



Saudi Arabia Announces Big Shift In Hajj Policy

By: Saeed Khan

Muslims living in Western countries will now experience a dramatic shift in the way they plan and organize their trips for the Hajj. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) just announced that it was revamping the entire process for booking a trip to Makkah by unfurling a new website that allows for direct-to-consumer engagement with the Kingdom.

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has launched its Motawif website that allows Muslim pilgrims from Europe (including the UK), the United States and Australia to register

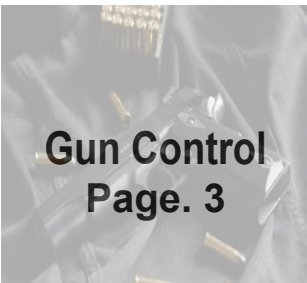


online for Hajj. It enters the applicant into an automated lottery; if successful, the individual will then be permitted to book travel and lodging

directly with the Saudi government. In addition, due to Covid-19 restrictions, KSA is restricting Hajj to 1 million pilgrims, who must be

under the age of 65 and fully vaccinated. Out of that total, the affected regions will be sending approximately 40,000

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Emails Show Ginni Thomas Pressed 29 Arizona Lawmakers To Turn The Election In Favor Of Trump

By: Aysha Qamar

As the Jan. 6 insurrection hearings commence, other information unrelated to the terrorist attacks from that day are surfacing. The Washington Post reported Friday that Virginia “Ginni” Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, pressed 29 Arizona



lawmakers to overturn their elections in favor of Trump. The outlet had previously reported that Thomas emailed two lawmakers, but newly obtained emails indicate at least 29. The Post was able to obtain

the emails under Arizona’s public records law. The emails sent on Nov. 9, 2020, argued that the legislators needed to intervene in order to set aside Joe

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The Muslim World Still Lacks Its Commitment To Justice

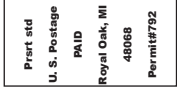


By Dr. Aslam Abdullah

The world’s major religions are silent over the genocide attempts by Hindutva forces under the guidance of the ruling Hindu fascists against Muslims in India. However, Christian

evangelists under the leadership of white supremacists see India as a potential killing field for those who they describe as anti-Christ. Jews favor Hitler’s admirers because it would elimi-

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When The NRA Supported Gun Control



By: Victor Begg

The National Rifle Association argued for a number of restrictive gun laws in the 1960s, including the Gun Control Act of 1968. The NRA supported the ban on mail-order rifle sales after Lee Harvey Oswald had bought the rifle used to assassinate President Kennedy from a mail-order ad in an NRA magazine.

On its website today, the NRA is back to promoting easy access to a wide range of guns. After a series of recent gun-related massacres, they may want to think again of supporting sensible regulations as they did in the past—to prevent weapons from landing into the wrong hands. With the arrival of the internet, it's much easier to widely promote and deliver deadlier weapons than it was in the 1960s. Regulations require a modern-day approach, beyond restricting online promotion.

A databank readily available to gun sellers is a no-brainer, like a credit check when applying for a bank loan—a way to cross-check and limit access to those with an unstable mental history and known violent tendencies.

The Treasure Coast gunman in the Orlando mass killing was on the FBI terror watchlist. That data is not available to gun dealers. A person with a record of threats of violence shouldn't freely buy any weapon, let alone massive rounds of ammunition and a deadly assault weapon to go with.

People with a criminal history, a bad driving record or suspended driving licenses are

routinely cited by law enforcement and insurance carriers. These reports are readily available to a police officer when stopping for a traffic violation or in a criminal investigation—no one would consider this a challenge to one's personal privacy, to individual freedoms or about taking away of citizen rights.

The incitement of lawless actions, producing or distributing obscene materials, and students to advocating illegal drug use at a school-sponsored event aren't protected by the First Amendment. Implementing practical gun safety regulations won't jeopardize the Second Amendment either. It'll only prevent individuals who show signs of a threat to themselves or the society from purchasing or owning any kind of firearm; stopping known terrorism suspects from acquiring military-grade weapons.

Online threats and hate speech should also be made available on a watchlist by social media outlets. Our law enforcement agencies need these tools. Both the shooters in Buffalo and Uvalde are known to have an online history of promoting violence and their intent to commit mass murder.

If this disturbed young man's violence-prone history was known before the sale by the gun dealer, was the Uvalde massacre of little children be preventable? That would certainly be possible. A background check would result in denial of that transaction. A simple procedure by withholding the firearm and ammunition sale for just 48 hours, for

example, if mandated, may have averted the carnage in Buffalo and Uvalde, as well as in many other killings elsewhere.

I wrote a column about the Buffalo shooting in the paper just a few days ago. It agonizes me to write again about another tragedy so soon. It's hard to express the grief and outrage upon learning about and witnessing images of such suffering, time and again.

Thoughts of my grandkids flash in my head when I think of the innocent little ones who should be alive, playing, laughing, and growing to be Americans with productive futures—not be the victims of a preventable action.

What may then be done to stop such misery? Probably nothing as before, unless the lawmakers bind together in our state legislatures and in the U.S. Congress to confront this problem our nation faces. Or, the public will be left with plenty of questions and no answers.

A social media posting I saw that sums up the repeated history of such events: Mass shootings >> thoughts and prayers >> Facebook debates >> everyone forgets >> Congress does nothing >> crickets chirping >> mass shooting >>

Let's pray that we do something this time.

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

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Everyone's A Critic: How A New Movie May Test Sectarian Tolerance

By: TMO Staff

A recently released movie has yet again placed the spotlight on the Muslim community regarding public debates of free expression, religious sensitivities and purported accuracy of depiction. This current situation is somewhat unique as it also involves sectarian difference and even variance within a sect itself. The Lady of Heaven is a 2021 British motion picture, directed by Eli King. It is partly set in the contemporary, with an orphaned child amidst war-stricken Iraq finding sanctuary with an elderly woman. She tries to comfort him by recounting the story of Fatima, the daughter of the Prophet Muhammad. Most of the movie takes place as a historical drama, centering around the Prophet's eldest daughter, and the struggles she and her family faced in the early years of Islamic history.

The historical account used by the filmmakers is based upon a particular sectarian perspective. The movie's primary script writer is Yasser al-Habib, a Kuwaiti-born, UK-based Shia cleric. His views have placed him at odds with the majority Sunni Islamic denomination, and he is also has run afoul with many members of his own sect because of what many consider unsupportable and inflammatory opinions. As a result, critics of the movie contend that the depiction of some of the key figures in the early period of Islam's development are mischaracterized, even vilified. These include the Prophet's wife, Aisha, and two of his closest companions and subsequent successors to his political mantle, Abu Bakr and Umar. Critics also note that the film offers a version of Islamic history that they categorically reject as false, though such narratives have some currency within Shia circles.

