



Are Devils Chained During Ramadan?

By: Dr. Aslam Abdullah

Prophet Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, once said: “When the month of Ramadan begins, the gates of the heaven are opened; the gates of Hell-fire are closed, and the devils are chained.” (Sahih Bukhari 1800)

Ramadan, the month of fasting is no different from any other month as far as crimes are concerned. Sins and crime continue to take place in this month all around the world. Does this hadith mean the deviations in this month would not count? Does it mean that every sin in this month would be forgiven or does it mean that people



cannot commit sin in this month?

I believe this hadith explains some key concepts of Ramadan in an

allegorical manner. If we consider the language as symbolic, the hadith offers a logical and viable rationale for developing

a strong conviction and appreciation of the Prophetic wisdom.

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Riz Ahmed Makes History, First Muslim And First Person Of Asian Descent To Win Best Live-Action Short Film

By: TMO Staff

Riz Ahmed, the British actor and musician, has won his first Oscar for Aneil Karia’s live-action short film The Long Goodbye, which Ahmed co-wrote and starred in.

In his acceptance speech Ahmed, 39, said: “In such



divided times, we believe that the role of story is to remind us there is no ‘us’ and ‘them’. There’s just ‘us’.

“This is for everyone who feels like they don’t belong. Anyone who feels like they’re stuck

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Local Faith Leader Among Muslim Americans Suing After Border Officials Harassed Them Over Religion



By: Gabe Ortiz

A local faith leader is among the three Muslim Americans who

have filed a federal lawsuit after being harassed over their religion by U.S. border officials, in-

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The Erasure: California Panel Claims Indian Muslims Face Impending Genocide



Panelists discussing the threat facing Muslims — as well as other minorities — under India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in San Diego, Calif., March 12. From left, Dr. Samina Salim of the University of Houston; journalist Pieter Friedrich, Dr. Rohit Chopra of Santa Clara University; Dr. Khaled Beydoun of Wayne State University; and Dr. Hatem Bazian of Zaytuna College. Top, audience at the panel discussion sponsored by the San Diego Coalition for Human Rights, which included the Council on American-Islamic Relations (San Diego), Indian American Muslim Council, Jewish Voices for Peace, Muslim American Society (San Diego), Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego, Pillars of the Community, and others.

by Pieter Friedrich

First published on American Kahani

"India is subsumed in a momentous political crisis, the most daunting since 1950," warned Dr. Angana Chatterji of the University of California, Berkeley on March 12. "The practice of illiberal democracy today is accompanied by the call to fascism and the extermination of Muslims."

Chatterji (who joined via Zoom) was speaking at a San Diego, California panel on impending Indian Muslim genocide and global Islamophobia. Approximately 200 people joined the event to hear six panelists, including myself, converse about the threat facing Muslims — as well as other minorities — under India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The threat

impacts the U.S., speakers agreed, not only because the country is home to over four million Indian-Americans but also because the BJP and its parent organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) paramilitary, have a major support base in America.

"I sort of felt that I was the embodiment of what India was," said Dr. Samina Salim of the University of Houston. "Pay attention: I said what India was. I am not proud of what India is today, sadly, because how can I represent an India where Muslim girls and Muslim women are stripped of their head covering, which is part of their clothing, in the middle of the streets, before they step into their schools and colleges? How can I represent an India where Muslim women are sold on an app and on other online

platforms? I do not represent this India where Muslim women are raped, killed, and burned alive. I am not proud of that India."

Hindu Vigilantism

"The moment Modi became prime minister, and the BJP came to power, vigilante Hindu extremist groups took it as kind of a pass to engage in routine violence, humiliation, and lynching of Muslims," noted Dr. Rohit Chopra of Santa Clara University. "What I've seen happen since then is, the hallmark of being a good Hindu was you don't speak up against such violence. I want to say this is from 2014 to 2018. If you speak up against the lynching, you're not a good Hindu and therefore you're not a good Indian, because only a Hindu can really be an Indian."

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The Upcoming Housing Crash: Bigger Than 2008?



I know when I talk to people about real estate these days, it's not such a positive outlook for the near future. There are a lot of different opinions out there about where the real estate market is headed. Some of you may believe everything is back to normal, others may believe there will be a small correction, and some even believe that the real estate market can only continue going up. Well, no one has a crystal ball to predict the future. What we do have though is historical data. And what do we know about history? It tends to repeat itself. The article below is a great read and outlines a lot of simple data that shows why we could encounter the biggest housing crash in U.S. history.

