



PERSONS
OF THE YEAR



The
Muslim 500

THE WORLD'S 500 MOST
INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS

2023



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Muslim 500

THE WORLD'S 500 MOST
INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS

2023

The Muslim 500: The World's 500 Most Influential Muslims, 2023

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يُحْمَلُ الْمُؤَلِّفُ كَامِلَ الْمَسْئُولِيَّةِ الْقَانُونِيَّةِ عَنْ مَحْتَوَى مُصَنَّفِهِ وَلَا يَعْزُرُ هَذَا الْمُصَنِّفُ عَنْ
رَأْيِ دَائِرَةِ الْمَكْتَبَةِ الْوَطْنِيَّةِ.



MABDA

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وَمِنْ رِزْقِهِ مِمَّنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ
عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَالِغُ أَمْرِهِ قَدْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِكُلِّ
شَيْءٍ قَدْرًا

And He will provide for him from whence he never expected. And whoever puts his trust in God, He will suffice him. Indeed God fulfils His command. Verily God has ordained for everything a measure.

Divorce, 3

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INTRODUCTION



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَى ① وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّى ② وَمَا
 خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى ③ إِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتَّى ④
 ⑤ فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَى وَاتَّقَى ⑥ وَصَدَقَ
 بِالْحُسْنَى ⑦ فَسَنِيَرُهُ لِلْيُسْرَى ⑧ وَأَمَّا
 مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَى ⑨ وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَى ⑩
 فَسَنِيَرُهُ لِلْعُسْرَى ⑪ وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُ مَالُهُ إِذَا
 تَرَدَّى ⑫ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لَلْهُدَى ⑬ وَإِنَّ لَنَا
 لَلْآخِرَةَ وَالْأُولَى ⑭ فَأَنْذَرْتُكُمْ نَارًا تَأْطَى ⑮

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

By the night as it enshrouds, and by the day as it unveils, and by the One Who created the male and the female. Assuredly your efforts are dissimilar. As for him who gives and is fearful, and affirms the truth of the best word, We shall surely ease his way to the abode of ease. But as for him who is niggardly, and deems himself self-sufficient, and denies the best word, We shall surely ease his way to hardship; And his wealth shall not avail him when he perishes. Truly with Us lies all guidance. And truly to Us belong the Hereafter and the first life. So I have warned you of a raging fire, which none shall enter but the wretched one he who denies and turns away. The God-fearing one shall be spared it, he who gives his wealth to purify himself, and no one has any favour outstanding with him that must be required; but only seeking the pleasure of his Lord the Most High; and verily soon he shall himself be pleased.

The Night, 1-21

Welcome to the fourteenth annual issue of *The Muslim 500: The World's 500 Most Influential Muslims*. We are very pleased that we have made it this far and that the book has evolved as it has. We thank you for all your support and suggestions and look forward to continually receiving them.

There are 1.94 billion Muslims in the world today, making up approximately a quarter of the world's population. As well as being citizens of their respective countries, they also have a sense of belonging to the 'ummah', the worldwide Muslim community.

This publication sets out to ascertain the influence some Muslims have on this community, or on behalf of the community. Influence is: any person who has the power (be it cultural, ideological, financial, political or otherwise) to make a change that will have a significant impact on the Muslim world or Muslims. Note that the impact can be either positive or negative, depending on one's point of view of course. The selection of people for this publication in no way means that we endorse their views; rather we are simply trying to measure their influence. The influence can be of a religious scholar directly addressing Muslims and influencing their beliefs, ideas and behaviour, or it can be of a ruler shaping the socio-economic factors within which people live their lives, or of artists shaping popular culture. The first two examples also point to the fact that the lists, and especially the Top 50, are dominated by religious scholars and heads of state. Their dominant and lasting influence cannot be denied, especially the rulers, who in many cases also appoint religious scholars to their respective positions.

This doesn't discount the significant amount of influence from other sectors of society. How to measure this influence is of course the most challenging aspect of the publication, and the one where opinions diverge the most. Influence can sometimes be gauged on a quantitative basis, the number of followers, the number of books written, the amount of sales etc., but more often it is not something measurable in quantitative terms and is more related to the qualitative and lasting effect of that influence. A combination of social metrics, public opinion (we have a month-long open call for nominations every year, and all suggestions are considered) and expert opinion are the basis of this attempt to measure influence. The achievements of a lifetime are given more weight than achievements within the current year. People who are trailblazers, or the lone voice in a remote area are also taken into account as we give weight to people breaking barriers and to local influence as

well as global influence. This means that our list of names will change gradually, rather than dramatically, year-on-year.

The Top 50 individuals are ranked and listed first. The remaining 450 names are then listed (not ranked) in categories of influence, with a small number also chosen to be in our Honourable Mentions section to value the notable contributions made in their fields.

Our 13 categories are:

- Scholarly
- Political
- Administration of Religious Affairs
- Preachers and Spiritual Guides
- Philanthropy/Charity and Development
- Social Issues
- Business
- Science and Technology
- Arts and Culture
- Qur'an Reciters
- Media
- Celebrities and Sports Stars
- Extremists

The individuals are ordered in each category according to geographical region (Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, North America, South America), then in alphabetical order by country and finally by surname.

This publication combines aspects of a review of the past year, including a timeline and statistics, but it also hopes to serve as a prospective guide to the new year, much like a *Who's Who*.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

We have our Persons of the Year; these individuals are recognized for their significant contributions in the past year or over their lifetime.

Our editor then offers his Selected Survey of the major events which have affected the Muslim world over the past twelve months.

Then we have our regular House of Islam essay which gives an overview of Islam and its branches. An updated Top 50 and 450 lists (including Honourable Mentions) then follows.

The final part of our lists is the Obituaries section which lists the people from last year's book who have since passed away.

Our Guest Contributions section has exclusive articles covering a wide range of issues. These are sure to stimulate thought and discussion around current pressing issues.

Our Book Reviews cover some books that have been published recently. The ‘Major Events’ section provides a timeline of the major events that have taken place over the past year.

Appendices I and II provide us with lots of statistics. Appendix I shows total population and Muslim population by country, for all the countries in the world. Appendix II compiles a list of the most popular Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram Muslim users, as well as worldwide.

To give a richer visual experience we have also included several calligraphy pieces throughout the book, which we hope will serve as a beautiful remind-

er to pause and reflect as you go through the book. We have also added write-ups within the main body of the text about major initiatives (see the Amman Message on page 59, A Common Word on page 127, the Marrakesh Declaration on page 134, The Muslim Council of Elders on page 131, Free Islamic Calligraphy on page 148, UN World Interfaith Harmony Week on page 162, Altafsir.com on page 173 and Quranic Thought on p. 30)

Our website—www.TheMuslim500.com—is a popular destination. We welcome your feedback and will take nominations for the 2024 edition through it.



He created the heavens and the earth with the truth, and He shaped you and made your shapes excellent; and to Him is the journey's end.

Mutual Disillusion, 3

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Man of the Year

MAULANA MAHMOOD A. MADANI

Maulana Mahmood Madani is the President of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (JUH), one of the oldest and most-respected Muslim organisations in India. He served as its General Secretary for nearly two decades before assuming the position which his illustrious father, Maulana As'ad Madani, had held for over 50 years. He has invigorated the organisation by tackling head on critical issues of the day such as terrorism and Islamophobia, as well as never losing sight of the grassroots work that is at the heart of the day-to-day concerns of Indian Muslims.

Maulana Madani is an Islamic scholar, public speaker, social worker and preacher of Islamic humanitarian values, tolerance, and peace. Through the platform of the JUH, he has fought the twin battles of condemning terrorism in all its forms as well as calling out those who would use the issue to scapegoat the Muslim community. He has regularly arranged massive public rallies and international scholarly conferences dealing with all the ramifications of these issues. He has consistently and clearly called out the evil of DA'ISH. On the flip side, he has defended hundreds of cases Muslims who have been falsely implicated in terror cases. He has also taken on other cases with regard to securing the rights of

Indian Muslims (including the right to citizenship, and the right to practice religious duties).

With the ruling BJP party promoting Hindu nationalism—Hindutva—to ever-more harmful levels, Indian Muslims are killed and discriminated against as never before. The response to this has been multi-pronged. First, to provide protection against the growing cases of Islamophobia and hatred, Maulana Mahmood Madani has founded JEIM (the Justice and Empowerment Initiative for Indian Muslims). This initiative records cases of Islamophobia in a systematic manner and provides advocacy and other forms of assistance to victims. It is a simple, logistical and necessary step to show to the outside world the scale of the problem.

Coupled with this defence of Muslim rights, Maulana Madani has always been a vocal supporter of unity in diversity and has consistently emphasised harmonious relations between different faiths in India. As his famous grandfather Maulana Husain Ahmad Madani was in the 1920s, he is a firm believer in the concept of nationalism. The practical outcome of this was Maulana Mahmood overseeing over 1000 interfaith conferences, *sadhbhwana sansad*, to promote communal harmony and involving leaders of all faiths.

Maulana Mahmood Madani chairs a meeting marking the unity of religions against growing hatred in India.



The basis of the JUH has been humanitarian, welfare and educational activities. During his 25 years of service at JUH, he has served the victims of tragedies in Gujarat, Bihar, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Kashmir, Kerala, Assam, UP, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha etc. He is also a great supporter of the rights movement of minorities and the marginalised. His presence matters to India and its principles of secularism and pluralism.

Responsible for the education of over a million children in tens of thousands of maktabas and madrasahs, Maulana Madani has worked on upgrading the educational curriculum to meet the demands of the modern age. Always a sensitive subject for outsiders to approach, he has the expertise and legitimacy to upgrade the Dar Ulums' curriculum and he has introduced a system whereby madrasah students are certified and recognised as having secondary level (10th

standard) education without any adverse change to their existing religious curriculum.

This has been a historic development. Coupled with this, the Jamiat Yout Club (JYC) empowers youth with other skills. It is an affiliate of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, and works under the umbrella of the world-renowned autonomous body "Bharat Scouts & Guides" of which Maulana Mahmood Madani is its chairman. Its vision is to support the youth to achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of the local, national and international communities.

Maulana Madani is a leading voice in the Indian Muslim community, which is 200-million strong. Their challenges are unprecedented and the success of his work has a major influence on how they fare.



Logo of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind

Members of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind in Pakistan celebrate the peace agreement between the US and the Taliban.



Woman of the Year



AISHA BEWLEY

Aisha Abdurrahman Bewley (b. 1948) is one of the world's most prolific and accomplished translators of classical Islamic works from Arabic to English. Since converting to Islam in 1968, she has spent the past 5 decades faithfully learning the Islamic tradition and making its key texts available to the global English-speaking Muslim community, sometimes in collaboration with her husband, Abdalhaqq Bewley, with whom she translated *The Noble Qur'an*. The subjects she has covered in translation and in her own writings range from the Noble Qur'an, commentary on the Qur'an (tafsir), Hadith, works on Islamic law, sufism, and Islamic history among others. The WorldCat union catalog lists her as the author or translator of "73 works in 172 publications in 3 languages and 855 library holdings."

Born in the United States in 1948, Hajja Aisha obtained an MA in Near Eastern Languages from the University of California at Berkeley. She spent a year at the American University in Cairo and attended a seminar on Sufism at Cairo University's Philosophy Department. In the early seventies she met and became a murid of Sheikh Dr Abdalqadir as-Sufi al-Murabit (d. 2021). Hajja Bewley started her traditional Islamic learning following the teachings of Shaykh Muhammad ibn al-Habib of Meknes (d. 1972) under the late Shaykh Abdalqadir as-Sufi al-Murabit. Under the former's guidance and inspiration she began to translate classical Islamic works from Arabic to English. She has continued this work

unstintingly; making available many key Islamic texts to the global English-speaking Muslim community, many of whom are introduced to these texts for the first time through her translation.

Many of Hajja Aisha's works are available for free on the internet on her website, or have been published through popular Muslim publishers. Her translation of Imam Malik's *Al-Muwatta* (Madinah Press, 1991) and Qadi Iyad's *Ash-Shifa* are especially well-known and form the backbone of thousands of teaching circles throughout the world. Another of her notable translations is the *Tabaqat of Ibn Sa'd* series of books.

In collaboration with her husband, Shaykh Abdalhaqq Bewley, Hajja Aisha has translated *The Noble Qur'an*, and the *Tafsir of al-Qurtubi* (so far 6 volumes have been published). In her own right she is an author on a wide range of topics. Some of her titles include: *The Subatomic World in the Qur'an* (Diwan Press, 1980); *Islam: the Empowering of Women* (TaHa, 1999), and *Democratic Tyranny and the Islamic Paradigm* (Diwan Press, 2018). She has lectured at Dallas College in Cape Town and Lady Aisha College in Cape Town. Alongside this work, she travelled with her husband and family to many countries, including Nigeria, Bermuda, Germany and Spain, spreading knowledge of Islam and helping establish communities of Muslims, seeking to follow the first Madinan model. Her life's work has been remarkable and her intellectual output truly significant; long may it continue.

Sunset over Meknes, Morocco

PUBLISHED BOOKS

- *The Subatomic World in the Qur'an*, Diwan Press, 1980.
- *Signs on the Horizons: The Sun, the Moon, the Stars*, Zahra Publications, 1981
- *Islam: the Empowering of Women*, TaHa 1999.
- *Glossary of Islamic Terms*, TaHa 1998.
- *Mu'awiya: Restorer of the Islamic Faith*, Dar Al-Taqwa, 2002.
- *Muslim Women: A Biographical Dictionary*, TaHa, 2004.
- *Democratic Tyranny and the Islamic Paradigm*, Diwan Press, 2018.
- *The Nasiri Du'a* (Shaykh Muhammad Fatha), Black Stone Press, 2001.
- *On the Mysteries of Bearing Witness*, Ibn al-'Arabi, Kazi, 2002 (selections from *al-Futuh al-Makkiya*)
- *On the Mysteries of Fasting*, Ibn al-'Arabi, Kazi, 2009 (selections from *al-Futuh al-Makkiya*)
- *On the Mysteries of Purification and Formal Prayer*, Ibn al-'Arabi, Kazi, 2009 (selections from *al-Futuh al-Makkiya*)
- *On the Mysteries of the Pilgrimage*, Ibn al-'Arabi, Kazi, 2009 (selections from *al-Futuh al-Makkiya*)
- *On the Mysteries of Purifying Alms*, Ibn al-'Arabi, Kazi, 2009 (selections from *al-Futuh al-Makkiya*)
- *Gardens of the Gnostics, Bustan al-'Arifin* by Imam an-Nawawi, Bookwork, 2001.
- *Sufis and Sufism: A Defence*, (Shaykh 'Abdu'l-Hayy al-'Amrawi and Shaykh 'Abdu'l-Karim Murad) Madinah Media, 2004.
- *The Gardens of the Hadith Scholars*, Shah Abd Al Aziz Ad-Dehlawi, Turath Publishing, 2008.
- *Al-Wasiyyah (The advice of the esteemed scholar)*, Muwaffaq ad-Din al-Maqdisi, Turath Publishing, 2009.
- *Bidayat as-Sul fi Tafdil ar-Rasul*, Izz ad-Din ibn Abd as-Salam, Turath Publishing, 2009.
- *al-Arba'in*, as-Suyuti, Turath Publishing, 2009.
- *al-Arba'in*, Ibn 'Asakir, Turath Publishing, 2010.
- *Kitab at-tabaqat al-kabir*, volumes 2, 3 and 6, Muhammad ibn Sa'd, Taha Publishers, 2912. (All 8 volumes to be reproduced)
- *Risalah*, Ibn Zayd al-Qayrawani, Diwan Press, 2010.

There is also an unpublished text book which had a small printing: *Survey of Arabic Historical Methodology with Textual Examples dealing with Women in the Ridda Wars and the Battle of the Camel*

Published Translations

- *The Tawasin of Mansur al-Hallaj*, Diwan Press, 1974.
- *The Islamic Book of the Dead* (Hadith on the Garden and the Fire), Diwan Press, 1977
- *The Meaning of Man* by 'Ali al-Jamal of Fez, Diwan Press, 1977
- *Self-Knowledge* (Commentaries on Sufic Songs), Diwan Press, 1978.
- *The Darqawi Way* (Rasa'il Mawlay al-'Arabi ad-Darqawi), Diwan Press, 1979.
- *The Diwans of the Darqawa*, Diwan Press, 1980
- *The Invocations of Shaykh al-'Alawi*, Diwan Press, 1980.
- *The Seals of Wisdom* (Fusus al-Hikam) by Ibn al-'Arabi, Diwan Press, 1980.
- *Muwatta'* of Imam Malik (joint translation with Ya'qub Johnson), Diwan Press, 1982. New revised edition, Kegan Paul International, 1989. Later Diwan Press editions
- *Muhammad Messenger of Allah* (ash-Shifa' of Qadi 'Iyad), Madinah Press, 1991. Later editions by Diwan Press and TaHa.
- *Women of Madina*, Vol. 8 of Tabaqat Ibn Sa'd, TaHa 1995
- *Defence Against Disaster*, Qadi Abu Bakr ibn al-'Arabi, Madinah Press, 1996. Diwan Press.
- *Men of Madina*, Vol. 7 of Tabaqat Ibn Sa'd, TaHa 1997.
- *Men of Madina*, Vol. 5 of Tabaqat Ibn Sa'd, TaHa 1999.
- *Handbook on Islam, Iman, Ihsan* (a translation of *Kitab Usul ad-Din* and *Kitab 'Ulum al-Mu'amala* by 'Uthman dan Fodio), Diwan Press, 1980.
- *The Soul's Journey After Death*, Ibn al-Qayyim, Dar at-Taqwa, 1987
- *The Jinn in the Qur'an and the Sunna*, Mustafa Ashour, Dar at-Taqwa, 1989
- *Stories from Islamic History for Children*, Abul-Hasan Ali Nadwi, UK Islamic Academy, 1992
- *Stories of the Prophets*, Abul-Hasan Ali Nadwi, UK Islamic Academy, 1993.

Published Joint Translations (with Abdalhaqq Bewley):

- *Muhammad, the Last Prophet*, Abul-Hasan Ali Nadwi, UK Islamic Academy, 1993.
- *Fate and Predestination*, Muhammad al-Sha'rawi, Dar at-Taqwa, 1994.
- *Good and Evil*, Muhammad al-Sha'rawi, Dar at-Taqwa, 1994.
- *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Ibn Sirin, Dar at-Taqwa, 1994.
- *How Allah Provides*, Muhammad al-Sha'rawi, Dar at-Taqwa, 1994.
- *Magic and Envy*, Muhammad al-Sha'rawi, Dar at-Taqwa, 1994.
- *The World of the Angels*, 'Abdu'l-Hamid Kishk, Dar at-Taqwa, 1994.
- *The Laws of Marriage in Islam*, Muhammad Rafit 'Uthman, Dar at-Taqwa, 1994.
- *Dealing with Lust and Greed*, 'Abdu'l-Hamid Kishk, Dar at-Taqwa, 1995.
- *The Water of Zamzam*, Dar at-Taqwa, 1996.
- *Yajuj and Majuj*, Dar at-Taqwa, 1997.
- *The Mahdi*, Dar at-Taqwa, 1997.
- *The Day of Rising*, Layla Mabruk, Dar at-Taqwa, 1997.
- *Circumcision in Islam*, Abu Bakr 'Abdu'r-Razzaq, Dar at-Taqwa, 1998.
- *Journey Through the Qur'an*, Muhammad al-Ghazali, Dar at-Taqwa, 1998.
- *Allah: The Divine Nature*, Yassin Roushdy, Dar at-Taqwa, 1999.
- *The Noble Qur'an: A New Rendering of its Meaning in English*, Madina Press, 1999.
- *The Four Imams*, Muhammad Abu Zahra, Dar at-Taqwa, 2001.
- *Intercession*, at-Tayyibi, Yassin Roushdy, Dar at-Taqwa, 2000.
- *The Heart and the Tongue: Their Sicknesses and Cure*, Yassin Roushdy, Dar at-Taqwa, 2000.
- *The Madinan Way, Sihbat Usul Madhhab Abli'l-Madina*, Ibn Taymiyya, Bookwork, 2000.
- *Tafsir al-Qurtubi* vol. 1, Dar Al-Taqwa, 2003.
- *The Mercy: In the Difference of the Four Sunni Schools of Islamic Law*, as Safadi Muhammad Ibn Abd Ar Rahman, Dar Al-Taqwa, 2004.
- *The Inhabitants of Hell*, Muhammad Mitwalli Al-Sharawi, Dar Al-Taqwa, 2004.
- *Tafsir al-Jalalayn*, Dar Al-Taqwa, 2007.
- *The major sins*, adh-Dhahabi, Dar at-Taqwa, 2012.
- *Mukhtasar al-Akhdari*, Diwan Press, 2019.
- *Tafsir al-Qurtubi*, so far 6 volumes published, more in production.
- *Four Gems of Tasawwuf*, Ibn 'Ajiba, Diwan Press, 2021.

A large number of unpublished translations are available on the websites, including the *Sahih al-Bukhari*.

- Currently working on *Akhhbar Makka* by al-Azraqi.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا
اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِذْ لَدَعَ الصَّيْرُ

O you who believe, seek help through patience and prayer; surely God is with the patient.

The Cow, 153

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أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُمْ
مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ
وَالضَّرَّاءُ وَزُلْزِلُوا حَتَّى يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ
مَتَى نَصْرُ اللَّهِ أَلاَ إِنَّا نَصْرُ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ

Or did you suppose that you should enter Paradise without there having come upon you the like of those who passed away before you? They were afflicted by misery and hardship and were so convulsed that the Messenger and those who believed with him said, 'When will God's help come?' Ah, but surely God's help is nigh.

The Cow, 214

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A SELECTED SURVEY OF THE MUSLIM WORLD

by Tarek Elgawhary

INTRODUCTION

This past year was a Dickensian best-of-times-worst-of-times situation. The world has largely moved on from the devastating social and economic effects of COVID. Country after country has reduced or repealed COVID protocols that left many of us crippled and immobile for so long. Even with new strands floating about and new potential viruses like Monkeypox, the world has had enough and is fatigued with pandemic news. Everyone, overall, is looking to move on and countries are opening their borders, their markets, and hoping for better days ahead. Accordingly, bright spots and happy stories abound, and in the pages that follow you will read about some of them as they relate to the Muslim world. At the same time, however, there are still systemic issues facing the Muslim world that, while delayed due to the two-year global pandemic, have reemerged either as is or with new mutations and variants of their own.

If there is a lesson in this, it is the need for us to reflect. While it is indeed a relief that COVID is behind us, we should welcome this reprieve as an opportunity to fix what was wrong with our world before. Too many of our co-religionists continue to be mired in problems that can be and should be fixed. If we do not reflect and improve, we will only fulfil the prophecy of George Santayana who wrote in *The Life of Reason* “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Only then can we escape the inevitable historical cycle and follow Toynbee’s iteration of Santayana when he commented in *The Role of the Americas in History*

“We are not doomed to make history repeat itself; it is open to us, through our own efforts, to give history, in our case, some new and unprecedented turn. As human beings, we are endowed with this freedom of choice, and we cannot shuffle off our responsibility upon the shoulders of God or nature. We must shoulder it ourselves. It is up to us.”

PART I MUSLIM WORLD SURVEY

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

This past year was full of elections, anniversaries, and new challenges for the Middle East and North Africa. On the back of higher oil prices and a stronger global economic environment, the Middle East generally returned to economic growth with a number of governments taking the opportunity to implement long-term plans aimed at diversification and modernisation. Following a year in which economies in the Middle East contracted due to the fallout of COVID, the region experienced a positive economic rebound with the IMF predicting that the region as a whole would expand by 2.7 percent this year.

Looking more closely at the GCC, the World Bank estimated in December that the six-member bloc would record an aggregate growth rate of 2.6 percent for the year. Bahrain is forecast to have grown by 3.5 percent, followed by Qatar and Oman (3 percent), the UAE (2.7 percent), Saudi Arabia (2.4 percent) and Kuwait (2 percent).

TOP TEN WEALTHIEST ARAB COUNTRIES



A key factor as stated in this growth is the rise in oil prices. After starting 2021 at just over \$50 a barrel, the price of oil increased to yearly highs of more than \$85 in October of the same year and reaching a peak of slightly over \$120 in March 2022. Towards the end of the year prices fell again; however, the effect of rising oil prices has been felt throughout the world.

Yet, other large Muslim majority nations in the region continue to deal with systemic issues.

IRAQ

In July 2022, Iraq marked a record 290 days without a government. Following elections in October 2021 no president or prime minister has so far been chosen. With no new government agreed, the existing President, Barham Salih, and Prime Minister, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, remain in place.

The Iraqi presidential election of 2022 was scheduled to be held on 7 February 2022 as outgoing President Barham Salih is eligible for re-election. The vote has been postponed due to the boycott of parliamentary sessions by the majority of deputies. Elections were scheduled again for 6 April 2022 to elect by indirect suffrage the President of Iraq for a four-year term but failed due to the quorum not being met. Some members of parliament also protested against the decision of the Supreme Court to rule out the candidacy of Hoshyar Zebari, who is supported by the main winning parties of the elections of October 2021. Elections were once again postponed to 26 March 2022 but delayed further due to the quorum also not being met. On 30 March it was postponed yet again to the quorum not being met once again.

IRAN

Perhaps the main factor in shaping Iran's international ties this past year was its nuclear program. After a five-month hiatus that started before the Iranian presidential election in June 2021, a new nuclear negotiating team from the Ebrahim Raisi administration sat down with the remaining signatories of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). During the seventh round of talks between 29 November and 3 December 2021, Iran walked back a proposal agreed upon by the previous administration of Hassan Rouhani and offered less for less: more sanctions relief than what was promised in the 2015 accord and less nuclear compliance. As Future of Iran Initiative Director Barbara Slavin explained, "Some in Iran are understandably ambivalent about reviving the JCPOA given the ease with which the Trump administration quit—when Iran was in full compliance—and the fact that no US administration can guarantee the actions of its successor."

On 16 September 2022, a 22-year-old Iranian woman named Mahsa Amini, who was arrested a few days prior for incorrectly wearing her hijab in public, died in police custody. Up until the time of this writing there are no details of what transpired while in custody, nor the precise details of her detention. However, her death has sparked a series of nationwide protests. While the immediate incident of Mahsa Amini is their catalyst, these protests also highlight other grievances such as a weakening economy, alleged government corruption, and isolation from the international community.

Protests in Tehran, Iran, following Mahsa Amini's death



While there have been protests in Iran in the past, something feels different about these. Women have been tossing their headscarves in bonfires and dancing bareheaded before security agents. Protestors, largely women, have even at times physically engaged and fought with security forces. More than two dozen have been arrested so far, and several female protesters have been killed. It is too early to say where these protests are going, but this is certainly something we are watching closely and monitoring.

TÜRKIYE

Aside from officially changing the spelling of its name from the outdated Turkey to the more accurate Türkiye, the nation's volatile currency has worsened the humanitarian crisis in northern Syria and raised the cost of Ankara's governance responsibilities there. The Turkish lira's recent volatility and Türkiye's high inflation rates pose significant problems for not only those living in Türkiye, but also in Turkish-controlled northern Syria, where Türkiye has built extensive financial networks and introduced the use of its currency. The Turkish lira lost up to 40 percent of its value over 2021 as a result of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's unconventional monetary policies. The lira's value has improved slightly and stabilised since December 2021, but price hikes on basic goods will likely remain, disrupting the purchasing power of Turks and Syrians alike.

Türkiye's economy grew 11 percent in 2021, the fastest among the G20 countries, as COVID-related measures were gradually relaxed in Türkiye and abroad. Although Türkiye's interest-rate cuts from September supported demand, they also amplified macro-financial instability which, combined with spillovers from the Ukraine-Russia war, will lower 2022 growth to 1.4 percent. Rising energy and food price inflation will hurt the poor the most, compromising a gradual employment-driven, post-pandemic poverty recovery.

PALESTINE

In August 2022, an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire between the Israelis and the Palestinian armed groups took effect in a bid to end nearly three days of violence that killed dozens of Palestinians. The flare-up was the worst fighting between Israel and Gaza armed groups since Israel and Hamas fought an 11-day war last year and has added to the destruction and misery that have plagued blockaded Gaza for years.

Israeli strikes and militant rockets continued in the minutes leading up to the beginning of the truce, and Israel said it would "respond strongly" if the ceasefire was violated. Israeli aircraft also pummelled targets in Gaza while the Iran-backed Palestinian Jihad militant group fired hundreds of rockets at Israel in response. The risk of the cross-border fighting turning into a full-fledged war remained as long as no truce was reached. Israel says some of the Palestinian dead were killed by misfired rockets.

Israel launched its operation with a strike on a leader of the Islamic Jihad and followed up with another targeted strike on a second prominent leader. The second Islamic Jihad commander, Khaled Mansour, was killed in an airstrike on an apartment building in the Rafah refugee camp in southern Gaza, which also killed two other militants and five civilians. Mansour, the Islamic Jihad commander for southern Gaza, was in the apartment of a member of the group when the missile struck, flattening the three-story building and badly damaging nearby houses.

Israel's Defense Ministry said mortars fired from Gaza hit the Erez border crossing into Israel, used by thousands of Gazans daily. The mortars damaged the roof and shrapnel hit the hall's entrance, the ministry said. The crossing has been closed amid the fighting. The Rafah strike was the deadliest so far in the current round of fighting, which was initiated by Israel with the targeted killing of Islamic Jihad's commander for northern Gaza. Israel said it took action against the militant group because of concrete threats of an imminent attack, but has yet to provide much detail as to the intelligence used for their actions. Caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid, who is an experienced diplomat but untested in overseeing a war, unleashed the offensive less than three months before a general election in which he is campaigning to keep the job. In a statement Lapid said the military would continue to strike targets in Gaza "in a pinpoint and responsible way in order to reduce to a minimum the harm to non-combatants". Lapid said the strike that killed Mansour was "an extraordinary achievement".

The UN Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting on the violence. China, which held the council presidency at the time, scheduled the session in response to a request from the United Arab Emirates, which represents Arab nations on the council, as well as China, France, Ireland, and Norway. "We underscore our commitment to do all we can towards ending the ongoing escalation, ensuring the safety and security of the civilian population, and following

up on the Palestinian prisoners file,” said UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, in a statement.

The Israeli army said militants in Gaza fired about 580 rockets toward Israel. The army said its air defences had intercepted many of them, with two of those shot down being fired toward Jerusalem. Islamic Jihad has fewer fighters and supporters than Hamas. Air-raid sirens sounded in the Jerusalem area for the first time since last year’s Israel-Hamas war.

Jerusalem is typically a flashpoint during periods of cross-border fighting between Israel and Gaza. Hundreds of Jews, including firebrand ultra-nationalist lawmaker Itamar Ben Gvir, visited the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The visit, under heavy police protection, ended without incident, police said.

Such demonstrative visits by Israeli hard-liners seeking to underscore Israeli claims of sovereignty over contested Jerusalem have sparked violence in the past. The holy site sits on the fault line of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and is central to rival narratives of Palestinians and Israeli Jews.

Since the last war, Israel and Hamas have reached tacit understandings based on trading calm for work permits, and a slight easing of the border blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt when Hamas overran the territory 15 years ago. Israel has issued 12,000 work permits to Gaza labourers and has held out the prospect of granting another 2,000 permits.