Thus far, the opposition to The Lady of Heaven has led to protests in



front of cinemas throughout Great Britain have caused those chains to cancel showing the movie in their theatres, though other outlets are screening it, with no immediate plans to do otherwise. But the public debate over free speech, and Muslim attitudes toward it, have returned. Malik Shilbak, the Muslim executive producer of the movie, has decried the response to his investment, accusing the Muslim protesters of being against freedom of expression. He has suggested that those who oppose the depictions of key historical figures are unaware that there exists an internal debate on aniconism, the permissibility of portraying religious figures.

Religious depiction is a highly sensitive issue among Muslims in the contemporary world. In 1977, there was a strong reaction to Mustafa Akkad's movie The Message (originally, Muhammad, Messenger of God). Mass protests, boycotts, and even threats to screening cinemas occurred around the world, and some countries banned the film outright. Interestingly, the movie has attained a high level of respect and admiration as an accurate, respectful depiction of the Prophet, his companions and the historical record as a whole. This is due in large part

to the skilled direction of Akkad who went to pains to avoid any physical depiction of the Prophet or his companions.

It is inevitable that comparisons are being made to the Muslim reaction to another incident that involved religious depictions and the debate over free speech. In 1988, the Anglo-Indian author Salman Rushdie published The Satanic Verses. The novel invoked fictional allegories and made references to the Prophet and his family that many Muslims deemed to be highly offensive. The book caused massive protests in many parts of the world, especially in Great Britain, where demonstrations and book burnings occurred in several cities. On February 14, 1989, then Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

issued a fatwa calling for Rushdie's death on the purported charge of blasphemy. It caused Rushdie to retreat into hiding for nearly a decade, while receiving the highest level of police protection.

The Rushdie episode set down a marker for the perception of Muslims and typecast them as intolerant, violent and even harboring values that were incompatible with the West. For some, such sentiment was validated in 2005 with the so-called Danish cartoons controversy when the newspaper Jyllands-Posten published a series of cartoons that many Muslims worldwide regarded as very insulting to the Prophet. In 2005, the stigma of the "militant Muslim" returned when two Muslim brothers stormed the Paris offices of the

French satirical newspaper, Charlie Hebdo, killing 12 and injuring 11, due to offense taken for the depiction of the Prophet. In October 2020, French teacher Samuel Paty was killed and beheaded by a Muslim for showing the Charlie Hebdo images to his teenage students.

Thus far, the reaction to The Lady of Heaven has not approached anything close to the fervor or expression that occurred during the Rushdie matter or those involving satirical images. It remains to be seen whether the movie drives a wedge between members of Muslim sects or revives debates about Muslim attitudes toward notions of expression and by extension so-called Western values.



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A Response To RSS: Is RSS Singing A New Tune Or Is It The Same Old Poison In A New Bottle?

by Dr. Muqtedar Khan

In the past few days, we have heard some interesting statements from the RSS leadership. The statements directly and indirectly address Indian Muslims hinting that perhaps RSS is seeking a dialogue with Indian Muslims.

First, on June 3 the RSS supremo Mohan Bhagwat in a speech asked the question;” why expand the conflict, why do we need to search for Shivlings under every mosque? This comment was received by some commentators with interest and questions were asked if RSS was signaling a moderation of its positions.

Then Ram Madhav, who has served as the national general secretary of the BJP and as member of the national executive of RSS, sat down on Jun 8th to talk to Ms. Madhuparna, a senior editor with The Print. I suspect



his goal was to put into perspective what Mohan Bhagwat said.

Ram Madhav on the other hand adds four conditions to what Mohan Bhagwat had to say.

He says that Muslims

must recognize that they are all Hindus, and descendants of Hindus and must abandon the concepts of Jihad, Um-mah and Kafir.

In this video I ask the question; is RSS sing-

ing a new tune, or is it the same old poison of anti-Muslim politics in a new bottle? I also expose the shallow understanding behind Ram Madhav’s demands that Muslims think of themselves.

Do watch the video and share it widely.

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A Recap And What Comes Next For The Jan. 6 Committee

by Brandi Buchman;
Republished from
Daily Kos

The Jan. 6 committee has laid bare more of its evidence into the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol: Former President Donald Trump ignored advice from members of the Department of Justice, the intelligence community, and his own campaign determining he lost the 2020 election? and advanced this lie while raising millions to legally defend his dangerous and deadly disinformation campaign.

This evidence was delivered not in the voice of the Jan. 6 committee members alone, but over-archingly relied on the testimony of witnesses to the events leading up to the Capitol attack.

The committee's third hearing gets underway on Wednesday, June 15, and much of what was unpacked Monday is expected to be expanded on in more granular detail, with a heap of additional information set to come out about the pressure campaigns unfolding at the DOJ and around former Vice President Mike Pence.

The committee's presentation on Monday relied heavily on the recorded deposition of former Attorney General Bill Barr, and for good reason: Barr's testimony exposed some of the most critical information to emerge around Trump's private thoughts and actions after the 2020 election concluded.

Barr described Trump as being "detached from reality" following his defeat. He said via recorded video that his explanations to Trump fell on deaf ears when he would tell him that extensive assessments turned up zero evidence of voter fraud that was significant enough to alter the outcome.

Trump, Barr said, didn't have an "interest" in hearing what the attorney general had to say about the truth.

Though Trump's caterwauling about a rigged election had begun as far back as September 2020, Barr's insights are



particularly valuable here because they paint a starker picture for the public and, importantly, for prosecutors watching from their perches at the Department of Justice.

Trump knew what the authentic data bore out and he kept advancing the lie anyway, opting to go along with debunked conspiracy theories about everything from suitcases jam-packed with stolen ballots to Mack Trucks delivering stolen votes from New York to Pennsylvania in the dead of night.

"Boy, if he really believes this stuff he has, you know, lost contact with, he's become detached from reality if he really believes this stuff," Barr said during his recorded deposition.

Barr also said that on the night of the election, "right out of the box," Trump was actively claiming that "major fraud" was afoot because, in short, the president didn't understand how the 'Red Mirage' in national elections has historically worked.

Chris Stirewalt, a former longtime Fox News political editor who testified before the committee Monday, explained.

On Election Day, the votes are tabulated and as they come trickling in, they shift up and down in one direction or another. Simple enough. And over the past half-century, Stirewalt testified, as more Democrats than Republicans have preferred to vote by mail, when it comes time to

the tally, the presence of those mail-in ballots, depending on when they are counted that day, can shift what may initially appear as a victory—or even a defeat.

"You wait and start counting and it depends on which ones you count first but usually, it's Election Day votes that get counted first and you see the Republican shoot ahead. Then there is the process of bailing and binding and unbinding all those mail-in votes," Stirewalt said.

