



Dilawar Syed Makes History As Highest-Ranking Muslim Official In US Government

By: Aysha Qamar

After two years of being blocked, Dilawar Syed was confirmed as deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) on Thursday. According to the Associated Press, the Senate's confirmation makes Syed the highest-ranking Muslim official in the U.S. government. He was confirmed with a 54-42 vote.



Syed currently serves as a special representative for commercial and business affairs at the State Department. He now awaits the swearing-in for his new position, which is ranked as

the number two position at the Small Business Administration.

According to Politico, the confirmation was

made possible after five Republicans voted with Democrats to move the nomination forward on Wednesday.

Syed was nominated for the position in March 2021, but due to an equal number of Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Small Business Committee, Republicans were able to block voting for two years.

Republicans cited several reasons to block Syed's nomination, including SBA payouts to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood – a reason unrelated to Syed, according to Politico. The Pakistani-American was also accused of belonging to an "anti-Israel" Muslim American group.

Several interfaith orga-

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Over 100 Muslim Scholars And Leaders Release Statement On Islam's Position On LGBT

By Yousuf Ali

Over 100 Islamic scholars and leaders released a statement regarding Islam's position on homosexuality shortly before LGBTQ+ pride month on May 26t. The statement expresses concern over the promotion of LGBTQ-centric values to children through



legislation, which they argue disregards parental consent and religious freedom.

They reject the notion that moral disagreement equals intolerance or incitement of violence and

emphasize their right to express their beliefs while peacefully coexisting with those who differ. The scholars affirm that Islam's morality is derived from divine

Cont. on page 14

Fans Upset Over Marvel Announcement Muslim Hero Ms. Marvel's Death



Marvel Comics officially announced the death of Ms. Marvel in the next issue of The Amazing Spider-Man. Fans across the world are up-

set and outraged as Ms. Marvel represents not only the first Muslim but first Pakistani superhero in the Marvel universe.

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FOUNDER

A. RAHEMAN NAKADAR, M.D.

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dr. Aslam Abdullah

dr.aslamabdullah@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Aysha Qamar

editor@muslimobserver.com

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Javeria Ahmed

marketing@muslimobserver.com

COPY EDITOR

Nida A. Imam

CHICAGO COORDINATOR

Mujeeb Osman

chicago@muslimobserver.com

HOUSTON COORDINATOR

Ilyas Choudry

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Lawsuit Alleges State Department Forced Muslim Security Guard To Shave Beard



by Kathryn Post

When Devin Brooks reported for training in West Virginia early last year for his new security guard gig at the U.S. Department of State, he was pulled aside and told his beard violated the agency's facial hair policy.

The news was a shock to Brooks, who said he had been assured in November 2021 by a third-party recruiter that the job would allow him to maintain a fist-length beard, as required by his Islamic faith.

A lawsuit filed Wednesday (May 3) by the Council on American-Islamic Relations against Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the State Department claims Brooks was forced to shave his beard to keep his job and afterward was "denied permission to maintain a beard longer than ½ inch." Rather than accommodate Brooks' beliefs, the agency removed him from active duty and later placed him on administrative leave, then unpaid leave, according to the lawsuit.

CAIR alleges the Department of State's refusal to provide religious accommodation violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of religion, and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which prevents the

government from substantially burdening a person's free exercise of religion. The lawsuit requests payment for economic damages and emotional harm, along with other damages and fees.

"Nobody should be forced to choose between their faith and their job," said Hannah Mullen, a staff attorney for CAIR, in a press release. "The Department of State could have easily accommodated Mr. Brooks. Bureaucracy and a lack of respect for religion are not defenses to Title VII and RFRA." A State Department spokesperson informed Religion News Service that they do not comment on pending litigation.

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"As a result of Defendants' unlawful actions, Brooks has suffered a loss of earnings, wages, seniority, and benefits, a loss of earning capacity, a loss of future earnings, a loss of enjoyment of life, embarrassment, humiliation, emotional distress and related damages," the lawsuit says. "Defendants acted with malice and reckless indifference to Brooks's federal protected rights."

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Op Ed: The Demise Of Ummati Muslimah And Need To Rethink



By Zubair Ahmad Sheikh

The Muslim Ummah has a rich history of producing prolific scholars, scientists, and intellectuals who shared their knowledge and wisdom with the world. They did not limit themselves to their own nation but provided opportunities for other nations to benefit from their teachings. Islamic universities were once the center of learning and attracted students from all over the world, including non-Muslims who went on to enlighten the West with new scien-

tific discoveries.

However, the current state of education in the Muslim Ummah is far behind what it used to be. Many Muslims have shied away from learning various sciences and arts, believing they are too worldly and irrelevant to their faith. This has led to a decline in education and contributed to the backwardness of the Muslim Ummah.

“We have counted the legacy we received from our ancestors; the sky has hit us on earth with a meteor.” This verse reflects the loss of the

Muslim Ummah’s glory and how they have been hit with a great calamity. The metaphor of the meteor signifies the destruction of their once-great civilization and the current state of humiliation and despair that plagues the Muslim Ummah.

The indifference of the Muslim Ummah to prioritize tertiary issues over real ones is another reason for their lag in progress for example Muslims are still deciding and fighting over a tertiary issue that whether to tie hands in namaz, should we say

ameen loudly or not, etc.