At the time of this writing, tensions remain high in Jerusalem and around the Al-Aqsa Mosque as dozens of Israeli settlers stormed through the mosques courtyards to mark the occasion of the Jewish New Year. Eyewitnesses reported that Israeli police officers were deployed in the courtyards and on the roof of the Qibli prayer hall and apparently allowed dozens of illegal settlers to storm the mosque through the Maghribi Gate. Fighting between Palestinians protecting the mosque and settlers ensued, and arrests, as to be expected, were made. Again, it is too soon to see where this will lead to, but we continue to monitor the situation.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Driven by a combination of higher commodity prices, the relaxing of lockdowns and a recovery in global trade, Africa has had some success in overcoming the recession provoked by the coronavirus pandemic and returned to growth this past year. In its most recent outlook, released in October, the IMF predicted that the continent, as a whole, will see the growth of 5.1

percent this year, with North Africa expanding by 6 percent and sub-Saharan Africa at 3.7 percent. The global average is slated to be 5.9 percent.

However, the World Bank has emphasised that the recovery is a fragile one, particularly in light of the continent’s vaccination rates, which remain low despite the efforts of national and international bodies over the course of the year. For example, in April the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved a \$10bn COVID response facility to help countries reinforce their health care systems.

Elsewhere, the Covax initiative—run by the World Health Organization (WHO)—has recently intensified its efforts to ensure a flow of vaccines reaches Africa. To date, over 90 million donated doses have been delivered to the continent through Covax and the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust. But this is still far below the required quantity. According to a recent report from the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, only five of the continent’s 54 countries are likely to reach a WHO target of fully vaccinating 40 percent of the population by the end of this year. The report attributed this to the shortage of vaccines, although it also highlighted issues including weak healthcare systems, underdeveloped infrastructure and limited civil registration capacities.

A further issue is widespread vaccine hesitancy, although many countries are adopting strategies to address this. Mauritania provides an example of regional best practices in this regard. The country’s second vaccination program launched in June, on the back of a rather ineffectual first program earlier in the year. In order to boost uptake, the government launched awareness campaigns, mobilising national media, religious leaders and youth associations. In addition, it opened more than 900 vaccination centres in public sites, including mosques, ministries and the exit routes of major cities. These efforts resulted in a notable uptick in people receiving vaccinations.

The discovery of the Omicron variant in southern Africa has given rise to claims that the continent’s low vaccination rates could facilitate the emergence of new coronavirus variants. It remains to be seen what effect this variant will have on the region’s recovery.

Elsewhere, structural reforms were carried out in various countries in response to the pandemic. Among them, the World Bank has praised the unification of exchange rates in Sudan, fuel subsidy reform in Nigeria and the opening to the private sector of the Ethiopian telecommunications sector.

Another significant shift has been a growing emphasis on the importance of renewable energy, with

many countries in the region demonstrating an appetite for boosting the sector. For example, Egypt aims to generate 42 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2035. However, only two African countries—namely South Africa and Malawi—have committed to net-zero by 2050.

ASIA

PAKISTAN

The biggest news from Pakistan this past year was the ousting of Prime Minister Imran Khan due to a no-confidence vote against him on 10 April 2022. Since the Pakistani Prime Minister is subject to the confidence of the majority of the lower house of Parliament, numerous opposition parties joined forces in a slow build-up of resistance since November 2021 to remove him from power. Imran Khan is the first Prime Minister in Pakistani history to be removed from office in this manner.

The decision to file a no-confidence motion against sitting Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan *Ter-eek-e-Insaf* (PTI) – who had held the position since the 2018 election – was taken at a summit of the opposition parties, united under the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance. The leader of this opposition, Shehbaz Sharif (who later was elected Prime Minister and himself is brother of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif now living in exile in the UK) said the motion of no-confidence was presented because of the government's poor performance in economic and social indicators during the four years of Khan's premiership. In the leadup to the no-confidence mo-

tion, Khan's PTI also faced defections from some lawmakers within its own ranks, which emboldened the opposition's move to file the motion

Although opposition towards Khan began as early as November 2021, things became serious for him when on 8 March 2022, representatives of opposition parties filed the motion against Khan in the National Assembly, seeking to remove him from office, while accusing his alleged hybrid regime of poor governance, political victimization of opponents, and mismanaging the economy and foreign policy. It is alleged that these factors also contributed to Khan's falling out with Pakistan's military establishment, which had remained a key backer of his government.

Since his removal, however, Khan has not remained silent. Once removed he immediately called for a mass rally, with PTI calling for nationwide protests on the night of the 10 April 2022, following the vote of the National Assembly. Large demonstrations were held at Karachi, Peshawar, Malakand, Multan, Khanewal, Khyber, Jhang, Quetta, Okara, Islamabad, Lahore, and Abbottabad, while protests were also held at Bajaur, Lower Dir, Shangla, Kohistan, Mansehra, Swat, Gujrat, Faisalabad, Nowshera, Dera Ghazi Khan and Mandi Bahauddin. Hundreds of thousands of people attended these demonstrations. In Karachi alone, 200,000 people attended. The crowds consisted mostly of young Pakistanis. Some news outlets reported that a total of 10 million people attended the protests collectively. There were even overseas protests by Pakistani expats in places like Dubai, Sharjah, London, and Melbourne.

Pakistan rallies in support for Imran Khan



Khan continues to assert that his removal was instigated by his removal to support the United States in their policies towards Russia and China. He claims that this is a form of punishment and in so doing, implicates the current Pakistani government of being controlled by outside interests. In exchange for his continued resistance, Khan is coming under extreme pressure from the Pakistani judiciary for allegations of corruption and contempt. This cycle of political-legal pressure on one side, and the call for mass protests on the other continue up until the writing of this survey and will be a matter of great concern in the coming year.

This past year witnessed numerous developments that decisively shaped the contours of social, economic, political, and security affairs of the world. Pakistan was not immune to this and remained proactively engaged in pursuit of its foreign policy goals and objectives through various modes of diplomatic initiatives at inter-state, regional, and global level.

However, there is another story from Pakistan that perhaps trumps everything this past year and will continue to shape things in the coming year: massive flash floods resulting in unparalleled damage and loss of life.

Pakistan received 60 percent of total normal monsoon rainfall in just three weeks since the start of the monsoon season. Heavy rains resulted in urban and flash floods, landslides, and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) across Pakistan, particularly affecting Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh provinces.

Heavy monsoon rainfall and floods have affected some 2.3 million people in Pakistan since mid-June, destroying at least 95,350 houses and damaging some 224,100 more. Sindh and Balochistan are the two most affected provinces in terms of human and infrastructural impact. Over 504,000 livestock have been killed, nearly all of them in Balochistan Province, while damages to nearly 3,000 km of roads and 129 bridges have impeded access across flood-affected areas. At the request of the Balochistan Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), a multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment was undertaken in ten districts of Balochistan to identify priority needs and gaps across sectors. Humanitarian partners are supporting the Government-led response in affected areas, redirecting existing resources to meet the most urgent needs while working to further scale up the response.

Swaths of the country are now underwater, after what United Nation officials have described as a

“monsoon on steroids” brought the heaviest rainfall in living memory and flooding that has killed 1,162 people, injured 3,544 and affected 33 million since mid-June. To put this number in perspective, this is more than the population of Sri Lanka and Australia combined.

AFGHANISTAN

As US troops began their final withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, Taliban militants swept into Kabul, overthrowing the government of President Ashraf Ghani and restoring their hard-line rule over the country. Although the group pledged to moderate its views on women's rights, minorities, and freedom of expression, many of the repressive practices that marked its previous rule between 1996 and 2001 have returned. The US, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have frozen Kabul's access to billions of dollars in aid and assets until the Taliban changes ideological course. Amid a severe drought and mass displacement, Afghanistan is heading for humanitarian disaster.

The departure of the remaining American military personnel and diplomatic staff from Kabul, which closed the curtain on a two-decade-long US engagement in Afghanistan, came as a great relief to most Americans. The US had finally been freed of the heavy military and financial burdens assumed in its failed efforts to secure and nurture a flawed democratic government. American policymakers were now thought free to refocus their attention and resources on global theatres with greater strategic value. Many regretted the manner of the US departure and having left loyal Afghans to the mercy of the Taliban but felt that it was time for Afghans to begin sorting out their own issues.

Now, a year after the Taliban seized power, the US finds itself unable to shake off its long encounter with Afghanistan. The US withdrawal helped trigger a major food crisis for a country chronically in need of international humanitarian assistance. While some of the worst fears of mass starvation and refugee flight have thus far not materialised, they have been averted only through an international community intervention in which the US has assumed a leading role. Working through international agencies and non-government organisations to provide food and many basic services, the US led all countries in its humanitarian assistance, committing \$774 million in aid between August 2021 and July 2022.

It is generally agreed that the fastest and most effective way of addressing Afghanistan's humanitar-

ian crisis is by putting money into the hands of the people. Withdrawing foreign financial assistance and freezing financial reserves in the wake of the Taliban seizure of power crippled an economy that had grown accustomed to having three-quarters of the government budget covered by foreign donors. The US is especially well-positioned to help relieve Afghanistan of the resulting severe liquidity crisis. With \$7 billion of Afghan assets currently frozen in US banks, their release could contribute mightily to the recapitalisation of Afghanistan's banking system and the revival of its economy.

INDONESIA

This past year was another challenging year for Indonesian foreign policy. The country faced numerous strategic challenges, some new and some the extension of pre-existing challenges discussed in previous reviews.

Despite the growing risks of the COVID pandemic this year, the Southeast Asian region was troubled by the severe political crisis in Myanmar. The country's military forcefully deposed Aung San Suu Kyi's administration on 1 February 2021 and cracked down violently against those protesting the coup. The spotlight immediately turned to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the hope that the regional body might take rapid and appropriate measures in response.

In addition to condemning and expressing its concerns about the coup, Indonesia took the diplomatic lead within ASEAN, inviting the organisation's foreign ministers to talks aimed at building a concerted regional response to the country's crisis. In April, with the strong endorsement of Indonesia and the ASEAN Secretariat, the bloc's leaders held a summit and agreed on a Five-Point Consensus designed to deescalate Myanmar's political situation. Among the points of consensus were the demands for immediate cessation of violence, peaceful dialogue between the contending factions, the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the appointment of an ASEAN Special Envoy to lead the bloc's efforts. But few of these were implemented, raising questions about ASEAN's ability to handle the crisis in Myanmar, and Indonesia's ability to lead the bloc in the direction of its choosing.

In 2021, Indonesia has arguably moved closer to the United States than it has been in some years. A series of high-level interactions between the two nations shows the extent to which the Biden administration has come to value Indonesia amid its com-

petition with China. The milestones included the US-led COVID Summit and Forum on Energy and Climate in September, the side-line meeting between Biden and President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo at the COP-26 in November and, lastly, the visit of Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to Jakarta.

Within just a few months, the two states have committed to expand their cooperation on COVID recovery, infrastructure investment, renewable energy, and the reform of multilateral institutions. In Jakarta, Blinken laid out America's Indo-Pacific vision and praised Indonesia for its leadership in the region, particularly in maintaining the rules-based international order. The reinvigoration of the Indonesia-US partnership nonetheless remains in its early stages and will require practical consolidation in the coming years.

Indonesia's president was actively involved in two of the year's biggest multilateral forums. At the end of October, Jokowi attended the G-20 Summit in Italy, which had several ambitious goals, such as to strengthen global health architecture, promote a sustainable financial ecosystem, and advance financial inclusion. Jokowi also proposed the reactivation of global connectivity efforts, firstly on COVID vaccine supply and distribution and in the longer run in the areas of transport logistics, economic production and services, and infrastructure investment.

The G-20 in Italy had a special significance for Jakarta, as Indonesia is taking over the chairmanship in 2022. Indonesia chose the theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger", emphasising the values of inclusion, collaboration, and resilience. Indonesia has the political and diplomatic advantages of being a non-aligned, active, and strategic middle power that can potentially drive more impactful and actionable G-20 resolutions.

MALAYSIA

Perhaps the biggest news from Malaysia this past year is that the country's former Prime Minister Najib Razak is now in prison having lost his appeal after a 2020 conviction, a first for the country. Razak, whose father and uncle were the country's second and third Prime Minister, respectively, was caught up in the 1MDB financial scandal. This sudden turn of events is also impacting his political party, the United Malays National Organization (UMNO). The UMNO had traditionally been assured the support of the country's ethnic Malay majority and had headed the National Front coalition government since the country became independent of Britain in 1957.

Najib set up the 1MDB state investment fund shortly after taking power in 2009. The US Justice Department and other investigators alleged that at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib between 2009-2014 and laundered through layers of bank accounts in the US and other countries to finance Hollywood films and extravagant purchases that included hotels, a luxury yacht, art works and jewellery.

Najib had once cast himself as a liberal and reforming leader of the predominantly Muslim country of over 33 million people. He speaks impeccable English with a posh accent, has his own blog, and has a strong social media following. However, revelations after his downfall unveiled a serious taste for luxury, particularly on the part of his wife, Rosmah Mansor, who has also faced criminal charges and found guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

As both Finance Minister and Prime Minister, Najib guided his country through the global financial crisis of 2009, abolished draconian colonial-era security laws and reached out to ethnic minorities with a “1Malaysia” campaign. Then-President Barack Obama praised him as a “reformer with much to do”. There is no doubt that this recent turn of events will have a lasting impact on Malaysia for years to come.

EUROPE/OCEANIA/AMERICAS

FRANCE

In March 2022 the French Senate voted 160-143 in favour of banning women and girls from wearing hijab while playing sports—showing the world once again that when it comes to further politicising, targeting, and policing European Muslim women, especially their clothing choices and bodies, France is in a league of its own. The amendment was proposed by the right-wing Les Républicains, which argued that the hijab could risk the safety of athletes wearing it while playing sports.

The proposed ban is opposed by Emmanuel Macron’s government and French lawmakers expressed “regret” over the government’s “lack of will” to put a stop to what they describe as the “development of Islamism in sport”. This was one of the main backdrops to the 2022 French presidential elections held on 10 and 24 April 2022 where Macron ultimately defeated Marine Le Pen.

France is home to roughly 5.7 million Muslims and the largest Muslim population in Europe. As of 2019, 31 percent of French Muslim women were wearing hijab, so this sports ban will have a profound

impact on many women. Yet again, French lawmakers have chosen to continue on a dangerous collision course with the country’s Muslim population and especially French Muslim women.

PART II MAJOR ISSUES FACING THE GLOBAL MUSLIM POPULATION

ROHYNGA

In late May 2021, hundreds of Rohingya living on a remote silt island known as Basan Char took part in demonstrations that were met with police violence and coincided with a visit by UNHCR—the UN’s refugee agency—from mainland Bangladesh. After the construction of crude shelters on the island accelerated in 2019, the Bangladeshi government has forcibly relocated more than 18,000 Rohingya refugees to Basan Char, where refugees are banned from leaving and communications and access by UN agencies and rights groups is severely restricted. Basan Char is only a few metres above sea level and prone to dangerous flooding and cyclones, underscoring the continued fragile conditions that Rohingya refugees face in host countries.

On 19 June 2022, tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees protested in Bangladesh, demanding their repatriation to Myanmar, where they fled a deadly military crackdown five years ago. Thousands of Rohingyas joined a peaceful march in front of the Balukhali 18 camp in-office charges, brandishing the Myanmar national flag, placards, and festoons with various demands. The demonstration was held on the first day of the “Let’s Go Home” (Bari Cholo) campaign, which was launched in 23 camps: 21 in Ukhia and two in Teknaf upazila.

Five years on from the horrors of 2017, 600,000 Rohingya continue to suffer at the hands of the military while neighbouring states host large numbers of refugees—in particular, Bangladesh, which is hosting over a million refugees.

The Rohingya people who remain in Rakhine State continue to face systematic discrimination; they are denied citizenship, and they have no access to education and healthcare. So, there is an urgent need for reform of discriminatory legislation, which creates this permissive environment for atrocity and crime.

The military coup in Myanmar on 1 February 2021 has raised fears in neighbouring Bangladesh that the new regime may not honour commitments



A fire blazing through Cox's Bazar refugee camp, killing and displacing thousands of Rohingya

to repatriate Rohingya Muslim refugees currently in Bangladesh. The Myanmar government has been very reluctant to take back their nationals, the Rohingya, despite the robust diplomatic endeavours of the Bangladesh government regarding repatriation.

Despite Bangladesh's sincere efforts, Rohingya repatriation could not be started in more than three years after some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

The reality suggests that the presence of about a million Rohingyas in limited space has become risky. It left the local livelihood, environment, and socio-economic situation under threat. There were also security challenges in the crowded camps.

Five years on, there is an urgent need for international action to take back the Rohingyas in their homeland. Myanmar military can't remain silent in this regard. They think that the world and the international community would forget their misdeed and the plight of the Rohingyas. COVID, the Ukraine crisis and the Afghan crisis make Myanmar military to some extent reluctant to this issue because international focus has shifted towards the crisis. But this time Rohingyas started to raise their voice against the injustice they are facing.

Though Myanmar does not accept them as citizens, it wants to take certain some steps to lessen international pressure. Bangladesh is bound to comply despite being aware of the real picture. Human rights organisations too are inert when it comes to the criminals in Myanmar. Myanmar wants to create

an illusion before the world that despite a delay they finally have started repatriation. It has a great symbolic value for them.

Almost one million Rohingya Muslims are confined to bamboo and tarpaulin shacks in 34 filthy camps in southeast Bangladesh. Thousands of Rohingyas organised a peaceful rally in Ukha, Cox's Bazar on 19 June 2022 to tell the world especially Myanmar military that they want to return to Myanmar, a day before World Refugee Day.

Previous attempts at repatriation have failed, with the Rohingya refusing to return until Myanmar provides guarantees of rights and security to the predominantly Muslim minority.

Many in Myanmar regard the Rohingya, who speak a dialect similar to that of Chittagong in southeast Bangladesh, as "illegal immigrants", a label that the minority rejects.

Rohingya say they want to return to their own communities in Myanmar's Rakhine state, not to the government-built camps for internally displaced persons. "We are not Bengalis; we are Rohingya." "We want full rights restored and repatriation." They do not want to "die a refugee, we want to be able to exercise our rights, we want to go home and study and plan for the future."

There is huge international pressure on the Myanmar military now regarding democratic movements following the 2021 coup and the Rohingya refugee issue. If Myanmar resolves the crisis, it could benefit with Bangladesh bilaterally through cementing trade

ties. Thus, it's in the Myanmar military's own interest to resolve the crisis as soon as possible. The message is clear that Rohingya refugees don't want to stay in Bangladesh anymore as refugees, and neither do they want to tolerate the injustice committed by the Myanmar military. It's time to take back the Rohingya in Myanmar: this is the clear message of the Rohingya to the Myanmar military government through this massive rally.

UYGHUR

It's been four years since a committee of United Nations' experts called attention to "credible reports" that more than 1 million Uyghur and other Muslim minority peoples were interned in extrajudicial camps in Xinjiang in north-western China for "re-education" and indoctrination. However, since that moment in August 2018, the international community has done little on the basis of those reports within the UN. Countries in the UN's main human rights body have not agreed to any formal call for a probe, while appeals from UN experts for China to allow for rights monitoring have been met with fierce denials of wrongdoing from Beijing and no invite for free access to come and see for themselves.

Now, a report by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet could bolster the push for accountability and elevate the voices of survivors and their families in a way the UN system has not previously done—creating the potential for a turning point for how the international community, and top UN officials, have handled these accounts. However, the report is bogged down in review, following what's already been months of delay, with Bachelet recently saying her office was "trying" to release it before the end of her term on 31 August as promised in June, but they are still reviewing "substantial input" from China, which she said was granted access to make "factual comments" as per standard procedure.

Earlier in her term, Bachelet said she sought "full access to carry out an independent assessment of the continuing reports pointing to wide patterns of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions", but while she did not gain unfettered access in her eventual trip this past May, she has said the report was updated following that trip.

China's Foreign Ministry has already publicly decried the report calling on the High Commissioner's office to "respect the serious concern of the Chinese people and everyone speaking for justice in the world, stand on the right side of history and reject publishing an assessment on Xinjiang based on false

information and false accusations." The statement did not confirm if Beijing had seen the forthcoming report at that time or elaborate on which parts he believed would be "false", though China has patently denied all rights abuses.

At the Human Rights Council, the UN's foremost rights body, Beijing continues to counter efforts by countries to call it to account, using "incessant lobbying" and leverage such as access to vaccines, according to a Geneva-based Western diplomat.

The allegations are that China has interned more than 1 million Uyghur and other Muslim minorities across all ages and walks of life in a network of heavily fortified detention centres and re-education camps, where there are reports of torture, sexual violence and forced sterilisation. However, exact figures of how many in Xinjiang, home to 11.6 million Uyghurs, have been affected are difficult to assess.

Multiple governmental bodies have condemned the alleged abuses in recent years, with the European Parliament in June saying evidence constitutes "a serious risk of genocide", a term the US has also used. China, which originally denied the existence of the camps, later said it had established "vocational education and training centres" as a way to counter "extremism" in a region where ethnic riots in 2009 resulted in the deaths of 197 people, according to officials, and there have long been Communist Party fears about terrorism and separatism.

Beijing has called allegations of rights violations, genocide and forced labour in the region "the lie of the century". In May, during Bachelet's official trip to China—the first by a top UN rights official in 17 years—the high commissioner said the government assured her the "vocational education and training centre" system was "dismantled".

But academics and advocates say the oppression goes on, though it is now being absorbed into the prison system and transformed into a forced labour apparatus and a culture of fear and surveillance.

Back in September 2021, Bachelet said her office was "finalizing its assessment", while a spokesperson in December said they hoped to publish in the coming weeks. When asked during a recent press conference why the report was delayed, Bachelet said she "wanted to prioritise" visiting the country and "convey directly those allegations" to officials—and her office in early March reached an agreement with Beijing for a visit. The trip, which she described previously as "an opportunity to hold direct discussions", not the investigatory mission she had long called for, was decried by advocates and leading scholars on



General Secretary Xi Jinping in Xinjiang

Xinjiang at the time. In the wake of that visit, more than 200 Uyghur, human rights and interest groups jointly called for her resignation, and several dozen leading scholars slammed her for “ignoring and even contradicting” academic consensus about violations in the region. A group of UN independent experts acknowledged dialogue with the Chinese government has merit but stressed it could not “replace the urgent need for a complete assessment of the human rights situation in the country.”

Experts say the standard for verification of specific claims is high for such reports, while key details like scale of atrocities may be difficult to corroborate—especially as China has blocked all meaningful access for investigators, and those with direct knowledge may fear retribution from Beijing for going on the record.

Many observers say that even a strong report from the High Commissioner would be unlikely to change the reality of China’s sway in the UN system, where Beijing’s emissaries have recently solicited support among countries for a letter calling on Bachelet not to release the document, according to a report from Reuters, who saw a letter from Chinese officials and confirmed by diplomats from three countries who received it.

Finally, on her last day in office, Bachelet and her team finally issued the 45-page report. The report confirms that:

Serious human rights violations have been committed in XUAR in the context of the Government’s application of counter-terrorism and counter-“extremism” strategies. The implementation of these

strategies, and associated policies in XUAR has led to interlocking patterns of severe and undue restrictions on a wide range of human rights. These patterns of restrictions are characterized by a discriminatory component, as the underlying acts often directly or indirectly affect Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim communities.

The systems of arbitrary detention and related patterns of abuse in VETC and other detention facilities come against the backdrop of broader discrimination against members of Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim minorities based on perceived security threats emanating from individual members of these groups. This has included far-reaching, arbitrary and discriminatory restrictions on human rights and fundamental freedoms, in violation of international norms and standards. These have included undue restrictions on religious identity and expression, as well as the rights to privacy and movement. There are serious indications of violations of reproductive rights through the coercive and discriminatory enforcement of family planning and birth control policies. Similarly, there are indications that labour and employment schemes for purported purposes of poverty alleviation and prevention of “extremism”, including those linked to the VETC system, may involve elements of coercion and discrimination on religious and ethnic grounds.

It is still early to determine what will happen as a result of this report and we are hopeful that in next year’s Muslim World Survey there will be much positive news to report, inshaAllah.

ISLAMOPHOBIA

EUROPE

This past year Islamophobia in Europe was draped in government policy in several nations. I already highlighted the French Hijab ban above, but in late July/early August 2021 France's lower house accepted the 'anti-separatism' bill, which outwardly is a bill to help the growing threat of extremism. However, many Muslim advocacy groups are concerned that this bill amounts to a type of locality pledge by Muslim organisations and leaders. Specifically, it is geared to outlawing many practices French-Muslims engage in, which they believe is an affront to their freedom of religion.

Also in France, and along the same lines, early last year President Macron had tasked the French Council of Muslim Faith (CFCM), the de facto representative of Muslim faith federations to the French government, with drafting a charter of allegiance to republican values. This charter sets out a framework for Muslim faith leaders to transform Islam in France into an "Islam of France". This charter is also meant to go hand-in-hand with the creation of a National Council of Imams (CNI), responsible specifically for the training of imams and their certification as compliant with the charter—or not. Eventually renamed the Charter of Principles, the document's ten articles set out the republican values to which all imams in France should subscribe.

In Austria, similar policy enactments also fuelled concern of an increase of Islamophobia. Following on its Operation Luxor in 2020, this past year the Austrian government created a registry for imams as well as a National Map of Islam. The mandate was one of several new measures Chancellor Sebastian Kurz's government adopted after a 2 November 2020 terror attack in Vienna. Four civilians were killed and 23 injured after a 20-year-old gunman opened fire in the centre of the Austrian capital. Austria continues its call for the European Union to adopt the registration of imams, the worship leaders of Mosques in Muslim communities.

While such policies in and of themselves are standard and in fact similar to how many Muslim majority countries manage their religious establishments, European Muslims continue to be concerned that these policies target them as "problem populations" and increases that amount of hate crimes towards them throughout the continent.

THE UNITED STATES

The United States also experienced an increased level of Islamophobia, particularly inside the federal government. Representatives Marjorie Taylor Greene and Lauren Boebert repeatedly targeted Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar with anti-Muslim slurs, such as calling her "pro Al-Qaeda", a member of the "jihad squad" (a slur that also plays on the "the Squad" label given to Rep. Omar and her fellow three progressive congresswomen), and a terrorist. Following Boebert's remarks, Omar received a sizeable increase in hate mail, making public some of the more aggressive and violent ones.

Such incidents further the reputation of the Republican Party as harbouring xenophobic and Islamophobic candidates within its ranks, especially since party leadership failed to take action against Boebert and offered no public condemnation. Boebert herself refused to publicly apologise to Omar, and even doubled down on the anti-Muslim harassment and bullying, claiming Omar was "playing the victim". One recent study found that 54 percent of Republicans surveyed would vote for an anti-Muslim candidate, and separately noted that a 2020 YouGov survey found that 37 percent of Republicans approved of discrimination against Muslims.

In attempts to counter this, House Democrats passed a bill in December 2021 that would establish a new special envoy position at the State Department to monitor and combat Islamophobia worldwide. The bill is slated to go to the US Senate for a vote next, but it is uncertain how the vote will go.

There were other political victories for Muslims in America this past year. In New York Shahana Hanif became the first Muslim woman elected to NYC council, while in Boston, MA, Tania Fernandes Anderson gained her council seat by defeating her opponent who had relied heavily on anti-Muslim rhetoric in his campaign. Other successful campaigns in Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey and Pennsylvania also put Muslims in key local offices, with the city of Hamtramck in Michigan electing the country's first all-Muslim city council. Further, President Biden nominated, and the Senate confirmed the appointment of Rashad Hussain as Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom (IRF).

INDIA

Nothing captures the extent of India's growing state-driven Islamophobia than the video from a three-day rally in mid-December 2021 attended by influential religious leaders, right-wing Hindu ac-

tivists, and members of the BJP. The viral footage showed hundreds of attendees raising Nazi-style salutes and declaring, *we all pledge, that until our last breath, we will make India a Hindu nation. We will fight and die and, if required, kill.*

Throughout this past year, Indian Muslims continued to witness a massive increase in Islamophobic fuelled acts of hatred and violence that seems to only embolden right-wing Hindu nationalist actors. The right-ward shift in the subcontinent also led many commentators and experts in the region to fear that Modi's rule was leading to decay in the world's largest democracy as journalists critical of the government were targeted and imprisoned and counter-terror legislation was used to silence critics.

A July 2021 Intercept piece found that Hindu vigilante groups were working alongside law enforcement to enforce the "love jihad" law in Uttar Pradesh. Further, the claims of Muslim plots to overtake the country through other means like "economic jihad" and "narcotics jihad" continue to abound.

It's not only Indian Muslims who are facing increasing hostility as there has been a drastic increase in the persecution of Christian minorities as well. In December 2021 the Karnataka state assembly passed an anti-conversion legislation, making it the tenth state in India to enact the so-called "Freedom of Re-

ligion" law, which "bars religious conversions, except when a person 'reconverts to his immediate previous religion'"—a clause that critics say is aimed at enabling India's many Hindu supremacist groups to convert Muslims and Christians into Hindus. The ruling BJP has claimed the bill aims to stop "the illegal and large-scale conversion of Hindus to Christianity", a claim that has yet to be proven. In addition to such legislation, Indian Christians have been targeted by Hindu vigilantes who've attacked churches, convent schools, and Christmas celebrations. From January to September 2021, the country experienced 305 attacks on the Christian community and their places of worship, with the real number being much higher given that many cases go unreported.

In Assam, land disputes having their origins in the state government's decision to free government lands from encroachment on nearly 25,666 acres it is currently seizing for agricultural purposes continues to displace mainly Muslim families in the thousands. In September 2021 tensions reached a peak where police shot, killed, and maimed the body of a Muslim man. The photographs of the incident went viral causing an uproar throughout the Muslim community.

In addition to Assam, anti-Muslim violence flared up in a number of other regions in the country, such as Tripura and Gurgaon. In the state of

Anti-Muslim riots break out in Assam state



Tripura, right-wing groups launched attacks against the Muslim population, viewed as revenge attacks for anti-Hindu violence occurring in neighbouring Bangladesh. At least ten incidents of violence were reported in four days at the end of October this year, as mobs targeted mosques and properties owned by Muslims. Reporting on Tripura riots noted that the violence occurred following a rally attended by over 3,000 individuals and led by “the hard-line Hindu organisation, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)—a close ally of the BJP.” In Gurgaon, a city just southwest of New Delhi, Hindu hardliners led harassment campaigns against Muslims by targeting public prayer spaces and publicly declaring Muslims would not be allowed to hold Friday prayers. The campaigns of harassment and intimidation continued for weeks as Hindu groups disrupted Muslim prayers by smearing cow dung in the public space or holding their own Hindu religious events, with one being attended by BJP’s Kapil Mishra.