This is so consistent that it has happened in "every single election" for decades, he added. And in some states, like in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, officials there actually refuse to count the votes until all ballots are in.

"So, in every election, certainly a national election, you expect to see the Republican with a lead but it's not really a lead," Stirewalt testified.

Trump's insistence that there was rampant vote fraud "seemed to be based on the dynamic that at the end of the evening a lot of Democratic votes came in which changed the vote count in several states," Barr said.

"This seemed to be the basis for this broad claim that there was major fraud. And I didn't think much of that because people had been talking for weeks and everyone understood for weeks that that would be what would happen on election night," Barr said.

The data drawn up for Trump kept disproving the conspiracy theories about rigged voting machines, but the divisions had set in. On the reelection front, his former campaign manager Bill Stepien testified, there were effectively two teams: "Team Normal" and "Rudy's Team."

Stepien didn't join Trump's campaign until there were just 115 days left until the election. He came on at a time when Trump was at a low point in daily average polls and he described the reelection campaign as structurally unsound.

He was fixing what could be fixed, he said,

But as time went on, he told the committee that Trump's legal team became increasingly unhappy with the way he was handling things. He wasn't advocating for the same lies about fraud that were spilling forth from those like Trump attorneys Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell.

"I've been doing this for a long time, 25 years. I've spanned political ideologies from Trump to McCain to Bush to Christie and I can work under a lot of circumstances for varied candidates and politicians," Stepien said in the previously recorded session.

But the situation with Trump was different.

"I didn't think what was happening was necessarily honest or professional and that led to me stepping away," he said.

Stepien was meant to

appear in person Monday but had to pull out of the hearing at the last minute because his wife went into labor.

There were also insights delivered Monday about what Election Night in the Trump White House really looked like. Stepien testified under oath that he urged Trump not to declare victory on Election Night. Other advice was flowing hot and heavy to Trump that night from an "inebriated" Rudy Giuliani, Stepien said.

Giuliani denied being under the influence on Election Night through a statement by his attorney Robert Costello on Monday afternoon. He called the testimony false and otherwise denied "all falsehoods by the angry and misguided Ms. Cheney."

A clip of testimony delivered by Trump's former campaign adviser Jason Miller to the panel was played during the hearing as well. Miller said he didn't know how drunk Giuliani had become on Election Night, but when the prospects of declaring victory so prematurely were raised, he wasn't confident in moving so quickly, either.

A major element underpinning Trump's Big Lie was also introduced by the committee on Monday.

The Big Lie was also a "big rip-off," Rep. Zoe Lofgren said.

By using the fraud claims, according to the

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Ultranationalist Israeli Rallies In Jerusalem Prompt Condemnation

By Yousuf Ali

Tens of thousands of far-right and ultranationalist Israelis raided the predominantly Muslim old city of Jerusalem. The purpose was to intimidate the native population. They called it the flag march and had it around the al-Aqsa mosque which is of great importance to the native Palestinian population and Muslims around the world. According to Al Jazeera, “

The provocative march that took place in and around the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound is meant to celebrate the occupation and subsequent annexation of East Jerusalem in 1967 – a move that has not been recognized by the international community. Some chanted racist slogans including “Death to Arabs” and attacked Palestinian residents while backed by armed Israeli forces. Some Jewish groups also stormed the Al-Aqsa compound raising fears among Palestinians that it was an attempt to change the status quo at Islam’s third holiest site”

This is part of a decades-long campaign by Jewish extremists to undermine the Muslim presence at al-Aqsa mosque which is believed by Jews to be the site of the future temple even though it is not allowed in Judaism to enter the holy site until the messiah comes.

The Israeli authorities harshly cracked down on Palestinians who opposed the Israeli incursions into Jerusalem. According to Al Jazeera, “Dozens of Palestinians were arrested across occupied East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank a day earlier, where protests to decry the march erupted, while more than 165 suffered injuries ranging from heavy tear gas inhalation to beatings and wounds from live rounds, as well as rubber-coated steel bullets.

Following the march, large groups of Israelis



stormed through Palestinian neighborhoods, assaulting residents as well as their property. Nida Ibrahim, reporting from the West Bank city of Ramallah, said the Shattyeh has been issuing statements “since

yesterday”. “He had strong statements today saying that Israel needed more than 3,000 Israeli army and police officers to secure the city,” Ibrahim said.”

Israeli President Benny

Gantz said that two of the Jewish groups responsible for the violence should be considered terrorists by the state. The broader context is the decades-long Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories including

East Jerusalem that has enabled such violence by creating a dynamic where Jews can get away with many violations against Palestinians with relative impunity.

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International Jurists Union Concluded Its Conference By Expressing Solidarity With The Oppressed People Of The World

by Ghulam-Nabi Fai

International Jurists Union organized a four-day international conference between May 19-22, 2022, at Konya, Turkey on the subject, "Violations of the human rights in the Islamic world."

Jurists, academics and scholars from 40 countries attended the conference. The conference was co-sponsored by Istanbul Bar Association, Ankara Bar Association, Ankara-based HUDER Legal Research Association.

The conference in its declaration concluded the necessity of ensuring the human rights mechanism is activated; international conventions are made functional; international instruments to be impartially implemented for all people of the world; justice is internationally recognized and uniformly applied to all; and that the United Nations should fulfill its pledges made to the people since its inception.

The conference also discussed the issues of Palestine, Kashmir, Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan, Rohingya Muslims, Afghanistan, Egypt, Syria, East Turkistan, etc. The resolution adopted at the end of the conference called on the international community to play its role in giving Kashmiris and Palestinians the right to self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions and urgently preventing all kinds of human rights violations in Kashmir.

The Kashmiri delegation included: Abdul Rashid Turabi, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Dr. Waleed Rasool, Khalid Mahmood Khan, and Advocate Nasir Qadri.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General of World Kashmir Awareness Forum presented a 20 pages research paper on the subject, "The concept of self-determination and the issue of Kashmir." He said that the aim of this paper was not to appeal the conference participants' religious or ideological sympathies, nor to their leanings towards either



India or Pakistan, but solely to their conscience, human concern, and moral rectitude.

Dr. Fai added that the principle of self-determination and the maintenance of international peace and security are inseparable. For example, the denial of this right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir has brought India and Pakistan to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. The applicability of the principle of self-determination to the specific case of Jammu and Kashmir has been explicitly recognized by the United Nations. It was upheld equally by India and Pakistan when the Kashmir dispute was brought before the Security Council in 1948. Since, on the establishment of India and Pakistan as sovereign states, Jammu and Kashmir was not part of the territory of either, the two countries entered into an agreement to allow its people to exercise their right of self-determination under impartial auspices and in conditions free from coercion from either side. Unfortunately, these resolutions remain unfulfilled with catastrophic consequences.