The world is rapidly moving forward, but unfortunately, the Muslim Ummah has fallen behind in this race. They need to exert their identity and remove despair from their hearts. The infidels who once learned from Muslim universities are now plotting against Muslims and trying to tarnish the name of Islam. Muslims must be prepared to defend Islam and work courageously to develop a revolutionary mindset, as it is necessary for revolution.

In conclusion, the

Muslim Ummah must recognize the value of education in all fields and work towards achieving progress and prosperity. They must prioritize real issues and work together to overcome the challenges that face them. With determination, perseverance, and a revolutionary mindset, the Muslim Ummah can once again achieve greatness and become a powerful force in the world.

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Erdogan Reelected As President Of Turkey In 2023 Election

By Yousuf Ali

Turkey held a runoff presidential election between Kemal Kilicdaroglu and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Erdogan prevailed with more than 52% of the vote despite facing challenges caused by the economic situation and Turkey's preparation and response to the earthquakes earlier this year on Sunday, May 28.

This came 2 weeks after an initial round where Erdogan fell .5% short of the required 50% to win outright. Erdogan has ruled Turkey as Prime Minister or President for over 20 years. According to Al Jazeera, "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has won re-election, according to the country's Supreme Election Council and unofficial data from the state-run Anadolu Agency, in a tense run-off after he failed to secure more than 50 percent of votes



required for an outright victory in the first round on May 14. With almost all of the votes counted, Erdogan received 52.14 percent of votes in the second round on Sunday, beating his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who

won 47.86 percent, according to the Supreme Election Council."

This result will mean Erdogan will likely rule Turkey for at least 25 years, even longer than the founder of the modern country, Mustafa

Kemal Ataturk. In his victory speech, Erdogan promised to address the country's challenges.

Despite his victory, this was the closest result Erdogan had ever faced. Erdogan declared it not just as his victory but a

victory for Turkey itself.

According to Al Jazeera, "Erdogan added that healing the wounds of the February earthquakes and rebuilding the cities and towns destroyed in the natural disaster would continue to be among his priorities. "Our hearts and hands will continue to be on the earthquake region," Erdogan said. In his first comments after it became clear that Erdogan would continue as president, Kilicdaroglu said that he would continue what he termed a "struggle for democracy."

Kilicdaroglu said the loss was because the state apparatus had supported Erdogan and has not resigned despite calls to do so. Also, Erdogan emphasized his Islamic background in the campaign even holding one of his rallies at the Hagia Sophia which he reconverted to a masjid.

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Shia Muslim Scholars Denied Entry Into US

Suspect Religious Bias

By Samira Asma-Sadeque from *The Guardian*

It took the US consulate seven minutes to reject Nabil Ahmed Shabbir's visa application.

Shabbir, a British Shia scholar, had applied for his US visa to assist with the birth of his first child. His wife, an American Shia Muslim, wanted to have the birth in the US.

Shabbir hadn't even left the embassy gate after handing in his visa application when he got a text message saying it had been rejected.

Shabbir, whose work had brought him to the US dozens of times before this rejection in 2020, did not think obtaining a visa would be an issue.

Instead, he had to watch his firstborn's birth via WhatsApp video.

Shabbir is one of numerous Shia scholars who have been repeatedly – and unexpectedly – denied entry to the US in the past decade, despite their prior travel to the country for work purposes, raising concerns that they are being deliberately excluded because of their religion.

Despite traveling to the US regularly for five years on a valid 10-year visa, Shabbir was stopped at the airport in 2019 and detained for five hours, facing questions about the intent of his visit.

He was traveling with his wife, but was asked why he had invitations from years ago from American organizations – which fed his suspicion that officials had gone through his email.

He was eventually allowed to enter, but once he returned from the US, he received a notification that his visa had been revoked.

This revocation – unceremonious, without a specific reason and out of the blue – fits a pattern that has been experienced by many Shia scholars.

Mohammad Ali Naquvi,



cofounder and chair of the American Muslim Bar Association (AMBA), said his organization had documented denials or revocations of more than 50 Shia scholars in the past decade.

Some were denied entry as they were about to board a US-bound flight, some were denied entry after arriving in the country and forced to turn back despite having a valid visa – and some like Shabbir still remain in a limbo of “administrative processing”.

“It has a burden on the religious practice of Shia Muslims in the US, not being able to have the scholars here,” Abed Ayoub, national executive director at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), said. “Not being able to have your religious events because of immigration enforcement is very problematic.”

The issue has been going on for a long time. Sheikh Jihad Ismail, an Australian Shia scholar, was about to board his flight to Albany from Dubai in 2014 when he was told he couldn't fly into the US. This threw him off, especially because he had visited the US nearly 20 times since 2002, giving talks and engaging with the Shia community in the country. His visa has been under “administrative processing” for six years. According to Naquvi, there are some “adminis-

trative processing” cases that go back nine years.

Both Ismail and Shabbir know numerous other scholars going through similar experiences. Ismail recalled the story of a friend who was recently made to return on the next flight after arriving in the US.

Many of these scholars are from English-speaking countries such as the UK, Canada and Australia.

There is no solid reason to which anyone in the community can point to explain why so many Shia scholars have been denied entry, but they say they have their suspicions.