It is important to remember that much of the violence that has occurred is catalysed through the role of social media in the growing polarity in the region. While social media platforms have played a role in documenting anti-Muslim violence, specifically videos of brutal violence and harassment going viral, questions have also arisen as to the role of social media in amplifying hate. For Facebook, India remains the country’s largest market, but the platform is marred with hate speech, misinformation, and celebrations of violence. According to leaked internal documents this year, “Facebook did not have enough resources in India and was unable to grapple with the problems it had introduced there, including anti-Muslim posts.” Further, reports showed that “bots and fake accounts tied to the country’s ruling party and opposition figures were wreaking havoc on national elections.” While Facebook in India is aware that its platform has been used to spread conspiracy theories, including claims of “love jihad”, internal documents revealed that the social media giant has done little to act on it, and that “political sensitivities” are part of the reason that the company has chosen not to ban Hindu nationalist groups who are close to India’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

EXTREMISM

Perhaps the biggest news of this past year was the death of Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri on 31 July 2022. He was killed in a drone attack conducted by the US Central Intelligence Agency targeting the

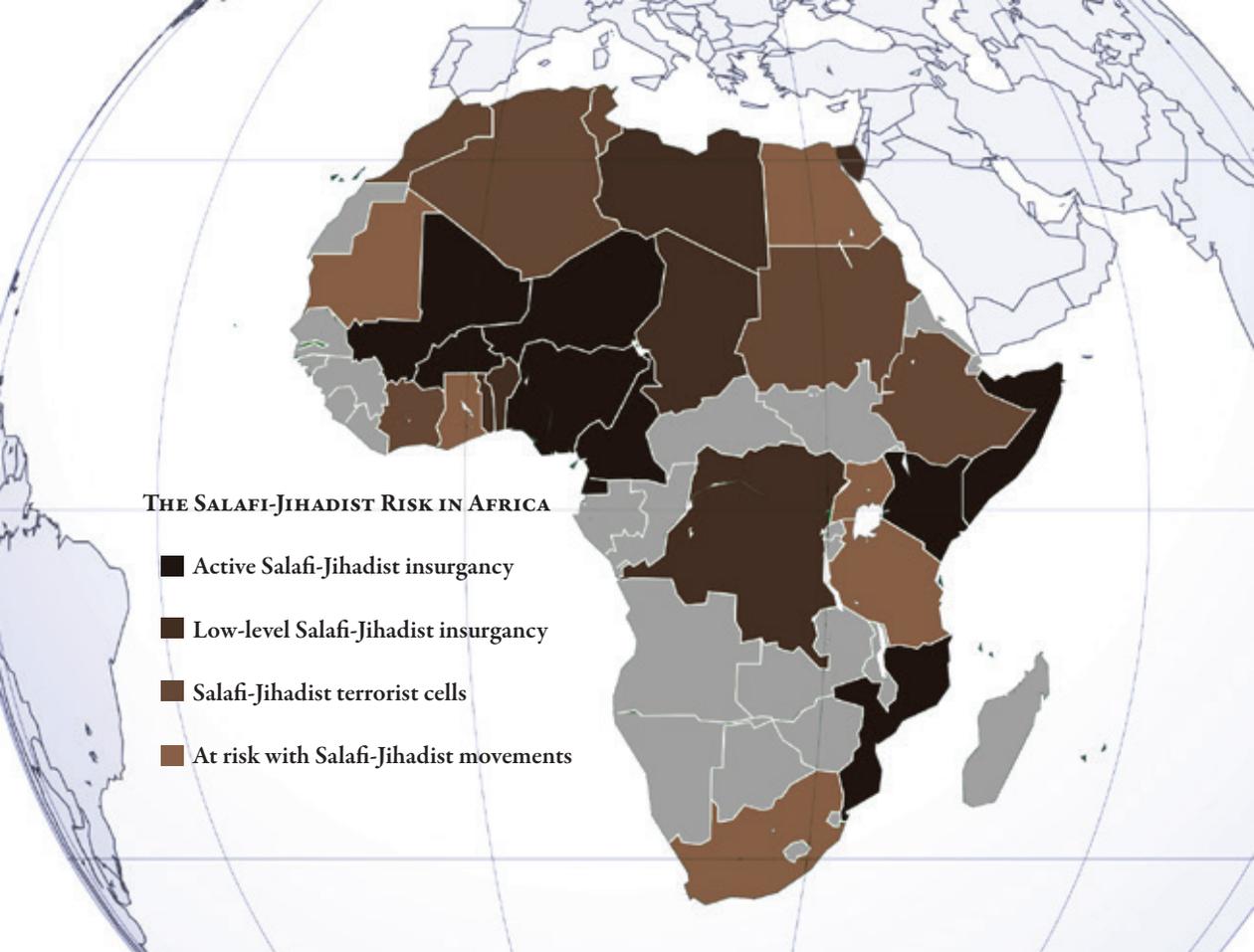
Sherpur neighbourhood in Kabul where he was staying in a house reportedly owned by senior Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani. Even though responsibility of the attack was denied by the US Department of Defense at first, American President Joe Biden confirmed it with a public statement indicating he authorized the operation.

There are also significant updates which you will find below based on regions.

AFRICA

Since the beginning of 2022, there have been a recorded 699 terrorist attacks that resulted in 5,412 deaths across Africa. In terms of monthly trend, the month of March recorded the highest number of attacks (21 percent), followed by June (19 percent). Again, in terms of resultant deaths, March recorded 24 percent of the total deaths, while June recorded 20 percent of deaths for the reported period. In comparison to the first half of 2021, the first half of 2022 witnessed rather a marginal decline in the number of terrorist attacks, but a sharp rise in the total number of deaths. The first half of 2021 registered 950 attacks that resulted in 3,883 deaths, while the first half of 2022 recorded 699 attacks that resulted in a total death of 5,412. When comparing the preceding period (2021) to the current (2022), there was a marginal decline of 26 percent in terrorist attacks, but a sharp increase of 40 percent in the number of deaths, demonstrating the increasing brutal nature of attacks within the period.

The Sahel Belt of West Africa became the hotspot of complex and sophisticated attacks for the period under review. The complexity of attacks within the tri-border area of Mali-Burkina Faso-Niger (*Liptako-Gourma*) contributed largely to the increased terrorist activities in the region. *The Liptako-Gourma region* - an area covering the Tillaberi region of Niger; the Mopti, Gao, and Menaka regions of Mali; and the Sahel, Nord, Est, and Boucle du Mouhoun regions of Burkina Faso - remains the driving force behind the rising violent activities in the Sahel. The rampant terrorist attacks in the Liptako-Gourma and more precisely in the *Gao region* (around the commune of *Tessit*) demonstrates the freedom of movement that terrorist groups, JNIM (the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims) and the Islamic State in Greater Sahara (ISGS) enjoy within their mobility corridors. In this area, inhabitants of several villages such as *Tadjalalt*, *Timagghy*, *Bakal* or *Kaygouroutan* have been forced to flee their homes.



The withdrawal of the *Barkhane* troops Takuba Forces from Mali has created a security vacuum and bolstered the moral and impetus of terrorist groups to intensify their operations that might result in ease of movement. Undoubtedly, terrorist attacks are expected to continue apace or even increase. Ostensibly, the decrease in military pressure will further cause a rise in militancy while a decrease in military pressure against the hegemony of JNIM and ISGS will allow the groups to further consolidate their control and complicate efforts by the State Security apparatuses to re-establish control of the affected areas. In order to reverse the trend, the affected States may have to develop the ability to alter the strategic trajectory of the terrorist groups by operational raids, targeted strikes, and other military operations to serve as tactical and operational disruptors to militant groups. An innovative and out-of-the-box thinking approach that has the propensity to nip terrorism and violent extremism in the bud could help at this crucial moment.

Al-Shabaab remains the most active terrorist group with occasional attacks from the Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) in this part of Africa. The technological

capabilities of Al-Shabaab to manufacture sophisticated IEDs have aided the group to perpetrate complex attacks which clearly manifested during the period under review. Pre-deployment CT training and counter-IED training for the deployed troops serving under the African Union Transitional Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) as well as the various National Armies in the region appear to be effective strategic approaches to degrading the IED manufacturing capabilities of Al-Shabaab. That notwithstanding, the resumption of Counter Terrorism operation activities by United States (US) Africa Command Forces, the enhanced capacity of the Somalia National Army with determination to defeat terrorist groups, as well tactical operational activities of AMISOM/ATMIS have limited the movement of terrorist groups within their operational zones.

Terrorism in the region is predominantly dominated by Islamic State (IS)- linked Al Sunnah Wal-Jumma (ASWJ) operating in the northern Mozambican Province of *Cabo Delgado* with spillovers into southern Tanzania. Within the period, insurgents advanced into the southern districts of

Cabo Delgado province, launching attacks in areas previously unaffected by the nearly five-year old insurgency. *Ancuabe* and *Chiure* districts within Cabo Delgado began witnessing attacks in June 2022. Further, *Nampula* province suffered its first attack since the start of the conflict, when insurgents attacked a village and beheaded a civilian. The movement of insurgents into new operational corridors could be pressure from counter terrorism offensives hence the group retreats to these areas for havens. The fear, however, is that if the terrorists succeed in Mozambique, they can use the country as a launchpad to attack other countries in the region. Mobilising the political will to contain the terrorist threats in Cabo Delgado should, therefore, be treated as urgent priority among the political leadership in the region.

Despite the series of counter terrorism operational successes of the Mozambican security forces and intervening forces, the on-going insurgency seems to be buoyant. The fact that insurgent groups appear to enjoy apparent freedom of movement within Northern Mozambique reflects a minimal level of strategic coordination between the deployed international forces, and the National Armed Forces that are each responsible for their own operational areas.

Coordination between Rwandan security forces, Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) Forces, and Mozambican forces operating whether within the same theatre or different, must be enhanced. With the presence of multiple foreign military deployments in Mozambique, establishment of a Joint Command and Control Centre could assist in enhancement of coordination and prevention of duplication of efforts. The AU pledged during its Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism held on 28 May 2022 in Malabo, to deploy African Standby Force (ASF) in Northern Mozambique. Within the period also, Italy, Sweden, and Lithuania joined the European Union Military Training Mission in Mozambique in the context of the fight against terrorism thus increasing the number of EU countries in Mozambique to fourteen. These kinetic militaristic approaches if combined with local community-based violent extremism prevention initiatives could help defeat terrorism in Northern Mozambique.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

There is resurgence of Islamic State (IS)-affiliated groups' activities across the region. The Libyan National Army (LNA) continues to battle IS cells in southern Libya amid repeated attacks from the group

in different parts of the country. Libya is at a perilous crossroad owing to a protracted political impasse which has weakened the coordinated efforts required to fight IS groups. Terrorist activities were recorded in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula with Islamic State-affiliated militants orchestrating their deadliest attack on the army in two years, killing a dozen soldiers. For instance, on 7 May, in *Qantara, Bir al-Abd* located in the Sinai Peninsula, IS-affiliated militants attacked a military post killing at least seventeen soldiers and injuring five others. Also, on 11 May, in *Rafab*, Sinai Peninsula, IS operatives attacked an army checkpoint, killing at least 12 soldiers.

The Sinai Peninsula has been relatively calm for several months. The Egyptian Army succeeded in significantly weakening the group, which translated to the near failure by IS elements to launch significant attacks in Sinai for several months. Nevertheless, the latest attacks and kidnappings give rise to fears that IS could escalate its atrocities. There is an urgent need to interrogate the recent resurgence to understand what is emboldening the group's momentum and resilience. The Egyptian government has rigorously bidden for investment in the Sinai in an effort to encourage the population that had fled the area due to IS activities to return. The resurgence, if not reversed, could derail the efforts of the government, and put local economic development initiatives in shambles. In Tunisia, a suspected armed terrorist opened fire on police near National Guard Barracks located in Kairouan on 20 March 2022. Security forces repulsed the attack, and no casualty was recorded.

Algeria, which has so far been largely successful in its strategic counter terrorism operations, begun witnessing attacks believed to have been perpetrated by Al-Qaeda affiliate group - Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). On January 28, 2022, two (2) Algerian soldiers were killed in a fight with suspected AQIM militants in *Hassi Tiririne region* near the border with Niger. Similarly, on 20 March, three (3) Algerian soldiers were killed in a clash with a terrorist group on the border strip of *Timiaouine region* in *Bordj Badji Mokhtar*, a village along the border with Mali. Despite the long-term gradual decline of AQIM's capabilities as a result of the military destruction of terrorist cells and arrest of terrorist elements leading to recovery of large volumes of ammunitions and equipment, the militants continue to have the ability to acquire military grade arms within the country. This ability could be linked to several factors including vast and porous borders that the country shares with Mali, Libya, and Niger. This borderline constitutes an

integral perforated strip that facilitates the movement of arms smugglers and proliferators

THE ISLAMIC STATE (IS)

Since, unfortunately, the pseudo-Islamic State (IS) is a growing force in the space of extremism, I decided this year to add a separate section regarding their activity as it is something we continue to monitor.

The United States continues to lead the global fight against IS and since the beginning of 2022 they have killed four major jihadi leaders operating in and around northern Syria. These attacks are as follows:

03 February 2022: U.S. Special Operations Forces carried out a raid that led to the death of ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim Al-Hashimi Al-Qurayshi, also known as Hajji Abdullah. U.S. intelligence tracked Qurayshi to rebel-held Idlib province in north-western Syria.

16 June 2022: U.S.-led coalition forces carried out a night-time raid that led to the capture of ISIS leader Hani Ahmed Al-Kurdi in Syria's northern province of Aleppo. Al-Kurdi was known to be an experienced bomb maker and operational planner for ISIS.

27 June 2022: U.S. forces carried out an airstrike in Syria's northwest Idlib province that killed Abu Hamzah al Yemeni, a senior leader of the Al-Qaeda-aligned group, Hurras Al-Din. Al-Qaeda supporters founded Hurras Al-Din in 2018.

12 July 2022: U.S. forces carried out an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) strike near the town of Jindayris in northwest Syria, targeting two senior ISIS officials. The leader of ISIS in Syria, Maher Al-Agal, was killed in the strike. Agal was also known to assist in developing ISIS networks in Syria and Iraq.

AFGHANISTAN

Aside from the drone strike against Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri in July 2022, the most significant news vis-à-vis extremism in Afghanistan is that finally in early October 2022, the United States resumed direct talks with the Taliban. The Biden administration sent the CIA's deputy director David Cohen and the top State Department official responsible for Afghanistan to the Qatari capital of Doha for the talks with the Taliban delegation which included their head of intelligence, Abdul Haq Wasiq.

While the Taliban maintains ties with Al-Qaeda, they are facing an insurgency from the Islamic State offshoot known as ISIS-K. The group has routinely targeted the Hazara ethnic minority in Afghanistan. At least 25 people, primarily young women, were killed in a suicide attack in the beginning of October 2022 at an education centre in a predominantly Haz-

ara neighbourhood in Kabul. No one immediately claimed responsibility.

ISIS-K now poses an internal Afghan threat, to the Taliban and to sectarian stability given ISIS-K's focus on killing Shias, but there is some reasonable concern that ISIS-K could ultimately turn its sights on external plotting if the Taliban is unable to contain them.

It seems that the Taliban are in need of assistance with this this internal conflict and hoping the Americans can help in exchange of much needed aid. Last month the Biden administration announced it had set up a \$3.5 billion "Afghan Fund" with frozen Afghan money to promote economic stability. The funds have yet to be released because the US does not believe there is a trusted institution to guarantee the funds will benefit the Afghan people.

Instead, it will be administered by an outside body, independent of the Taliban and the country's central bank.

US government administration officials have also repeatedly raised the plight of women and girls in their conversations with the Taliban. The United Nations rapporteur for human rights in Afghanistan last month called the regression of women and girls in Afghan society "staggering."

Forty metre Taliban flag flies over Kabul, Afghanistan



PART III REFUGEES

By the end of 2021, more than 84 million people had been forced from their homes around the world. This represents an increase from both 2019 and 2020, which were record-breaking years in and of themselves. This increase of global displacement, the majority of whom are Muslim, has been coupled with an unprecedented restriction of global movement due to the global pandemic which continued to cast its influence on travel throughout much of this previous year. While not the focus of our Muslim world review, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine led to millions of Ukrainian refugees fleeing their country this past year and spilling into neighbouring countries. Since Ukraine continues to align itself with Europe politically and culturally, one effect this is happening in the western world is raising awareness to the plight of refugees worldwide.

In Africa, the multiple conflicts found in the eastern part of the continent has caused many people to be displaced. Some of the affected are: Central African Republic, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, and Ethiopia. Like Ukraine, these are not necessarily the displacement of large Muslim populations, but many of these refugees are Muslim or connected to Muslim communities in East Africa.

By the end of 2021, the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region hosted 4.9 million refu-

gees and asylum seekers, as well as 12 million internally displaced people. Nearly 200,000 people became refugees, driven by conflict, drought, flooding, food shortages, insecurity, and localised violence.

2021 saw a widespread relaxation of COVID restrictions; however, asylum restrictions remained in force in some countries and prevented some asylum requests and registrations from going ahead. Some refugees moved onward, in often risky conditions, towards the Mediterranean or southern Africa. Refugee status determination was slow and costly, with a long-standing backlog of 180,000 asylum applications pending adjudication. Several countries made progress on pledges relating to statelessness, including Rwanda which published a new nationality law facilitating naturalisation.

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan worsened significantly this past year. Prior to the Taliban's takeover of power there was an overall reduction in displacement. However, since the Taliban has come to power, this past year saw a displacement of 777,000 people (57 percent children and 21 percent women), bringing the total number of people displaced by conflict inside Afghanistan to 3.5 million as of December 2021. The conflict diminished and humanitarian access to many parts of the country improved after the Taliban takeover and the announcement of an interim government, but there was deepening poverty, exacerbated by drought, COVID and food insecurity. With ongoing restrictions and systemat-

Zaatari refugee camp in northern Jordan first opened on 28 July 2012



ic exclusion, women and children faced heightened protection risks including intimate partner violence and child marriage. Since August 2021, women have largely been excluded from the workforce both as a result of the economic crisis and restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities. In the public sector, exceptions were made in some cases for women working in health care and primary schools, as well as for a very small number of civil servants. Limitations on freedom of movement negatively impacted other aspects of women's lives, including access to health services. The closure of many women's protection shelters left women at risk. Justice systems established to deal with cases of gender-based violence were largely non-functional.

Of course, the largest refugee crises remain amongst the Syrians and Rohingya. Since I covered much of the Rohingya above, let me use the space here to highlight where things stand with the Syrian refugee crises and both Turkey and Jordan who continue to absorb the majority of refugees within their borders.

In Türkiye the more than 3.7 million Syrian refugees, including 1.8 million children, as well as 330,000 refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities, of whom at least 140,000 are children, remains challenging. Türkiye also remains a leading transit country for registered and unregistered refugees and migrants on the move. During the first quarter of 2022, nearly 4,500 people—20.2 percent of whom are from Afghanistan—successfully crossed by sea and land from Türkiye into the EU. In addition, more than 55,000 people were rescued or apprehended by Turkish authorities, amongst them more than 27,000 Afghan nationals. Recent developments in the sub-region neighbouring Türkiye, especially in Afghanistan, are posing increased risks of new population movements towards Türkiye.

In Jordan more than 2.7 million refugees, including 1.3 million Syrians, of whom 674,268 (50 per-

cent children) are registered with UNHCR. Currently, 132,005 Syrian refugees live in camps: 81,242 refugees in Za'atari camp, 44,064 in Azraq camp and 6,699 in the Emirati Jordanian camp. The majority of refugees have been welcomed into host communities, located primarily in the northern governorates and in Amman.

The protracted nature of the Syria crisis is increasing vulnerabilities of refugees in Jordan and has contributed to an environment of prolonged vulnerability for children and young people affected by the Syria crisis face multiple deprivations—poverty, profound stress, limited access to quality education and some 20 percent of children in the country being multidimensionally poor. The COVID pandemic also continues to have far-reaching socio-economic consequences, beyond its immediate health impacts, on already vulnerable groups, including refugees and the estimated 4.8 million children residing in Jordan.

CONCLUSION

There are several open-ended issues from the survey above that make it difficult to stop here, what with the explosive situation in Iran, the shocking UN report on the Uyghurs in China, the recent breach of Israeli settlers of the Al-Aqsa mosque, and the devastating floods in Pakistan. These are all issues we will continue to monitor closely and report on in our following issue, inshaAllah.

At the time of this writing, the global Muslim population is around 1.8 billion. In addition to its rapid growth, this number also represents another reality: within the next 30-50 years, Islam will become the dominant religion on earth, surpassing Christianity. This means that the issues discussed in the survey above are of vital importance not only to Muslims, but to the global population as well. This too, is something that deserves our reflection.

Dr Tarek Elgawhary is a scholar of Islam and comparative religions having studied at both Princeton University and al-Azhar Seminary. His writings and thoughts on life, Islam, and mindfulness can be found at www.makingsenseofislam.com.

QuranicThought.com



QuranicThought.com is a project dedicated to making all the important texts of the Islamic Sciences over the course of history up to the present day available free to everyone in the world, at one trusted address. This massive endeavour, consisting of millions of books and tens of thousands of hours of audio recordings, will be permanently ongoing *in sha Allah*. All texts will be available in Arabic, and English translations will be provided where these are available, God willing.

The site is committed to providing all the texts available in a non-political, non-partisan way, promoting all four established Sunni *madhabib* and respecting the other *madhabib* of Islam: Zeidi, Jafari, Tahiri and Ibadhi, as well as the thought of the early imams like Sufyan al-Thawri, Laith Ibn Sa'd and Al-Awza'i.

The materials have been categorized by Qur'an (for listening); *tafsir*; *hadith*, *usul*, *seerah*, *aqidah*, *fiqh*; *ihsan*, and *falsafa*. This is followed by a list of 25 books for the essential texts of all disciplines which all Muslims should know and a section on the 500 most influential books on Sunni Thought (according to the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institution's seminal survey).

Then, there are sections for three pivotal Shafi'i scholars (in association with the Professorial chairs on Razi and Ghazali linked to this website): Ghazali, Razi and Suyuti. Studying the entire thought of one major comprehensive thinker can be far more conducive to real comprehension and to absorbing an Islamic world-view than cherry-picking from many scholars, especially with polymaths like Ghazali, Razi and Suyuti.

Moreover, Ghazali represents a high point in Islamic *usul* (particularly in his *Mustasfa*), a high point in *ihsan* and *'aqida* (in his magnum opus, *Ihya' 'Ulum al-Din*) and a high point in both logic and philosophy in his books on those subjects. Razi represents the high point of Tafsir and Kalam in his *Mafatih al-Ghayb*. Suyuti represents a high point of Tafsir *ma'thur* (transmitted tafsir) in his *Tafsir Al-Jalalayn*, *Al-Durr al-Manthur* and his *Iqan fi 'Ulum Al-Qur'an*, a comprehensive survey of *hadith* in his collections of *hadith*, and authoritative exposition of Shafi'i *fiqh*.

This website and app are already the most extensive Islamic book and audio resource on the internet and continue to grow by the Grace of God.



THE HOUSE
OF ISLAM

I. THE HOUSE OF ISLAM

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(with the exception of President Obama's speech)

The religion of Islam is based on belief in the One God (who in Arabic is called Allah). It was founded by the Prophet Muhammad (570-632 CE) in the ancient cities of Makkah and Madinah, in the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula (known as the Hijaz). God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad the Holy Qur'an, the Sacred Book of Islam. The religion thus created, however, was not a new message but simply a final restatement of God's messages to the Hebrew Prophets and to Jesus.

The Holy Qur'an says:

Say ye: we believe in God and that which is revealed unto us and that which was revealed unto Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the Tribes, and that which Moses and Jesus received, and that which the Prophets received from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and unto Him we have submitted. (2:136)

Moreover, the Holy Qur'an did not exclude the possibility of revelations other than those that were given to the Prophets mentioned in the Bible (and thus did not exclude the possibility of other genuine ancient religions other than Judaism, Christianity and Islam). God says, in the Holy Qur'an:

Verily we have sent Messengers before thee [O Muhammad]. About some of them have we told thee, and about some have we not told thee... (40:78).

And verily we have raised in every nation a Messenger [proclaiming]: serve God and shun false gods... (16:36).

THE ESSENCE OF ISLAM

The essence and substance of Islam can be easily summed up by three major principles (which are also successive stages in the spiritual life): Islam (meaning 'submission to God's will'); Iman (meaning 'faith in God'), and Ihsan (meaning 'virtue through constant regard to, and awareness of, God'). The second Caliph, the great 'Umar ibn al Khattab, related that:

One day when we were sitting [in Madinah] with the Messenger of God [the Prophet Muhammad] there came unto us a man whose clothes were of exceeding whiteness and whose hair was of exceeding blackness, nor were there any signs of travel upon him, although none of us knew him. He sat down knee upon knee opposite the Prophet, upon whose thighs he placed the palms of his hands, saying: 'O Muhammad; tell me what is the surrender (Islam)'. The Messenger of God answered him saying: 'The surrender is to testify that there is no god but God and that Muhammad is God's Messenger, to perform the prayer, bestow the alms, fast Ramadan and make if thou canst, the pilgrimage to the Holy House.' He said, 'Thou hast spoken truly,' and we were amazed that having questioned him he should corroborate him. Then he said: 'Tell me what is faith (Iman)'. He answered: 'To believe in God and His Angels and his Books and His Messengers and the Last Day [the Day of Judgement], and to believe that no good or evil cometh but by His Providence.' 'Thou hast spoken truly,' he said, and then: 'Tell me what is excellence (Ihsan)'. He answered: 'To worship God as if thou sawest Him, for if Thou seest Him not, yet seest He thee.' 'Thou hast spoken truly,' he said... Then the stranger went away, and I stayed a while after he had gone; and the Prophet said to me: 'O 'Umar, knowest thou the questioner, who he was?' I said, 'God and His Messenger know best.' He said, 'It was Gabriel [the Archangel]. He came unto you to teach you your religion.'¹

Thus Islam as such consists of 'five pillars': (1) the Shahadatayn or the 'two testimonies of faith' (whose inward meaning is the acknowledgement of God).

(2) The five daily prayers (whose inward meaning is the attachment to God). (3) Giving alms or Zakat—one-fortieth of one's income and savings annually to the poor and destitute (whose inward meaning is the detachment from the world). (4) Fasting the Holy month of Ramadan annually (whose inward meaning is detachment from the body and from the ego). (5) Making the Hajj (whose inner meaning is to re-

1 Sahih Muslim, 'Kitab al Iman', 1, N. I. (The Hadiths of the Prophet ﷺ, like all sacred texts, are written above in italics).

turn to one's true inner heart, the mysterious square, black-shrouded Ka'ba in Makkah being the outward symbol of this heart). Thus also Iman as such consists of belief in all the essential doctrines of religion (and the inner meaning of this is that one should not go through the motions of religion and of the five pillars of Islam blindly or robotically, but rather have real faith and certainty in one's heart). Thus, finally, *Ihsan* as such consists in believing that God always sees us, and therefore that one must be virtuous and sincere in all one's actions. In this connection the Prophet said: '*By Him in whose Hand is my Life, none of you believes till he loves for his neighbour what he loves for himself*'.² In summary, we could say that the essence of Islam is exactly the Two Commandments upon which Jesus said hangs all the Law and the Prophets:

And Jesus answered him, The first of all commandments is...the Lord our God is one Lord; And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy understanding, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second commandment is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.³

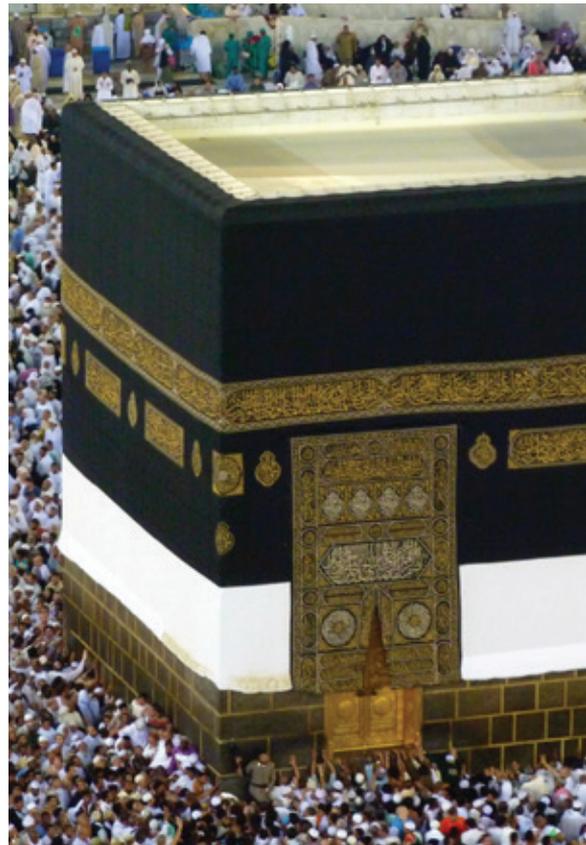
THE CANON OF ISLAM

Islam does not, like Christianity, have a clergy. There is no temporal or even spiritual institute that holds it together or unifies it. So how has it held together—and indeed, flourished—for the last fourteen centuries approximately, when its scholars and temporal policymakers keep changing and dying out over time? How has it remained so homogeneous that the Islam of 1900 CE was doctrinally exactly the same as the Islam of 700 CE? Where have its internal checks and balances come from?

The answer is that Islam has a traditional canon:⁴ a collection of sacred texts which everyone has agreed are authoritative and definitive, and which 'fix' the principles of belief, practice, law, theology and doctrine throughout the ages. All that Muslim scholars (called *ulema* and muftis or sheikhs and imams) have left to do is to interpret these texts and work out their practical applications and details (and the prin-

ciples of interpretation and elaboration are themselves 'fixed' by these texts), so that in Islam a person is only considered learned to the extent that he can demonstrate his knowledge of these texts. This does not mean that Islam is a religion of limitations for these texts are a vast ocean and their principles can be inwardly worked out almost infinitely in practice. It does mean, however, that Islam is 'fixed' and has certain limits beyond which it will not go. This is an extremely important concept to understand, because misunderstanding it, and setting aside the traditional canon of Islam, leads to people killing and assassinating others in the name of religion. The traditional canon of Islam is what protects not just the religion of Islam itself, but the world (including Muslims themselves) from terrorism, murder and oppression in the name of Islam. The canon is Islam's internal check and balance system; it is what safeguards its moderation; it is 'self-censorship' and its ultimate safety feature.

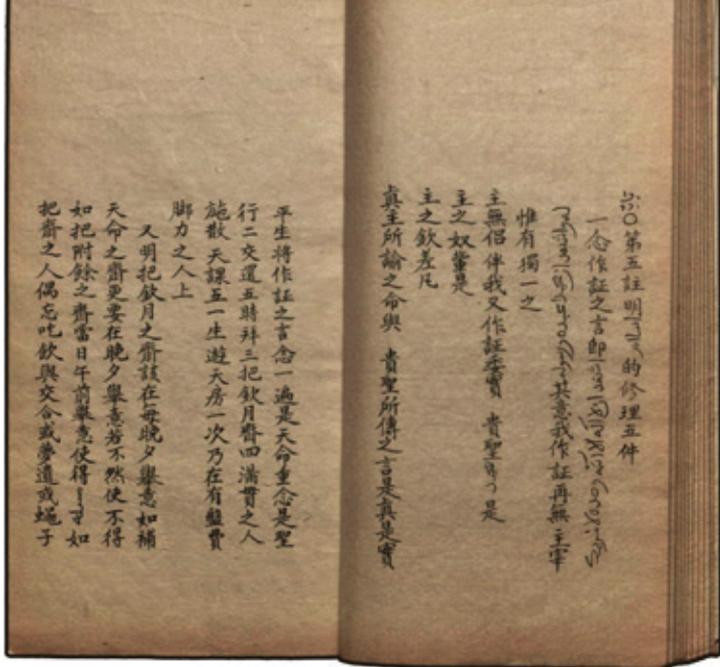
To be more specific, the traditional Sunni Islamic Canon starts with the Qur'an itself; then the great traditional Commentaries upon it (e. g. Tabari; Razi; Zamakhshari/Baydawi; Qurtubi; Jalalayn;



2 Sahih Muslim, 'Kitab al Iman', 18, n. 72.

3 The Gospel according to Mark 12:29–31. (See also Deuteronomy 6:5; and Matthew 22:37–40).

4 Even the English word 'canon' comes from the Arabic word *kanun* meaning 'law' or 'principle'.



Jahiliyya poetry (as a background reference for the semantic connotations of words in the Arabic language). We give a specific (but not exhaustive) list here in order to minimise the possibility of misunderstanding.