It suits the guilty party, India, to quibble over the issue and make it look as abstruse and forbiddingly intricate. The false intricacy, in turn, provides an alibi to the world powers to temporize and postpone a just and fair settlement of the dispute. The cost is imposed on the people of Kashmir – in countless inquiries and deaths and intense suffering, Fai alerted.

Dr. Fai cautioned that India's occupation of Kashmir has been left

undisturbed by the international community, even though its validity has never been accepted. At no stage, however, have the people of Kashmir shown themselves to be reconciled to it. Kashmir's record of opposition to its annexation by the Indian Union, can by no standard be reckoned as less genuinely demonstrated than that of countries of Eastern Europe under the dominance of the Soviet Union and recently revealed during the Ukraine crisis. But while the popular revolt in the countries of Eastern Europe were and now in Ukraine is observed and reported by the international media, that in Kashmir has remained largely hidden from the world's view.

"It is hard to understand why, contrary to its traditional principled stand on the Kashmir dispute, the world powers have been in recent years treating the problem as if it were an uncharted terrain about which no road map exists. The United Nations has at its inception devoted immense labor and thought, extending over a hundred meetings of the Security Council with active U.S. participation, to its solution. The fact cannot be dismissed that the terms of settlement the United Nations worked out did elicit the signed agreement of both India and Pakistan. It may be admitted that those terms seem to be in need of revision in the light of current or emergent realities but their basis, the consent of the people of Kashmir, remains inviolable. Neither pragmatism nor morality would sanction the setting aside of that basis," Fai emphasized.

Fai demanded the unconditional release of Yasin Malik who is the most popular political resistance leader of Jammu & Kashmir. Yasin Malik is not a terrorist, Fai said as he quoted a prominent journalist of South Asia and former India High Commissioner to United Kingdom, Kuldip Nayar who called Yasin Malik the leader of non-violence in Kashmir. Bharat Bhushan, another Indian journalist said that Yasin Malik is trying to build a constituency for peace in Jammu and Kashmir through non-violence.

The nation of Kashmir knows that Yasin Malik has dedicated his life for peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute. Even Dr. Manmohan Singh, then the Prime Minister of India invited Yasin Malik for a sole purpose of initiating peaceful dialogue between India and Pakistan. It will be travesty of justice if these facts are ignored by the Supreme Court of India during the hearing on May 25, 2022, Fai added.

Abdul Rashid Turabi, former parliamentarian of Azad Kashmir assembly thanked the Government of Turkey for standing with the people of Kashmir at all times. Pakistan, he said, has always supported the Turkish position in Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Syria and elsewhere. And Turkey has responded not only by becoming symbol of humanity during the crisis in Pakistan but also in Azad Kashmir.

Abdul Rashid Turabi added that the grave situation in Kashmir demands that it could be brought to the attention of the Security Council. Whether this could be done successfully

depends on the attitude and policies of the permanent members, but they should be left in no doubt that any failure to resolve the problem could lead to serious disorders throughout the South Asian Subcontinent and possibly to yet another war between India and Pakistan, with incalculable consequences for the whole world, since both states now have nuclear capabilities.

Mr. Turabi demanded the immediate release of Yasin Malik, Sahabir Shah, Masarat Aalam, Aaasia Andrabi and others.

Dr. Waleed Rasool, Professor at Riphah University, Islamabad said that Kashmir dispute has legitimacy as per UN resolutions and international law. Therefore, India cannot misinterpret and misrepresent the situation in Kashmir unilaterally. He asked the conference attendees to uphold the legal interpretation of the justice everywhere. Lawyers are the guardians of the justice system not only domestically but also globally. However, their responsibility increases manifold when it comes the justice system of the people of occupied lands, like Kashmir.

Dr. Rasool emphasized that India killed more than 100,000 innocent civilians in Kashmir but she could not kill the sentiments and aspirations of the people for freedom and justice. Indian government is trying its best to bring the demographic changes in Kashmir to change a majority community into a minority one, Rasool Warned.

Jurists all over the world in general and in Turkey, in particular, can also play a vital role in highlighting the situation in Kashmir while our whole leadership is behind the bars for so many years. Turkey is an all-season friend of Pakistan and has their influence when it comes to multilateral diplomacy. Turkey can also play a role at UN

Cont. on page 14

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC REFUGEES IN MALI	\$130	\$70	NEPAL	\$210	\$70
CHAD	\$130	\$70	PAKISTAN	\$160	\$85
COLOMBIA	\$130	\$205	PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN	\$205	N/A
CONGOLESE REFUGEES IN KENYA	\$80	\$65	PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON	\$210	N/A
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	\$90	\$75	ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH	\$160	\$90
DJIBOUTI	\$140	\$90	ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN INDIA	\$170	\$65
DOMINICA	\$290	\$200	ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN INDONESIA	\$190	\$160
ECUADOR	\$210	\$150	ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN NEPAL	\$210	\$70
ETHIOPIA	\$100	\$85	ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN THAILAND	N/A	\$170
ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN KENYA	\$80	\$65	SOMALIA	\$100	\$70
ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN DJIBOUTI	\$140	\$90	SOMALILAND	\$100	\$70
GAMBIA	\$120	\$75	SOUTH AFRICA	\$130	\$105
GAZA (PALESTINE)	\$270	\$265	SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEES IN KENYA	\$80	\$65
GHANA	\$155	\$90	SRI LANKA	\$145	\$60
HAITI	\$130	\$100	SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN	\$205	N/A
INDIA	\$170	\$65	SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON	\$210	N/A
INDONESIA	\$135	\$130	SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY	\$205	N/A
IRAQI REFUGEES IN JORDAN	\$205	N/A	TANZANIA	\$85	\$65
JAMAICA	N/A	\$295	THAILAND	N/A	\$170
JORDAN	\$205	N/A	TURKEY	\$205	N/A
KENYA	\$80	\$60	UGANDA	\$85	\$65
KOSOVO	\$175	N/A	YEMENI REFUGEES IN DJIBOUTI	\$140	\$90
LEBANON	\$210	N/A	YEMENI REFUGEES IN JORDAN	\$205	N/A
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Hindu Fascists Concoct History To Serve The Upper-Caste Hegemony

by Dr. Aslam Abdullah

He is Mohan Bhagwat, the chief of the Hindu fascist organization, RSS, which believes in the supremacy of upper castes because the deity carved of stones and mired in mythology told him so.

The chief of the Hindu fascist organization, Mohan Bhagwat, would not want his party workers to look for Shivling in every mosque in India. Instead, he would prefer to endorse the presence of Shiva's Phallus in the Shahi Masjid located in Gayan Vapi locality of Varanasi, a city situated on the banks of the Ganges, a river revered by Hindus.