Source: <https://thefederalist.com/2022/02/16/key-indicator-hints-america-is-headed-for-its-worst-real-estate-crash-in-history/>

I want to outline some of the key facts and takeaways from this article so some of you can understand why I believe we should be prepared for the worst in the real estate market:

From 1980 to 2000, the

Federal interest rate was commonly 5% or higher and rarely dropped below 4%.

However, from 2009 through 2016, interest rates were consistently much lower than 1 percent. The Fed began to more aggressively raise rates, but it only briefly topped 2 percent in 2018 and 2019 before the Fed once again slashed rates to near-zero as part of its plan to address the effects of the Covid-19 lockdowns.

When interest rates are low, it is easier for governments to spend more money than they take in. Financial institutions are also likely to lend more money for higher-priced items and homes are typically the largest purchase a person will make in their lifetime. People can afford to take on more debt because the monthly payments cost less. As a result, sellers increase their prices.

This is one of the reasons the real estate market crashed so hard in 2008. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Fed kept interest rates low, encouraging people to take on higher-than-usual levels of debt, especially in the

real estate market.

The average sale price of a home in the fourth quarter of 2021 was \$477,900, compared to \$403,900 in the fourth quarter of 2020 and \$384,600 in the fourth quarter of 2019. That's a \$93,300 increase in just two years, by far the biggest increase ever recorded in just 24 months.

Further, the 12-month home sales price increases for the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2021 were all above 17 percent, the highest hike recorded over a three-quarter period since at least 1963, the earliest date in the Fed's

data made available online.

The bubble that developed from 2002 to 2007 peaked at around a 47 percent price increase, before plummeting by 20 percent from 2007 to the first quarter of 2009. If we see a similar pattern emerge for the bubble that has been developing since roughly 2012, then we could see housing prices drop by 30 to 40 percent over a two-year period.

I know a lot of you may attribute some of these facts to a lot of different factors and there might be variables I am not taking into consider-

ation, but I think it's important to understand these points and analyze the data for yourself!

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Reps. Barbara Lee And Sara Jacobs Join 15 Members Of Congress Endorsing Dr. Asif Mahmood

TUSTIN — Today, Congresswomen Barbara Lee and Sara Jacobs endorsed Dr. Asif Mahmood in his race to flip CA-40 and defeat Congresswoman Young Kim, joining 15 of their colleagues in backing Dr. Mahmood.

“Dr. Mahmood is a passionate leader who I am proud to endorse for Congress,” said Congresswoman Lee. “His life’s work and commitment to helping others are just testaments to the kind of great work he will do for Californians in Washington.”

“I am excited to endorse Dr. Mahmood’s campaign for Congress,” said Congresswoman Jacobs. “He is a leader and public servant who has spent his career as a physician helping others. He will be a great advocate for our Southern California communities. I look forward to working with him to advocate for our families in Washington.”



Dr. Mahmood, a pulmonologist and philanthropist, has dedicated his life’s work to helping others. He has treated thousands of patients over the last twenty years. He believes politicians in Washington should do more to help families in districts like the 40th instead of playing political games or

trying to advance their party’s agenda. The pair join the growing list of California and Orange County leaders supporting Dr. Mahmood’s campaign. They include: UNITE HERE Local 11 Gov. Gavin Newsom U.S. Senator Alex Pa-

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America's First Muslim Judge, The Honorable Adam A. Shakoor, Returns to Allah

By Basheer Alim

Adam Shakoor was born Adam Caddell in 1947, and raised in a north-east Detroit's Sojourner Truth public housing complex. He had become a passionate advocate of equality during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. He converted to Al-Islam while attending Wayne State University, where he received an undergraduate, masters, and law degrees between 1971 and 1976.

During his early years in private practice in 1979, Attorney Shakoor successfully represented Masjid Wali Muhammad in Detroit in a push for the right to play the Muslim call to prayer over outside loudspeaker, the first such ruling in the country. During the same year, he led litigation against the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), which resulted in the hiring of the first Mus-

lim chaplain in the state prison system.

The Honorable Judge Adam Shakoor was granted a judgeship in 1981 by Michigan's Gov. William Milliken on the 36th District Court in Detroit. He was selected by his peers and served two terms as chief judge until 1988. After his retirement in 1989, He became deputy mayor under the Honorable Coleman A. Young, Detroit's first African-American mayor.