Ayoub traces the issue back to the San Bernardino shooting in 2015, in which the shooters had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

This was followed by the Obama administration passing the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, which disqualified the visa waiver for applicants from 40 countries if they had made any trips to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen on a government assignment or military order.

This is tricky because Shia pilgrimages, including the ziyarah, take place in Iran and Iraq.

Nearly all Shia scholars have visited or regularly visit these countries,

which automatically puts them under scrutiny under the law.

“Because you're seeing a big number of individuals coming from visa waiver countries, what we believe is happening is the consular officers at the state department are misreading this law,” Ayoub said.

“What they're doing, in our opinion, is yes, the individual may not qualify for visa waiver, but they're holding the same standard in even issuing a visa,” he added.

That still doesn't explain why Ismail was denied the visa in 2014, before the San Bernardino shooting, feeding further confusion among the scholars. It's clear that there is a pattern that holds true for all these instances, yet nobody can pinpoint the exact issue that would uniformly justify these cases.

This has a grave impact for Shia Americans, especially the current generation.

For a religion with a rich practice of cultural and knowledge exchange across borders, Shabbir said there is an immense value English-speaking scholars have in reaching the current generation, and these visa denials hamper that education.

If scholars like himself aren't allowed to teach in the US, the other option for such exchange programs is to invite scholars from countries where

they may not understand British or American culture, and the culture gap could become a barrier.

“Those young people then find it very difficult to consolidate their faith and the culture they are living in,” he said.

“They see the western culture as something inherently bad, and if they're going to be religious that means they have to be against western culture,” he added. “Whereas it's not the case – but they won't know that until they are presented with a western scholar who has grown up through the system.”

But there are signs of progress. Ayoub said the Trump administration assisted on some individual cases, and activists are now in talks with Biden administration officials who Ayoub said had been “very receptive”.

Those like Shabbir hope the doors open up soon. For him, beyond giving talks as a religious scholar, he misses the opportunity to visit his in-laws, with whom his wife has been staying for a few months to take care of her mother. This means he has to go months without seeing his wife or child.

“It's not just the visa rejection,” he said. “There's just so much more that ends up being attached to it.”

Almost 80 Schoolgirls Poisoned, Hospitalized In Northern Afghanistan

Nearly 80 girls were poisoned and hospitalized in two separate attacks at their primary schools in northern Afghanistan, a local education official said Sunday.

It is thought to be the first time this kind of assault has happened since the Taliban swept to power in August 2021 and began their crackdown on the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls.

Girls are banned from education beyond sixth grade, including university, and women are barred from most jobs and public spaces.

The education official said the person who orchestrated the poisoning had a personal grudge but did not elaborate.

The attacks took place in Sar-e-Pul province over Saturday and Sunday.

Nearly 80 female students were poisoned in Sangcharak district, said



Mohammad Rahmani, who heads the provincial education department. He said 60 students were poisoned in Naswan-e-Kabod Aab School and 17 others were poisoned in Naswan-e-Faizabad School.

“Both primary schools are near to each other and were targeted one

after the other,” he told The Associated Press. “We shifted the students to hospital and now they are all fine.”

The department’s investigation is ongoing and initial inquiries show that someone with a grudge paid a third party to carry out the attacks, Rahmani said.

He gave no information on how the girls were poisoned or the nature of their injuries. Rahmani did not give their ages but said they were in grades 1 to 6.

Neighboring Iran has been rocked by a wave of poisonings, mostly in girls’ schools, dating back to last November.

Thousands of students said they were sickened by noxious fumes in the incidents. But there has been no word on who might be behind the incidents or what — if any — chemicals have been used.



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Turning Away From The West, Russia Seeks To Strengthen Economic Ties With The Muslim World

by *Etienne Bouche*

The Russia-Islamic World Forum will begin in Kazan, southwest Russia, on Thursday. The two-day event was first held in 2009 and aims to strengthen economic ties between Russia and Muslim countries. In the wake of a rupture between Russia and the West, these ties are now part of a shifting world order.

The decision to hold the 2023 edition of the Russia-Islamic World forum in Kazan is symbolic: the capital of Tatarstan, located some 800km east of Moscow, is seen by the Russian state as a successful example of multiculturalism and peaceful religious coexistence.

Russia is home to some 15 million Muslim citizens “in the sense that they belong to ethnic groups with cultural foundations linked to Islam. Not all are believers or practising Muslims,” according to a report from the French Institute for International Relations.

As a whole, Muslims make up 10% of the Russian population, with most living in the Caucasus – the area of land that separates the Caspian and Black Seas – and the Volga-Ural region.

Muslims have lived in Tatarstan, in the Volga district, for centuries and the Tatar population (descended from largely Muslim Turkic ethnic groups) is Russia’s largest ethnic minority group.

“Tatarstan is one of the richest regions in Russia so also serves as an economic showcase,” says Ivan Ulises Kentros Klyszcz, researcher at the International Centre for Defence and Security in Tallinn, Estonia. “As Tatarstan attracts investments and is a hub for industries it has an image that corresponds very well with Russia’s pragmatic economic approach.”

The forum in Kazan aims to strengthen economic, cultural and intellectual ties between Russia and



the 57 member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), an organisation founded in 1969 to represent the “collective voice of the Muslim world” and jointly protect member states’ interests.