He backed his claim based on his narrative of the history of Islam in India. In his view, Islam came to India with Muslim invaders, who destroyed Hindu places of worship to demoralize Hindus. When Bhagwat refers to Hindus, he means twice-born or Brahmins, the upper caste who were the sole owners of temples. The

so-called lower castes were never part of the upper caste religious structure.

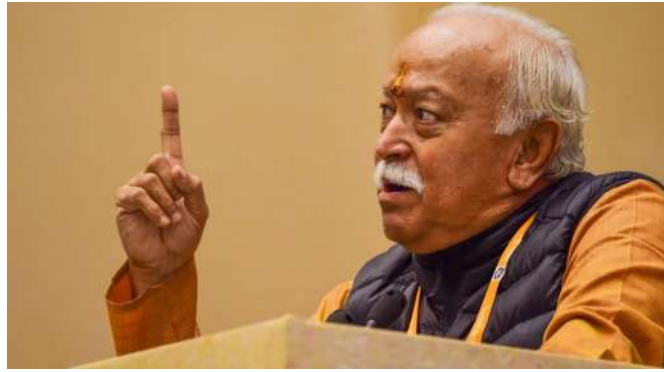
Bhagwat's statement exposes his one-sided view of history, devoid of historical facts. Some of them were as follows.

The Afghans, Iranians, Turks, or Arab armies did not introduce Islam to India. Instead, they came to India at the invitation of Hindu rulers, who wanted their fighting skills to subdue their Hindu rivals.

Traders and merchants introduced Islam to the people of India. Long before the arrival of foreign armies, people in certain parts of India were knowledgeable of Islam.

Monotheism was the call of earlier settlers in India. But over time, the upper castes changed it into polytheism to serve their religious and financial interests.

The foreign armies destroyed many institutions they considered hostile to their military expeditions, with the



connivance of their local Hindu supporters. The destruction of places of worship was part of political and military activities and not a religious mandate.

Many local communities admired Islam's simplicity, and many of them renounced their previous religion to accept Islam. In places where an overwhelming majority of the local population accepted Islam, the older houses of worship got replaced with mosques. Using some stones part of previous Hindu temples in mosques indicates this voluntary transition.

The conversion was voluntary and peaceful. Initial conversion came from the marginalized Hindu

communities, impressed with Islam's egalitarian values and simplicity.

Many present-day Muslims come from an ancestry that traces its roots to either the four main castes or untouchables.

The rejection of Hinduism was conscious with no regrets. On the contrary, it was the best decision majority of Muslims in India credit their forefathers.

They rejected polytheism, as they realized that deities carved of stones could not benefit or harm anyone.

They also rejected believing in mythology that promotes the worship of private parts of deities.

Bhagwat's statement

goes against all these historical facts. On the contrary, his purpose is to glorify the Hindu upper-caste domination. He and his supremacist party are nostalgic about a past where the so-called lower castes served others in a state of perpetual slavery. His occasional reference to the Codes of Manusmirti as India's constitution speaks of his dream kingdom that he calls Ram Rajya.

He might have incited his followers through his senseless statements, but he has exposed Hinduism's inherent weaknesses. First, in the world we live in today, no one would seriously accept the stratification of human society by birth as a means to determine people's social status. Secondly, polytheism would not be able to sustain itself in a rational and scientific world that realizes that that stone, however beautifully carved, would always remain stone devoid of any life.

IAMC Applauds Criticism Of India's Anti-Minority Persecution By US Secretary Of State Blinken, And Ambassador Rashad Hussain At Annual IRF Report Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, DC (June 2, 2022) – The Indian American Muslim Council, an advocacy organization dedicated to maintaining India's constitutional values of pluralism and democracy, today commended the US State Department on its 2021 International Religious Freedom Report, which represents a detailed account of massive violations of religious freedom and persecution of 280 million religious minorities in India.

"The report documents how religious freedom and rights of religious minorities are under threat around the world. In India, the world's largest democracy and home to great diversity of faiths, we have seen a



rise in attacks on people and places of worship," Secretary Blinken said while delivering the remarks.

In addition to covering the issues of harsh anti-conversion laws, cow vigilantism and mob lynchings, anti-Muslim attacks in Tripura state, detention of non-Hindus for imagined offenses, and mosque vandalisms, the report also mentioned several Hindu extremist leaders by name. These

include hate speaker Yati Narasinghanand, Hindu Mahasabha general secretary Sadhvi Annapurna, World Hindu Congress leader Swami Paramatmananda, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a close ally of Narendra Modi.

IAMC also welcomed the statement by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken for naming India alongside China, Myanmar, Nigeria, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and others

for threatening the rights of religious minorities during the release of the report.

IAMC further commended Rashad Hussain, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom for calling out the Indian government officials, who he said are "ignoring or even supporting rising attacks on people and places of worship."

"We welcome the US State Department's thorough coverage of the dangerous consequences of Hindu extremism in the 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom," said Syed Ali, President of IAMC. "It is important that the Biden administration now formally recognize Hindutva as a major threat to Indian democracy."

"We applaud Secretary Blinken and Ambassador Hussain for breaking the silence and publicly expressing concern regarding India's ongoing persecution of religious minorities," said Rasheed Ahmed, Executive Director of IAMC. "This is a major step in the right direction, and allows us to begin the long-overdue conversation about what the United States must now do to ensure the protection of India's 280 million minorities."

IAMC reiterates and calls on the US Department of State and Secretary Blinken to designate India a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) and apply sanctions for violations of religious freedom and state-sponsored persecution of Muslim and Christian minorities.

Cont. from page 6.
The Jan. 6 Committee

committee’s evidence and information obtained from a pile of more than 140,000 pages of records, Trump and his team were able to persuade millions of Americans to funnel cash into a legal defense fund that didn’t really exist.

The Trump campaign dubbed it the “Election Defense Fund,” plopping the name at the bottom or top of an array of email blasts and other campaign materials where he claimed that widespread voter fraud had rigged the election.

Mere days after the 2020 election, Lofgren said, the “Election Defense Fund” racked up a healthy \$100 million in donations so Trump could fight legal battles he knew were based on unfounded claims.

Other evidence turned up by the committee also shows that \$1 million went to a nonprofit foundation run by Mark Meadows, Trump’s chief of staff, called the Conservative Partnership Institute. The money that was originally raised to help Trump deflect his legal bills also went to the America First Policy Institute. The nonprofit think tank is composed of several former Trump administration officials, attorneys, and advisers.

The Trump campaign and its surrogates, Lofgren said Monday, “misled donors as to where their funds would go and what they would be used for.”

“So not only was there that big lie, there was the big rip-off. Donors deserve to know where their funds are really going. They deserve better than what President Trump and his team did,” she said.