In an interview with a Detroit news outlet Judge Shakoor stated, "I kind of liked the people's court, the 36th District, and I decided to run for chief judge a couple of years after I had got on the court. And, I was successful and selected by my peers as chief judge and we did some pretty good things during that time."

Judge Shakoor served as deputy Detroit mayor



from 1989 through 1993. Adolph Mongo, a Detroit radio personality and political commentator, "I worked on a task force for litter with him when he was the chief 36th District Judge. Then I worked with him when he was deputy mayor. He was a very astute attorney and community person. He understood

everyday people. As a judge, he had a lot of insight into what was happening in the city, more than most politicians."

In 1994 and 1997, he became managing partner in two different Detroit law firms. In 2004, he started his firm, Adam Shakoor & Associates. During his private practice, he represented

many well-known Detroit residents, including Rosa Parks from 1995 until her passing in 2005.

In a statement from CAIR-Mi (Council on American-Islamic Relations – Michigan) Executive Director Dawud Walid stated, "we mourn the great loss of Judge Shakoor, who was a men-

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Clarence Seedorf Converts To Islam



By: Zain Ahmed
Former Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf announced on his Instagram post earlier this month that he has converted to Islam.

Seedorf had a remarkable career, which included two European cup championships and an Intercontinental Cup Championship, as well as also the La Liga and Spanish Super Cup. His wins made him the only player in history to win a league title in every country he played in Europe, and also the only player to win the UEFA Champions League with three different teams according to Real Madrid.

After his playing days, he spent some years as a manager, for multiple different teams, but has yet to find much stability in that department.

In his announcement, Seedorf expressed his happiness in joining the Muslim community and thanked everyone that helped him get to where he is today. He also gave special thanks to all the messages he received congratulating him. Despite changing his religion, he will keep the birth name given by his parents, Clarence Seedorf.

In the social media post, Seedorf stated, “A special thanks to all the nice messages in celebration of me joining the Muslim family. I’m

very happy and pleased to join the all Brothers and Sisters around the world especially my adorable Sophia who has taught me more in-depth

the meaning of Islam. I didn’t change my name and will continue to carry my name as given by my parents, Clarence Seedorf! I’m sending all my

love to everyone in the world.”
This recent story shows how a supportive and

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Ramadan 2022: Fasting Hours To Range From 11 To 20 Hours. Here's Why

by Amit Chaturvedi

The Muslim holy month of Ramadan is set to start from April 2, though the exact date will be based on the sighting of the Moon. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic Hijri calendar and is marked by long hours of fasting. The first meal at dawn is called Sehri and the evening meal for breaking the fast is known as Iftar. Historically, Ramadan has great importance as this is the time when Muslims believe that the God (Allah) revealed the Holy Quran to Prophet Muhammad.

Ramadan usually spans across 29-30 days and ends with great celebration and feasting known as Eid-ul-Fitr.

Fasting during the month of Ramadan is mandatory for all Muslims, except those who are sick, travelling or have their menstrual cycle, or are very old.

Ramadan is about



prayers and forgiveness. It is also called Ramzan, Ramadan Kareem or Ramzan ul Mubarak.

Dawn to dusk fasting during Ramadan is one of the toughest rituals in the world during which the Muslims don't even drink water.

The fasting begins just before dawn and is broken at sunset.

The Sun rises and sets at different times across the world, and the number of daylight hours also varies from country to country. So, Muslims living in Southern most countries such as New Zealand will fast for 11 hours, whereas those living in Northern European countries like Norway and Iceland will have to fast for nearly 20 hours.

In places around the Arctic Circle, the Sun never actually sets in the summer. In these cases, Muslim religious authorities have decreed that the devout can either fast along with the closest Muslim country or fast along with Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Here, we present the estimates of the number

of fasting hours in cities across the world. Actual duration and times will be based on local calculations and will vary:

Nuuk (Greenland): 20 hours

Oslo (Norway): 20 hours

Helsinki (Finland): 20 hours

Stockholm (Sweden): 19

Cont. on page 12

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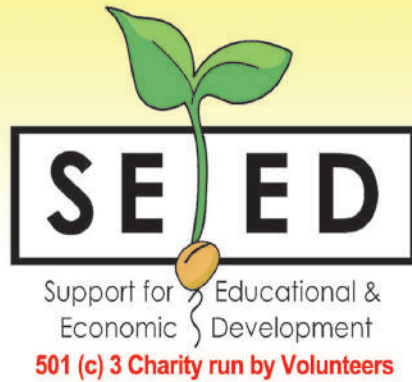
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Delicious Imsakhan Rolls: Great Ramadan Appetizer

by Noor H. Salem
We are in the first few days of the blessed month of Ramadan, and it's crucial that we try and take advantage of every minute of this blessed time. The companions of the Prophet (saw) would prepare for this sacred time six months in advance! Whether it's freeing up your schedule to increase time in worship, or possibly changing your routine slightly in order to be more productive in the morning, it's also important to recognize your diet has a direct impact on your ibada'h (worship).
It might feel like a very different Ramadan, given the masjid are closed and everyone is in their homes. Remember though, your relationship with Allah SWT is not contingent neither on time nor place. You can make duaa at home, gather your family to pray together, and prepare healthy meals to provide you all with the energy you need to stay fit.
It's easy to get tempted to sleep half the day and try to kill the time of the remainder by watching television or entertainment. However, both your health and time are amanehs, trusts, from Allah (SWT), and if anything, especially in Ramadan, you should be striving to preserve both. The Prophet (saw)

reminds us in a famous hadith that, "there are two blessings which many people lose, they are healthy and free time [for doing good]." It's easy to prepare a load of deep-fried food and sweets, often done especially for Ramadan. However, my advice is to try your best to consume healthy meals, in order not to feel lethargic or sluggish after eating, making it difficult to pray Taraweeh.
These Imsakhan rolls are a delicious appetizer your entire family can enjoy and are loaded with healthy ingredients. They taste greatly baked and come out crunchy. Try these this Ramadan, and compare how you feel the days you avoid fried food, versus having something healthier like these rolls.
The history of the recipe goes way beyond being a health coach and trying to come up with healthier options for clients or friends. Being Palestinian meant that, Imsakhan, a popular Palestinian dish made with layers of large fluffy bread, each topped with onions and sumac, then topped with chicken and roasted pine nuts at the very top, was a tradition in my home. This twist to the original recipe is my mom's, which we'd make at parties or other occasions to make the delicious taste of Imsakhan



easier to consume for guests. After all, it can get pretty messy with all of the olive oil it normally takes (soaking each bread), as well as the onions and sumac. Given I'm a certified holistic health coach and author of Sunnah Superfoods, I found it imperative upon me to give it a small touch of Sunnah foods and for that, I've added the ginger and vinegar. This recipe is easy to make at home, and a fun project your kids can join in on (with the exception of cutting onions!).
Ingredients:
1-pound boneless chicken thigh, cubed
1 tablespoon cold-pressed avocado oil
4 medium onions
¼ cup sumac spice

1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon ground mustard seed
2 teaspoons Apple Cider Vinegar (raw)
1 teaspoon Himalayan Pink Salt
1/3 cup pine nuts (roasted in avocado oil)
10 certified organic tortilla breads (gluten-free)
1/3 cup Extra virgin olive oil (for brushing)
Directions:
Chop the onions and place them in a deep skillet with the avocado oil. Cook on medium-high heat until onions are tender and translucent in color.
Add the chicken to the skillet. Top with the salt, mustard, and ginger. Cook about 3-4 minutes, and then add the sumac

and vinegar. Continue cooking for another 4-5 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until the chicken is well done.
Place one tortilla on your cutting board or a large plate (for rolling). Fill with a scoop of filling, top with pine nuts, and roll firmly. Place on a baking sheet.
Continue the same step for the remaining tortillas, leaving space between them on the baking sheet. Brush with olive oil and bake on 350 degrees Fahrenheit for about 20-25 minutes, or until the rolls are nice and crispy.
Allow to cool, then cut the tortillas in half. Serve with organic yogurt for a scrumptious meal.