Muslim identity

Although Russia is not a full member of the OIC, in 2003, President Vladimir Putin was the first head of state from a non-majority Muslim country to be invited to speak at an OIC summit. Just three years into his first presidency Putin aimed to improve Russia’s image in the Islamic world after wars against Muslim populations in Chechnya (located in the Caucasus) and Afghanistan.

Two years later, Putin scored a diplomatic victory when Russia was admitted to the OIC as an observer state.

“The integration of Russia into the organisation came in the context of new tensions with the US, notably concerning Iraq, and was also a response to Saudi Arabia’s desire to recalibrate its relationship with the US,” says Igor Delanoë, Deputy Head of the French-Russian Analytical Center Observo (CCI France-Russia) in Moscow.

It also allowed Russia to claim a sense of belonging in the Muslim world, a position Putin has always been keen to emphasise. The president has historically promot-

ed Russia’s religious and ethnic diversity as a foreign relations tool in order to position the country as a key mediator between West and East.

‘Parallel diplomacy’

In order to maintain influence within Muslim countries, Russia created a “strategic vision group” in 2006, led today by Rustam Minnikhanov, head of Tatarstan. The Arab spring uprisings in the early 2010s saw the group’s work take a backseat but it has increased activities since Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the sanctions from the West that followed.

This initial rupture with the West sparked an increase in economic activity between Russia and the Middle East that both parties welcomed. “Generational shifts among the monarchies in the Gulf States allowed for closer ties – for younger heads of state the wars in Afghanistan and Chechnya belong in the history books,” says Delanoë.

Russian leaders with Muslim backgrounds are often used as diplomatic “messengers” to foster relationships, adds Delanoë. In March 2022, for instance, Minnikhanov met with President Macky Sall on a visit to Senegal.

“This parallel diplomacy is done in a coordinated way, in line with the Kremlin’s political agenda,” says Klyszcz.

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov has also taken an active role in building relationships with Gulf states in which shared religious identity plays a key role. In 2018 and 2022, he performed the Haj in Saudi Arabia, meeting with Saudi leadership during both visits.

Fighting ‘side-by-side’

As the war in Ukraine is reshaping international relations around the globe, it is sure to influence the coming summit in Kazan. In Moscow there is a clear intention to refocus strategic and economic partnerships away from the West. In March, the Kremlin released a new foreign policy outlook featuring the word “Islamic” for the first time and stating an intention to deepen ties with Muslim countries, along with countries in Africa and South America.

After the Russia-Islamic World Forum in May, the second ever Russia-Africa summit will take place in St Petersburg in July.

This evolution in foreign policy is part of “a narrative that these countries are important in rearranging the world order” says Klyszcz.

To further drive home the message, Russia has been taking pains to differentiate its foreign policy approach from that of the West. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov has spoken repeatedly about Western “colonial”

attitudes towards the rest of the world, tapping into an undercurrent of discontent with the US, in particular.

“Within the Muslim world, Russia is certainly better perceived than the West, but this positive impression has been exaggerated by propaganda,” says Klyszcz.

Anti-Western sentiment is also contributing to misconceptions about realities in Ukraine, he says. And the presence of a significant number of soldiers from the Caucasus on the ground has helped to create an online narrative of Russia fighting “side-by-side with Muslims”.

‘Undoing globalisation’

As many countries around the world have been outspoken in their support for Ukraine, others have remained silent, wary of making economic and diplomatic sacrifices in the name of a distant, “imperial” conflict.

Some Muslim countries refused to vote to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council in April 2022, and the Global South has largely opted out of sanctions against Russia decided on by the US and Europe.

It is the Global South that Russia now seems intent on winning over – and the feeling may be mutual.

“The break with Russia may be considered a Western victory in Europe, but in the Global South there is no Western victory. On the contrary, the war is accelerating fragmentation, undoing globalisation and causing regionalisation of strategic blocs and economic ties,” says the French Institute for International Relations report.

“Regional powers are learning from how the West is waging economic war against Russia and are reinforcing their own independence from Western institutions.”