The funds raised through the marketing blasts, some of which investigative counsel Amanda Wick said went out at the rate of 25 per day, also helped pay for the rally at the Ellipse on Jan. 6. Just over \$5 million was paid out to the responsible company, Event Strategies Inc.

Crucially, Trump’s fundraising based on false claims of election

fraud was unfolding well beyond Dec. 14, the deadline for all election contest litigation to be filed.

A “left wing mob” was stealing the election, one e-mailer from the Trump campaign said.

Hanna Allred, who once served on Trump’s reelection campaign, told the committee what she thought of the “legal defense fund” housing tens of millions of dollars in donor cash.

“I don’t believe there is actually a fund called the Election Defense Fund,” Allred testified.

Lofgren told CNN’s Jake Tapper that Kimberly Guilfoyle, who helped raise funds for the rally at the Ellipse, was paid a stunning \$60,000 to introduce her soon-to-be husband Donald Trump Jr. at that event.

Guilfoyle spoke for just three minutes.

The committee also heard testimony from Byung J. Pak, a former U.S. attorney for Georgia, and Philadelphia City Commissioner Al Schmidt. Both spoke briefly during the roughly three-hour-long hearing.

Pak said Barr came to him and asked him to make the fraud claims being shopped by Giuliani to Trump his first priority. Barr, Pak said, knew it would come up should Pak be hauled into the Oval and he wanted him to be prepared.

Pak testified that he reviewed video footage promoted by Giuliani, including a video that Giuliani insisted was proof that ballots were being stuffed into suitcases at State Farm arena in Georgia.

Close inspection of the “suitcase” revealed it was actually a wheeled lockbox meant to keep

was a suitcase of stolen ballots—was a “smoking gun” proving voter fraud.

Former Acting Attorney General Richard Donoghue did not appear in person Monday but when playing back a portion of his deposition, Donoghue is heard explaining how Trump would fixate on the “suitcase” conspiracy. Donoghue showed Trump the videos up close. There was no suitcase.

The scenario was no better in Pennsylvania.

Al Schmidt, the Philadelphia city commissioner who helped oversee the election in Pennsylvania, testified live on Monday.

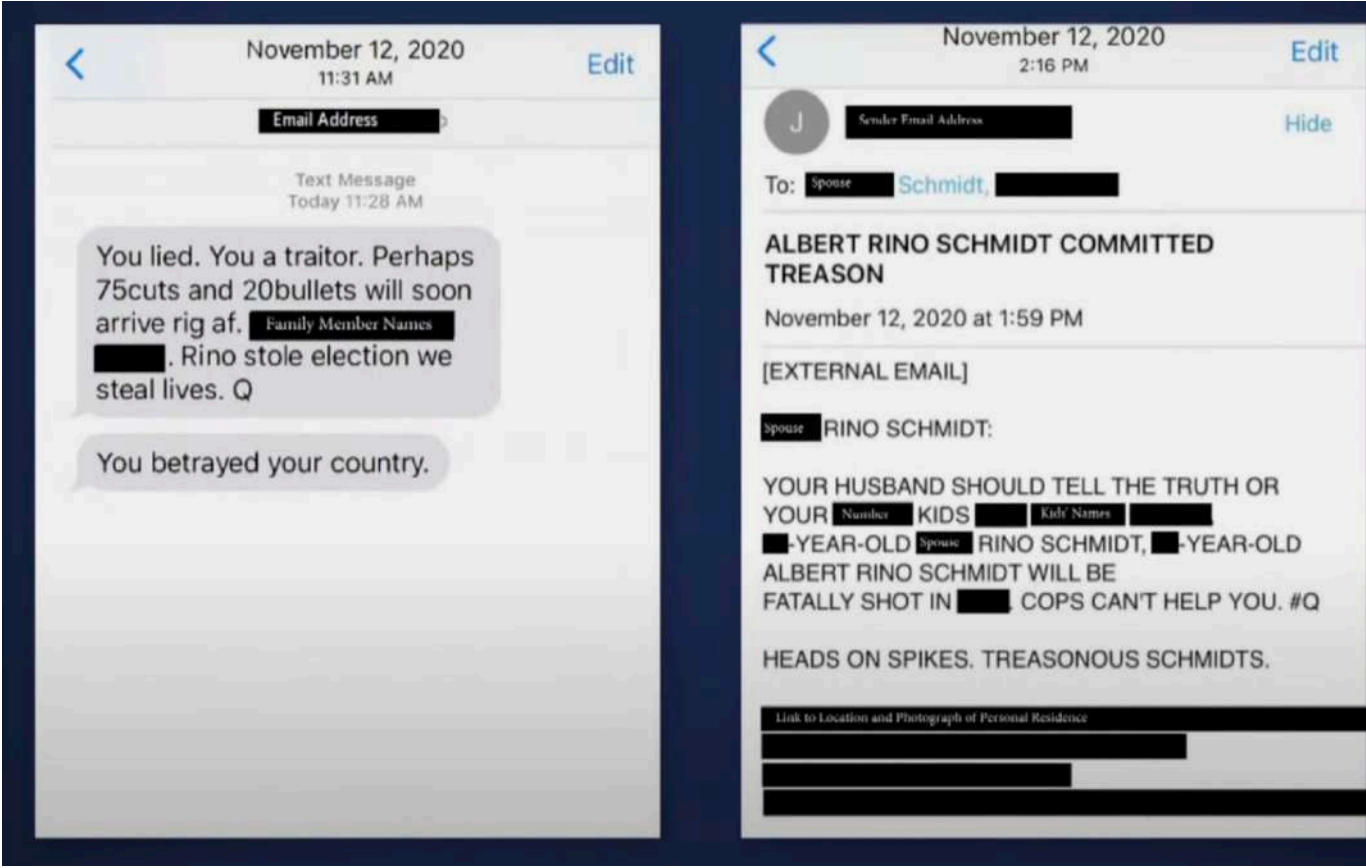
Schmidt was hated by Trump stalwarts because he vehemently rejected false claims of voter fraud and rebuffed Giuliani’s assertions to the Trump reelection campaign that dead voters were casting their votes in huge numbers for Biden.

became much more specific, much more graphic, and included not just me by name but included members of my family by name, their ages, our address, pictures of our home. Just every bit of detail you could imagine,” he said Monday.

In one message, Schmidt was told his family would have their heads put on spikes.

During the next hearing on Wednesday, June 15, the committee is expected to expand on how Trump’s scheme to replace senior members of the Justice Department unfolded once they refused to go along with a plan to spread election bunk.

There will be emphasis placed on Jeffrey Clark, vice chair Liz Cheney said Monday. Clark, a DOJ official, was sent to effectively work as Trump’s goon when he asked then-Acting Attorney General Jeffrey



“I’m not saying it’s a crime, but I think it’s a grift,” Lofgren said Monday.