ISLAM IN HISTORY

It is evidently not possible to do justice to the role of Islam in world history, thought and civilisation in a few words, but the following paragraph by Britain's Prince Charles attempts it:

'The medieval Islamic world, from Central Asia to the shores of the Atlantic, was a world where scholars and men of learn-

ing flourished. But because we have tended to see Islam as the enemy, as an alien culture, society, and system of belief, we have tended to ignore or erase its great relevance to our own history. For example, we have underestimated the importance of eight hundred years of Islamic society and culture in Spain between the 8th and 15th centuries. The contribution of Muslim Spain to the preservation of classical learning during the Dark Ages, and to the first flowerings of the Renaissance, has long been recognised. But Islamic Spain was much more than a mere larder where Hellenistic knowledge was kept for later consumption by the emerging modern Western world.

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TOP LEFT: Manuscript pages of *A Sketch of the Islamic Law* by Ma Boliang (1640–1711 CE), an influential Islamic scholar from Jining, China. Islamic scholars who authenticated the work include Li Yongshou, Wen Yingshi, Yang Jiu'en, Ma Minggao, and Ma Zhilin.

TOP RIGHT: A manuscript page from *Sahih al-Bukhārī* from the National Library of Bulgaria dated 407 AH (1017 CE).

BELOW: Alhambra Palace in Spain



Not only did Muslim Spain gather and preserve the intellectual content of ancient Greek and Roman civilisation, it also interpreted and expanded upon that civilisation, and made a vital contribution of its own in so many fields of human endeavour—in science, astronomy, mathematics, algebra (it self an Arabic word), law, history, medicine, pharmacology, optics, agriculture, architecture, theology, music. Averroes [Ibn Rushd] and Avenzoar [Ibn Zuhr], like their counterparts Avicenna [Ibn Sina] and Rhazes [Abu Bakr al Razi] in the East, contributed to the study and practice of medicine in ways from which Europe benefited for centuries afterwards.⁵

On 4 June, 2009, US President Barack Obama said the following at Cairo University:

‘As a student of history, I also know civilisation’s debt to Islam. It was Islam—at places like Al-Azhar—that carried the light of learning through so many centuries, paving the way for Europe’s Renaissance and Enlightenment. It was innovation in Muslim communities that developed the order of algebra; our magnetic compass and tools of navigation; our mastery of pens and printing; our understanding of how disease spreads and how it can be healed. Islamic culture has given us majestic arches and soaring spires; timeless poetry and cherished music; elegant calligraphy and places of peaceful contemplation. And throughout history, Islam has demonstrated through words and deeds the possibilities of religious tolerance and racial equality.

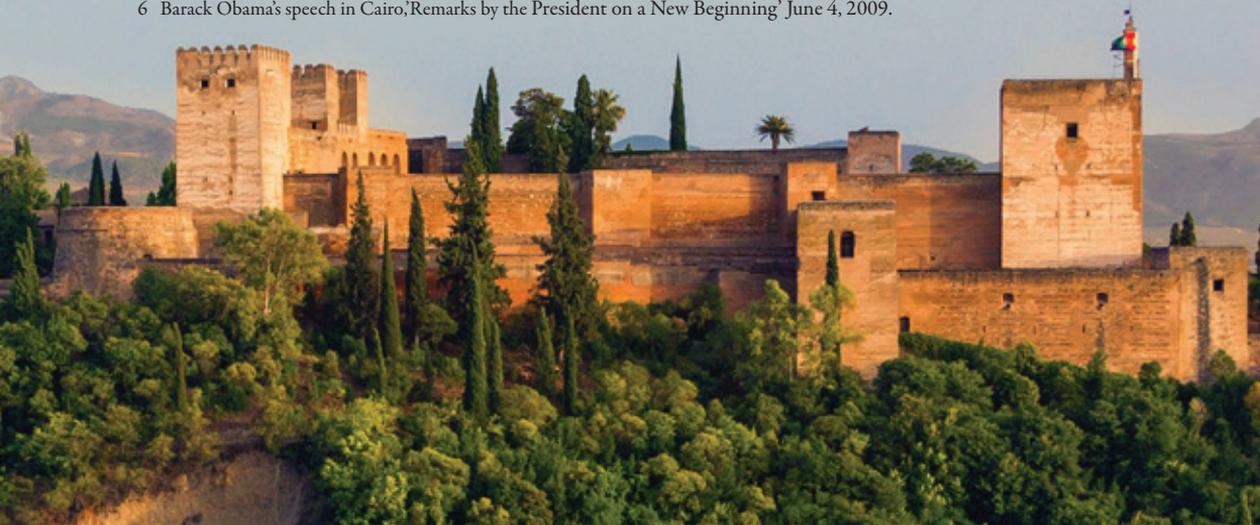
I also know that Islam has always been a part of America’s story. The first nation to recognise my country was Morocco. In signing the Treaty



of Tripoli in 1796, our second President, John Adams, wrote, ‘The United States has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquility of Muslims.’ And since our founding, American Muslims have enriched the United States. They have fought in our wars, they have served in our government, they have stood for civil rights, they have started businesses, they have taught at our universities, they’ve excelled in our sports arenas, they’ve won Nobel Prizes, built our tallest building, and lit the Olympic Torch. And when the first Muslim American was recently elected to Congress, he took the oath to defend our Constitution using the same Holy Koran that one of our Founding Fathers—Thomas Jefferson—kept in his personal library.⁶

5 HRH the Prince of Wales, ‘Islam and the West’, a lecture given at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford on October 27th, 1993, pp. 17–18.

6 Barack Obama’s speech in Cairo, ‘Remarks by the President on a New Beginning’ June 4, 2009.



II. MAJOR DOCTRINAL DIVISIONS WITHIN ISLAM

Sunni Theology

1) ASH'ARI AND MATURIDI SCHOOLS: SUNNI ORTHODOXY¹

These two schools of doctrine are followed by the bulk of Sunni Muslims and differ only in minor details.

Ash'ari School: This school is named after the followers of the 9th century scholar **Abu al Hasan al Ash'ari** (874–936 CE) and is widely accepted throughout the Sunni Muslim world. They believe that the characteristics of God are ultimately beyond human comprehension, and trust in the Revelation is essential, although the use of rationality is important.

Maturidi School: This school is named after the followers of the 9th century scholar **Muhammad Abu Mansur al Maturidi** (853–944 CE) and has a wide following in regions where Hanafi law is practiced. They have a slightly more pronounced reliance on human reason.

2) SALAFI SCHOOL

This school was developed around the doctrines of 18th century scholar **Muhammad ibn Abd al Wahhab** (1703–1792 CE). Salafis have specific doctrinal beliefs, owing to their particular interpretation of Islam, that differentiate them from the majority of Sunnis, such as a literal anthropomorphic interpretation of God. Salafis place a great emphasis on literal interpretation of the Qur'an and *Hadith*, with skepticism towards the role of human reason in theology.

3) MU'TAZILI SCHOOL

This school was developed between the 8th and 10th centuries. Although it is traced back to **Wasil ibn Ata** (d. 748 CE) in Basra, theologians **Abu al Hudhayl Al-'Allaf** (d. 849 CE) and **Bishr ibn al Mu'tamir** (d. 825 CE) are credited with formalizing its theological stance. Mu'tazili thought relies heavily on logic, including Greek philosophy. Although it no longer has a significant following, a small minority of contemporary intellectuals have sought to revive it. Mutazilites believe that the Qur'an was created as opposed to the Orthodox Sunni view that it is eternal and uncreated. Moreover they advocate using rationalism to understand allegorical readings of the Qur'an.

¹ Orthodoxy in Islam is based on verse 2:285 of the Holy Qur'an, and has been best defined by the historical 2005 international Islamic consensus on the 'three points' of the Amman Message (see: the Amman Message at the end of this section)

Shia Theology

1) THE TWELVER SCHOOL

The infallibility (*'Ismah*) of the Twelve Imams descended from the family of the Prophet (*Ahl al-Bayt*) who are believed to be the spiritual and rightful political authorities of the Muslim community (*Umma*). The twelfth Imam, the Mahdi, is believed to be in occultation to return in the future.

2) ISMA'ILI SCHOOL

The Qur'an and *Hadith* are said to have truths lying with a single living Imam, descended directly from the Prophet. Also known as 'seveners' for their belief that Isma'il ibn Ja'far was the seventh leading-Imam of the Muslim community.

3) ZAIDI SCHOOL

The infallibility of the Twelve Imams and the notion of occultation are rejected in favour of accepting the leadership of a living Imam. The Imamate can be held by any descendant of the Prophet (*Sayyid*). Also known as 'fivers' by other Muslims for their belief that Zayd ibn Ali was the fifth leading-Imam of the Muslim community.

Ibadi Theology

IBADI SCHOOL

Ibadis believe that God created the Qur'an at a certain point in time, and that God will not be seen on the Day of Judgment. They also believe in the eternal nature of hell for all those who enter it.

III. IDEOLOGICAL DIVISIONS

TRADITIONAL ISLAM

(90% of the world's Muslims)

Also known as Orthodox Islam, this ideology is not politicized and largely based on consensus of correct opinion—thus including the Sunni, Shia, and Ibadi branches of practice (and their subgroups) within the fold of Islam, but not groups such as the Druze or the Ahmadiyya, among others.

ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

(9% of the world's Muslims)
(8% Salafi; 1% Ikhwan)

This is a highly politicized religious ideology popularised in the 20th century through movements within both the Shia and Sunni branches of Islam—characterised by aggressiveness and a reformist attitude toward traditional Islam.

ISLAMIC MODERNISM

(1% of the world's Muslims)

Emerging from 19th century Ottoman Turkey and Egypt, this subdivision contextualized Islamic ideology for the times—emphasizing the need for religion to evolve with Western advances.

IIIA. TRADITIONAL ISLAM

SUNNI

(90% of the world's traditional muslims)

The largest denomination of Muslims referred to as *Ahl as Sunnah wa'l Jama'h* or 'people of the prophetic tradition and community'—with emphasis on emulating the life of the last Prophet, Muhammad.

SCHOOLS OF SUNNI ISLAMIC LAW

Hanafi

(45%)

Named after the followers of Imam Abu Hanifa (699–767 CE/ 89–157 AH) in Iraq.

Shafi'i

(28%)

Named after the followers of Imam al Shafi'i (767–820 CE/ 150–204 AH) in Madinah.

Maliki

(15%)

Named after the followers of Imam Malik (711–795 CE/ 93–179 AH) in Madinah.

Hanbali

(2%)

Named after the followers of Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (780–855 CE/ 164–241 AH) in Iraq.

SHIA

(9.5% of the world's traditional Muslims)

The second-largest denomination of Muslims referred to as *Shiatu 'Ali* or 'the party of Ali,' the fourth caliph of Islam and first Imam in Shi'ism.

BRANCHES OF SHIA ISLAM

Zaidis (Fivers)

(Less than 1%)

Named after the followers of Imam Zaid ibn 'Ali (695–740 CE) in Madinah.

Twelvers

(8%)

Named after the followers of Imam Ja'far al Sadiq (702–765 CE/ 83–148 AH) in Madinah.

Isma'ilis (Seveners)

(Less than 0.5%)

Named after the followers of Muhammad ibn Ismail (746–809 CE/128–193 AH) in Madinah.

SCHOOLS OF ISLAMIC LAW FOR TWELVER SHIA

Usuli

99% of Twelvers. This dominant school favors the use of *ijtihad*, independent legal reasoning, with an emphasis on four accepted collections of *Hadith*. Derive legal opinions from living *ayatollahs*, or *mujtahids*, whose rulings become obligatory. *Taqlid*, the practice of following rulings without questioning the religious authority, is a core tenet of this school. The name Usuli is derived from the Arabic term *usul* meaning 'principle'.

Akhbari

Akhbaris reject the use of *ijtihad* or reasoning, and do not follow marjas who practice *ijtihad*. They also prohibit exegesis of the Qur'an. Derive legal rulings from the Qur'an, Hadith, and consensus. The name Akhbari is derived from the Arabic term *akhbar* meaning 'traditions'. They can trace their roots to the followers of Muhammad Amin Astarabadi (d. 1627 CE). Akhbaris continue to exist to this day, although in small, concentrated pockets, particularly around Basra, Iraq.

Ibadi

(0.5% of the world's traditional Muslims)

The Ibadi school has origins in and is linked to the Kharijites, but the modern day community is distinct from the 7th century Islamic sect. It was founded after the death of Prophet Muhammad and is currently practiced by a majority of Oman's Muslim population. Also found across parts of Africa.

MYSTIC BROTHERHOODS

Although reliable statistics are not available for the millions of Muslims who practice Islamic mysticism, it has been estimated that 25% of adult Sunni Muslims in 1900 CE participated in these brotherhoods as either *murids* (followers of the Sufi guide of a particular order) or *mutabarrikîn* (supporters or affiliates of a particular Sufi order).

SUNNI ORDERS

Naqshbandiyya

Founded by Baha al Din Naqshband (d. 1389 CE) in Bukhara, modern day Uzbekistan. Influence: popular from China to North Africa, Europe and America.

Qadiriyya

Founded by scholar and saint 'Abd al Qadir al Jilani (1077–1166 CE) in Baghdad, Iraq. Influence: stretches from Morocco to Malaysia, from Central Asia to South Africa.

Tijaniyya

Ahmad al Tijani (d. 1815 CE) who settled and taught in Fez, Morocco. Influence: major spiritual and religious role in Senegal, Nigeria, Mauritania and much of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Shadhiliyyah

Founded by the Moroccan saint Abu'l-Hassan al Shadili (d. 1258 CE). Influence: most influential in North Africa and Egypt.

Kubrawiyya

(d. 1221 CE) from Khawarzm, modern day Uzbekistan. Influence: mostly present across Central Asia.

Suhrawardiyya

Founded by Persian scholar Abu Najib Suhrawardi (d. 1168 CE) in Iraq. Influence: a strong presence in India.

Chishtiyya

Founded by the Persian saint Mu'in al Din Chishti (d. 1236 CE) Khurasan. Influence: highly influential in India.

Mawlawiyya

A Turkish order founded by the Persian saint and poet Jalal al Din Rumi (d. 1273 CE). Influence: mainly in Türkiye.

Rifa'iyya

Founded by Ahmad ibn 'Ali al Rifa'i (d. 1182 CE) in southern Iraq. Influence: widely practiced across the Muslim world with a strong presence in Egypt.

Yashrutiyya

Founded by 'Ali Nur al Din al Yashruti (d. 1892 CE) in Palestine. Influence: strong presence in Syria and Lebanon.

Badawiyya

An Egyptian order founded by the Moroccan saint Ahmad al Badawi (d. 1276 CE), considered by many as the patron saint of Egypt. Influence: active role in Egypt and the Sudan.

Khalwatiyya

A Turkish order founded by the Persian saint 'Umar al Khalwati (d. 1397 CE). Influence: wide presence in the Balkans, Syria, Lebanon and North Africa.

SHIA ORDERS

Irfan

Irfan, which means 'knowing' in Arabic and 'most beautiful and knowledgeable person' in Pashto, is Shia mysticism. **Mulla Sadr al Din Muhammad Shirazi** (1571–1636 CE) from Iran is considered a leading Shia theorist of *Irfan*.

IIIB. ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

SUNNI

Muslim Brotherhood

The Muslim Brotherhood, or Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslimeen is a transnational Sunni movement, with no particular ideological adherence. It is the largest political opposition organisation in many Arab states, particularly in Egypt where it was founded in opposition to colonial rule by Hassan al Banna in 1928. Al Banna originally sought to revive Muslim culture from its position of exploitation under colonial rule, through charitable and educational work, to bring Islam into a central role in people's life. Sayyid Qutb (1906–1966 CE) was also a leading member of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood in the 50s and 60s.

Wahhabism/Salafism

Wahhabism/Salafism are terms used interchangeably to refer to a particular brand of Islam. Salaf, meaning predecessors, refers to the very early practice of Islam by Muhammad and his immediate successors. Salafism seeks to revive the practice of Islam as it was at the time of Muhammad and can be critical of too much emphasis being placed on thinkers from after this period. Muhammad ibn 'Abd al Wahhab (1703–1792 CE) was an important figure in the resurrection of this ideology therefore Salafism is often simply known as Wahhabism.

SHIA

Revolutionary Shi'ism

Revolutionary Shi'ism is an ideology, based on the teachings of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (1902–1989 CE), which shares many similarities with Marxist revolutionary thought. Khomeini believed that the only way to secure independence from colonial or imperial forces was through the creation of a Shia state, under the idea of Velayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the Jurist). This means that all politics is subject to the opinion of the Supreme Leader who is responsible for the continued success of the revolution. It is only practiced in Iran.

IIIC. ISLAMIC MODERNISM

Islamic modernism is a reform movement started by politically-minded urbanites with scant knowledge of traditional Islam. These people had witnessed and studied Western technology and socio-political ideas, and realized that the Islamic world was being left behind technologically by the West and had become too weak to stand up to it. They blamed this weakness on what they saw as 'traditional Islam,' which they thought held them back and was not 'progressive' enough. They thus called for a complete overhaul of Islam, including—or rather in particular—Islamic law (*sharia*) and doctrine (*aqida*). Islamic modernism remains popularly an object of derision and ridicule, and is scorned by traditional Muslims and fundamentalists alike.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 أَمْرًا سَوَافِدًا أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْنَا فَمَنْ رَبُّنَا وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كَلَّمَكَ
 أَمْرًا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا لَكُمْ وَكُنْتُمْ رَسُولًا لَنَا نَفَرًا مِنْ بَيْنِ أَحَدِكُمْ
 فَمَنْ سَأَلْنَا وَقَالَ لَوْ سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ
 الْمَصِيرُ لَا يَكْفُرُ اللَّهُ بِنَفْسِهِ إِلَّا وَسِعَهَا الْعِلْمُ مَا كَتَبَتْ
 وَعَلَيْهَا مَا كَتَبَتْ رَبَّنَا لَا تَأْتِي خِزْيَانًا إِنْ نَسِينَا أَوْ إِحْطَانًا
 رَبَّنَا وَلَا جِغْمًا عَلَيْنَا إِضْرَابًا حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ فَزَقْنَا رَبَّنَا
 وَلَا حَمْلًا لَنَا إِلَّا طَافَ لَنَا بِنُورٍ وَعَفَّتْ عَنَّا وَغَفِرْنَا
 وَإِحْسَانًا أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى
 الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The Messenger believes in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and the believers; each one believes in God and His angels, and in His Books, and His messengers, 'we make no distinction between any of His messengers'. And they say, 'We hear and obey; Your forgiveness, our Lord; to You is the homecoming.'

God charges no soul save to its capacity; for it is what it is has merited, and against it is what it has earned. Our Lord, take us not to task if we forget, or err; our Lord, burden us not with a load, such as You did lay upon those before us. Our Lord, do not burden us beyond what we have the power to bear; and pardon us, and forgive us, and have mercy on us; You are our Patron; so grant us assistance against the disbelieving folk.

The Cow, 285-286

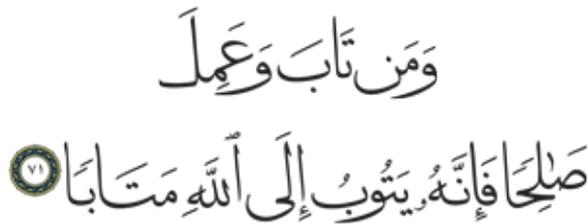
THE TOP 50

The Top 50

1. HM King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud
King of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques (2)
2. HE Grand Ayatollah Hajj Sayyid Ali Khamenei
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (3)
3. HH Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani
Emir of Qatar (1)
4. HE President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Turkiye (4)
5. HM King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Custodian of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem (5)
6. HE Justice Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani
Scholar and Deobandi Leader (6)
7. HM King Mohammed VI
King of Morocco (7)
8. HH President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan
United Arab Emirates (8)
9. HE Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Al-Sistani
Marja of the Hawza, Najaf, Iraq (9)
10. HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud
Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia (15)
11. HE Sheikh Al-Habib Umar bin Hafiz
Scholar and Director of Dar Al Mustafa, Tarim, Yemen (11)
12. Sheikh Salman Al-Ouda
Scholar and Preacher (12)
13. HE President Joko Widodo
Indonesia (13)
14. HE Sheikh Dr Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayyeb
Grand Sheikh of the Al-Azhar University, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Mosque (14)
15. Maulana Mahmood Madani
Leader and President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, India (27)
16. HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah
Scholar and President of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies (16)
17. HE President Muhammadu Buhari
Nigeria (17)
18. HRE Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh As-Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III
Sultan of Sokoto (18)
19. Sheikh Yahya Cholil Staquf
Chairman of the Executive Council of Nahdlatul Ulama (450 lists)
20. HE Sheikh Dr Ali Gomaa
Former Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt (20)
21. Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah
Secretary-General of Hezbollah (21)
22. Sheikh Habib Ali Zain Al Abideen Al-Jifri
Preacher and Director General of the Tabah (22)
23. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson
Teacher and Co-Founder of Zaytuna College (23)
24. Sheikh Ahmad Tijani bin Ali Cisse
Leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi Order (24)
25. Sheikha Munira Qubeysi
Leader of the Qubeysi (25)
26. Sheikh Mustafa Hosny
Preacher (28)

27. HE Sheikh Abdul-Aziz ibn Abdullah Aal Al-Sheikh
Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (26)
28. Sheikh Usama Al-Sayyid Al-Azhari
Scholar (29)
29. HH Shah Karim Al-Hussayni
The Aga Khan IV, 49th Imam of Ismaili Muslims (30)
30. Habib Luthfi bin Yahya
Preacher (32)
31. Sheikh Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi
Leader of the Houthi (33)
32. Maulana Tariq Jameel
Scholar and Preacher (35)
33. HE President Halimah Yacob
Singapore (36)
34. Sheikh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi
Scholar (37)
35. Professor Seyyed Hossein Nasr
Philosopher and University Professor (38)
36. Sheikh Uthman Taha
Calligrapher (39)
37. Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi
Tunisian Politician (40)
38. HE President Samia Suluhu Hassan
Tanzania (HM)
39. Mohamed Salah
Footballer (41)
40. HE President Abdel Fattah Saeed Al-Sisi
Egypt (450 lists)
41. Sheikh Muqtada Sadr
Scholar and Political (42)
42. Maulana Nazur ur-Rehman
Amir of Tablighi Jamaat, Pakistan (43)
43. Sheikh Moez Masoud
Preacher and Televangelist (44)
44. Dr Timothy Winter (Sheikh Abdal Hakim Murad)
Islamic Scholar (45)
45. HE Sheikh Ibrahim Saleh Al-Hussaini
Islamic Scholar (47)
46. Dr Mohamed Bechari
French activist (48)
47. Dr Amr Khaled
Preacher and Televangelist (49)
48. Dr Aref Ali Nayed
Scholar (46)
49. HE Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada
Leader of the Taliban (50)
50. Sheikh Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri
Founder of Dawat-e-Islami Movement (HM)

* The number in brackets indicates last year's position.



And whoever repents and acts righteously, indeed turns to God with due repentance.

The Criterion, 71

THE TOP 50 AND HONOURABLE MENTIONS LISTED BY CATEGORY

Although the influence of the Top 50 straddles many categories and cannot be limited to just one or another category, it can be insightful to place them into more general categories. To the Top 50 we have added the Honourable Mentions and have chosen three general categories into which to place them: 1. Rulers and Politicians, 2. Scholars and Preachers and 3. Social Issues, Media, Science, Arts, Culture and Sports.

Rulers and Politicians

1. HM King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud
2. HE Grand Ayatollah Hajj Sayyid Ali Khamenei
3. HH Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani
4. HE President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
5. HM King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein
6. HM King Mohammed VI
7. HH President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan
8. HRH Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud
9. HE President Joko Widodo
10. HE President Muhammadu Buhari
11. Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah
12. HH Shah Karim Al-Hussayni
13. Sheikh Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi
14. HE President Halimah Yacob
15. HE Rached Ghannouchi
16. HE President Samia Suluhu Hassan
17. HE President Abdel Fattah Saeed Al-Sisi
18. HE Sheikh Muqtada Sadr
19. HE Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada
20. HE President Mahmoud Abbas
21. HE Ismail Haniyah
22. HE Anwar Ibrahim
23. HE Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad
24. Imran Khan
25. Sadiq Khan

Scholars and Preachers

1. HE Justice Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani
2. HE Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Al-Sistani
3. Sheikh Al-Habib Umar bin Hafiz
4. Sheikh Salman Al-Ouda
5. HE Professor Dr Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayyeb
6. Maulana Mahmood Madani
7. HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah
8. HRE Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh As-Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III
9. Sheikh Yahya Cholil Staquf
10. HE Sheikh Dr Ali Gomaa
11. Sheikh Habib 'Ali Zain Al Abideen Al-Jifri
12. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson
13. Sheikh Ahmad Tijani bin Ali Cisse
14. HE Sheikha Munira Qubeysi
15. Sheikh Mustafa Hosny
16. HE Sheikh Abdul-Aziz ibn Abdullah Aal Al-Sheikh
17. Sheikh Usama Al-Sayyid Al-Azhari
18. Habib Luthfi bin Yahya
19. Maulana Tariq Jameel
20. Sheikh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi
21. Professor Seyyed Hossein Nasr
22. Maulana Nazur ur-Rehman
23. Sheikh Moez Masoud
24. Professor Timothy Winter (Sheikh Abdal Hakim Murad)
25. HE Sheikh Ibrahim Salih Al-Hussaini
26. Dr Amr Khalid
27. Dr Aref Ali Nayed
28. Sheikh Muhammad Ilyas Artar Qadiri
29. HE Grand Ayatollah Abdullah Jawadi Amoli
30. HE Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Ishaq Fayadh

31. Professor M Din Syamsuddin
32. Dr Syed Muhammad Naquib Al-Attas
33. Professor Akbar Ahmed
34. Dr Ingrid Mattson
35. Aminu Ado Bayero

36. Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani
37. Sheikh Nuh Keller
38. Dr Muhammad Al-Arif
39. Dr Zakir Abdul Karim Naik
40. Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais

Social Issues, Science, Arts & Culture and Sports

1. HE Sheikh Uthman Taha
2. Mohammed Salah
3. Mohamed Bechari
4. Ahd Tamimi
5. Loujain al-Hathloul

6. Malala Yousufzai
7. Dr. Ugur Sahin
8. Sami Yusuf
9. Saadio Mane
10. Khabib Nurmagomedov

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ سَبَوْا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

وَأَنِيبُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَسْلَبُوا الْعُرُوقَ إِنِّي نَكِّرُ الْعَذَابَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ

وَاتَّبِعُوا الْحَسَنَاتِ أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِّن مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ قُرْآنًا تَيَكَّرَ بِهَا الْعَذَابُ بَعَثْنَا فِيكُمْ

Say [that God declares]: 'O My servants who have been prodigal against their own souls, do not despair of God's mercy. Truly God forgives all sins. Truly He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

And turn [penitently] to your Lord and submit to Him, before the chastisement comes on you, whereupon you will not be helped.

And follow the best of what has been revealed to you from your Lord before the chastisement comes on you suddenly while you are unaware'

The Troops, 53-55

© FreeIslamicCalligraphy.com

Country: Saudi Arabia

Born: 31 December 1935 (age 87)

Source of Influence: Political

Influence: King with authority over 35 million residents of Saudi Arabia and approximately 14 million pilgrims annually.

School of Thought: Moderate Salafi

2022 (2)

2021 (2)

2020 (4)

“My primary goal is to be an exemplary and leading nation in all aspects, and I will work with you in achieving this endeavour.”

\$4 billion

donated to disaster and war-torn countries

5

World Heritages sites



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His Majesty

King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud

HM King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud

King of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

HM King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud was proclaimed the seventh king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in January 2015, after the passing of King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz. He had previously held the position of Crown Prince from June 2012. King Salman's influence comes from being the absolute monarch of the most powerful Arab nation and is manifested by the role Saudi Arabia plays in three critical areas: 1. having the two holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, which millions of Muslims visit throughout the year; 2. exporting crude oil and refined petroleum products, which ensures its central international role; and 3. propagating Islam through its huge propagation (*da'wa*) network, which makes its influence felt in all Muslim countries. On 21 June 2017, King Salman appointed his son, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz as Crown Prince of the Kingdom.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques: HM King Salman has significant influence in the global Muslim community through his custodianship of the two holy cities of Makkah and Madinah. Makkah is the main pilgrimage site for 1.9 billion Muslims. Each year approximately 4 million pilgrims perform the Hajj. In addition to this, approximately 10 million pilgrims (including Saudi residents and GCC citizens) perform the Umrah, "the lesser Hajj", throughout the year. A multi-billion-dollar expansion to the two mosques is well under way.

Controller of Oil Reserves: HM King Salman reigns over a land of massive crude oil reserves—Saudi Arabia has approximately 20 percent of the world's proven oil reserves—making him a key player in the global petroleum industry. The recent increase in oil prices has boosted its revenue by almost 90 percent from the previous year to over \$67bn in the first half of 2022.

Head of the World's Largest *Da'wa* Network: King Salman is also head of the most extensive *da'wa* network of missionary Muslims in the world, promoting the Salafi brand of Islam. Salafism is historically rooted in Saudi Arabia, and owes its global spread to the financial backing of Saudi Arabia. Its violent offshoots have meant that Saudi Arabia itself is now a target for them.

Humanitarian: The King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid (KSRelief) was established in 2015 delivering aid internationally to victims of civil war and natural disaster. KSRelief has funded over \$2bn in more than 400 projects in 40 countries.

Projects included assisting Syrian patients living in Zataari Syrian refugee camp in Jordan and providing prosthetic limbs to Yemeni civilians wounded during the war. KSRelief signed a memorandum of cooperation with UNICEF and signed an agreement with the UNHCR to support the families affected by war. **Military Action:** In March 2015, King Salman launched a nine-state coalition bombing campaign against Houthi rebels in Yemen. The campaign is cited as curbing Iranian influence in the region, but it has also tarnished Saudi's international reputation as it continues to bomb the poorest nation on earth. The conflict has become even more complicated as cracks appear in the coalition, notably with the UAE, who are backing a new faction.

Key Appointments: The transfer of power from the sons of the founder of Saudi Arabia, King Abdul-Aziz, to the new generation, which some feared would be an issue that would split the country, has been remarkably smooth so far. HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman is the second Crown Prince from the new generation appointed by King Salman. These appointees have brought changes in law which have had monumental social effects, changes such as allowing women in Saudi Arabia to move freely and drive, and the promotion of cinemas and music concerts.

Hajj: The Hajj was severely curtailed for two years with only 1,000 and then 60,000 residents allowed to perform the pilgrimage, but in 2022 it opened for a million worldwide pilgrims.