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Bahamas	\$285		Myanmar(Burma)		\$80
Bangladesh	\$170	\$105	Nepal	\$215	\$75
Bosnia	\$215		Pakistan	\$155	\$80
Brazil	\$125	\$80	Palestinian Refugees in Jordan	\$230	
Burundi	\$80	\$70	Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon	\$150	
Cambodia	\$200	\$120	Peru	\$140	\$235
Cameroon Refugees in Chad		\$70	Philippines	\$145	\$235
Central African Republic Refugees in Chad		\$70	Poland	\$135	
Central African Republic Refugees in Mali		\$80	Republic of Congo	\$160	\$75
Chad		\$70	Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh	\$170	\$105
Colombia	\$180		Rohingya Refugees in India	\$155	\$60
Congolese Refugees in Kenya	\$70	\$55	Rohingya Refugees in Indonesia	\$190	\$160
Congolese Refugees in Tanzania	\$90	\$65	Rohingya Refugees in Nepal	\$215	\$75
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	\$160	\$75	Rohingya Refugees in Thailand		\$150
Djibouti	\$125	\$90	Romania	\$140	
Dominica		\$235	Sierra Leone	\$260	\$160
Dominican Republic	\$150		Somalia	\$105	\$65
Ecuador	\$190	\$170	SomaliLand	\$105	\$65
Ethiopia	\$100	\$70	South Africa		\$105
Ethiopian Refugees in Djibouti	\$125	\$90	South Sudan Refugees in Kenya	\$70	\$55
Ethiopian Refugees in Kenya	\$70	\$55	Sri Lanka	\$145	\$60
Gambia		\$75	Sudan (Khartoum)	\$100	\$115
Gaza (Palestine)	\$310	\$255	Sudanese Refugees in Jordan	\$225	
Ghana	\$160	\$105	Syria	\$230	
Guyana	\$275	\$180	Syrian refugees in Jordan	\$230	
Haiti	\$110	\$100	Syrian Refugees in Lebanon	\$150	
India	\$155	\$60	Syrian Refugees in Turkey	\$230	
Indonesia	\$135	\$130	Tanzania	\$90	\$65
Iraqi Refugees in Jordan	\$230		Thailand		\$150
Jamaica		\$290	Togo	\$210	\$65
Jordan	\$230		Trinidad and Tobago	\$460	\$235
Kashmir (Azad)	\$150	\$80	Tunisia	\$205	\$150
Kashmir Valley	\$185	\$90	Turkey	\$230	
Kenya	\$70	\$55	Uganda	\$90	\$60
Kosovo	\$185	\$255	Ukrainian Refugees in Poland	\$135	
Laos	\$155	\$115	Ukrainian Refugees in Romania	\$140	
Lebanon	\$150		Uyghur Refugees in Turkey	\$230	
Macedonia	\$190	\$170	Venezuelan Refugees in Peru	\$140	\$235
Madagascar	\$140	\$75	Vietnam		\$135
Malawi	\$95	\$70	Yemeni Refugees in Djibouti	\$125	\$90
Malaysia	\$335	\$175	Yemeni Refugees in Jordan	\$230	
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Islamic Scholar Tariq Ramadan Acquitted Of Swiss Rape Charges

By Yousuf Ali

Professor Tariq Ramadan was acquitted of rape charges in his native Switzerland on Wednesday, May 24. In 2017, the Oxford professor was accused of rape by Henda Ayari which led to several other charges in both France and Switzerland. He has always maintained his innocence of the allegations. In addition, during the time Ramadan was imprisoned, his health declined because of inadequate treatment for his Multiple Sclerosis.

The original accuser Ayari was forced to modify aspects of her account when it was shown that she was not in the location she claimed to be when she was allegedly raped. In the latest verdict, the accuser was a Swiss convert to Islam referred to by the pseudonym of Brigitte.

According to Al Jazeera, "The academic was also awarded about 151,000 Swiss francs (\$167,000) in damages from the Swiss canton of Geneva. After the verdict was read in the court, the 60-year-old Swiss preacher smiled and was hugged by one of his daughters. His 57-year-old Swiss accuser, identified under the assumed name of "Brigitte", left the courtroom before the end of the verdict. The woman had accused Ramadan of raping her in a Geneva hotel in 2008."

This was the first time the academic had been formally tried in France or Switzerland for the rape accusations. Ramadan says the accusations were made because of his role as a prominent European Muslim leader and told the court to judge the case on his merits rather than him personally.

Even before the accusations, Ramadan was a famous yet controversial figure for his role as a leading public intellectual in the European Muslim community. He had said that Muslims should embrace their identities as Western-



ers while criticizing the failures of their nations both at home and abroad. The allegations have impacted his career as he took a leave of absence to contest the claims and formally retired in 2021. Ramadan says the

allegations were a trap to discredit him since he was a leading Muslim public figure. The allegations came as part of the wider #MeToo movement.

According to The Guard-

ian, the plaintiff's lawyer said "She told the truth," Robert Assael, one of Brigitte's lawyers, had told the court during the three-day hearing, adding: "Could such a story be invented with so many details?"

She does intend to appeal. The alleged attack took place in 2008 in France. Ramadan also held visiting roles in Qatar and Morocco in addition to his previous post at Oxford.