She declined to get specific about how the committee determined this and did not elaborate on the potential criminality further.

Last November, text messages were uncovered showing that Guilfoyle may have had a hand in raising millions for the rally and boasted of securing a \$3 million donation from Publix heiress Julie Fancelli.

ballots safe.

Pak explained that there had been a misunderstanding that night at the arena. People were mistakenly told they were done counting the ballots and partisan poll watchers were told to go home. But the secretary of state’s office informed those at the arena that was a mistake and the votes were not done being counted just yet.

Giuliani had claimed publicly that the lockbox—which he said

“Not only was there no evidence of 8,000 dead voters voting, there wasn’t evidence of eight,” Schmidt said Monday.

Trump used Twitter to accuse Schmidt of being a media pawn and name-dropped him in a Tweet on Nov. 11, less than a week after the election.

This triggered a wave of threats to Schmidt and his family.

“After the president tweeted at me by name, calling me out in the way that he did, the threats

Rosen to send letters to election officials in Georgia and five other states affirming that the department had “significant concerns” over voter fraud.

When Rosen wouldn’t go along, Clark told him he could be ousted at Trump’s request. Clark was subpoenaed by the committee but refused to answer questions. He invoked his Fifth Amendment right protecting him against self-incrimination instead.

First Muslim Community Mental Health Conference Held In Houston

by Ilyas Hasan Choudry

Ibn Sina Foundation (ISF) in collaboration with prominent community organizations, arranged the first Muslim Mental Health Conference for Community Leaders in Houston, Texas on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Marriott Hotel Sugar Land, Texas.

Mental health is a great challenge faced by people from all walks of life. There is a huge disparity in access to mental health services, especially for lower-income communities.

The goal of the conference was to challenge the status quo and inform the community leaders on mental health status, sensitize them on mental health needs, and provide resources' information to promote mental health and wellness. The conference provided a unique platform to bring together community leaders, professionals, and partner organizations (public and private) to understand the mental health needs, address challenges faced by community leaders and navigate the individu-



als and families to the right resources. It also provided an opportunity to engage, discuss, and develop a better understanding of the prevalence, associated challenges and available resources in managing these conditions at the community level and connecting with partners and stakeholders.

More than 300 leaders and professionals from Texas and other States attended and benefited from the conference. Mayor Houston, Sylvester Turner, as Chief Guest; Congressman Al Green, Guest of Honor; and Attorney General, Keith Ellison, Guest of Honor, and other public officials attended this important conference.

They highly applauded Ibn Sina Foundation's struggle in improving the health & wellness of disadvantaged communities in Texas. They assured their fullest support and cooperation to promote mental health & wellbeing. Mayor Houston particularly said that he is excited to work with Ibn Sina Foundation on this critical and much-needed agenda of mental health.

Mr. Nasruddin Rupani Chairman Ibn Sina Foundation, thanked the participants and shared his great concerns on the current status of mental health of uninsured communities. He said that Foundation gives great importance to this challenge and assures extended support and

facilitation to overcome it. He added that the foundation's long-term plan includes the establishment of Islamic Medical University and Hospital to promote medical education, reduce the workforce gaps and address the unmet health needs of the communities at large.

Dr. Asim A Shah renowned and expert psychiatrist gave a detailed presentation on the status of mental health illnesses in the US and highlighted how COVID-19 pandemic affected the mental wellness of communities during the last two years.

Ibn Sina Foundation was established in 2001 by a

group of local physicians, business, and health-care professionals. The vision was to bridge the growing gap between the health care needs of a rapidly expanding population of underserved families and the ability of existing public health clinics to meet it. The Foundation's mission is to ensure the health of the community by providing integrated, preventive, and primary care in a clinical setting through the dissemination and application of health-related knowledge, thereby enhancing the quality of life for future generations. Ibn Sina Community clinics have been providing, low-cost medical, dental, behavioral, specialty and diagnostic services to low-income, uninsured, and indigent patients in the Greater Houston area for many years.

For further information contact:

Liaquat Khawaja, COO, Ibn Sina Foundation

Email: liaquat@ibnsinafoundation.org – Contact: 832 884 9715

Cont. from page 1. Commitment To Justice

nate a staunch pro-Palestinian community. Buddhists have no sympathy for Indian Muslims after their ethnic cleansing campaign of

Rohingyas in Myanmar and atheists believe Islam and Muslims impede liberalism and modernism.

Even the Muslim world is shy of extending support to the beleaguered Muslim community in India. Depending on their economic and political interests, most are neutral or silent on the plight of Muslims in India.

Muslims who were once the voice of justice worldwide are now feeble to defend their vulnerable? As a result, they are an easy target for the perpetrators of injustice.

Muslims generally blame their irreligious practic-

es for their plight. They believe that their conditions will improve once they become punctual in observing five essential pillars and commit Quran to their memory after learning to read it with proper pronunciation. Ninety-five percent of the discourses of their scholars and learned people focus on these two aspects. Yet conditions do not improve.

The secret of Muslims' success in the past was their unfailing commitment to justice and human dignity. Wherever they found injustice against anyone, they were the first to raise their voices and take action regardless of the consequences. Moreover, they were not selective in choosing a community, race, or ethnicity for their stand.

Justice was practical to them. It meant standing for those done wrong. Furthermore, before they

applied justice in their social life, they practiced it in their personal and family life.

Muslims today lack the commitment to justice in their social and personal lives. Instead, they have prejudices based on their race, culture, language, and religious faction. The prevalence of illiteracy and hunger among Muslims provides testimonies of their apathy toward each other.

Others know that the Muslim world does not care for each other or justice. They do not care about Muslim voices and reactions because there is none. The utter silence of the Muslim world on the ongoing genocidal attempts against Muslims encourages the fascists in India and elsewhere to continue pursuing their atrocities.

A few examples are worth noticing:

Despite their claims to stand for Muslim inter-

ests, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia endorsed communist China's ongoing discriminatory policies against Uighur Muslims.

The Gulf countries, and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, conferred the highest civilian award to the Indian Prime Minister Modi, knowing his involvement in the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat in 2002.

Maldives' government offered political asylum to the deposed Sri Lankan ruler responsible for atrocities against Muslims in his country.

On the issue of Kashmir, the Muslim world is generally silent. Pakistan raises the case when it intends to pick a fight with India.

The Muslim world and scholarship may be significant in extolling the virtues of justice, but they fall short of concrete action. Their record of challenging injustices within their communities

is dismal. Moreover, their apathy has led the world to believe that influential and affluent Muslims do not care about their weak and vulnerable.

This attitude severely affects Muslims in countries with a robust nationalist religious majority. The situation in India and Myanmar is dangerous for Muslim minorities. The possibility of genocide is a reality, and any indifference would bring disaster sooner than later.