Saudi Arabia's national bird, the falcon



Country: Iran

Born: 16 July 1939 (age 83)

Source of Influence: Political, Administrative

Influence: Supreme Leader of 84 million Iranians

School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shia, Revolutionary Shi'ism

2022 (3)

2021 (3)

2020 (2)

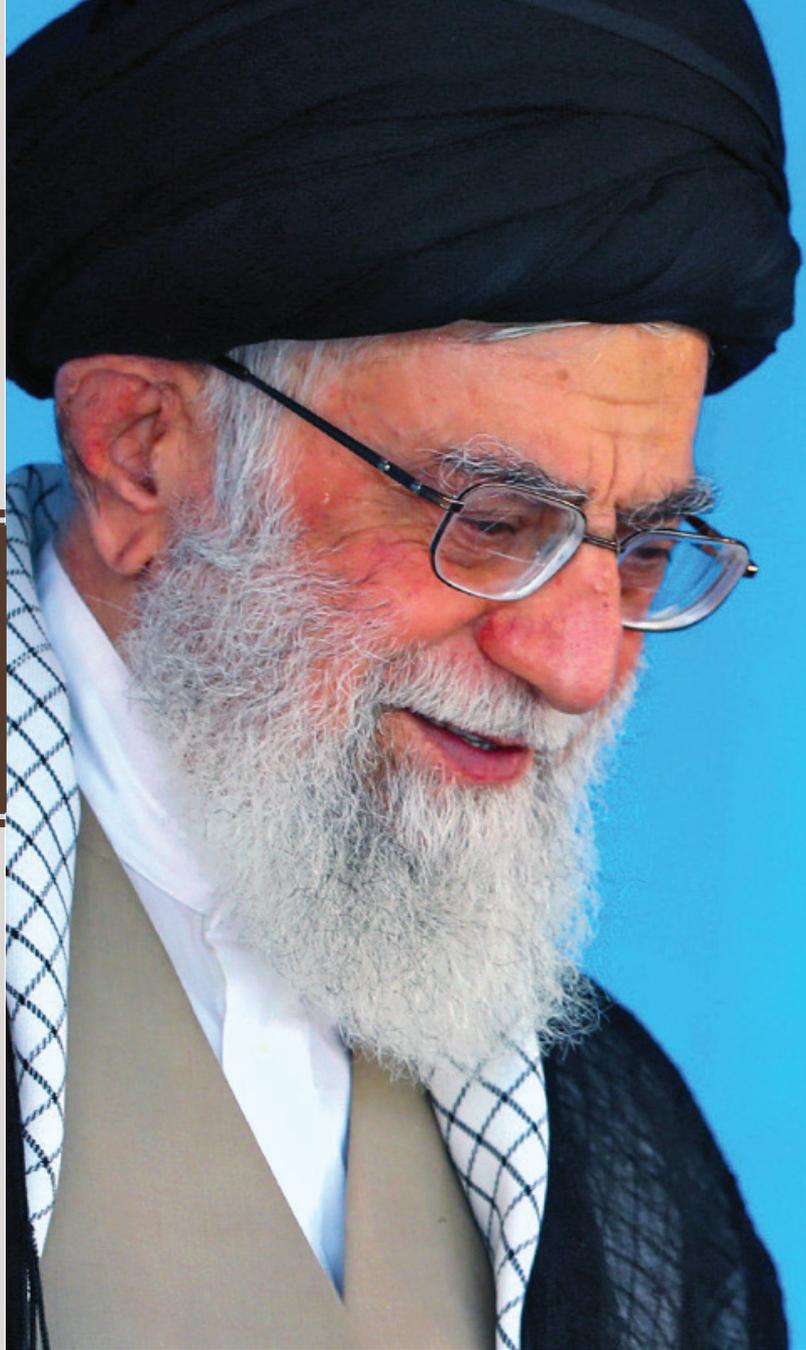
“The people’ means everyone, without any privilege for a certain class and a certain group.”

15th

in nanotechnology research

22

World Heritage sites



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His Eminence

Grand Ayatollah Hajj Sayyid Ali Khamenei

HE Grand Ayatollah Hajj Sayyid Ali Khamenei Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Grand Ayatollah Khamenei is the second Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was born in Mashhad and studied in the leading Iranian religious seminary in Qom before becoming involved in the struggle with the Pahlavi Regime in the sixties and seventies. He was a key figure in the revolution in 1979 and served as President between 1981-1989 before succeeding Ayatollah Khomeini as Supreme Leader upon the latter's death. He has vocally supported most of the unrest in the Arab World, likening it to the Iranian Revolution.

Supreme Leader, Velayat-e Faqih: Khamenei's current influence stems from his powerful position as a religious leader, which gives him a unique role in political affairs. His job is to enact the *Velayat-e Faqih*—the guardianship of the jurist. In real terms this means a system where scholars of *fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence) have a controlling say in the political affairs of the state. The rule of the jurist was a concept created by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, based on ideas that have run through Iranian political history since the time of Shah Ismail—who was the first to make Shia Islam the national religion of Iran in the early 16th century under the rule of the Safavids. It was conceived as a way of safeguarding the Iranian nation from tyranny, giving the final say in all matters to a group of religious scholars, the Council of Guardians. This Council is headed by a chief arbitrator—the Supreme Leader.

Leader of Shia Revolution: Khamenei gains much of his influence in Iran from his role as a leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran was forged out of the 1979 Revolution. Combating what many saw as the tyrannical rule of the Shah, Khamenei joined the Society of Combatant Clergy that staged demonstrations mobilising many of the protests leading to the Shah's overthrow. After the revolution in 1979, Khamenei was one of the founding members of the Islamic Republic Party, and a member of the assembly of experts that was responsible for drafting Iran's new constitution.

Sunni-Shia Reconciliation: On 2 September 2010 Khamenei issued a historic fatwa banning the insult of any symbol that Sunnis hold to be dear, including but not limited to the companions and wives of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). This fatwa was received with great appreciation by the Chancellor of Al-Azhar University, Sheikh Ahmad

Al-Tayyeb.

Sanctions: Since 1979, the United States has used sanctions to try to influence Iran's policies, including Iran's uranium enrichment program. The sanctions have had a detrimental effect on many aspects of life in the country. In 2015, Iran and the P5+1 (the US, UK, France, China, Russia and Germany) agreed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which limited Iran's nuclear activities and allowed international inspectors in return for the lifting of economic sanctions. This agreement worked for 4 years before President Trump unilaterally withdrew from it and subsequently imposed stricter sanctions on Iran and secondary sanctions for countries still buying Iranian oil. The Biden administration has signalled returning to the JCPOA, but this will require further negotiation with the new President Ebrahim Raisi.

Current Issues: Iran's role in the Syrian and Yemeni conflicts and how it maintains its relationships with the Arab world are key issues that require Khamenei's lead. The US assassinated Major General Qasem Soleimani in January 2020 and although Iran replied by firing missiles at a US base in Iraq, this issue seems far from resolved for many. Khamenei has stressed Iran's strong relationship with Russia following the war in Ukraine.

Iran's national bird, the nightingale



Country: Qatar

Born: 3 June 1980 (age 42)

Source of Influence: Political

Influence: Ruler of richest country per capita in the world

School of Thought: Sunni Hanbali

2022 (1)

2021 (11)

2020 (12)

"...We will not tolerate financial and administrative corruption, abuse of public positions for ulterior motives, or abandoning professional standards for the sake of personal interest."

12%

of the country are citizens

7

stadiums built for the World Cup



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His Highness

Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani

HH Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani

Emir of Qatar

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani became the Emir of Qatar at the age of 33 after his father, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, abdicated in June 2013. Qatar is the richest country in the world with a GDP per capita of \$63,505. It has under 400,000 citizens whilst the rest of its population of 3 million are expatriate workers. It is the top exporter of liquefied natural gas and the site of the third largest natural gas reserves in the world.

Family: Sheikh Tamim is Sheikh Hamad's fourth son and was chosen as Crown Prince in August 2003. His mother is the powerful Sheikha Moza, who still plays a prominent public role as an advocate for social and educational causes.

Education: Sheikh Tamim completed his studies at a private school in the UK before going on to graduate at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst (in 1998). During his time as Crown Prince (2003-13), Sheikh Tamim had exposure to a wide range of posts including security (he was deputy commander of the armed forces), economics (chairman of the Qatar Investment Authority) and sports. He supervised Qatar's successful bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Expectations: Qatar exploded onto the world scene under his father's reign, and expectations are that Sheikh Tamim will try to consolidate these achievements. Packing a punch far above its weight has led to neighbouring countries questioning the purpose of so many initiatives. He has had to repair relations with other Gulf countries over supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and defend Qatar's world image over the treatment of labourers in Qatar.

Blockade: In June 2017, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt, with the backing of the Trump administration, cut all relations with Qatar and imposed trade and travel bans. This drastic action resulted from various claims that Qatar was supporting terrorism and had violated a 2014 agreement with GCC countries. Its good relations with Iran and its hosting Al-Jazeera TV network were also factors in this tense situation which saw food-stuff imported from Iran and Turkish soldiers called in to help safeguard Qatar assets. A further complicating factor in this family feud was that Qatar hosts the largest American base in the Middle East and all the blockade partners are close allies of the US. The 43-month blockade was finally lifted in January

2021, having made little impact.

Peace Broker: With the Emir enjoying good international relations and continuing foreign investment, Qatar has positioned itself into the role of regional peace broker. Qatar hosted the historic signing of a peace deal between the US and the Taliban in 2020 which led to the full withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. During the Fourth High-Level Strategic Dialogue between the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in 2022, the State of Qatar was noted as the second largest contributor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism out of a total 35 other donors. It has adopted a strong position of proactive engagement through dialogue with regional neighbours.

Investor: Qatar continues to increase its influence through major investments globally. The Qatar Investment Authority has over \$450bn in assets ensuring it is a major player in global finance.

FIFA World Cup 2022: The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar from 21 November to 18 December 2022. This will be the first World Cup held in the Arab world and it is estimated that Qatar is spending more than \$200bn in construction projects to prepare itself; 12 stadiums, a new port, transportation systems and accommodation for an estimated 400,000 fans will face the scrutiny of the entire world. The Qatari government has already responded to global criticisms by adopting new labour reforms to improve working conditions. This has included a minimum wage and the removal of the *kafala* system.

Qatar's national bird, the falcon



Country: Türkiye

Born: 26 Feb 1954 (age 68)

Source of Influence: Political

Influence: President of 86 million Turkish citizens

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (4)

2021 (1)

2020 (6)

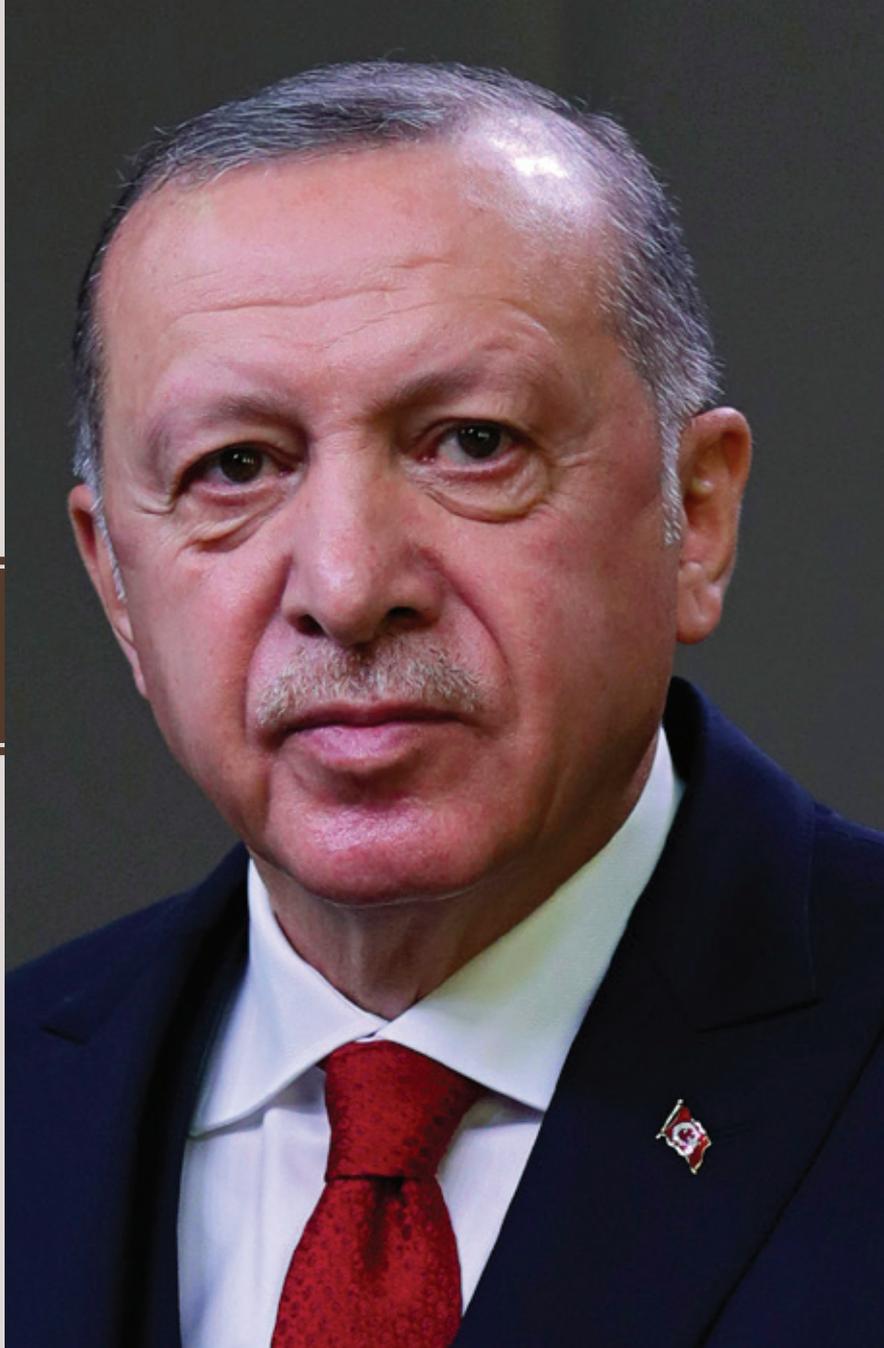
“The whole world is an open, free market. No state can exist without the others.”

4 million

refugees living in Türkiye

Over

82 thousand mosques throughout the country



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His Excellency

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

HE President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

President of the Republic of Türkiye

HE Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was the Prime Minister of Türkiye for 11 years, winning three consecutive elections with a majority (2002, 2007 and 2011), before becoming Türkiye's first popularly elected president in August 2014 and then securing a second term in the 2018 election. During his terms, Türkiye has seen unprecedented economic growth, constitutional reform, and a re-emergence as a major global power. All this, combined with his unapologetic voice on the world stage and support of Muslim issues, have won over Muslims worldwide.

President: Erdoğan secured 52.5% of the vote in the 2018 presidential election (electoral turnout was 86%), and thereby avoided a second-round runoff. This was a continuation of his remarkable popularity and success at the ballot box over the past two decades. During his time as President he has pushed for more powers for his post, a move not welcomed by all, and criticised by many as signs of wanting excessive power. He has lost support from key members of his own party and been criticised for cracking down on the media.

Taste of Defeat: When President Erdoğan returned to the leadership of the AKP in 2017 he expected to continue his amazing streak of victories in the 2019 local elections. This time, the AKP lost not only Istanbul, for the first time in 25 years, but also five of Türkiye's six largest cities. The Turkish government ordered a re-election in Istanbul, but the AKP fared even worse in the re-run elections in June. The state of the economy, mental fatigue with AKP rule as well as a well-organised and united opposition were all factors in this defeat. With stories of corruption within the AKP circulating widely on social media and poor Presidential appointments of key political and academic posts, there may be more defeats to come.

Failed Coup Ramifications: The failed coup of 15 July 2016, which led to about 200 deaths, has led to huge ramifications as Erdoğan looks to root out all those involved. He has squarely laid the blame of orchestrating the coup on Fethullah Gülen, and has led an all-out attack on Gülen's organisations and supporters. There has been a major crackdown on many sectors with about 160,000 civil servants being dismissed in various state institutions, with over half from the education sector. Also, 50,000 people remain in detention with this number continually rising as authorities press ahead with regular raids.

Between the US and Russia: Ties with the US have strained considerably since Türkiye decided to purchase the Russian S-400 defence system instead of the Patriot surface-to-air missile system. The US responded by suspending Türkiye from the F-35 jet programme and holding up other arms deals. Türkiye is playing a balancing role with Russia following the latter's war with Ukraine, and is key for Europe's energy flow.

Hagia Sophia: Hagia Sophia, built in 537 as the patriarchal cathedral of Constantinople, was converted into the Fatih Mosque after Sultan Mehmed II conquered the city in 1453. In 1935, and in line with his effort to erase Türkiye's Islamic identity, Atatürk converted Hagia Sophia into a museum. In July 2020, Erdoğan reversed Atatürk's decision and reclassified Hagia Sophia as a mosque—a decision celebrated by most Muslims.

Soft Power: The soft power of the Turkish film industry has played a large part in growing Türkiye's influence throughout the Muslim world. Historical dramas about Sulayman the Magnificent and Sultan Abdul-Hamid II were hugely popular in the Arab world, but the drama about Ertuğrul, (*'Diriliş: Ertuğrul'*) the legendary father of the founder of the Ottoman Empire, has intensified and broadened this influence. Leaders of other Muslim countries have not only urged their citizens to watch it but have also taken it as a model with which to develop their own indigenous dramas.

Name Change: In 2022 an official request for Türkiye to be changed to Türkiye (tur-key-YAY) as it is spelled and pronounced in Turkish was accepted by the UN. The country has called itself Türkiye since its declaration of independence in 1923.

Türkiye's national bird, the bald eagle



Country: Jordan

Born: 30 January 1962 (age 60)

Source of Influence: Custodian of the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Influence: King with authority over 10.5 million Jordanians; outreach to Traditional Islam

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (5)

2021 (4)

2020 (5)

“Our country is a bridge for regional partnerships and cooperation, international crisis response, and humanitarian action.”

41st generation
direct descendant of the
Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Over
3.6 million
tourists visited Jordan in
2022



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His Majesty

King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein

HM King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein

King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Custodian of the Holy Sites in Jerusalem

HM King Abdullah II is the constitutional monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, The Arab Army. He is also the Custodian of the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem.

Location: King Abdullah is not the leader of a rich or populous country, nor is he a religious scholar, but what makes his role vital is being the linchpin to the central cause of the Islamic world: the issue of Palestine and Jerusalem, and his being the Custodian of the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites there. There are over 12 million Palestinians in the world, 3 million in Jordan itself, around another 5 million in the occupied territories and Israel, and 2 million in Gaza. As Palestine is not recognised as a state by the entire international community, the responsibility for an equitable peace falls largely on its next-door neighbour Jordan, and on King Abdullah II in particular, especially as his family have been the hereditary Custodians of the Holy Sites from before the creation of the state of Jordan itself. Moreover, in the face of increased pressure to dissolve the very notion of Palestinian identity, dissolve UNRWA and illegally and unilaterally grant Jerusalem to Israel, King Abdullah has been the only influential voice actively—but responsibly—resisting this catastrophe for the Islamic world. Moreover, Jerusalem is one of Islam’s three holiest sites and is as holy to Muslims as it is to Jews and Christians, and its loss would represent a grievance based not only on justice but on faith to all the world’s 1.9 billion Muslims, a situation with explosive potential consequences, to say the least.

Lineage: King Abdullah II is a 41st-generation direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through the line of the Prophet’s grandson Al-Hasan. The Hashemite Dynasty is the second-oldest ruling dynasty in the world, after that of Japan. As the current bearer of the Hashemite legacy, HM King Abdullah II has a unique prestige in the Islamic world, in addition to his being the Custodian of the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem (and of course Jordan itself).

Longevity: King Abdallah II is now the longest-serving Arab ruler. His father King Hussein himself ruled for 47 years and was the longest-serving Arab leader when he died in 1999.

Support for Jerusalem (Al-Quds): HM King Abdullah II is the custodian of Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem, the sacred compound which contains Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Indeed, the Hashemite Custodianship of the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem is essential in safeguarding the pre-1967 Status Quo at the Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif. The Status Quo is a critical insurance against attempts at temporal and spatial division of Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Judaizing its surroundings. HM is also the custodian of Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem. He has firmly supported the upkeep and renovation of these sites. In 2016 King Abdullah issued a Royal Benefaction to provide for the restoration of Jesus’ Tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, at his own personal expense. And in 2018 he helped fund the restoration of the entire Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem from his own funds, in particular the US\$1.4 million received from the 2018 Templeton Prize.

Reformer: HM King Abdullah’s progressive vision for Jordan is based on political openness, economic and social development, and the Islamic values of goodwill and tolerance. Under his reign Jordan has witnessed sweeping constitutional changes (one third of the Constitution was amended), and political and social reforms aimed at increasing governmental transparency and accountability.

Islamic Outreach: In response to growing Islamophobia in the West in the wake of 9/11 and rising sectarian strife, King Abdullah II launched the Amman Message initiative in 2004 (see “www.ammanmessage.com” on page 59), which was unanimously adopted by the Islamic World’s political and temporal leaderships. King Abdullah II is also credited with one of the world’s most authoritative websites on the Holy Qur’an and Tafsir; the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought’s Altafsir.com (see “Altafsir.com” on page 173). He also founded the World Islamic Sciences and Education University in Jordan (see www.wise.edu.jo) in 2008. In 2012, King Abdullah II set up integral professorial chairs for the study of the work of Imam Al-Ghazali at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Imam Al-Razi at the King Hussein Mosque. In 2019 King Abdullah established the Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Al-Suyuti’s Work

at Al Hussein Grand Mosque. And in 2022 His Majesty established the Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Al-Nawawi's Work at Al-Salt Grand Mosque and at the World Islamic Sciences and Education University (WISE). In 2014 King Abdullah established a fellowship for the study of love in religion at Regent's Park College, Oxford University.

Majalla Law: 80% of Jordan's laws are based on the Ottoman Majalla and hence on traditional Hanafi Shari'a. Jordan has a Chief Mufti, official Muftis in every province, Army and Police Grand Muftis and Shari'a Courts for all personal status issues for Muslims. Yet it has Orthodox-Priest-run courts for its native Christian population in Christian personal status issues, and Jordan guarantees Christian seats in the Parliament and de facto at every level of government. It has civil law for all citizens and additional tribal laws and customs for tribesmen and tribeswomen.

Interfaith Outreach: HM King Abdullah II is also lauded as an interfaith leader for his support of the 2007 A Common Word initiative (see "A Common Word" on page 127). He was also the initiator and driving force behind the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Resolution in 2010 (see "UN World Interfaith Harmony Week" on page 162). In 2014 HM King Abdullah hosted HH Pope Francis in Jordan (having previously hosted both HH Pope Benedict XVI and HH Pope John Paul II). In 2015 the Baptism Site of Jesus Christ on Jordan's River Bank was unanimously voted a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Thus, at the same time that DA'ISH was destroying Syria and Iraq's historical and archaeological treasures, King Abdullah was preserving not just

Muslim Holy Sites, but Christian Holy Sites and universal historical and religious treasures as well.

Safe Haven: Jordan has around 2 million registered and unregistered refugees from Syria and Iraq and other regional conflicts (such as Libya and Yemen), in addition to around 2 million refugees from the Palestine conflict. Despite its paucity of resources, Jordan has welcomed and accommodated a staggering number of refugees and is seen by many as the most stable country in a turbulent region. It has the highest percentage of refugees of any country in the world.

Templeton Prize Winner 2018: HM King Abdullah was awarded the 2018 Templeton Prize, the most prestigious prize in the world in religious affairs. He is the second Muslim, and the first statesman, ever to be granted this honour. The prize recognises those who have "made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension". The judges mentioned in particular King Abdullah's work in promoting intra-Islamic religious harmony, reclaiming the narrative from extremists, as well as between Islam and other faiths.

Reform: In 2021, HM King Abdullah II pushed for political modernisation and announced the introduction of a new committee of 92 members tasked to modernise the political system and to propose new laws for local governments. The committee proposed draft laws for political parties and elections, as well as 22 amendments to the Jordan Constitution regarding parliamentary work and empowering women and youth.

Jordan's national bird, the Sinai Rosefinch



THE AMMAN MESSAGE



www.AmmanMessage.com

[T]he best resource for those who wish to travel along the straight path in their words and their actions, and in their spiritual and religious life.

— The Grand Sheikh of the Azhar, Sheikh Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi رحمته الله, 2006.

The Amman Message started as a detailed statement released the eve of the 27th of Ramadan 1425 AH / 9th November 2004 CE by H. M. King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein in Amman, Jordan. It sought to declare what Islam is and what it is not, and what actions represent it and what actions do not. Its goal was to clarify to the modern world the true nature of Islam and the nature of true Islam.

In order to give this statement more religious authority, H. M. King Abdullah II then sent the following three questions to 24 of the most senior religious scholars from all around the world representing all the branches and schools of Islam: (1) Who is a Muslim? (2) Is it permissible to declare someone an apostate (*takfir*)? (3) Who has the right to undertake issuing *fatwas* (legal rulings)?

Based on the fatwas provided by these great scholars (who included the Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Ayatollah Sistani, and Sheikh Qaradawi), in July 2005 CE, H. M. King Abdullah II convened an international Islamic conference of 200 of the world's leading Islamic scholars (*ulema*) from 50 countries. In Amman, the scholars unanimously issued a ruling on three fundamental issues (which became known as the 'Three Points of the Amman Message'):

- They specifically recognised the validity of all 8 *mathbabs* (legal schools) of Sunni, Shia, and Ibadhi Islam; of traditional Islamic Theology (Ash'arism); of Islamic Mysticism (Sufism), and of true Salafi thought, and came to a precise definition of who is a Muslim.
- Based upon this definition they forbade *takfir* (declarations of apostasy) between Muslims.
- Based upon the Mathahib they set forth the subjective and objective preconditions for the issuing of *fatwas*, thereby exposing ignorant and illegitimate edicts in the name of Islam.

These Three Points were then unanimously adopted by the Islamic World's political and temporal leaderships at the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit at Makkah in December 2005. And over a period of one year from July 2005 to July 2006, the Three Points were also unanimously adopted by six other international Islamic scholarly assemblies, culminating with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of Jeddah, in July 2006. In total, over 500 leading Muslim scholars worldwide—as can be seen on this website—unanimously endorsed the Amman Message and its Three Points.

This amounts to a historical, universal and unanimous religious and political consensus (*ijma'*) of the Ummah (nation) of Islam in our day, and a consolidation of traditional, orthodox Islam. The significance of this is: (1) that it is the first time in over a thousand years that the Ummah has formally and specifically come to such a pluralistic mutual inter-recognition; and (2) that such a recognition is religiously legally binding on Muslims since the Prophet (may peace and blessings be upon him) said: My Ummah will not agree upon an error (Ibn Majah, *Sunan*, Kitab al-Fitan, Hadith no. 4085).

This is good news not only for Muslims, for whom it provides a basis for unity and a solution to infighting, but also for non-Muslims. For the safeguarding of the legal methodologies of Islam (the *mathabib*) necessarily means inherently preserving traditional Islam's internal 'checks and balances'. It thus assures balanced Islamic solutions for essential issues like human rights; women's rights; freedom of religion; legitimate jihad; good citizenship of Muslims in non-Muslim countries, and just and democratic government. It also exposes the illegitimate opinions of radical fundamentalists and terrorists from the point of view of true Islam. As George Yeo, the Foreign Minister of Singapore, declared in the 60th Session of the U. N. General Assembly (about the Amman Message): "Without this clarification, the war against terrorism would be much harder to fight."

Country: Pakistan

Born: 5 October 1943 (age 79)

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage

Influence: Leading scholar for the Deobandis and in Islamic finance

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni (Hanafi, Deobandi)

2022 (6)

2021 (5)

2020 (1)

"I do not 'recite' du'ā, I make du'ā. Reciting du'ā' is one thing, and actually making the du'ā' is another thing altogether..."

30

official positions held

3

thousand schools affiliated with Darul 'Uloom



۞ 6 ۞

His Eminence

Justice Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani

HE Justice Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani Leading Scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence and Finance

Justice Sheikh Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani is a leading scholar of Hadith, Islamic jurisprudence and Islamic finance. He is considered to be the intellectual head of the Deobandi School of Islamic learning, as well as an authority outside of the Deobandi School. He served as Judge of the Shari'at Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan from 1982 to May 2002.

Deobandi De Facto Leader: Usmani is very important as a figurehead in the Deobandi movement—one of the most successful of the Islamic revivalist initiatives of the past century. His views and fatwas are taken as the final word by Deobandi scholars globally including those at the Deoband seminary in India. Usmani was born in Deoband, India, the son of Mufti Muhammad Shafi (the former Grand Mufti of Pakistan) who founded the Darul 'Uloom, Karachi, a leading centre of Islamic education in Pakistan. He has authority to teach hadith from Sheikh al-Hadith Mawlana Zakariya Khandelawi amongst others, and he traversed the spiritual path of *tasawwuf* under the guidance of Sheikh Dr Abdul Hayy Arifi, a student of the great revivalist scholar of India, Mawlana Ashraf Ali Thanvi. His students in the thousands are spread across the globe as leaders and imams, especially in the Indian subcontinent, central Asia and many Western countries. Deobandis consider themselves orthodox Hanafi Sunnis rooted in a foundation of sufi teaching, but allowing for a broad spectrum of interpretation which accommodates politically passive members to the Taliban.

Leading Islamic Finance Scholar: Usmani's other influence comes from his position as a global authority on Islamic finance. He has served on the boards, and as chairman, of over a dozen Islamic banks and financial institutions, and currently leads the International Sharia Council for the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) in Bahrain. He is also a permanent member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, one of the highest legal bodies in the Muslim world.

Writer: He has translated the Qur'an both into English and Urdu. He is the author of a six-volume Arabic hadith commentary on Sahih Muslim. He is the Chief Editor of both the Urdu and English monthly magazine *Albalagh*, and regularly contributes articles to leading Pakistani newspapers on a range of issues. His

legal edicts (fatwas), written over a period of 45 years, are published in 4 large volumes. He has authored more than 143 books in Arabic, English, and Urdu.

New Works: He is directly supervising *The Hadith Encyclopaedia*, a masterful, pioneering compilation which will provide a universal number to each hadith in a manner that will make referencing any hadith as easy as it is to refer to a verse of the Qur'an. The Encyclopaedia will be over 300 volumes. A second major work recently published is entitled *The Jurisprudence (Fiqh) of Trade*. The book concludes with a proposed Code of Islamic Law of Sale of Goods and Transfer of Property, which serves as a powerful call to action for regulators and standard setting organisations alike.

Assassination Attempt: On 22 March 2019, as Mufti Taqi was on his way to deliver a Friday sermon, gunmen riding three motorbikes opened fire on his and an accompanying car. The Mufti, his wife and two grandchildren (a girl aged seven and boy aged five) miraculously survived the shower of bullets untouched, but two people lost their lives and a further two were severely injured. The Prime Minister of Pakistan condemned the attack as did scholars and politicians across the board. As of yet, no one has claimed responsibility for carrying out the attack. He was once again a target for assassination in 2021 and again in 2022.

Honoured: In 2019 Usmani was honoured with the Sitara-i Imtiaz (Star of Excellence) by the President of Pakistan. The Sitara-i Imtiaz is an honour and civilian award in the State of Pakistan, which recognises individuals who have made an "especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of Pakistan, world peace, cultural or other significant public endeavours".

Pakistan's national bird, the Chukar partridge



Country: Morocco

Born: 21 August 1963 (age 59)

Source of Influence: Political, Administrative, Development

Influence: King with authority over 37.9 million Moroccans

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki

2022 (7)

2021 (6)

2020 (7)

"We are calling for an awakening of the global conscience and for a collective, responsible commitment to tackle climate change in order to ensure a better future for all humankind."

1631_{CE}

the year the Alaouite dynasty was founded

Over

8

thousand

scholarships awarded to Africans



۷

His Majesty

King Mohammed VI

HM King Mohammed VI

King of Morocco

HM King Mohammed VI is a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his family has ruled Morocco for close to 400 years. He is also constitutionally the Amir Al-Mu'minin, or Commander of the Faithful, thereby combining religious and political authority. King Mohammed VI is lauded for his domestic reform policies and pioneering efforts in modernising Morocco and countering terrorism. He tackles issues of poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion at home, and has improved foreign relations. King Mohammed VI influences the network of Muslims following the Maliki school of Islamic jurisprudence, and is a leading monarch in Africa.