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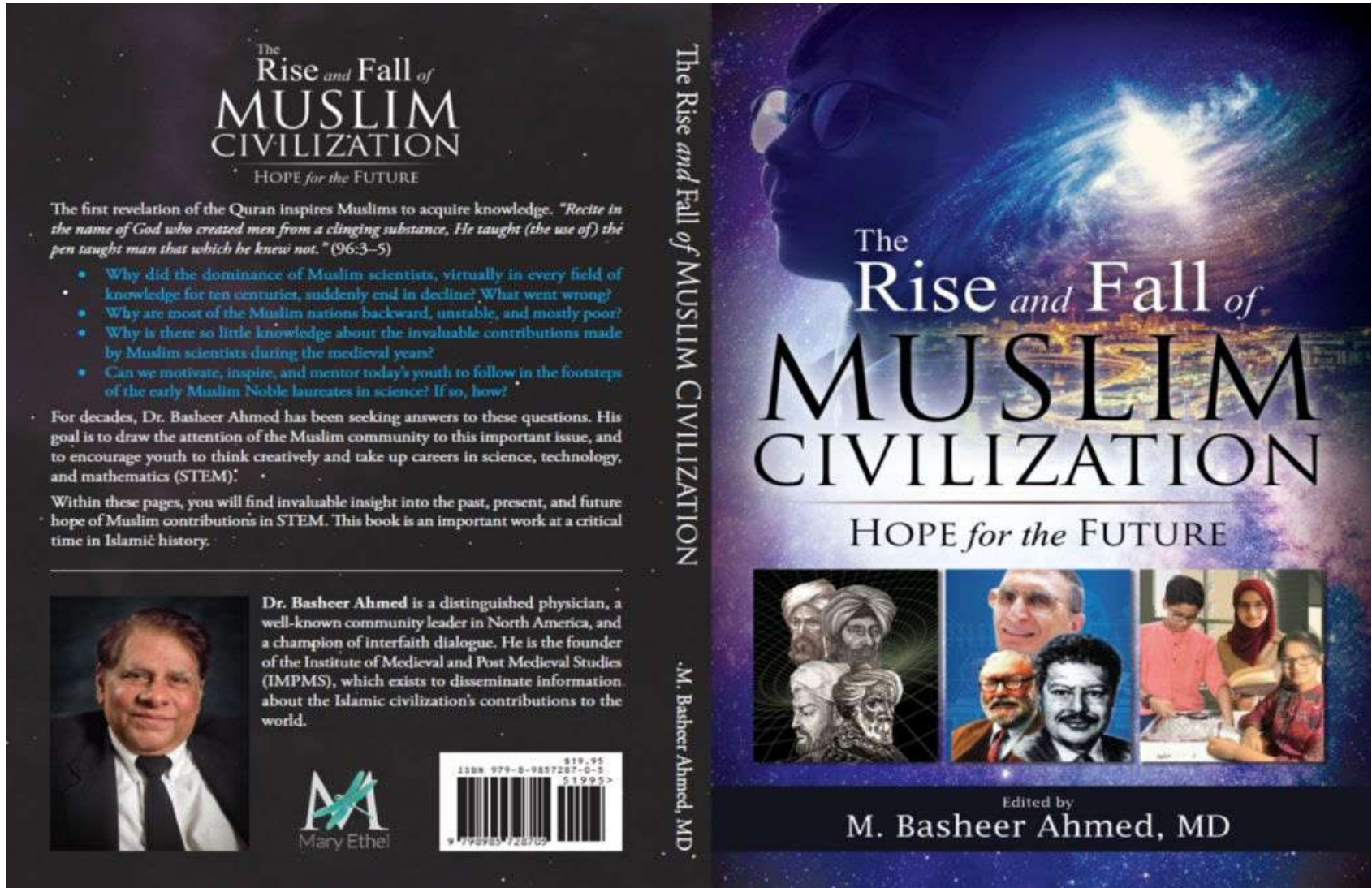
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Dr. Ahmed's Latest Book "The Rise And Fall Of Muslim Civilization, Hope For The Future Received The Next Generation Indie Book Awards



by TMO Staff

2023 Next Generation Indie Book Awards announce Dr. Basheer Ahmed's latest book, "The Rise and Fall of Muslim Civilization: Hope for the Future," as winner.

In his latest book, "The Rise and Fall of Muslim Civilization: Hope for the Future," Dr. Basheer Ahmed offers fresh insight and perspective on Muslim history and con-

tributions of innovative developments in Science, Technology, and Mathematics (STEM) over a period of eight centuries.

Many Muslims may be wondering, why did the dominance of Muslim scientists in every field of knowledge for almost eight centuries (7th-15th) suddenly end in decline? Why are most of the Muslim nations now educationally backward, behind in industrial and

scientific development, and poor? What went wrong?

From the 12th century on, universities in the Islamic world gradually stopped teaching science and philosophy, and all scientific laboratories and observatories were closed or destroyed. From the 15th century onward Muslims have done very little scientific work or published any book on any scientific

subject. Within the pages of this book, Dr. Ahmed investigates the questions.

The book is more than a treatise; it is an anthology of Islamic sciences. It introduces the reader to the intellectual giants of the classical Islamic era and provides a roadmap of how learning flourished and then gradually declined.

Rich in historical background, the reader

discovers the details of the rise and fall of the great Muslim civilization during the medieval years, but this book contains more than the history and development of STEM. It provides innovative solutions to bring about hope for days ahead for the youth of the world to step back into identifying problems and developing solutions to impact some of the

Cont. on page 13

Dem Maryland Official Says Muslim Children Aligned With 'White Supremacists' For Opposing LGBTQ Curriculum

by TMO Staff

A Democratic member of a Maryland city council blasted Muslim children as on the side of "White supremacists" after they spoke out against sexuality discussions and materials in classrooms during a heated school board meeting Tuesday evening.

"This issue has unfortunately does put... some Muslim families on the same side of an issue as White supremacists and outright bigots," said Democrat Kristin Mink

of Montgomery County Council for District 5. "I would not put you in the same category as those folks, although, you know, it's complicated because they're falling on the same side of this particular issue."

Mink made the remark after Muslim children from the district spoke out against their parents' inability to opt them out of lessons they deemed violated their faith. She argued Muslim families

Cont. on page 14



CAIR Sues Michigan Sheriff's Office Over Alleged Forced Hijab Removal

by Aysha Qamar

The Michigan Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a prominent Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, is suing the Kent County Sheriff's Office, alleging that a Muslim woman was forced by police to remove her head covering for a mugshot.