How should Muslim communities facing these challenges deal with the situation? Relying on the Muslim world would not help. Each community has to strengthen itself internally to face the danger. It would require a reassessment of the situation in each country by the national leadership. However, it seems a daunting task at present.

CONTINUED STORY

Cont. from page 1.
Hajj Policy.

pilgrims, based on quotas set as a percentage of the Muslim population in the respective countries. Despite the Kingdom's stated intentions to streamline and optimize the Hajj booking system, the Motawif scheme is being met with substantial criticism and even condemnation. Thousands of pilgrims who have already booked their Hajj packages through tour brokers now face the nullification and cancellation of their existing plans. They will be responsible for pursuing refunds on their own, made more complicated as some made payment, in full or by a deposit as much as two years ago, and were made to defer till this year because of Covid restrictions on the Hajj. The brand-new system also is a portal to the unknown as it has

never been tested, even as a beta version; the 2022 Hajj is its real-time test case. Long-time Hajj tour organizers have voiced their outrage about the change in policy, understandably, because it portends to have a devastating economic impact on their businesses. Yet, many are highlighting the potential confusion and chaos that they believe will be an inevitable reality as the transition occurs. They claim that they have been working in the tour sector for several years and have had to navigate very difficult logistical challenges while working with the Saudi authorities and private entities in the Kingdom. Cultivating these relationships had been a prolonged process, requiring constant attention and adaptation to often arbitrary changes in attitude and rules. The tour organizers argue

that these systemic issues will plague the Hajj process despite overtures by the Saudi government that the new structure will be even more efficient than the previous scheme. They cite the inefficiency, unprofessional nature and lack of organization to be deeply embedded irrespective of new technology being employed. Hajj tour brokers also decry the uneven nature of the new Hajj booking system. First, it only applies to Western-based Muslims; those Muslims seeking to make the pilgrimage from elsewhere will continue to avail themselves of private tour organizers. The Saudi rebuttal is that the new system will be of great benefit to Muslims from the affected regions who are used to such technology and technology. But the selectively targeted market for the system has

raised concerns about privacy and data protection, and whether this is simply a ploy to single out and surveil Western-based Muslims. Thus far, there has been no official statement from the KSA government regarding measures to be taken that will safeguard potential data leaks or misuse. The new Motawif website does not currently affect the Umrah booking scheme; existing tour organizers may still operate as usual in this aspect of the pilgrimage market. But KSA has implemented several changes to the visa system, including allowing individuals to apply online directly and to perform Umrah without the requirement of a guide or tour package. In fact, any Muslim applying for either a tourist or business visa is automatically eligible for an included Umrah

permit. The Kingdom's \$50 billion infrastructure investment includes high-speed rail between Mecca and Medina, as well as direct access to a new, state-of-the-art terminal at Jeddah's international airport. As Saudi Arabia strives to soften its public image, which has often carried a negative perception worldwide, and moves to "open" the Kingdom to tourists and investors alike, the Hajj has now become part of its ambitious plans for reform and rejuvenation. How successful it is will depend in large part on how smoothly it operates and how well it can respond to the skepticism and suspicion that currently is running high, especially with this year's Hajj less than a month away.

Cont. from page 1.
Emails Show

Biden's popular-vote victory and choose "a clean slate of Electors." While she did not mention the candidates' names, the intent was clear due to her reference to fraud committed during the election and Joe Biden's popular-vote win in the state. Of the 29 lawmakers, about 20 were noted to be members of the Arizona House and at least seven Arizona state Senators. At the time the emails were sent, the emailed individuals represent more than half of the Republican members of the state legislature. According to The Post, Thomas sent the messages using FreeRoots, an online platform that allows for pre-written emails to be sent to mul-



iple elected officials at once. It came days after Biden was announced to have won. In it, Thomas urged lawmakers to "stand strong in the face of political and media pressure" and claimed it their responsibility to choose electors; "yours and yours alone," the email said. In another email dated Dec. 13, Thomas emailed 22 House members and one senator. According to The Post, this email was sent a day before members of the electoral college were to cast their

votes and seal Biden's victory. "Before you choose your state's Electors ... consider what will happen to the nation we all love if you don't stand up and lead," the email read. It linked to a video of a man urging swing-state lawmakers to "put things right" and "not give in to cowardice." While some lawmakers spoke to The Post and said Thomas' emails had no impact on their decisions, the fact she even sent them is shocking.

"That conflict of interest just screams at you," Adam Schiff said on MSNBC about the emails. Schiff serves on the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. He also noted Clarence Thomas's decision not to excuse himself from the case when Trump went to the Supreme Court in an attempt to block the House committee from getting access to his White House records. While the high court declined to block the release of those documents, Clarence Thomas was the only judge to side with him. "Here you have the wife of a Supreme Court justice," Schiff said, trying to "get Arizona to improperly cast aside the votes of millions. And also, to add to it, her husband on the Supreme

Court, writing a dissent in a case arguing against providing records to Congress that might have revealed some of these same emails." Ginni Thomas's involvement in the "Stop the Steal" movement does not end in a history of sending emails. In March, several outlets also obtained text messages she sent to Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, in 2020. In those messages, Thomas not only spread false information but also urged Meadows to fight to keep Trump in office. But of course, despite her attempts, Biden was certified as the winner in Arizona. We have yet to see how the Jan. 6 committee hearings will present these and any additional findings of Ginni Thomas' role in Jan. 6.

Cont. from page 8.
International Jurists

cil to highlight the human rights situation in Kashmir and specifically to urge the world community to intervene to save the life of Yasin Malik who is in the notorious Jail of India for the last three years. Advocate Nasir Qadri, Chairman, Legal Forum for Kashmir said India's occupation forces have occupied 10,54, 721 Kanals

Human Rights Council of land in Indian occupied Kashmir. On this land, 761 Indian army camps have been established in Kashmir. The structure and placement of the camps enforce contact between women, children and occupying forces and create context in which gendered violence is regularized. Qadri added that the recent upsurge in summoning people in police stations and counter-insurgency torture centers disabling social media accounts came as a by-product of the

'politics of fear' raising voices against the Indian state and brutalization of Kashmiri bodies, to visit police stations in one such example of the 'controlling' the flow of information. Khalid Mahmood khan, a member of the Board of Directors of the International Lawyers Union said jurists understand the dynamics of international law and the significance of world order. None other than jurists can understand the nuances how a powerful nation can in-

terpret and misinterpret human values. Jurists are the voice of the oppressed who have no representation in any legal system, therefore, they must act and work for humanity, like in Kashmir where the occupational forces had been given license to kill at will. The Indian forces have been equipped under domestic draconian law and have no accountability under the law, Qadri added.



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