Cont. from page 8. Ramadan 2022

hours
Berlin (Germany): 19 hours
Ottawa (Canada): 17 hours
Copenhagen (Denmark): 18.5 hours
Warsaw (Poland): 18.5 hours
London (UK): 18.5 hours
Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan): 18.5 hours

Brussels (Belgium): 18 hours
Zurich (Switzerland): 18 hours
Bucharest (Romania): 17.5 hours
Moscow (Russia): 17 hours
Sofia (Bulgaria): 17 hours
Paris (France): 17 hours
Rome (Italy): 17 hours
Kabul (Afghanistan): 17 hours
Madrid (Spain): 16.5

hours
Lisbon (Portugal): 16.5 hours
Athens (Greece): 16.5 hours
Beijing (China): 16.5 hours
Washington DC (US): 16 hours
Ankara (Turkey): 16.5 hours
Tokyo (Japan): 16 hours
Rabat (Morocco): 16 hours

Islamabad (Pakistan): 16 hours
New Delhi (India): 15 hours
Fasting can be brutal in the summer
Since the Muslims follow the lunar calendar – based on the phases of the Moon – the duration of the year is shorter there by 11 days as compared to the Gregorian calendar.
Therefore, the Islamic

lunar calendar moves backward approximately 11 days each year in relation to the regular Gregorian calendar.
CommentsWhen Ramadan falls in winter, it's much easier to fast. The days too are shorter. But in summer, temperatures can reach to extreme highs in the Middle East and Africa, making fasting brutal.

Cont. from page 6. Judge Adam

tor and an inspiration to Michigan Muslims and the civil rights community, We pray that Allah enters him into paradise and showers patience upon his family." According to Eric Sabree,

Wayne County Treasurer and longtime personal friend of Judge Shakoor, "He was totally committed to helping people and was a great family man. He was a person who really strived for excellence in himself and all

those he associated with. I relied on his counsel and advice."
Judge Shakoor received over a hundred proclamations, awards and honors from federal, state, and local government agencies and

community groups over the past 40 years. He also served on the boards of various local organizations. He was also a professor of business law and African American Studies at Wayne County Community College for more than

45 years. Judge Shakoor transitioned from this life on Sunday, March 20, 2022 (From Allah we come, and to Him is the Return). He is survived by his wife, Gail Lawrence-Shakoor and six children.

**Cont. from page 1.
California Panel**

From there, we have now moved to a position where the hallmark of being a good Hindu and being a good Indian is actually endorsing this violence.” According to Dr. Chatterji, “The political blueprint of Hindu nationalists signals an illiberal turn and absolute nationalism that, unchecked, may enkindle the would-be erasure of Muslims in India.”

Speakers highlighted the recent ban on Muslim students wearing hijab at educational institutions in Karnataka (which was upheld by the state’s High Court on 15 March) as emblematic of structural Islamophobia in India. “This hijab ban is just another sequel to this genocidal language,” explained Dr. Salim. “Anti-Muslim hysteria with hijab ban has reached a whole new level now.”

Dr. Khaled Beydoun of Wayne State University noted, “Gendered Islamophobia is distinct in the sense that the State engages in the policing of women’s bodies. That becomes the principle way in which the State engages in gendered Islamophobia — by saying how a woman can dress and cannot dress. India is parading around the world claiming to be the largest democracy in the world, and we know that the cornerstone of any democracy is what? The ability to practice your religion as you see fit or to not profess a religion. Why is this cardinal right, that is attached to any democracy, being denied to Muslim women? And the way it’s being manifested is through the erosion and the encroachment of the ability of Muslim women to express their religiosity in ways that align with their spirituality.”

“When Taliban prevented women and girls from going to schools, and colleges, and universities, there was an uproar from the Western world,” said Dr. Salim. “Where are the feminists now? Where is the Western media? Why this silence when this is going on in India with Muslim women?”

“It’s really salient that

we center white supremacy as a system that intersects and interacts with Islamophobia, Hindu supremacy, and other forms of bigotry that we’re seeing unravel on a global stage,” said Dr. Beydoun. The similarities to white supremacist ideology were also echoed by Dr. Hatem Bazian of UC Berkeley. Invoking the idea of “replacement theory” (which is also known in the West as the “white genocide” conspiracy theory), Dr. Bazian said, “Hindu nationalists are using the same type of argument. Replacement theory is the idea that the Muslims who are coming to Europe, or the minorities who are coming to Europe, or the Mexicans that are coming to the United States are attempting to replace the white race. In a similar way, within the Hindu nationalists, it is that the Muslim population that are there are attempting to replace Hinduism.”

“When Taliban prevented women and girls from going to schools, and colleges, and universities, there was an uproar from the Western world,” said Dr. Salim. “Where are the feminists now? Where is the Western media? Why this silence when this is going on in India with Muslim women?”