The lawsuit alleges that Jannah Hague of Grand Rapids was made to take off her hijab following her arrest, as reported by Michigan News Connection. She was then released without charges.

According to a press release dated May 30, the photo was subsequently displayed on the sheriff's office public website.

The incident in question transpired on April 8 when Hague was arrested by the Kent County Sheriff's Department following a domestic dispute at her residence, as per CAIR's account. Upon being transported to Kent County Jail, she was allegedly compelled to remove her hijab in the presence of male officers and detainees.

While Hague was initially allowed to take her identification photo with her hijab intact, a male officer reportedly informed her that she had to pose for a second photo without it. CAIR claims that forcing Hague to take another photo without her hijab breached the sheriff's office's written policy regarding religious head coverings.

"Muslim women have the right to their sincerely-held religious



expression even when interacting with law enforcement," stated Dawud Walid, CAIR-MI Executive Director.

He continued, "Law enforcement officers involved in Ms. Hague's detention require improved religious competency and rights training to ensure no Muslim woman is ever stripped of her hijab in public again."

Following the initial filing on May 30, CAIR submitted a claim of notice seeking adjustment and compensation on Monday.

This incident is neither isolated nor unique to the Kent County Sheriff's Office. Several similar lawsuits have been

lodge by CAIR, including a federal class-action lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Corrections on behalf of more than 15 women, alleging forced hijab removal for mugshots.

"What CAIR-MI has observed is that law enforcement agencies across Michigan, including those in cities with significant Muslim populations, often lack basic understanding of the hijab's religious and spiritual significance," CAIR-MI staff attorney Amy V. Doukoure told *The Messenger*.

She said that lack of understanding directly infringes upon a Muslim woman's constitutionally protected religious

rights, causing embarrassment and anxiety about being seen without their hijab.

Doukoure further emphasized that even law enforcement agencies with policies in place to protect religious rights often fall short in ensuring those rights are not unnecessarily infringed upon by the government, as per US Constitution requirements.

She added, "In this case, either the sheriffs on duty that day at Kent County Jail were negligent, or they blatantly disregarded the policy, Ms. Hague's feelings, and her rights. This resulted in Ms. Hague being forced to remove her hijab for a photograph

that was later disseminated on the internet."

The Kent County Sheriff's Office acknowledged in a statement that Hague was asked to remove her hijab, but disputed the claim that this was done in front of any men.

The sheriff said that a female corrections officer had Hague remove her hijab away from the view of male officers and inmates to inspect it for weapons or restricted material. Afterward, she was allowed to put it back on before entering the booking area, according to the sheriff's account.

Story first published on The Messenger

**Cont. from page 12.
Dr. Ahmed's Latest Book**

greatest issues and challenges facing the world today.

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Parvez Hoodbhoy, Samir Iqbal, Aziz Budri, Irum Rahman, Bashoo Nasiruddin, Mirza Faizan and Mirza Rizwan. Written in a clear, lucid style, it is a book for students,

teachers, scholars as well as the general public. The book motivates, inspires, and mentors today's youth to become scientists and innovators and follow in the foot-

steps of their forefathers.

The book can be purchased for \$20, by contacting Dr. Ahmed at mbahmed05@yahoo.com

**If you want to write for TMO, Please email:
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**Cont. from page 1.
Dilawar Syed**

nizations supported Syed and dismissed claims of anti-semitism, including then-president of Inter-faith Alliance Rabbi Jack Moline. Moline argued

that the blockage was an “excuse for a lot of issues that have nothing to do with suitability for the position.”

Commenting on the long road to Syed’s confirmation, Senate Majority

Leader Chuck Schumer said:

“The SBA has not had a Senate-confirmed deputy for more than five years, and Mr. Syed is exactly the right person for the job. His nomination is

backed by more than 200 civic, government, higher education, and business groups and leaders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Roundtable. Mr. Syed is an American success

story... Once confirmed, Mr. Syed will add to the dynamism and diversity of the Biden administration, as the highest-ranking Muslim official in the executive branch.”

**Cont. from page 1.
Islam’s Position On
LGBT**

guidance and reject the revision of established principles.

They outline Islam’s position on sexuality and gender, including the prohibition of same-sex relations, premarital and extramarital sexual acts, and the importance of respecting God’s wisdom in creation. Furthermore, they address the American context by invoking freedom of religion and speech to say they have the right to hold these views and not be forced to express pride in what Islam holds to be sinful. The purpose of the statement was to provide Muslims a template to explain their avoidance

of pride events that were on the horizon.

There has been opposition and support for the statement from within the Muslim community. According to Muslim Matters, “The Western Muslim community has spent over two decades post-9/11 attempting to secure ally ships that would protect itself from the onslaught of right-wing, neocon anti-Muslim bias. These concerns weren’t trivial and included racial profiling, surveillance and monitoring, informant detentions with no legal recourse, no-fly lists, and watchlists to name a few.”

The article goes on to say Muslims may

have uncritically allied themselves with those who advocate that which Islam opposes in terms of morality. Furthermore, the author says that such a statement would be brave as those who are open to homosexuality may be subject to being ‘canceled’.