Four-Hundred-Year Alaouite Dynasty: The 400-year-old Alaouite dynasty traces its lineage back to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It takes its name from Moulay Ali Cherif, who became Prince of Tafilat in 1631. It sees itself as a continuation of the Andalusian Golden Age of Islam, which was characterised by peaceful co-existence, intellectual and cultural exchange and development.

Influence on Maliki Network: Morocco is home to the oldest university in the world, Al-Karaouine. This university is the centre of the Maliki school of jurisprudence. Since early in his reign, King Mohammed VI has implemented the Mudawana family law code that gives rights to women in divorce and property ownership, as well as citizenship to children born from non-Moroccan fathers. He has also commissioned the Islamic Affairs Ministry to train women preachers, or *morchidat*, who are now active chaplains to Moroccans across the globe.

Huge Influence over Muslims in Africa: King Mohammed VI leads the largest African monarchy, with a population of 36.9 million. Besides political links, Morocco maintains strong spiritual ties with Muslims all over Africa. Morocco is the site of the tomb of a highly revered Sufi sheikh, Mawlana Ahmed ibn Mohammed Tijani Al-Hassani-Maghribi (1735-1815 CE), the founder of the Tijaniyya Sufi order, whose shrine attracts millions from across the continent. Morocco is also recognised as a source for the spread of Islam through West Africa.

The Marrakesh Declaration: The King invited hundreds of the Islamic world's leading scholars to gather for a 3-day summit in Marrakesh in January 2016 to address the question of the treatment of religious minorities in Muslim-majority communities. Basing

themselves on the Charter of Medina, also known as the Constitution of Medina, which was drawn up by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself, they issued calls for majority-Muslim communities to respect minorities' "freedom of movement, property ownership, mutual solidarity and defence". HM King Mohammed VI of Morocco delivered the inaugural address and pointed to the history of Islam's co-existence with other religions. This showed how Islam has enshrined the rights of religious minorities and promoted religious tolerance and diversity. (see page <?>)

Support for Jerusalem (Al-Quds): The King and indeed all Moroccans show strong support for Palestinians and for Jerusalem. The Moroccan link with Jerusalem has been strong since Salah Al-Din's son endowed the Magharbeh Quarter, next to the Buraq Wall, to North African pilgrims in 1193. This 800-year-old quarter was demolished by the Israeli authorities in 1967 after they captured East Jerusalem.

Reform: King Mohammed VI has implemented major reforms in response to the Arab Spring protests. These have included a new constitution which has transferred many powers to a freely and fairly elected government. The gradual reforms of the King have been hailed as a model for other Arab countries to follow.

Morocco's national bird, Moussier's redstart



Country: UAE

Born: 11 March 1961 (age 61)

Source of Influence: Administrative, Development, Philanthropy

Influence: Military and political leadership

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (8)

2021 (7)

2020 (3)

"If your point of view is positive, you will see the challenges in the future as opportunities."

\$15 billion

pledged towards the development of solar, wind, and hydrogen power technologies in the UAE

70%

of the country's university graduates are women



ۛ 8 ۛ

His Highness

President Sheikh Mohamed
bin Zayed Al-Nahyan

HH President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan became the President of the United Arab Emirates after his brother, Sheikh Khalifa, passed away in May 2022. He is the third son of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the widely respected first President of the UAE who ruled from independence in 1971 until his death in 2004.

Military Leadership: Sheikh Mohamed has transformed the military capabilities of the UAE not only through buying military hardware (over 80 F-16 jets), but also by developing the UAE's own industry, both hardware and special forces. All of these have also been deployed in various conflicts including Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen. The UAE is an important centre for global weapons trading hosting the world's largest defence expos.

Global Player: Sheikh Mohamed has enjoyed excellent personal relationships with the previous two US presidents managing to have his views heard on Iran, the Muslim Brotherhood, Palestine and the support of a young Saudi prince. Further, Sheikh Mohamed has shown that he is his own man by following policies that the US does not support publicly: the support of Libyan general Khalifa Haftar and the blockade on Qatar. Involvement in other key issues shows that the UAE is punching above its weight in international affairs. Its involvement in Yemen has become increasingly complex with a recent split with Saudi policy meaning their respective proxies on the ground are fighting each other as well as local forces and proxies of Iran. The humanitarian disaster in Yemen is of an immense magnitude with many voices squarely laying the brunt of the blame on the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Abraham Accords: The UAE (along with Bahrain) formalised relations with Israel by signing the Abraham Accords Peace Treaty at the White House in September 2020 with the Israeli Prime Minister and the former American President Trump in attendance. An Israeli embassy was opened in July 2021 with the President of Israel in attendance as the UAE pushes ahead with a full normalisation strategy which has outraged Palestinians and their supporters.

Economic Development: With Abu Dhabi sitting on 10th of the world's proven oil reserves, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan maintains immense political influence in the Muslim World as a leading member of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company—

which directs development efforts for the UAE's role in the oil and gas industries. He also controls one of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds (\$700bn). He has overseen a construction boom which includes man-made islands, entertainment parks and museum franchises of the Louvre and Guggenheim.

Sustainable Development and Conservationist: Sheikh Mohamed has been a champion of sustainable development in Abu Dhabi as an advocate for the implementation of green technologies. He pledged \$15bn for the development of clean energy through solar, wind and hydrogen power. He is also a keen falconer and is committed to protecting falcons and other species in the region.

Philanthropy and Tolerance: Sheikh Mohamed has donated billions of dollars to various causes, including AED 55 million to the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, and purchasing vaccines in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development celebrated its 50-year anniversary in 2021; it has given over AED 150 billion in development funding and investments in 97 countries. The UAE is home to a diverse workforce and has been keen to show respect to other religions and cultures. It has allowed various houses of worship to be built, and three synagogues have already been completed. The country hosted Pope Francis on a recent trip. It has also created a "Ministry of Tolerance" and declared 2019 the official "Year of Tolerance".

Controversy: Human rights organisations have raised the issue of severe human rights violations and repressive dictatorship practiced in the UAE as well as calling for halting arms supply to the UAE, in wake of the Yemen war.

UAE's national bird, the Peregrine falcon



Country: Iraq

Born: 4 August 1930 (age 92)

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage

Influence: Highest authority for 21 million Iraqi Shia, and also internationally known as a religious authority to Usuli Twelver Shia

School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shia, Usuli

2022 (9)

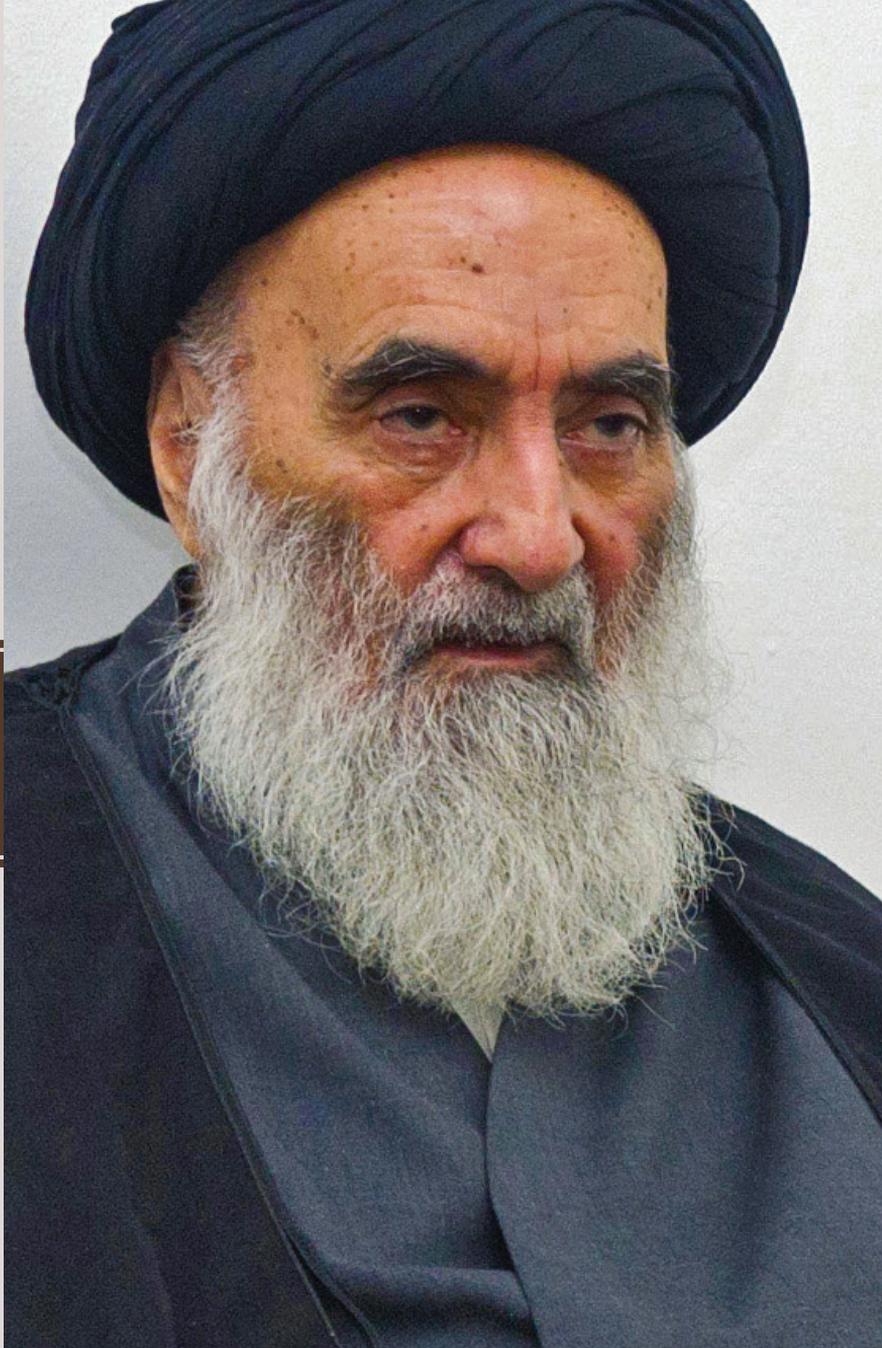
2021 (8)

2020 (8)

“There is no good in strictness that causes injustice, and a mistake cannot be remedied with a sin.”

49 thousand
students supported annually

31 years old
when he became a *mujtahid*



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His Eminence

Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Al-Sistani

HE Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Al-Sistani

Marja of the Hawza

Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Al-Sistani is the prime *marja*, or spiritual reference for *Ithna Ashari'a* (Twelver) Shia Muslims. He is the leading sheikh of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq and the preeminent Shia cleric globally.

Preeminent Shia Cleric and Marja Taqlid: Sistani's influence in the Twelver Shia sect stems from his scholarly lineage and education, which have enabled him to reach the status of *marja taqlid*—the highest status in the Usuli branch of Twelver Shia Islam. *Marja taqlid* means literally one who is worthy of being imitated—placing Sistani in a position of great authority over Twelver Shia Muslims. Sistani is descended from a family of religious scholars and was educated in the leading institutions in Iran. He later went to Najaf, Iraq to study under the Grand Ayatollah Abu Al-Qasim Al-Khoei. On Al-Khoei's death in 1992, Sistani took over as Grand Ayatollah, inheriting Khoei's following. He soon rose to become the leading cleric in Iraq.

Financial Influence: Sistani also has very significant financial clout. As a *marja* his followers give him a religious tax (*khums*, Arabic for one-fifth). The redistribution of this tax for the common good is one of the key roles of a *marja*. Much of this remittance is

redistributed through the Al-Khoei Foundation—the largest Twelver Shia development organisation in the world that maintains a network of educational and humanitarian establishments for both Shia and non-Shia Muslims.

Quietist Influence: Significantly, Sistani is against the idea of *Velayat-e Faqih*, suggesting Shia clerics should not get involved in politics. Paradoxically this approach has afforded him very strong influence as a religious leader unsullied by politics. Sistani has used his position of quietist authority to wield influence also as a peacemaker in turbulent, post-invasion Iraq. His comments about the political scene have been credited with bringing about stability in key moments. He has identified eliminating political corruption and improvement of public services as the main issues of the day. He has also issued strong statements against DA'ISH, calling on Iraqis to unite against the militants.

Meetings: Sistani rarely meets officials but made an exception for Iran's President Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif in March 2019. Pope Francis also visited Sistani's home in Najaf in March 2021 during the Pope's visit to Iraq.

Iraq's national bird, the Chukar partridge



Country: Saudi Arabia

Born: 31 August 1985 (age 37)

Source of Influence: Political

Influence: De facto ruler of Saudi Arabia

School of Thought: Moderate Salafi

2022 (15)

2021 (23)

2020 (24)

“Our Vision is a strong, thriving, and stable Saudi Arabia that provides opportunity for all. Our Vision is a tolerant country with Islam as its constitution and moderation as its method.”

6th

son of HM King Salman

\$500 billion

the cost of Neom



10

His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Mohammed bin
Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud

HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud

Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia

HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud is the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, and recently appointed Prime Minister .

Rapid Appointments: At the beginning of 2015, Prince Mohammed bin Salman was largely unknown in political and diplomatic circles. Since his father's accession to the throne in January 2015, Prince Mohammed has been swiftly appointed to a number of powerful positions. He was first appointed Minister of Defence, and also named Secretary General of the Royal Court. Then Prince Mohammed was named the chair of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs and was given control over Saudi Aramco by royal decree. In June 2017, he was appointed as Crown Prince of the Kingdom following his father's decision to remove Prince Mohammed bin Nayef from all positions. In 2022, he was appointed Prime Minister, a post traditionally held by the King.

Military Challenges: As Minister of Defence the young prince dealt with many key military issues which Saudi Arabia is still currently involved in. He is perhaps most personally identified with the air campaigns against Houthi strongholds in Yemen. Saudi Arabia is also supporting the monarchy in Bahrain and arming the anti-Assad forces in Syria. His ascension to the role of Crown Prince coincided with geopolitical tensions among members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the cutting of diplomatic ties with Qatar, which subsequently turned into a full blockade before being resolved in January 2021.

Catalyst of Change: The Crown Prince has been linked to major changes taking place in the King-

dom: allowing women to drive, holding their own passports and moving independently, the (re)opening of cinemas and holding of pop concerts, a crack-down on corruption (including the arrest of princes and prominent businessmen), and the proposal to float Saudi Aramco to mention a few.

Vision 2030: As Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched "Vision 2030", a comprehensive, multi-year plan for the future of Saudi Arabia. The ambitious plan seeks to revitalise the Saudi economy by bolstering the Kingdom as a global investments powerhouse, and moving away from oil-dependency as the largest source of national income. It also seeks to strengthen government efficiency and the promotion of a "tolerant, thriving, and stable Saudi Arabia that provides opportunity for all."

The Khashoggi Assassination: Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi was a prominent journalist and Saudi Arabian dissident who was assassinated at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October 2018. Forced into exile from Saudi Arabia in 2017 because of his criticisms of authoritarian rule and foreign policy, Khashoggi had many enemies in high places. Although the Saudi government denied any knowledge of the murder, they were later forced to admit that their officials had been involved, but didn't go as far as the CIA who concluded that Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman had ordered Khashoggi's assassination.

Saudi Arabia's national bird, the falcon



Country: Yemen

Born: 27 May 1963 (age 59)

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Spiritual leader and Preacher, Lineage

Influence: Millions of traditional Muslim followers globally

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni (Shafi'i, Ba-Alawi Sufi)

2022 (11)

2021 (9)

2020 (9)

"A true Muslim is like rain, wherever it falls, it will benefit."

15

is the age at which he started teaching and doing *da'wa*.

14

books written



❧ 11 ❧

His Eminence

Sheikh Habib Umar bin Hafiz

HE Sheikh Habib Umar bin Hafiz

Director of Dar Al-Mustafa

Habib Umar bin Hafiz is well known for his Prophetic lineage and status as one of the most influential religious scholars alive today. His influence through scholarship and preaching is vast in the Middle East, Indonesia and East Africa especially. He is also incredibly influential through his leadership of the Ba Alawi Sufi movement. He has been touring South East Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Europe and the US regularly in the past few years in response to his growing following there.

Study: Habib Umar received all his early education in the city of his birth, Tarim, at the hands of his father, the Mufti of Tarim and other revered scholars. In 1981, the situation became untenable for him to stay in South Yemen due to the communist regime and so Habib Umar migrated to the city of Al-Bayda in North Yemen where he continued his studies.

Cultivation of Scholarship: Habib Umar founded and runs Dar Al-Mustafa, a centre for traditional Islamic scholarship that currently hosts an array of international students, in Tarim, Yemen. Many of the graduates have gone on to become leading figures worldwide. He has joined the ranks of the world's leading Muslim academics and scholars as a signatory of "A Common Word Between Us and You", a document that builds bridges between Muslims and Christians. He has also spoken at Cambridge University on the need for such a dialogue. He has authored several books, such as *Al-Dhakhirah Al-Mushbarrafah*,

which is a summary of obligatory knowledge for every Muslim, three short hadith compilations and a summary of the third quarter of Imam Al-Ghazali's *Ihya' 'Ulum Al-Din*. His mawlid compositions, *Al-Diya' Al-Lami'* and *Al-Sharab Al-Tabware*, are recited in gatherings throughout the world.

Da'wa and Humanitarian Efforts: Habib Umar is noted for his *da'wa* efforts, with significant visits to the USA and Europe. He has also partnered with Muslim Aid Australia as founder of Yemen-based NGO Al Rafah Charitable Society to address issues of poverty, hunger and lack of sufficient health care that affect areas of Tarim. His students, most notably Habib Ali Al-Jifri (see page 93), who established the Tabah Foundation, and Habib Kadhim Al-Saqqaf, are luminaries in their own right. He has a substantial following on social media, via Muwasala, an organisation founded by his students to "promote the scholarly teachings of the blessed tradition of Hadramawt".

Ba Alawi Tariqa: The Ba Alawi have been centred in the region of Hadramaut, Yemen, for over a thousand years. They have produced outstanding figures of scholarship and piety and are well known for their missionary work, particularly in Malaysia and Indonesia. The Tariqa has now spread to all parts of the world and is famous for using the *Ihya* of Imam Al-Ghazali as a basis of their teachings.

Yemen's national bird, the Golden-winged Grosbeak



Country: Saudi Arabia

Born: 14 December 1956 (age 67)

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Media

Influence: 53 published books, supervised IslamToday.net, and reached millions through TV

School of Thought: Moderate Salafi

2022 (12)

2021 (10)

2020 (11)

“You cannot call yourself patient until you are willing and able to bear things that you have no wish to bear.”

2017^{CE}
the year he was arrested

Over
20 million
social media followers



﴿ 12 ﴾

Sheikh Salman Al-Ouda

Sheikh Salman Al-Ouda

Saudi scholar and educator

A leading Saudi sheikh, Salman Al-Ouda is a former hard-line cleric turned advocate of peaceful coexistence. He became hugely influential due to his innovative reach in the Muslim world propagated via IslamToday.net and his persistent efforts at ministering to the needs of the global Muslim community. In September 2017, Al-Ouda was arrested by Saudi authorities along with 20 other Saudi clerics for tweets that were seen as offensive to the State. He is still imprisoned enduring months of solitary confinement.

Key Scholar of Salafi Network: Sheikh Salman Al-Ouda is a leading scholar of the Salafi movement having notable influence in the movement due to his use of multiple modes of education (the Internet, audiovisual media, and print) to educate the large body of Salafi Muslims in the Islamic sciences. Sheikh Al-Ouda's website brings together a diverse range of Islamic scholars and educators to provide guidance in Islamic thought. He was imprisoned between 1994–1999 for calling for reforms within the country but softened his stance upon release. He is identified with the Sahwa movement, calling for peaceful political reform, more role for the clergy in politics and an opposition to western troops based in the Peninsula. His hugely influential website, IslamToday.net—a Saudi-funded website dedicated to providing Islamic educational resources in English, Arabic, French and Chinese—seems to have been shut down. He was active on social media until his arrest and until that time had 20 million followers.

Ambassador of Non-violence: In an effort to distance himself from alleged connections to perpetrators of terrorism, Al-Ouda is outspoken about the importance of inculcating love and mercy as opposed to violence (except in valid cases of self-defence) in

the daily lives of Muslims. As a prominent member of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, he led the delegation in talks with Arab heads of state regarding the need for them to unite in opposition to Israel's siege of Gaza in early 2009. He has strongly condemned DA'ISH. He also called for peace and unity between members of the GCC and Qatar.

Arrested on Charges Against the State: Al-Ouda was arrested in September 2017 and charged for what ostensibly seems to be nothing more than tweets urging Saudi and Qatar to end a diplomatic rift. He had earlier voiced concerns about Saudi's human rights record, but perhaps his true crime has been not to publicly endorse and support the recent changes happening in Saudi Arabia. Al-Ouda has been held in punishing conditions, often in solitary confinement and detained incommunicado.

Unjust Arrest: With the public prosecutor calling for the maximum penalty to be implemented, there have been serious fears that Al-Ouda could be executed at any time. There has been outcry from a whole range of organisations about what is seen as a grossly unjust imprisonment, trial and sentence. The International Union of Muslim Scholars, the European Muslim Forum and Amnesty International have all called on the Saudi government to release Al-Ouda and his two compatriots, Sheikh Ali Al-Omari and Sheikh Awad Al-Qarni.

Health Concerns: Al-Ouda's son, Abdullah Al-Ouda, stated that his father had "lost almost half of his ability to hear and see" in prison. He said that due to three years of abuse and isolation, his father's physical and mental condition has been declining at a greater pace.

Saudi Arabia's national bird, the falcon



Country: Indonesia

Born: 21 June 1961 (age 61)

Source of Influence: Political

Influence: Leader of 280 million citizens and residents of Indonesia

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (13)

2021 (12)

2020 (13)

“For me, democracy must deliver a better life for the people.”

78million
followers on social media

8
World Heritage sites



13

His Excellency

President Joko Widodo

HE President Joko Widodo

President of Indonesia

Joko Widodo, or Jokowi as he is popularly known, was re-elected President of Indonesia in the April 2019 elections, winning 55.5% of the vote and will serve his second and final term until 2024. Running against an opponent who questioned his Islamic credentials, President Widodo selected Ma'ruf Amin as running mate. Ma'ruf Amin is the leader of the Indonesian Ulema Council, the country's top Muslim clerical body.

Background: President Widodo is the first Indonesian president not to be from the military or the political elite. He comes from a humble background of Javanese descent. His father had a small furniture business, which often couldn't make ends meet. They struggled to put him through university, where he graduated in the field of forestry. After graduation, Widodo worked for three years in the forestry service of a state enterprise in Aceh before returning to his family business.

Successful and 'Clean' Politician: Widodo was the mayor of Surakarta before becoming the governor of Jakarta in September 2012. As a successful mayor, he enjoyed a close relationship with his constituents. He focused on promoting the city as a centre of Javanese culture, but also developed the public transport system, healthcare and business relations with the community. He forged a reputation for being a 'clean' politician, avoiding the charges of corruption and nepotism which plague most politicians.

Governor of Jakarta: His political success continued with his election as governor of Jakarta. He was equally successful as governor, making meaningful reforms in education, public transportation, revamping street vendors and traditional markets, and implementing flood control.

Presidential candidacy: Various awards (3rd place in the 2012 World Mayor Prize, one of the "Top 10 Indonesian Mayors of 2008") testify to his success as mayor and governor, and there was little surprise when Megawati Sukarnoputri, the former President of Indonesia, chose Widodo to be the presidential candidate of the PDI-P party. He has also enjoyed the support of many musicians and artists (he himself is reported to enjoy heavy metal music), and this helped him greatly in his presidential campaign.

Blusukan Culture: President Widodo has become well-known for impromptu visits to see and hear directly from people in local communities. This has

allowed him to directly address their concerns and criticisms, allowing him to develop a strong personal relationship with the public.

Future Prospects: Although economic growth has not been as expected, strong investment in infrastructure and social services ensure that Widodo still enjoys strong support amongst the populace. He is also still seen as an honest leader and oversaw a successful 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta.

Indonesia's national bird, the Javan hawk-eagle



Country: Egypt

Born: 6 January 1946 (age 76)

Source of Influence: Administrative

Influence: Highest scholarly authority for the majority of Sunni Muslims, runs the foremost and largest Sunni Islamic university

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (14)

2021 (13)

2020 (14)

"We reach out to all those who are seeking peace, whatever religion they believe and whatever race they may be."

9 thousand
Al-Azhar affiliated schools
across Egypt

970_{CE}
the year Al-Azhar University
was founded.



14

His Eminence

Sheikh Dr Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayyeb

HE Sheikh Dr Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayyeb

Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar University, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Mosque

Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayyeb was appointed as Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar in March 2010, after the passing of his predecessor, Dr Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi. Al-Tayyeb was formerly the president of Al-Azhar for seven years and, prior to that, served for two years as the most powerful cleric in Egypt as its Grand Mufti.

Scholarly Influence: His scholarly influence as a leading intellectual of Sunni Islam spans the globe. He has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Aswan, and the theology faculty of the International Islamic University in Pakistan. He has also taught in universities in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Political Stance: Over the past years of political uncertainty and unrest in Egypt, Al-Tayyeb has attempted to hold the middle way. He has been outspoken against the Muslim Brotherhood for their exploitation of Islam as a political ideology whilst also resisting calls by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi for a “religious revolution” and efforts to “renew Islamic discourse”. Such efforts included the suggestion to revoke the verbal divorce law in Egypt. Al-Azhar wholly rejected the President’s plan, calling the law an “undisputed practice since the days of the Prophet Muhammad”. Al-Tayyeb has been active in trying to diffuse the influence of DA’ISH, organising many initiatives and conferences. He has also tried to improve foreign relations and met with many foreign religious leaders and heads of states (including the Pope and the late Queen Elizabeth).

Advocate of Traditional Islam: Sheikh Al-Tayyeb has emphasised his mission to promote traditional Islam since becoming Grand Sheikh. He has stressed the importance of teaching students about Islamic heritage—considering Al-Azhar graduates as ambassadors of Islam to the world. In an age where claimants to authoritative Islam seem to be on every corner, Sheikh Al-Tayyeb has both the institute and the personal skills to authentically claim to be a representative of traditional Islam, Islam as practiced by the majority of Muslims throughout the ages. Sheikh Al-Tayyeb has defined the Sunni community (*Ahl Al-Sunnah wa Al-Jama’a*) as those who follow Imam Abul-Hasan Al-Ash’ari and Imam Abu Mansur Al-Maturidi and the scholars of Hanafi, Maliki, and

Shafi’i jurisprudence, as well as the moderate scholars of the Hanbali school. He also included the Sufis following the way of Imam Al-Junayd.

Leader of Al-Azhar University: Sheikh Al-Tayyeb leads the second-oldest university in the world, where teaching has continued without interruption since 975 CE. Al-Azhar represents the centre of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence. It is a key institution that issues authoritative religious rulings and has provided extensive Islamic education to Egyptian and international students since its inception over a millennium ago. This history makes it a bastion of Sunni traditionalism. The university is considered one of the most prominent Islamic educational institutions and the foremost centre of Sunni Muslim scholarship worldwide.

Administers Al-Azhar Education Network: Al-Azhar is currently the largest university in the world, having risen from a group of three schools in the 1950s to its current state with 72 feeder schools, with close to 300,000 students studying there at any one time. Including schools that are part of Al-Azhar *waqf* initiatives, there are close to 2 million students. The graduates of Al-Azhar have great respect as religious leaders within the Muslim community, and this makes the head of Al-Azhar an extraordinarily powerful and influential person.

Interfaith Initiative: The International Day of Human Fraternity is an annual UN-designated celebration of interfaith and multicultural understanding which was established by Pope Francis and Sheikh Al-Tayyeb

Egypt’s national bird, the Steppe eagle



Country: India

Born: 3 March 1964 (age 59)

Influence: Scholarly, Political, Administrative. 12 million members of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (27)

2021 (27)

2020 (28)

"Hate can't be solved by hate."

12 million

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind followers

1919

the year Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind was established



15

His Excellency

Maulana Mahmood Madani

Maulana Mahmood Madani

President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind

Maulana Mahmood Madani is the President of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (JUH), having been secretary-general for 13 years, and has gained influence for his forthright condemnations of terrorism and unfaltering support of the Indian Muslim community.

Lineage: Maulana Mahmood's grandfather Maulana Syed Hussain Ahmad Madani was a great scholar of Islamic theology, teaching hadith in Madinah, and Deoband. He was the President of the JUH until his death in 1957 and was then succeeded by his son Asad Madani (the father of Maulana Mahmood), who was President until his death in 2006.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (JUH): JUH was established in 1919 by leading Deoband scholars who argued for the concept of composite nationalism, believing that a nation should not be formed on the basis of one factor only (e. g. religion, ethnicity etc), but rather be based on many factors. Maulana Mahmood has striven to keep this concept alive amid all the turmoil of nationalistic politics in India. After graduating from Deoband in 1992, he became actively involved in the JUH, organising conferences and meetings across the country which saw a rapid rise in membership. He became the General Secretary of JUH in 2001 and continued to invigorate the organisation. When his father passed away in 2006, a dispute arose between him and his uncle around the leadership of the organisation leading to a bifurcation.

Activism: He has striven for Muslim rights in India and been outspoken in his opposition to the misuse of the term jihad as a tool of terrorism in India. Following fatal bomb blasts in 2008, he mobilised Darul Uloom Deoband institutions to host events condemning terrorism as inherently un-Islamic. This had a major impact on the community. He has been at the forefront of relief work (earthquakes in Gujrat and Kashmir), health and social development (Kashmir).

Legal battles: Maulana Madani leads numerous legal battles in various courts of the country fighting to secure rights of Indian Muslims in cases covering Right to Citizenship, Right to Practice Religious Duties as well as defending those Muslims who have been falsely implicated in terror cases.

Combating Islamophobia: With RSS ideology growing ever menacingly, Maulana Mahmood Madani has supported a number of initiatives to counter the impact of hatred and religious-based crime against Indian Muslims. The JEIM (Justice and Empowerment Initiative for Indian Muslims) records cases of Islamophobia in a systematic manner and provides advocacy and other forms of assistance to the victims. This is the first such attempt by Indian Muslims to record such cases and present them to human rights organisations.

India's national bird, the peafowl



Country: Mauritania

Born: 1935 (age 87)

Source of Influence: Scholarly

Influence: Significant influence as a leading contemporary scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni (Maliki)

2022 (16)

2021 (14)

2020 (15)

"We have to present to the youth nourishing ideas, both spiritual and practical, so that they are engaged in things other than these blind conflicts that have no benefit in them."

13

positions in fiqh organizations worldwide

700

Muslim scholars who attended the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies



﴿ 16 ﴾

His Eminence

Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah

HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah

President of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies

Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah's influence is derived from his scholarship, piety and preaching. Uniquely, all of the different sects and schools of Muslims respect him as a scholar. A testament to this is the notable fact that whilst he is not a Salafi, the Saudi government promulgates his fatwas as authoritative. He is an instructor at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah and was the deputy head of the Union of Muslim Scholars, having previously been a Judge at the High Court of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Head of Sharia Affairs at the Ministry of Justice. He was appointed chair of the recently formed UAE Fatwa Council.