“India has become a hard incubator of conspiracy theories,” said Dr. Salim. “History tells us of the dangers of these theories. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion led to the extermination of six million Jews. That was a result of conspiracy theories. It was Radio Rwanda that propagated conspiracies against Tutsis, killing almost a million Tutsis. The same type of ludicrous and dangerous conspiracy theories are flourishing in India now for quite some time. These theories and false propaganda are being pushed by the Indian media, funded by the elite within the Indian political system and business class, endorsed in one way or the other by the State — sometimes by overlooking the propaganda and, at times, by supporting it.”

Dr. Chopra warned that not only has social media

played a pivotal role in fostering these conspiracy theories but that the major corporations are doing little to stop it. “It’s really important to raise this issue, to bring it to awareness in the global community, and particularly to talk about the role of social media companies like Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp in fomenting anti-Muslim violence and anti-Muslim sentiment,” said Dr. Chopra.

“Facebook has admitted its role in the genocide against the Rohingya in Myanmar, they’ve admitted their role in anti-Muslim violence in Sri Lanka. In the Indian context, they’ve hired people who are from the Hindu Right, and when the government has pushed back, they’ve sort of fallen in line. It’s the same with Twitter.... In the Indian context, because of the pressure of the government, again, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp are completely compromised. Facebook and Twitter both have blood on their hands.”

Meanwhile, I asserted that not only is the Indian Government controlled by the RSS, but that the paramilitary’s affiliates in the United States have provided a great deal of assistance to the regime in India.

Oldest Fascist Movement

“The RSS is the world’s oldest, largest, and fastest-growing fascist movement,” I explained, noting that the RSS, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (the RSS’s religious wing), and the Bajrang Dal (the VHP’s youth wing) have a combined total of perhaps 15 million militant members. “The RSS today is essentially, you could say a shadow government, or you could say that it is the government because the ruling Hindu nationalist BJP is, actually, the political wing of the RSS.

It was founded by the RSS in 1980. And the RSS basically controls and pulls the strings of the BJP. So the RSS today is basically the government of India.” “RSS is here [in America],” warned Dr. Salim. “The problem is hate — this hateful agenda, this bigotry, this misogyny

— which is here amongst us in the form of RSS and its friends. And that is why, I tell you, ladies and gentlemen, we’ve got to get more involved.”

Expanding on the presence of RSS in America, I noted: “The RSS-BJP regime in India is heavily dependent on and owes a great debt of gratitude to its affiliates here in America, especially tracing back to 2014. To a great extent, Modi’s election in 2014 is due, in part, to the actions of the RSS-BJP affiliates here in the United States, specifically the Overseas Friends of the BJP (OFBJP) as well as the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), which is the name for the RSS equivalent here in America.”

“From America, they organized phone banks of hundreds of people — Indian-Americans, not people with Indian citizenship — to call back to India to tell Indian voters to vote for the BJP,” I explained. “In addition, they mobilized thousands of people — the public numbers are at least about 3,000 people — to travel from America to India to serve as boots on the ground to canvass, knock on doors, run polling stations. I like to flip this and say, can you imagine the outrage here in America if we had a lot of Americans that emigrated to Russia, gave up their American citizenship, settled in Russia, became Russian citizens but didn’t give up their love for the Republican Party. So, every election cycle, they would mobilize with their Overseas Friends of the Republican Party based in Moscow. They would set up phone banks in Moscow, call American voters, and say, ‘Vote for the Republican Party.’ And they would go a step further.

They would send thousands of now Russian citizens — who used to be Americans — back to America to campaign, canvas, come knock on your door, and maybe even staff your local polling booth. Would Americans be upset about that? One thing that I still fail to understand is why Indians are, in India, not more outraged over this blatant interference in

their sovereign, sacred elections that have occurred.” What’s happening in India impacts the United States, I added, not only “because those groups are using American free soil to organize those efforts, but they’re also using American soil to do things — like with the HSS, and OFBJP, and other Hindu nationalist affiliates — to serve as a propaganda mouthpiece in America to whitewash and legitimize the RSS-BJP regime in India.”

