the VHP, are behind the attacks on Christians. The state department described the BD and VHP as Hindu militant groups. The three have a large presence in the US.

In its 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: India, the state department reported that significant human rights violations occur in India. They include: unlawful and arbitrary killings, including extrajudicial killings perpetrated by police; torture and cases of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by some police and prison officials; arbitrary arrest and detention by government authorities; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; political prisoners or detainees in certain states; restrictions on freedom of expression and the press, including violence, threats of violence, or unjustified

arrests or prosecutions against journalists, use of criminal libel laws to prosecute social media speech, censorship, and site blocking; overly restrictive rules on nongovernmental organizations; restrictions on political participation; widespread corruption at all levels in the government; lack of investigation of and accountability for violence against women; tolerance of violations of religious freedom; crimes involving violence and discrimination targeting members of minority groups including women based on religious affiliation or social status ; and forced and compulsory child labor, as well as bonded labor.

Pieter's hunger strike is to sanctify the life of all human beings in India. In addition, it highlights the need for swift action against militant organizations active in the US and using the resources to fund violent activities in India.

**Cont. from page 1.
Persecuted Christians**

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In addition, it highlights the need for swift action against militant organizations active in the US and using the resources to fund violent activities in India.

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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.

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

Ramadan Mubarak!

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the way they look.



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