Education: Sheikh bin Bayyah was raised in a household famous for its scholars, and his father, Sheikh Mahfoudh bin Bayyah, was the head of the Conference of Mauritanian Scholars established after the country's independence. Sheikh bin Bayyah studied in the Mauritanian centres of learning known as *mahadhir*, in which all the sacred sciences were taught including: jurisprudence, legal theory, syntax, language, rhetoric, Qur'anic exegesis and its auxiliary sciences, and the science of Prophetic tradition.

Diplomat: As a member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy or *Al-Majma' Al-Fiqhi* of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Sheikh bin Bayyah is at the forefront of the legal arm of a dynamic organisation with a permanent delegation to the United Nations.

Author: Having written numerous texts, Sheikh bin Bayyah's scholarly explorations have gone global through speaking engagements that draw crowds of tens of thousands. He has spoken at length about the endurance of the Islamic legal tradition and also written extensively on rulings for Muslims living as minorities in foreign lands, or *fiqh al-aqaliyaat*.

Activist: In June 2013, Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah visited the White House where he met with senior advisers and aides to the then-President Obama. He called for the protection of the Syrian people and the Muslim minority in Myanmar. Also, he met with Bill Gates during the Global Vaccine Summit in Abu Dhabi in April 2013. He recently initiated the "Muslim Council of Elders" which embraces leading scholars (including the Sheikh of Al-Azhar), and presided over a large gathering of religious scholars at a forum entitled "Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies", which has now been established as an organisation (based in the UAE). He has been criticised for

accepting support from the UAE, which is currently involved in several regional conflicts.

The Marrakesh Declaration: Sheikh Abdallah bin Bayyah led around 250 Muslim religious leaders, in addition to approximately 50 non-Muslim religious leaders, in a three-day summit in Marrakesh entitled: "The Rights of Religious Minorities in Predominantly Muslim Majority Communities: Legal Framework and a Call to Action". The summit used the original Charter of Medina, drawn up by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself, as a basis for addressing the current crisis of religious minorities in parts of the Muslim world. With extremists committing violence in the name of Islam against other religions, as well as against most Muslims, it was necessary to voice the position of normative Islam vis-à-vis religious minorities through a gathering of its leading scholars. The summit concluded with the release of the 750-word *Marrakesh Declaration* (see page 134).

Mauritania's national bird, the Arabian bustard



Country: Nigeria

Born: 17 December 1942 (age 80)

Source of Influence: Political

Influence: President of Nigeria

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (17)

2021 (16)

2020 (17)

“Our faith in democracy remains firm and unshaken.”

520

spoken languages

250

ethnic groups



17

His Excellency

President Muhammadu Buhari

HE President Muhammadu Buhari

President of Nigeria

President Muhammadu Buhari won his second term as President of Nigeria in February 2019, beating his rival by more than three million votes.

Military Past: President Buhari began his military career at the Nigerian Military Training School of Kaduna in 1963. He was involved in military counter-coups in 1966 and 1975, and the coup of 1983 which overthrew the democratically elected government and resulted in him being head of state for two years. During these years, he gained fame for his all-out war against corruption and indiscipline, a reputation he has since kept. In 1985 he was overthrown and kept in detention for 3 years.

Anti-Corruption Presidential Candidate: President Buhari ran as the main opposition candidate in the presidential elections of 2003, 2007 and 2011, all ending in defeat, before winning in 2015. His platform was built around his image as a staunch anti-corruption fighter and his reputation for honesty and incorruptibility. He is considered an icon by the Muslims of northern Nigeria but enjoys nationwide respect due to his stance on corruption.

Fighting Boko Haram: The President has put defeating Boko Haram on top of his agenda. Boko Haram's actions have consistently caused international outrage, and the President has publicly committed to stopping the terror attacks. In July 2014, he escaped a suicide bombing attack that killed over 50 people. On 6 May 2017, Buhari's government secured the release of 82 out of 276 girls kidnapped in 2014, in exchange for five Boko Haram leaders. President

Buhari met with the released Chibok girls before departing to London, UK, for a follow-up treatment for an undisclosed illness; health concerns continue.

Economy and infrastructure: President Buhari was the first chairman of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and was the mastermind behind the construction of 20 oil depots throughout Nigeria, a project involving over 3200 kilometres of pipelines. Both the Warri and Kaduna refineries were built under his leadership. He also established the blueprints for the country's petro-chemical and liquefied natural gas programmes.

Environment: President Buhari is an active environmentalist who has drafted several plans to preserve wildlife in Nigeria. He has also exerted great efforts on the conservation of nature in Nigeria, such as controlling the logging industry by ensuring that double the number of trees felled are replaced by loggers. He has also worked on restricting the Ecological Fund Office so it can deliver on environmental challenges.

Protests: In 2020 protests against alleged police brutality of a special police unit of the Nigerian Police Force the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) erupted in Lagos and other major cities. A day after demonstrators declared their demands President Buhari announced the disbandment of SARS and promised "extensive police reforms". The demonstrations led to at least 10 protestors being killed during violent clashes occurring between pro-SARS and anti-SARS protesters with the elite Presidential Guard Brigade intervening in the federal capital.

Nigeria's national bird, the black-crowned crane



Country: Nigeria

Born: 24 August 1956 (age 66)

Source of Influence: Lineage, Development, Administrative

Influence: Central figure for 107 million Nigerian Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki; linked to the Qadiriyyah Sufi order by lineage

2022 (18)

2021 (19)

2020 (20)

“The crown of a leader is his integrity, his stronghold is his impartiality, and his wealth is the welfare of his people.”

3 years

served as Defence Attaché to Pakistan

70 million

Muslims look to His Royal Eminence as their spiritual leader



﴿ 18 ﴾

His Royal Eminence

Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh As-Sultan
Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III

HRE Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh As-Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III

Sultan of Sokoto

Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh as-Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III is the 20th Sultan of Sokoto. As Sultan of Sokoto, he is considered the spiritual leader of Nigeria's 98.7 million Muslims, who account for roughly 50 percent of the nation's population. Although the position of Sultan of Sokoto has become largely ceremonial, the holder is still a central figure for Nigerian Muslims.

Military Man: Sa'adu Abubakar succeeded his brother, Muhammadu Maccido, who died in a plane crash in 2006. Prior to this he had served in the military, including commanding African peacekeepers in Chad. He retired as Brigadier General and was serving as Defense Attache to Pakistan when he became Sultan.

Lineage Back to Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio: The Sultan of Sokoto is the spiritual leader of Nigeria's enormous Muslim community. He gains this position by lineage. Abubakar is the 20th heir to the two-century-old throne founded by his ancestor, Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio. Dan Fodio (1754-1817 CE) was a scholar, leader of the Maliki school of Islam and the Qadiri branch of Sufism, and Islamic reformer of the nineteenth century. Dan Fodio believed that Islam should have a more central role in the life of the people of West Africa and led an uprising to institute the changes he sought. His figure and his writings are a very important chapter in the history of Islam in West Africa, and Abubakar, by lineage, holds a key place in West African Islam, and particularly for the

Fulani and Hausa people who followed Dan Fodio.

An Illustrious Family: The position currently does carry with it some weight—though largely ceremonial since British colonial rule diminished its political significance. Much of this clout is derived from the respect that was earned by Siddiq Abu Bakar Dan Usman—17th Sultan and father of Abubakar—who held the Sultanate for over 50 years. The rule of Abubakar's father from 1938 to 1988 earned the position significant social capital and popularity with ordinary Muslims.

Administrative Power: Abubakar holds important administrative influence in Nigerian religious life. Abubakar is the titular ruler of Sokoto in northern Nigeria and is also the head of the Nigerian National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. Leadership of this council means that the Sultan of Sokoto remains the only figure that can legitimately claim to speak on behalf of all Nigerian Muslims. This role has become increasingly influential over the years with a rise in interreligious tensions between Nigeria's Muslim-majority north and Christian-majority south.

Interfaith Initiative: The Sultan has started many initiatives to counter and reduce the influence of Boko Haram. He has also worked to strengthen Muslim-Christian ties by inviting an international joint Muslim-Christian Delegation to visit Nigeria. In 2019, he was appointed as Co-Moderator of the Council of Religion for Peace (CRP).

Nigeria's national bird, the black-crowned crane



Country: Indonesia

Born: 16 February 1966 (age 56)

Source of Influence: Administrative, Political, Education

Influence: Leader of approximately 50 million members of the Nahdlatul Ulama

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (450)

2021 (450)

“Our goal is not to remake the Islamic world in our image. Rather, we seek to establish a credible version of orthodox Islam toward which—with the appropriate global encouragement—other Muslim societies could choose to move.”

50 million
members and around 14
thousand madrasahs

1926^{CE}
is the year Nahdlatul Ulama
was founded.



19

Sheikh

Yahya Cholil Staqf

Sheikh Yahya Cholil Staquf

Chairman of the Executive Council of Nahdlatul Ulama

Yahya Cholil Staquf serves as General Chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama ((NU), or “Awakening of Scholars”) Central Board. As the world’s largest Muslim organisation—with over 90 million members and 21,000 madrasahs—the Nahdlatul Ulama adheres to the traditions of Sunni Islam, and teaches that the primary message of Islam is universal love and compassion.

Personal Education: Mr. Staquf is descended from a long and illustrious line of Javanese ulama and was educated from earliest childhood in the formal and esoteric (spiritual) sciences of Islam, Mr. Staquf later became a disciple of venerated Islamic scholar and head of the NU Supreme Council, KH. Ali Maksum (1915–1989), and of long-time NU Chairman and Indonesia’s first democratically elected head of state, KH. Abdurrahman Wahid (1940 – 2009).

Head of Expansive Network: The Nahdlatul Ulama boasts an expansive network that covers 30 regions with 339 branches, 12 special branches, 2,630 representative councils and 37,125 sub-branch representative councils across Indonesia. This network practices the doctrine of *Ahl Al-Sunnah wa Al-Jama’aa*, meaning “people of the Sunnah (practices of the Prophet Muhammad) and the community”. They base their practices on the traditional sources of Islamic jurisprudence—mainly the Qur’an, hadith, and major schools of law. Among its aims are the propagation of Nahdlatul Ulama’s message and also an expansion of its already extensive network of members in Indonesia. This is the basis of many of the organisation’s social reform efforts. With a solid structure of central and regional boards, branch and special branch boards, and various advisory councils, Staquf sits at the top of this influential Sunni movement.

Model of Traditionalism: With a mainly rural membership base, the Nahdlatul Ulama distinguishes itself from other Islamic organisations in Indonesia by positioning itself as a premier organisation of traditional Islam—with an emphasis on education and political engagement based on Islamic principles.

Social Service: The Nahdlatul Ulama has made substantial charitable contributions to Indonesian society in the fields of educational development, healthcare, and poverty alleviation. Staquf, like his predecessors, propagates the Nahdlatul Ulama as an organisation that is geared toward establishing a

secular nation-state based on a body of modern and moderate Muslims—with agenda items such as anti-corruption laws and social reform measures that are deeply rooted in Islamic principles.

Advisor: Staquf also served on HE President Joko Widodo’s Presidential Advisory Council, where he advised the President on religious, domestic and international affairs. Staquf co-founded the US-based organisation Bayt ar-Rahmah li ad-Da’wa al-Islamiyah Rahmatan li al-‘Alamin (The Home of Divine Grace for Revealing and Nurturing Islam as a Blessing for All Creation), and the Center for Shared Civilizational Values in 2021, both to serve as hubs for the expansion of Nahdlatul Ulama operations in North America, Europe and the Middle East.

Indonesia’s national bird, the Javan hawk-eagle



Country: Egypt

Born: 3 March 1953 (age 69)

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Political

Influence: Leading Religious voice in Egypt

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (20)

2021 (17)

2020 (18)

“Terrorism cannot be born of religion. Terrorism is the product of corrupt minds, hardened hearts, and arrogant egos, and corruption, destruction, and arrogance are unknown to the heart attached to the divine.”

50

books written

Over

83

million

views on his YouTube



20

His Eminence

Sheikh Dr Ali Gomaa

HE Sheikh Dr Ali Gomaa

Former Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Sheikh Ali Gomaa is the former Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt. He is one of the foremost Islamic scholars in the world. Despite retiring from the post of Grand Mufti of Egypt in 2013, Gomaa has remained active on many fronts and his counsel is more in demand than ever before.

Egypt's Weight in Islamic Scholarship: Gomaa's scholarly influence is derived from his position at the centre of many of the most significant institutions of Islamic law in the world. Before becoming Grand Mufti, Gomaa was a professor of jurisprudence at Al-Azhar University—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE. Gomaa also served as a member of the Fatwa Council. He is currently a member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the highest institute of Islamic law in the Organization of the Islamic Conference—an intergovernmental organisation for Muslim-majority countries. Gomaa has authored over 50 books, as well as hundreds of articles. However, in July 2021 the secretariat of the International Union of Muslim Scholars dismissed him, along with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah and Farouk Hamadeh, from the organisation, ostensibly for controversial *fiqh* (jurisprudence) opinions.

Visit to the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque Controversy: On 18 April 2012, Sheikh Ali Gomaa, with HRH Prince Ghazi of Jordan, broke what had been a 45-year taboo in some parts of the Islamic World and visited Al-Aqsa Mosque in order to pray there and support the beleaguered Muslim community in Jerusalem. The visit was viewed as controversial in Egypt but set off a change of public opinion in the Islamic World that continues to this day. The Grand Mufti also visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which was much appreciated by the Christian community of Jerusalem.

Personal Popularity: Gomaa was exceedingly popular as a mufti and remains ever-popular (he has close to 6 million social media followers) since his retirement, although some of his political statements and pro-military government stance after the Egyptian Revolution have tempered this support somewhat. Apart from appearing on popular broadcasts and satellite television programmes, he also revived the practice of informal “knowledge circles” at the Al-Azhar Mosque. At his very well-attended Q&A sessions after his Friday sermons, Gomaa makes a point of taking on anyone who tries to simplify or distort Islamic

teachings without knowledge of its traditions. This has made him extremely popular with those who vehemently oppose political Islam as well as also making him a target for some extremists.

Popularised and Simplified Fatwas: Gomaa has immense legal influence through his advocacy of Islamic religious edicts (fatwas). When he was Grand Mufti of Egypt, he modernised the process of issuing fatwas in the country. He did this by overhauling the Dar Al-Ifa organisation into a dynamic institution with worldwide reach, based on a fatwa council and a system of checks and balances.

Egypt's national bird, the Steppe eagle



Country: Lebanon

Born: 31 August 1960 (age 62)

Source of Influence: Political, Development

Influence: Political leader of 1–2 million Lebanese Shia and supporters of his resistance to Israel

School of Thought: Revolutionary Shi'ism

2022 (21)

2021 (20)

2020 (21)

“In the history of mankind, this has happened many times, occupation leaders cling on to the land that they're occupying. People fight to liberate their land. But in the end, the people's will is what achieves victory.”

3rd

Secretary General of Hezbollah

Over

45^{thousand}

active duty troops and reservists in Hezbollah



21

Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah

Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah

Secretary-General of Hezbollah

Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah is serving his sixth term as the current and third Secretary-General of Hezbollah (the Party of God). Hezbollah is a Twelver Shia Islamic political party, social and paramilitary organisation based in Lebanon which seeks social justice through Islamic ideals.

Military Power: Hezbollah remains a de facto security force in southern Lebanon, and its military presence is felt throughout the country. The military successes Nasrallah had in the late nineties are seen as the main factor for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, and the repulsion of Israeli forces in July 2006 earned Nasrallah many more supporters. Hezbollah fighters have been key in strengthening the Syrian regime during the Syrian civil war, and their presence there has pushed out DA'ISH but draws reactions from Israel. Hezbollah has continued to develop its arsenal, as well as developing accuracy. The latest estimates include at least 100,000 rockets and missiles.

Social Services: Hezbollah has also won significant grassroots support by cultivating a social welfare system that provides schools, clinics and housing in the predominantly Shia parts of Lebanon. These welfare

activities are run with efficiency and rival those carried out by the state, giving the organisation even broader appeal. It also runs Al Manar—an influential television station.

Popularity: His popularity peaked just after the 2006 conflict with Israel, when many Sunni Muslims looked to him as a figure of defiance against Israel. Since the Syrian conflict, however, many if not all of these supporters have left him because of his support of the Syrian (Alawi) regime against the Syrian people, the majority of whom are Sunnis. His claim that the Syrian conflict is not sectarian in essence is not one that many Sunni Muslims agree with. He is widely seen as one of the main victors of the Syrian conflict. Nasrallah recently declared “victory” in the Syrian war, adding that what remained was “scattered battles”.

Current Issues: Nasrallah has been very critical of recent peace initiatives with Israel and recently met with Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, during the latter's first visit to Lebanon in 30 years. Also, the aftermath of the huge blast in Beirut in August 2020 has led to a crippling political and economic situation

Lebanon's national bird, the Asian crimson-winged finch.



Country: Yemen

Born: 16 April 1971 (age 51)

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage, Philanthropy

Influence: Preacher, Social Issues

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (22)

2021 (21)

2020 (22)

“The first step towards freedom is to liberate yourself from the lower self that commands to evil.”

2005^{CE}

the year the Tabah Foundation was founded

36

number of countries he has lectured in



22

Sheikh Habib Ali Zain Al Abideen Al-Jifri

Sheikh Habib Ali Zain Al-Abideen Al-Jifri

Director General of Tabah Foundation, United Arab Emirates

Tracing his lineage to the family of Ali, the fourth Caliph of Islam and cousin of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Habib Ali Zain Al-Abideen Al-Jifri is a leading Islamic scholar and prominent speaker in the Muslim world. Al-Jifri is Director General of Tabah Foundation in the United Arab Emirates, member of the board of Dar al-Mustafa in Yemen, member of the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan, and affiliated with various other international Islamic organisations.

Sufi Guide: As a Ba Alawi Sufi, Al-Jifri is part of a tradition that has been based in Yemen for approximately 800 years. His numerous teachers include the late scholars and spiritual masters Habib Abdul-Qadir bin Ahmad Al-Saqqa and Habib Ahmad Mashhur bin Taha Al-Haddad. Habib Ali often teaches at Dar al-Mustafa in Tarim, Yemen, and also travels all over the world meeting his students and giving lectures. Al-Jifri's counselling is also in demand, and his spiritual insights have left a huge impression on

many. His guidance is based on incorporating as much of the sunnah into one's daily life as one can.

Think Tank: Al-Jifri founded the privately funded philanthropic Tabah Foundation for Islamic Studies and Research in Abu Dhabi, a young non-profit institution that is a source of reputable work in Islamic research and thought. It applies traditional religious principles to analyse contemporary issues. Some of these have inevitably become controversial such as when he made some statements against popular revolutions during the Arab Spring for his belief that the preservation of peace and reducing bloodshed is paramount.

Worldwide Following: Habib Ali's popularity has grown enormously over the past few years with almost 15 million followers on different social media platforms. His inspirational speeches often leave many in tears, and his smile and gentleness touch all who meet him. Despite not speaking English, he is in huge demand by English-speaking Muslims.

Yemen's national bird, the Golden-winged Grosbeak



Country: United States

Born: 1 January 1960 (age 62)

Source of Influence: Preacher, Social Issues

Influence: Scholarly, leading Islamic voice for English-speaking Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (23)

2021 (22)

2020 (23)

“Everybody wants to change the world yet no one wants to change themselves.”

55

staff at Zaytuna College

2008_{CE}

is the year he co-founded Zaytuna College



23

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson

Teacher and Co-Founder of Zaytuna College

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson is one of the most influential Islamic figures in the Western world. He is seen as one of the foremost authorities on Islam outside of the Muslim world. He is a co-founder and current President of the Zaytuna College in Berkeley, California, the first and only accredited Muslim liberal arts college in the USA.

Islamic Scholar: Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson converted to Islam in 1977 when he was only 17 and spent many years studying Arabic, Islamic jurisprudence and philosophy with some of the Muslim world's most prominent and well-respected teachers. He spent most of his time in the UAE and then Mauritania, where he met and lived with one of his closest teachers, Sheikh Murabit Al-Hajji. He returned to the USA in 1987 and studied nursing before transitioning to a full-time imam at the Santa Clara Mosque.

Speaker and Educator: Sheikh Hamza is a much sought-after speaker. He has given thousands of lectures to public audiences and is interviewed regularly by the media. He has spread traditional Sunni orthodoxy in the West through his popular speeches and his teaching at short intense study programmes such as Deen Intensive, Rihla and RIS. He has been the inspiration for a whole generation of English-speaking Muslims to study Arabic and Islamic sciences. He has

taught and inspired many of them to become teachers in their own right, and more importantly help forge a confident and faithful Islamic identity in the troubling times of the 21st century.

Advisor: He advises on Islamic Studies to several US universities, and is also on the board of advisors of George Russell's One Nation, a national philanthropic initiative that promotes pluralism and inclusion in America. He works closely with Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah and serves as vice-president for two organisations the Sheikh is president of: the Global Center for Guidance and Renewal, and the UAE-based Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies. He has also been called on to give advice by the US government and this has opened him up to attacks from certain quarters of the Muslim community.

Controversies: Despite being in the public eye for over three decades, Sheikh Hamza has managed to stay clear of most controversies and continues to reach a large, diverse audience. Some personal attacks have questioned his advice to a US President or his ties to the UAE government, yet he remains one of the most beloved scholars in the world, and arguably the most intellectually widely read and formidable Western Muslim scholar in the world.

California's state bird, the California quail



Country: Senegal

Born: 1955 (age 67)

Source of Influence: Lineage, Scholarly

Influence: Spiritual leader of around 30 million Tijani Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni (Maliki, Tijani)

2022 (24)

2021 (24)

2020 (24)

"You can only go to Paradise or to Hellfire, and you have to work for Paradise in this life. This is the way, and here is the place to work for reward in the Hereafter."

1781^{CE}

the year the Tijani Tariqa was founded

2001^{CE}

the year he was appointed as Senegal's General Commissioner for the Hajj



24

Sheikh Ahmad Tijani bin Ali Cisse

Sheikh Ahmad Tijani bin Ali Cisse

Leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi Order

Sheikh Ahmad Tijani bin Ali Cisse is the spiritual leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi order. The Tijaniyya is the largest Sufi order in Western Africa, and its leader commands a following of millions, who see him as their guide to true Islam.

Leader of Tijani Muslims: Cisse became leader of the Tijaniyya following the death of his elder brother Sheikh Hassan Cisse in 2008. He is the Imam of the Grand Mosque in Medina Baye, Senegal, which is one of Western Africa's key positions of Islamic leadership. Tijani Muslims are located throughout Western Africa and further afield. As an order, Tijanis give allegiance to their sheikh giving him significant influence as a leader.

Education and Activities: Sheikh Tijani Cisse (b. 1955) studied Qur'an, Arabic and classical texts with both his father, Sheikh Ali Cisse, and his legendary grandfather, Sheikh Ibrahim Niassé. He then continued his studies at Al-Azhar University in Egypt, studying Arabic and *Usul Al-Din* (theology). Upon completing his studies, he travelled extensively throughout Africa, the Middle East and America attending numerous conferences and participating

in religious debates. He also managed to edit and publish several important works, including Sheikh Ibrahim's *Kashif Al-Ilbas*.

Posts: In 2001, Sheikh Tijani Cisse was appointed Senegal's General Commissioner for the Hajj. In 2006, he was again recognised by Senegalese President Aboulaye Wade and appointed a Senegalese "Special Missions Ambassador", a position he holds until the present time. He has also received Senegal's distinguished award, the Ordre de Merite (1993).

Descendent of The Tijaniyya Founder: The Tijaniyya is a Sufi order founded by Ahmad Al-Tijani Hasani, an Algerian, in the late 18th century. As the spiritual leader of the Tijaniyya, Cisse is considered to be the bearer of a spiritual inspiration called the *Fayda Tijaniyya* ("flood" or "overflow of spiritual grace"), giving him authority to carry on the teachings of Ahmad Al-Tijani Hasani. Because of this position, some Tijani Muslims refer to Cisse as "the reviver of the Sunnah". The Tijanis are characterised by strict following of the sunnah, recitation of spiritual litanies (*aurad*) individually and in gatherings and an emphasis on developing an inward relationship with God.

Senegal's national bird, the African spoonbill



Country: Syria

Born: 1933 (age 89)

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Educator

Influence: Spiritual leader of more than 75,000 students in Damascus alone

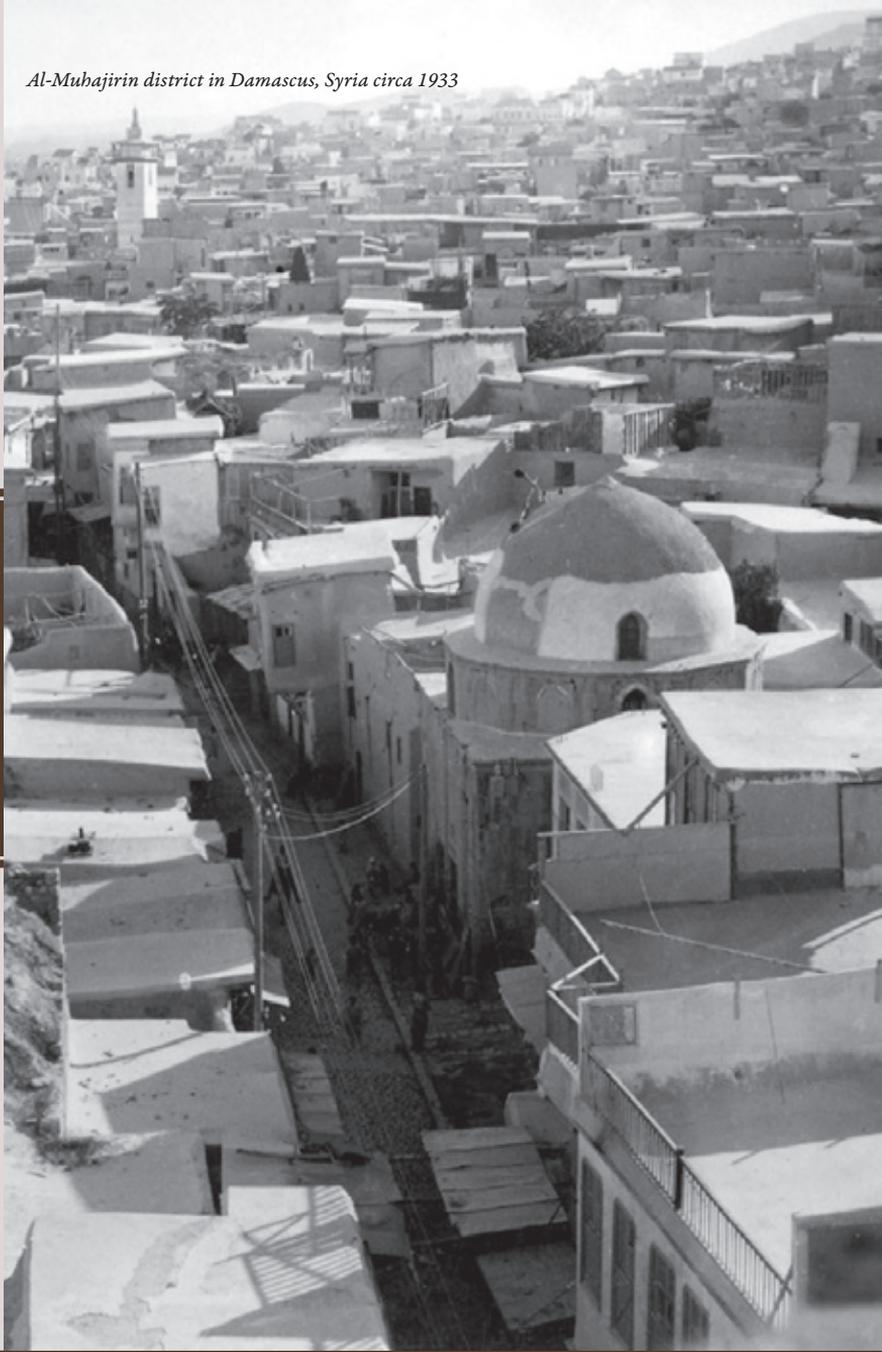
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2022 (25)

2021 (25)

2020 (27)

Al-Muhajirin district in Damascus, Syria circa 1933



“Students must inform their teachers of everything that is happening with them ... because here we are in a hospital of faith, and a patient in hospital must inform his doctor of everything so that he can rectify it.”

—a Qubaysi edict

Over

50 years

teaching Islamic studies to women

75 thousand

female students in Syria study in Qubaysiat circles

25

Sheikha Munira Qubeysi

Sheikha Munira Qubeysi

Leader of the Qubeysi Movement

Munira Qubeysi is the head of the largest women-only Islamic movement in the world. It offers Islamic education exclusively to girls and women. Qubeysi commands around 80 schools in Damascus alone, teaching more than 75,000 students. She is one of the most significant Islamic scholars in the world; her movement focuses on learning the Qur'an and six hadith collections by heart. Qubeysi is arguably the most influential Muslim woman in the world, albeit in great discretion.

Background and Growth: Munira Qubeysi is the daughter of a merchant from the Hauran region in Syria. She was born in 1933 and grew up in Al-Muhajirin district in Damascus. She attended government schools as a child, eventually entering the Faculty of Science at the University of Damascus. After graduation, she worked as a teacher. At that time, she attended lessons of Sheikh Ahmed Kufaro, who later became the Grand Mufti of Syria. However, after some differences, she continued her studies under Sheikh Abdul Karim Al-Rifai. She entered the Faculty of Islamic Sciences at the University of Damascus, studying under Sheikh Mustafa Al-Siba'i, who was leader of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood, and Professor Issam Al-Attar, who succeeded Al-Siba'i. Although she studied under several teachers, she carved her own path while maintaining good relations with the various Muslim intellectual communities in Damascus. After the Ba'athist coup in Syria, Sheikha Qubeysi focused all her efforts on women's religious education—even to the point of refusing to marry—establishing what is now generally known as the “Qubeysiat”.

Female Muslim Order: At a time when meetings of Islamic organisations are proscribed in Syria, Sheikha Qubeysi's network, the Qubeysiat, has legally been permitted to host classes and meetings in mosques since 2006—although they had been operating as a secret society long before that time. Members of the Qubeysiat are provided a unique role within Arab society as scholars and teachers exclusively catering to the needs of Muslim women, providing a forum to address religious questions and discuss religious issues. Due to some of her followers coming from wealthy and influential families, Qubeysi's movement has been able to spread globally as well as affect changes in Syria. Under Bashar Al-Assad, restrictions around wearing hijab were relaxed. During the Syrian Civil War the Qubeysiat have grown extensively and enjoy good relations with the regime. Among their new responsibilities conferred by President Assad is near exclusive control over the country's youth Qur'anic memorisation programme conducted in every mosque.

Milestones in Islamic Education: Qubeysi is influential as the leader of an incredibly successful educational movement. The religious education of women had previously been neglected so the emergence of a female-specific educational initiative has become very popular, making the Qubeysiat, in numbers, the leading Islamic movement in Syria. Qubeysi's students are also at the forefront of a significant achievement in Islamic history in regards education—no less than 70 Qubeysiat have memorised nine canonical books of hadith with extensive chains of narration.

Syria's national bird, the northern bald ibis





Sheikh Mustafa Hosny
 Televangelist
Country: Egypt
Born: 28 August 1978 (age 44)
Influence: Preacher
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

26

Rank (2022): 28
 Rank (2021): 28
 Rank (2020): 29

Mustafa Hosny is a televangelist and Islamic preacher who presented his first show in 2004 and has gone on to become a household name.

Changing careers: Mustafa Hosny started his career in sales after obtaining a BA degree in Business from the Ain Shams University in Egypt. He changed careers to become a full-time preacher after he received a Certification from the Institute of training preachers, an affiliate of the Ministry of Awqaf (Egypt).