According to MEMRI, there has also been opposition to the statement from figures within the Muslim community. Regarding Daniel Haqiqatjou, MEMRI writes, “For instance, American Islamist Daniel Haqiqatjou, based in Texas and known for his YouTube channel “According to Haqiqatjou, the statement “is coded. [The authors] take a lot of things that are unobjectionable and perfectly

acceptable Islamically, and they make sure to foreground those things and then they bury the bottle, they bury the poison in such a way that you won’t recognize it.”

He further criticized the statement for referencing the constitution to defend Muslim positions on LGBT because it is the same constitution that has been interpreted to favor lgbt rights. On the other side, more liberal critics have said the statement falsely claims that Islam condemns homosexuality or that it was distracting from more important issues.

Brief editorial commentary: overall, the statement outlines Islamic normative positions of

homosexuality. Those who disagree should reflect on the fact that their position only seems to have gained traction with the modern LGBTQ+ movement. Perhaps, their thoughts on the issues are not inspired by God and his messenger but by the ever-shifting zeitgeist.

As for claims that this somehow legitimizes homosexuality, this is false on a plain reading of the text. Any references to the constitution are because of the fact that the signatories are from America where that is the law of the land, not out of some secret desire for it to supplant the Qur’an and Sunnah as God’s revelation.

**Cont. from page 1.
Ms. Marvel’s Death.**

In the latest run of The Amazing Spider-Man, written by Zeb Wells and drawn by John Romita Jr., Kamala Khan has been a minor supporting character working as an intern at Oscorp keeping an eye on the formally-evil CEO. In the lead-up to issue #26, Marvel Comics promised that one character would die and that it would be “the most shocking issue of Amazing Spider-Man in 50 years.”

However, the ending of

the next issue of The Amazing Spider-Man, intended to release on shelves on May 31, was leaked online and spoiled the big, supposedly shocking, death.

Due to online leaks, Marvel Comics, via Entertainment Weekly, has officially announced that Kamala Khan, aka Ms. Marvel, will die at the end of issue #26 of The Amazing Spider-Man, releasing later this May.

Her death will be given greater focus in the aptly named Fallen Friend: The Death of Ms. Marvel

written by G. Willow Wilson, Saladin Ahmed, and Mark Waid, where more Marvel heroes will mourn her death.

No, Kamala Khan isn’t staying dead in the comics, especially not with The Marvels right around the corner. Instead, something even worse is likely going to happen, which is Marvel Comics changing the teenage hero into a mutant to match her cinematic counterpart.

In the comics, she was introduced as an Inhuman alongside other new

Inhuman characters, such as Lunella Lafayette, aka Moon Girl.

For those who don’t read the comics, the mutants are currently immortal. They can be revived with all their memories and powers on Krakoa whenever one of them bites it.

As many have already speculated, Kamala Khan will likely be revived in the same manner and either be turned into a mutant or be revealed to have been a mutant all along. Hell, her powers might even be changed to match the

TV show, too.

This is all so that Marvel Comics can desperately try and attract new readers from general audiences of the MCU, hence the likely change in lineage and possibly powers as well.

As for the comic itself, it’s laughable that EW says that Kamala has been “an important part” of the current run of The Amazing Spider-Man. She maybe appears in five of the 25 issues thus far with very little significance to the plot.

**Cont. from page 12.
Dem Maryland Official.**

do not have the religious right to opt their children out of LGBTQ books, similar to parents’ inability to opt their children out of studying evolution. “And that is equity,” the Democrat continued. “That’s not an infringement on, you know, particular religious freedoms, just as we cannot allow folks to opt out of teachings about evolution.”

Sa’ad, one of the chil-

dren who spoke out, is a middle school student in MCPS. He said, “I’m here to talk about my rights. My religion teaches to respect all religions and all human beings and their rights. So does my country’s law. And I want my right back to have an opt-out option.”

Another child, who was a 2023 graduate from MCPS, Ibrahim Raziuddin, said, “I am here to testify on behalf of my elementary-age cousins.”

“Although the introduction of texts and discussions related to trans-

genderism and LGBTQ+ may support MCPS’s mission to be all-inclusive... I don’t believe my first-grade and third-grade cousins are prepared to read and discuss such issues.”

Another Muslim child, Yasmeen Elkoshairi, also a recent graduate, said, “Freedom of religion is a fundamental human right that protects the conscience of all people. It allows us to think, express and act upon what we deeply believe. But around the world and in the United States, this

freedom is eroding.”

Another speaker, who read a statement on behalf of a Muslim student, said, “Never should a student be marginalized or excluded because of their opinions. Giving kids the option to skip these sessions enables us to exercise our right to practice our religion freely while preventing us from experiencing harassment at school.”

“Restoring the opt-out choice does not encourage bigotry or a lack of comprehension. It promotes respect and inclusivity

by honoring students’ religious convictions.”

Ismail Royer, the director of the Islam and Religious Freedom Action Team for the Religious Freedom Institute, told Fox News Digital he was “shocked” by the council member’s comments about the Muslim community.

“I was shocked. I was absolutely stunned. That’s the last thing that I thought she was going to say,” said. “In fact, the Muslims don’t hate anyone.”



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