Dr. Beydoun, however, suggested that the threat facing Indian Muslims is also linked to America because U.S. foreign policy has helped enable it. “The American Global War on Terror did a couple of things,” he said. “It legitimized this demonization of Muslims as categorically ‘terrorists’ and then it accelerated, it intensified pre-existing and indigenous campaigns across the world, of which Hindu supremacy is one of them.... It’s critical to really highlight the fact that the United States Government and four administrations since, even liberal and democratic administrations like the Obama Administration, had a mighty hand in emboldening and accelerating these anti-Muslim campaigns happening on a global scale, of which India, I believe, is one of the most ominous and nefarious.”

The situation in India is so ominous that it is now one of looming genocide, claimed speakers.

“The term ‘genocide’ can be used when it can be proved that a State or non-State actors engage in actions or they have a very specific intent targeted at one particular community to commit violence or to exterminate them,” noted Dr. Chopra. “Incitement to genocide is also a crime.... You don’t actually have to commit genocide to be guilty of a crime under international humanitarian law.” As Dr. Bazian pointed out, “Often when we use the term ‘genocide,’ we think that we’re just going to the graveyard after the genocide had been committed. That’s not

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CONTINUED STORY

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During Ramadan

We can infer from the opening of the gates of the heavens to mean that God makes our journey to the heavenly state of utmost peace and happiness effortless and

accessible under His divine grace in the month of Ramadan. During this month believers have a month-long opportunity to change their lifestyle and environment to attain a higher state of self-consciousness. Such a journey would help

them enjoy every moment of the month and qualify for uninterrupted mercy and blessings of the Divine in this life and the hereafter.

Closing the gates of hell means that the Creator is eager and ready to

forgive every sin committed by anyone if sincere repentance is sought. The month invites us to self-evaluation and identifying weaknesses in character followed by actions to better ourselves. In other words, forgiveness is the divine

offering for this month. However, one must realize that repentance and forgiveness has to be done in a manner that is genuine. It means a person is conscious of wrong actions and is willing to.

Cont. from page 1.
Riz AHmed OSCAR

in no man’s land. You’re

not alone. We’ll meet you there. That’s where the future is. Peace.”

Ahmed was nominated

for an Oscar last year for his role as a hearing-impaired drummer in Sound of Metal, losing

out to Anthony Hopkins. The Long Goodbye incorporates music from Ahmed’s album of the

same name, which was released in 2021 and reflects on his identity as a British Pakistani artist.

Cont. from page 1.
Local Faith Leader

cluding unconstitutional questioning over where and how they pray, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the ACLU of Minnesota, and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California said.

“On multiple occasions, when the plaintiffs came home from traveling abroad, officers asked them inappropriate religious questions, including whether they are Muslim, whether they attend a mosque, which mosque they attend, whether they are Sunni or Shi’a, and how often they pray,” a statement said.

The organizations said in the statement that the three plaintiffs, all of whom are U.S. citizens, seek to have records relating to their harassment expunged. Officers who questioned them “retain the answers in a law enforcement database for up to 75 years.” Imam Abdirahman Aden Kariye, the faith leader harassed by officials, said he’s “proud to be a Muslim.” But now the

harassment has left him feeling anxious whenever he travels.

“I’m constantly worried about how I will be perceived, so much so that I try to avoid calling any attention to my faith,” he said in the statement. He said he no longer wears his prayer cap when traveling, out of fear it will lead to more questioning. “It’s terrible to feel you have to hide an essential part of who you are from your own government,” he continued. “I shouldn’t be questioned because of my religion.”

Named in the lawsuit are Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Sec. Alejandro Mayorkas, and top officials with Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), which operates under ICE. The civil rights groups said the questioning “violates the plaintiffs’ First Amendment freedoms of religion and association, as well as the Religious Freedom Restoration

Act (RFRA). In addition, because CBP and HSI specifically single out Muslim Americans for such questioning, they also violate the First and Fifth Amendments’ protections against unequal treatment on the basis of religion.”

“This questioning is part of a broader 20-year practice of border officials targeting Muslim American travelers because of their religion,” they continued.

In just one example, the Muslim American mayor of Prospect Park, New Jersey was wrongfully detained after flying back to John F. Kennedy Airport in 2019, and during the nearly three hours he was held, questioned about whether he knew any terrorists. Mayor Mohamed Khairullah and his family had already been targeted when flying out of JFK, when their then-14-month-old baby was selected for secondary screening. This harassment by U.S. border officials is nothing new.

“Religious questioning by border officers is uncon-

stitutional, and it’s past time for the government to be held to account,” said ACLU’s National Security Project senior staff attorney Ashley Gorski. “This invasive questioning serves no legitimate law enforcement purpose, and conveys the harmful and stigmatizing message that the U.S. government views Muslims as inherently suspicious.”

“What I experienced at the hands of CBP when coming back to my own country still haunts me,” said another plaintiff, Hameem Shah. “I thought that being an American meant that I and others are free to practice any religion that we choose. It concerns me that other Americans and visitors to this country may also be unfairly targeted and humiliated based solely on their religious beliefs. This practice is fundamentally incompatible with the values this country was founded on.”

A damning report released by the ACLU of Michigan last year also revealed widespread

racial profiling of Latinos in the state, including many U.S. citizens and residents with legal status.

“Although people of Latin American origin comprise just 16.8% of the state’s foreign-born population, 85% of non-citizens apprehended by Border Patrol were from Latin America,” the report said. “The agency uses ‘complexion codes’ to describe people apprehended,” the report also noted. “Tellingly, more than 96% of those apprehended are recorded as being ‘Black,’ ‘Dark Brown,’ ‘Dark,’ ‘Light Brown,’ ‘Medium Brown,’ ‘Medium,’ or ‘Yellow.’”

But while House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties called for answers, lawmakers said Mayorkas missed the deadline to respond. “Right now, the fact is DHS regrettably hasn’t turned any documents over,” committee member Rashida Tlaib told ClickOnDetroit, nearly a month past the deadline.

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California Panel

what the Convention on Genocide actually speaks about. Any aspect of taking steps that would facilitate genocide could be subject to bringing a case.”

Yet speakers suggested that the world seems to be taking little notice

of the situation. “It’s impossible not to juxtapose what’s taking place in places like India with what’s unfolding in real-time right now in Ukraine,” said Dr. Beydoun. “In addition to Islamophobia, in addition to Hindu supremacy, we have another issue that is expanding on a global stage, which is white

supremacy. There’s a reason why Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees resonate so strongly when we see them on television. However, when we see brown and black individuals who are fleeing places, fleeing war-torn countries, they don’t get a sliver of coverage, they don’t get a scintilla of the attention that Ukraini-

ans have received in two weeks.”

“We’ve got to take more interest,” urged Dr. Salim. “We’ve got to speak up. It’s the silence that emboldens these people, by virtue of which we become accomplices in that violence.”

The panel was sponsored by the San Diego Coali-

tion for Human Rights, which included the Council on American-Islamic Relations (San Diego), Indian American Muslim Council, Jewish Voices for Peace, Muslim American Society (San Diego), Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego, Pillars of the Community, and others.

Cont. from page 5.
Dr. Asif Mahmood

CA Lt. Gov Eleni Kounalakis
CA Treasurer Betty Yee
CA Attorney General Rob Bonta
CA Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara

State Senator Josh Newman
State Senator Sydney Kamlager
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember Miguel

Santiago
Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
Assemblymember Tom Daly
Assemblymember Chris Holden
Assemblymember Blanca Rubio

Artesia Mayor Ali Sajjad Taj
Irvine Councilwoman Melisa Fox
Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan
Orange County Democratic Party Chairwoman Ada Briceño

Los Angeles County Democratic Party Chair Mark Gonzalez
California Democratic Party Treasurer and DNC member Melahat Rafiei
Andy Thorburn, Orange County Democratic leader



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSLIMS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

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“ AFMI's School Under Construction in Islam Gunj, Gaya, Bihar”

Last two years were very tough for people around the world because of the pandemic. It is still affecting many, especially the unprivileged people in India. AFMI has continued its mission to provide shelter, clothes, food packages, clean water, medicines and oxygen concentrators to families affected by the pandemic.

Our main mission this year is to provide education to the children who fell behind in education due to pandemic and financial distress. Because of poverty, many young children are illiterate, and that illiteracy further breeds more poverty in the next generations. We strongly need your support for these children.

AFMI has started construction for a primary school in Islam Gunj, Gaya Bihar, India. Construction will be completed before Eid 2022 and we are hoping to start classes for our first batch after Eid, Insha Allah. Please donate your zakat and sadqa to provide quality education to these unprivileged children to start their education with a CBSE (English Medium) curriculum. Your donation will benefit them greatly in providing them a bright future.

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or Mail to : 29008 W. 8 mile Road, Farminton Hills, MI 48336.



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