Preacher: Mustafa Hosny delivers sermons and lectures worldwide and has presented over 45 programmes on TV and radio channels. He has delivered sermons and lectures at Yousef El-Sahaby and El-Hosary mosques as well as delivering the Friday sermons at Al-Bilal Mosque compound in Mokattam.

Humanitarian: Some of his activities include combating drug addiction amongst youth. He is a supporting member for the Children’s Cancer Hospital campaign in Cairo and delivers seminars and campaigns for the “Life Clear of Smoking Association” in Egypt. He also supports blood donation campaigns.

Social Media: He has nearly 70 million followers on different social media platforms in addition to 5.5 million subscribers on YouTube. His YouTube videos have over 600 million views. His daily advice and softly spoken words endear him to the public and account for his continued influence.



Sheikh Abdul-Aziz ibn Abdullah Aal Al-Sheikh
 Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Country: Saudi Arabia
Born: 30 November 1943 (age 79)
Influence: Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and of Salafis worldwide
School of Thought: Salafi

27

Rank (2022): 26
 Rank (2021): 26
 Rank (2020): 26

As the Grand Mufti, Sheikh Abdul-Aziz ibn Abdullah Aal Al-Sheikh has the highest position of religious authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He is an Islamic scholar based in Makkah and has influence as a leading cleric of the expansive global movement of Salafi Muslims.

Salafi Lineage: The Aal Al-Sheikh family in Saudi Arabia traditionally controls the religious and justice establishments. They are descended from Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab (1703–1792), the founder of Wahhabi and Salafi thought, and for 250 years have been closely associated and intermarried with the ruling Al-Saud family.

Head of Sunni Jurisprudential Committees: Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Aal Al-Sheikh is chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars, a scientific consultative commission composed of leading Sunni specialist scholars of Sharia (Islamic law). He is recognised for his influence in enforcing a distinct view of Islamic tradition. He has publicly criticised Muslim televangelists who encourage Muslims to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. He has also been robust in his condemnation of Turkish soap operas sweeping the Arab World, calling them distracting practices.

Central Figure of Global Salafi Movement: As Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Al-Sheikh is the leading religious figure of the Saudi-based network of Salafi Muslims. The rulings derived by Al-Sheikh are based heavily on a literal reading of the Qur’an and emphasise the need to strip away past interpretations that have become a part of Muslims’ lives. The movement he leads is characterised by an authoritative stance on Islamic religious practice. He has described DA’ISH as ‘evil’ and called them “the number one enemy of Islam”. In 2017, he received praise from an Israeli minister for labelling Hamas a terrorist organisation.

Sheikh Usama Al-Sayyid
Al-Azhari

Scholar

Country: Egypt

Born: 16 July 1976 (age 46)

Influence: Scholarly

School of Thought: Traditional

Sunni



HH Shah Karim Al-
Hussayni

The Aga Khan IV

Country: France

Born: 13 December 1936 (age 86)

Influence: Leader of Nizari Ismailis

School of Thought: Modernist

Shia, Ismaili, Nizari



Rank (2022): 29

Rank (2021): 29

Rank (2020): 30

28

Rank (2022): 30

Rank (2021): 30

Rank (2020): 31

29

Sheikh Usama Al-Sayed Al-Azhari is an Azhari scholar, preacher, an academic and a Senior Fellow of Kalam Research & Media. He teaches Hadith, Logic, and Islamic Creed at the renowned Al-Azhar Mosque's Riwaq Al-Atrak in Cairo, Egypt. He also holds a teaching post in the Faculty of Usul Al-Din and Da'wah at Al-Azhar University, Egypt.

Scholar: Sheikh Usama was chosen by the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Ali Gomaa, to deliver the Friday sermons on his behalf in the Sultan Hassan Mosque. He has studied with many esteemed scholars from all over the Islamic world, acquiring numerous authorisations (ijazaat), all testifying to his accepted position in the unbroken chains of transmission known as *isnad*, essential in the field of Islamic sciences and scholarship.

Peace Activist: He is considered to be one of the most influential voices calling for and working towards reaching new understandings founded on the Islamic tradition and in ways that accommodate the contemporary condition. In this regard, he has presented a number of original and fresh ideas attempting to renew authentic Islamic outlooks, through his publishing and scholarly contributions. Some of the ideas include creating a relational map of shari'ah sciences and their relationship with other circles of sciences, creating "Islamic hermeneutics", reviving the tradition of auditing religious sciences and transmitting them through a chain of transmission as a criterion of authenticity, and the Qur'anic accommodation of different civilisations, amongst others.

Shah Karim Al-Hussayni, also known simply as the Aga Khan (Imamate: 1957-present), is the leader of the Shia sect of Muslims known as the Nizari Ismailis. For 10–15 million Nizari Ismaili Muslims the Aga Khan is the 49th hereditary Imam, with lineage descending back to Ali, the cousin of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Hereditary Leader of Ismailis: The Aga Khan, a hereditary title bestowed upon the Imam by the Shah of Persia in the mid-nineteenth century, derives his position of authority from his lineage. At the age of 21 the Aga Khan bypassed his father and uncle to become the fourth Aga Khan and 49th Imam, a choice that his grandfather made because he felt the community needed a leader "who has been brought up and developed during recent years and in the midst of the new age, and who brings a new outlook on life to his office".

Unparalleled Philanthropist: The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a collection of development and humanitarian agencies working in areas of poverty. The network is widely known for its architectural and cultural work, including projects that revitalise historic cities. Some projects include the renovation of the Old City of Aleppo and the Al-Azhar Park in Cairo. The Aga Khan's foundation maintains a strong and enduring presence in developing countries—building health care capacity, promoting economic development in rural areas and helping improve educational opportunities. The AKDN is particularly influential in Central Asia, where it works in areas that are often neglected by other organisations. The period from July 2017 to July 2018 was designated the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Aga Khan's 60th year of reign.



Al-Habib Muhammad Luthfi bin Yahya

Preacher

Country: Indonesia

Born: 10 November 1947 (age 75)

Influence: Scholarly, Spiritual Guide

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

30

Rank (2022): 32

Rank (2021): 32

Rank (2020): 33

Habib Luthfi is currently: Ra'is 'Amm of the Jam'iyyah Ahli Thariqah Al-Mu'tabarah Al-Nahdliyah (Head of the Association of Recognised Sufi Orders), Head of MUI Middle Java, and the spiritual leader of the Ba Alawi tariqa in Indonesia.

Ba Alawi: The Ba Alawi are descendants of the Prophet ﷺ who migrated to Hadramaut in Yemen early on in Islamic history. They played a major role in bringing Islam to the Far East, including Indonesia and Malaysia, and they hold high prominence to this day. They emphasise the importance of inward sincerity coupled with the study of religious sciences, especially as espoused by Imam Al-Ghazali.

Seeker of Knowledge: Habib Luthfi started his quest for knowledge early in life, and first studied under the tutelage of Ba Alawi teachers in Indonesia. He then travelled to Makkah and Madinah for further education and received authorisation (ijaaza) in all the traditional fields of learning including hadith, and sufism (tasawwuf). His authorisation to be a spiritual master comes from more than one tariqa (spiritual brotherhood).

Spiritual Guide: He has established thousands of schools, mosques and zawiya's in Indonesia, and has a following numbering millions. He emphasises spiritual practices, especially the recitation of litanies (awrad).



Sheikh Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi

Leader of the Houthi

Country: Yemen

Born: 22 May 1979 (age 43)

Influence: Political

School of Thought: Traditional Shia

31

Rank (2022): 33

Rank (2021): 33

Rank (2020): 34

Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi is the current leader of the Houthi political, religious and militant movement in northern Yemen.

Houthi: The Houthi movement was established in 1992 by Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, a Zaydi Shia scholar and anti-Wahhabi who wrote a number of books criticising Wahhabism and the leading authorities of Yemen. The Zaidis ruled most of Yemen for over 1,000 years until 1962. They believe that Muslims should be ruled only by a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, whom they call an Imam.

Leader: Abdul-Malik has made major changes in Yemen through tactical and strategic plans that have enabled him to reach the position where he is today. In 2007, he founded the Al-Minbar website and in 2012 he launched Al-Masirah TV channel.

Taking Yemen: Abdul-Malik emerged as a leader after the February 2011 uprising. The Houthi authority seized control over Saada and Jawf provinces in March 2011. Then in 2014, the Houthis seized control over the Demag region in Saada and Amran provinces and in September 2014 they stormed the capital Sana'a, seizing a large number of ministries and military facilities. He has driven Al-Qaeda out of the regions which the Houthis have taken.

Humanitarian Toll: Since 2015, they have been subject to aerial bombing by a Saudi-led coalition. This bombing of one of the world's poorest countries has led to over 130,000 fatalities and a humanitarian crisis which has left around 70 per cent of the population (27 million) reliant on humanitarian aid and over a million people infected by cholera. The UK in particular has come under international criticism for its supply of weapons which are being used in the bombardment.

Maulana Tariq Jameel

Scholar and Preacher

Country: Pakistan

Born: 1953 (age 69)

Influence: Scholarly, Preacher

School of Thought: Sunni, Tablighi Jamaat



HE President Halimah Yacob

President of Singapore

Country: Singapore

Born: 23 August 1954 (age 68)

Influence: Political

School of Thought: Sunni



Rank (2022): 35

Rank (2021): 35

Rank (2020): 36

32



Maulana Tariq Jameel is a prominent Deobandi scholar who is also one of the most popular preachers in Pakistan. He belongs to the Tablighi Jamaat group and his lectures focus on the subject of self-purification, avoidance of violence, observance of Allah's orders and pursuing the way of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Background: After completing pre-medical studies, Maulana Tariq was admitted to the King Edward Medical College in Lahore. It was there—under the influence of members of the Tablighi Jamaat—that his focus changed to Islamic education. His Islamic training is from Jamia Arabia, where he studied Qur'an, Hadith, Sufism, Logic, and Islamic Jurisprudence. Maulana Tariq's background in the sciences allows him to explain Islamic matters in a way that appeals to modern urban Muslims. Additionally, his simple lifestyle and eloquence in Urdu, as well as his fluency in Arabic, catapulted his fame across the Muslim world.

Tablighi Jamaat: Tablighi Jamaat is a political missionary movement founded by Muhammad Ilyas Al-Kandhlawi in India in 1927. It focuses on encouraging Muslims not to neglect the basic practices of their faith. It has informal affiliations with the Deobandi movement but targets a more general audience. The sub-continent diaspora have carried its message to nearly every country in the world and its adherents number in the millions. It has annual gatherings in Pakistan and Bangladesh which equally number in the millions.

Influence: In addition to running a madrasah in Faisalabad, Pakistan, Maulana Tariq has delivered thousands of lectures around the world. He has been very effective in influencing all types of the community ranging from businessmen and landlords to ministers, actors, and sports celebrities.

Rank (2022): 36

Rank (2021): 37

Rank (2020): 38

33



Halimah Yacob became Singapore's eighth, and first female, President in September 2017 when she was elected unopposed.

Election: A former speaker of Parliament, she gave up her parliamentary seat and position with the ruling People's Action Party to run for President. The government's criteria for the current President, including that the President must be an ethnic Malay, meant that Yacob was unopposed and became President unelected, a process which has drawn some criticism.

Background: Halimah Yacob comes from humble beginnings, being raised by her Malay mother after her Indian father passed away when she was eight years old. Her mother struggled to raise her five children and Halimah almost neglected her school studies because of the need to help out at home. She was successful at school and continued to obtain her law degree and master's in law from the National University of Singapore. She then went on to work at the National Trades Union Congress before becoming Director of the Singapore Institute of Labour Studies.

Political career: She entered politics in 2001 and a decade later was appointed Minister of Community Development, Youth and Sports and later on Minister of Social and Family Development. She was elected Speaker of Parliament in 2013, becoming the first woman to hold the post. As President she has promoted initiatives for supporting a cohesive society, strengthening interfaith and recognising all workers who contribute to Singapore's growth. She has a strong international profile, regularly meeting world leaders.

Advocate: In 2019, she advocated for companies to embrace gender equality during her speech at the Women's Forum Asia. She has also publicly condemned local media for offensive remarks against women and asked those responsible to apologise.



Sheikh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi

Scholar and Spiritual Guide

Country: Syria

Born: 7 May 1963 (age 59)

Influence: Scholarly

School of Thought: Sunni



Professor Seyyed Hossein Nasr

Philosopher and University

Professor

Country: United States of America

Born: 7 April 1933 (age 89)

Influence: Scholarly

School of Thought: Traditional Shia

34

Rank (2022): 37

Rank (2021): 39

Rank (2020): 40

Sheikh Al-Yaqoubi is a widely respected religious scholar who also has a significant spiritual following worldwide. He was appointed as member of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute of Islamic Thought in 2016.

Background: Sheikh Al-Yaqoubi was born in Damascus and was trained in Islamic studies by his father, who was an imam and instructor at the Grand Umayyad Mosque. Sheikh Al-Yaqoubi followed in his father's footsteps teaching in the same mosque and becoming a world-renowned Islamic scholar of theology, jurisprudence, and hadith. He is widely recognised as one of the reliable authorities for the issuing of fatwas in Islam.

Against Extremism: He was one of the first scholars to speak against DA'ISH, denouncing its atrocities and showing that its actions are un-Islamic. His book Refuting ISIS (now in eight languages), has become essential reading, providing theological arguments against extremists and calling on mainstream, traditional followers to combat them. His criticism of the Syrian government's response to protests made his stay in Syria untenable, and so he had to flee the country, eventually seeking refuge in Morocco where he is still based.

Educator: As a teacher, he has trained several hundred imams and teachers who work in the Arab World, the West, the Far East and South Africa. As a spiritual guide, he focuses on the spiritual well-being of Muslims and gives personal spiritual instruction to his disciples, of which he has a significant following in Europe and the USA. He is a charismatic public speaker in both Arabic and English (he also speaks Swedish) and one of the most powerful voices of Islam, making a huge positive impact via his public talks, writings and numerous media appearances worldwide. His public teaching includes readings of the entire collection of hadith in Sahih Bukhari.

35

Rank (2022): 38

Rank (2021): 40

Rank (2020): 41

Seyyed Hossein Nasr is University Professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University. He remains one of the most influential Muslim scholars in the world for his work on Islamic tradition and philosophy. He is the only Muslim to be included in the Library of Living Philosophers and has written over 50 books and over 500 articles.

Background and Career: Nasr was born in Iran and raised in a house of scholars and physicians. He was sent to school in the USA, won a scholarship to MIT for undergraduate studies in physics and obtained a doctorate in the history of science and philosophy from Harvard. He returned to Iran in 1958 where he swiftly rose through academic ranks to become Vice-Chancellor of Tehran University and then President of Aryamehr University. The 1979 Iranian revolution forced Nasr to leave Iran and so he settled in the USA.

Reviver of Tradition: Nasr's work has covered the most important areas of contemporary Muslim thought from classical Islamic philosophy, Islamic science, Sufism, and critique of modernity to inter-faith relations, Islam–West relations, and the environmental crisis. Nasr was the first Muslim scholar ever to be invited to give the prestigious Gifford Lectures, which were later published as Knowledge and the Sacred. Nasr's work has been ahead of its time in predicting the disastrous consequences of the environmental crisis. Books such as The Encounter of Man and Nature (1968) critique the rise of a secular, modern conception of nature as inert matter to be conquered by modern technology, and attempt to revive a sacred notion of nature.

Legacy: For Nasr, the quest for knowledge, specifically knowledge which "liberates and delivers him from the fetters and limitations of earthly existence", has been and continues to be the central concern and determinant of his intellectual life.

HE Sheikh Uthman Taha
Calligrapher
Country: Syria
Born: 1934 (age 88)
Influence: Calligrapher
School of Thought: Sunni



Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi
President of Ennahda Party
Country: Tunisia
Born: 1941 (age 81)
Influence: Political, Scholarly
School of Thought: Sunni



Rank (2022): 39
Rank (2021): 41
Rank (2020): 43

36



Uthman Taha is an internationally acclaimed Arabic calligrapher who has hand-written the Mushaf Al-Madinah, which is the copy of the Qur'an issued by the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an.

Background: Sheikh Taha was born in 1934 near Aleppo, Syria. He developed a passion for calligraphy when very young, but had to wait until he moved to Damascus (where he studied a BA in Sharia at Damascus University) before he met the chief calligrapher in Syria, Muhammad Badawi Al-Diyarani, and the Iraqi calligrapher, Hashim Al-Baghdadi. He then travelled to Istanbul, where he met the most celebrated calligrapher of the time, Hamid Al-Amidi, from whom he received certification.

Copying the Qur'an: The written copy of the Qur'an is known as a mushaf, and it took Taha approximately three years to copy one out. He wrote his first copy in 1970 and in total has written out over 10 copies. The most significant one was the one assigned to him in 1988 by the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an in Madinah. This copy is the one printed by the King Fahd Complex and distributed to millions of pilgrims every year. It is the most common copy of the Qur'an available worldwide. Taha has copied out six different textual variants including Warsh (used in Morocco and Algeria), Hafs (worldwide), Duri (Africa and Sudan), and Qalun (Libya). He was granted Saudi citizenship in December 2021.

Rank (2022): 40
Rank (2021): 38
Rank (2020): 39

37



Ghannouchi is one of the world's leading Islamic thinkers and one of the most influential Tunisian politicians in the post-revolution transition period. He was elected speaker of the parliament in November 2019.

Politics: Ghannouchi co-founded The Ennahda Movement ('Renaissance') in the 1970s and was imprisoned several times before being forced into exile. The Ennahda is a political party based on Islamic values resembling the Christian Democratic political parties in Europe. It supports the concept of a multi-party democracy. In 2012 he received the Chatham House Prize for "the successful compromises each achieved during Tunisia's democratic transition" and in 2016 he received the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for "promoting Gandhian values outside India".

Post Arab Spring: With the fall of President Ben Ali, Ghannouchi returned to Tunisia in January 2011 having spent 20 years in exile. He led the Ennahda (Renaissance) Party to victory in the October 2011 national elections. In 2014, Ghannouchi quit government and handed power over to a technocratic government. When elections were held later that year, Ennahda, without Ghannouchi leading them, came second to the Nidaa Tounes party. The 2019 elections produced a deeply fragmented parliament with the government collapsing just 5 months into its term. Ghannouchi, who was elected speaker of parliament, narrowly won a vote of confidence in July 2020.

Countering terrorism: Ghannouchi has stated that the widespread phenomenon of terrorism in the Arab region is due to corruption in the economic, social and political sectors. He is acutely aware of the bloodshed in neighbouring Algeria and is keen to avoid having only binary options of identity available. He also believes that whoever wants to fight extremism must do so in moderation by following the Tunisian model.



HE Samia Suluhu Hassan
 President of Tanzania
Country: Tanzania
Born: born 27 January 1960 (age 62)
Influence: Political, Administration of Religious Affairs
School of Thought: Sunni



Mohamed Salah
 Footballer
Country: Egypt
Born: 15 June 1992 (age 30)
Influence: Celebrities and Sports
School of Thought: Sunni

38

Rank (2022): HM

Hassan is the current President of Tanzania, having assumed the post after the death of the former President in March 2021.

Politician: Born in 1960 in the Sultanate of Zanzibar, she ran for public office in 2000 and was elected as a special seat member to the Zanzibar House of Representatives. In 2010, she was elected to the National Assembly and was appointed as the Minister of State for Union Affairs. In 2015, she became the first female vice-president in the history of Tanzania after John Magufuli was elected president. The same pair won the 2020 elections.

President: After Magufuli's death in 2021, she was sworn in as his successor, becoming Tanzania's first female President. Among her first actions as president were enacting nationwide mandates to curb the spread of covid-19 in the country. She publicly took the vaccination and encouraged others to do so, in stark contrast to her predecessor. She has consolidated her position in her second year in office and been praised for her approach in encouraging investment, tourism and diffusing tensions with neighbours, especially with Kenya over Bagamoyo port.

39

Rank (2022): 41
 Rank (2021): 42
 Rank (2020): 44

Mohamed Salah is an Egyptian football player of global fame.

International Player: Salah started his career in the Egyptian Premier League in 2010 before moving to Switzerland, UK, Italy and then UK again. Salah enjoyed the most successful season of his career with Liverpool FC in 2017/18. He broke many records and won many accolades. He also helped Egypt qualify for the World Cup. The 2018/19 season saw more success with Liverpool FC being runners-up in the English Premier League, and crowned 2019 European Champions and World Club Champions. The 2019/20 season saw the end of a 30-year wait for Liverpool to become champions of the English league again.

Popularity: His affable nature and polite manners have won him many fans across the globe, and none more so than in his native country of Egypt where he has donated to various charitable causes. In the March 2018 Egyptian Presidential elections, over a million people struck out the two names vying for the presidency and inserted Mohamed Salah's name, making him an unofficial runner up in the election. His down to earth nature has shown itself in chance meetings with fans and acts of kindness towards those in need. He has over 217 million followers on social media and now has a wax model in Madame Tussauds.

Singing in the Terraces: His footballing exploits during his time at Liverpool FC have had the unprecedented effect of football fans singing positive songs about Muslims. "If he's good enough for you, he's good enough for me. If he scores another few, then I'll be Muslim too. Sitting in the mosque, that's where I wanna be! Mo Salah-la-la-la, la-la-la-la-la-la-la."

HE President Abdel Fattah Saeed Al-Sisi

President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Country: Egypt

Born: 19 November 1954 (age 68)

Influence: Political

School of Thought: Sunni



Rank (2022): 450

Rank: (2021) 450

Rank: (2020) 450

40



Former Field Marshal Abdel Fattah Saeed Al-Sisi was sworn into office as President of Egypt on 8 June 2014, having earlier that year resigned from his post as the Commander in Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces. Since then, Sisi and his cabinet of technocrats have sought to take major steps to restore a sense of stability, revive the economy as well as undertake novel political and diplomatic initiatives beyond Egypt's borders.

From Army Chief to President: Former Field Marshal Abdel Fattah Saeed Al-Sisi removed Egypt's first democratically elected president (Mohamed Morsi) from power in 2013. Outbreaks of violence ensued across Egypt that included the death of many hundreds of protesters at the hands of pro-military police at Raba'a Al-Adawiya Square in Cairo. Sisi then ran for the office himself and was sworn into office as President of Egypt on 8 June 2014, having earlier that year resigned from his post as the Commander in Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Presidential Expectations: With the MB officially banned, its leadership and cadre either in prison or in exile, Egyptians have looked to Sisi to resolve complex domestic and international issues. Sisi inherited a politically and economically battered Egypt, with a weak infrastructure, plummeting currency, and violent insurgency and unrest in Sinai. Since then, Sisi has managed to decrease electric power cuts and improve the economy. Under Sisi, Egypt has enjoyed excellent relations with members of the Arab League, most notably with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Sisi supported the blockade on Qatar as well as the GCC-led military intervention in Yemen.

Sheikh Muqtada Sadr

Scholar and Politician

Country: Iraq

Born: 4 August 1974 (age 48)

Influence: Political, Social Issues

School of Thought: Shia



Rank (2022): 42

Rank (2021): 43

Rank (2020): 45

41



The son of the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Sadiq Al-Sadr, and son-in-law of Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir Al-Sadr, Muqtada is a highly influential leader who inherited control over large social institutions that served millions in the slums of Baghdad.

Serving the Poor: He has focussed on serving Iraq's poor Shia Muslims and has had complete freedom to work in many parts of Iraq, especially Sadr City, a district in Baghdad named after his father. He provides healthcare and access to food and clean water. He has raised issues of corruption, high unemployment and poor government services.

Politics: He gained prominence after the US invasion of Iraq by creating the Mahdi Army, an armed insurgency movement that formed its own courts and system of law enforcement. This is now known as Saraya Al-Salam. Through it he has concentrated on campaigning against corruption in Iraq, criticising the government openly about this. He has worked for Shia-Sunni unity, and in 2017 called for Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad to step down, and also met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

King-Maker: The Sadrist-led coalition won 73 seats in the 2021 elections, beating the Iranian backed coalition, but months later a new government had still not been formed. The principle of 'consensus government', meaning that all political parties are included in administration, has come under fire for this, and after Sadr withdrew his coalition and stated he would quit politics there were violent clashes between the supporters of the two coalitions. This led to fears of an all-out intra-Shia civil war, but Sadr again played a prominent role in preventing this.



Maulana Nazur ur-Rehman
 Amir of Tablighi Jamaat
Country: Pakistan
Born: 1929 (age 93)
Influence: Preacher,
 Administration of Religious Affairs
School of Thought: Sunni



Moez Masoud
 Televangelist
Country: Egypt
Born: 27 February 1978 (age 44)
Influence: Preacher
School of Thought: Sunni

42

Rank (2022): 43
 Rank: (2021) 45
 Rank: (2020) 50

Maulana Nazur ur-Rehman is the fourth Amir of the Pakistani Tablighi Jamaat. He succeeded Hajji Abdul-Wahhab who passed away in November 2018, aged 96.

New Leader: A change of leadership changes nothing for the Pakistan chapter of the Tablighi Jamaat—a transnational Islamic organisation dedicated to reminding Muslims of their duty to fulfill their religious obligations. Maulana Nazur was the Deputy Amir and one of three people named by the previous Amir as contenders for the position of Amir upon his demise.

Missionaries: As Amir, or leader of Pakistan’s Tablighi Jamaat, Maulana Nazur ur-Rehman’s influence spans globally due to the organisation’s emphasis on missionary work. It is active in over 150 countries and famously involves people in small groups travelling to Muslim communities reminding individuals about their religious duties. This act of da’wa or exhortation towards fulfilling religious duties is seen as a cornerstone of the faith and has enabled it to acquire a massive membership base. The Tablighi Jamaat has close ties with the prominent Islamic institution Darul Uloom Deoband, in India. It is where the founder, Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Kandhelvi, studied before establishing a following in Pakistan.

Mass Appeal: Among the throngs of Pakistanis, diaspora South Asians, and others who carry the flag of the Tablighi Jamaat are notable Muslim leaders. In Pakistan alone, prominent politicians, actors, and sports stars all publicly show allegiance to the group. This is done easily because the TJ is wholly apolitical. It is identified as a spiritual revivalist movement. It condemns violence and distances itself from any militant groups. Annual gatherings in Raiwind, Pakistan draw close to 2 million people, and those in Biswa, Bangladesh attract over 3 million.

43

Rank (2022): 44
 Rank (2021): 36
 Rank (2020): 37

Moez Masoud is an Egyptian preacher, television and radio presenter, and activist who focuses on the fields of contemporary spirituality, interfaith dialogue, and Islam in the modern world.

Religious and academic work: Founder of Al-Tareeq Al-Sahh (The Right Way) Institute, Masoud is trained in the Islamic sciences and is currently a research affiliate at the University of Cambridge. His writings are primarily centred around religious identity and spiritual quest, as well as religious radicalisation. He has spoken at such key global events as the World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting in Davos.

Media and Social Media: His engagement in media has been significant since 2007 when his first Arabic TV show debuted, and by now his programmes and appearances have acquired millions of viewers across the Arab world. His Ramadan broadcast, *Khutuwat Al-Shaytan*, was widely viewed across the Arab world. In 2017, Masoud produced the Egyptian film *Clash* which has been hailed as: “one of the most telling depictions of modern Egypt yet filmed”, and the film was selected to represent Egypt in the Oscars’ 2017 Best Foreign Language Film category. Masoud has a following of over 25 million on various social media sites, including YouTube videos, Facebook and Twitter. Masoud participated in the brief post-Tahrir “Egyptian National Dialogue” and has continued that dialogue on socio-political issues in Egypt from within the perspective of traditional Islam. In 2019 he announced the production of a film about the Christchurch mosque shootings, in which 51 people died. It will be entitled *Hello, Brother*, the words spoken by one of the victims.

Dr Timothy Winter (Sheikh
Abdal-Hakim Murad)

Scholar

Country: UK

Born: 1960 (age 62)

Influence: Scholarly, Preacher,
Administration of Religious Affairs

School of Thought: Sunni



HE Ibrahim Saleh Al-
Hussaini

Scholar

Country: Nigeria

Born: 12 May 1938 (age 84)

Influence: Scholarly,
Administration of Religious Affairs

School of Thought: Sunni



Rank (2022): 45

Rank (2021): 47

Rank (2020): 48

44



Rank (2022): 47

Rank (2021): 48

Rank (2020): hm

45



Professor Timothy Winter, also known as Sheikh Abdal-Hakim Murad, is an academic who has been actively involved in numerous initiatives in the UK over the past four decades.

Academic: He is currently the Sheikh Zayed Lecturer of Islamic Studies in the Faculty of Divinity at Cambridge University and Director of Studies in Theology at Wolfson College. He has published and contributed to numerous academic works on Islam and among his best-known works are translations from Imam Al-Ghazali's *Ihya*, a series of aphorisms (Commentary on the Eleventh Contentions) and his most recent book, *Travelling Home: Essays on Islam in Europe*.

Educator: He is founder of the Cambridge Muslim College, which has offered Diploma courses for British Darul Uloom graduates and now has an accredited BA programme which is offered to graduate religious leaders who are confident, competent and conversant with the issues of the age. He is a much sought-after speaker and contributes regularly to the media and is fluent in several languages. Hundreds of YouTube videos of his lectures and talks form an important source of knowledge for English-speaking Muslims.

Cambridge Mosque: Professor Winter has been the main force behind the decade-long project to build the Cambridge Central Mosque. The mosque represents an authentic Islamic design contextualised to its location and times. It is Europe's first eco-mosque, having been designed with a high degree of environmental sustainability. It also incorporates a café, and meeting rooms for use by the whole community. The mosque opened in April 2019 and has taken its place as an iconic standard for all places of worship in the country.

Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Saleh Al-Hussaini is currently the head of the Supreme Council for Fatwa and Islamic Affairs in Nigeria and recently became a member of the Muslim Council of Elders which embraces prominent scholars.

Early Studies: Sheikh Ibrahim was born in Borno State in north-eastern Nigeria in 1938 and started his quest for knowledge at a very young age by accompanying his father, Sheikh Muhammad Al-Salih bin Yunus Al-Nawwy. He lost his father at the age of seven, and so completed his initial studies at the Supreme Islamic Institute in Nigeria and then studied at the hands of renowned scholars in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, India, Pakistan, Senegal, Niger and Sudan.

Scholar: Sheikh Ibrahim lectures in the fields of tafsir Al-Qur'an (exegesis) and hadith as well as Islamic Sciences, jurisprudence and ethics. He has authored over 100 written works. He has held and still heads several significant positions, some of which are: founder and mentor of the Islamic Renaissance Organization, Adviser to the Federal Government on its Islamic Affairs since 1992, Assistant Secretary-General for African Affairs in the World Islamic People's Leadership 1989 and many more.

Current: He recently opened the Sheikh Sharif Ibrahim Saleh Islamic Centre, which will focus on teaching and research. Its aim is to "promote a better understanding of contemporary challenges and how to face and handle such challenges in today's world".



Mohamed Bechari
 Political Leader
Country: France
Born: 16 April 1967 (age 55)
Influence: Political,
 Administration of Religious Affairs
School of Thought: Sunni

46

Rank (2022): 48
 Rank (2021): 49
 Rank (2020): 49

Dr Mohammed Bechari, born in Morocco, is a leading prolific and dynamic public figure in the landscape of European Islam. He heads a variety of organisations that seek to better represent French and European Muslims in the wider society as well as working to empower their own communities.

Head of Organisations: He is the Secretary General of the UAE-based World Muslim Communities Council, president of the French National Federation of Muslims, one of the leading entities organising Islam in France. He is also the secretary general of the Islamic European Conference, a Europe-wide umbrella organisation that seeks to be a single entity representing European Muslims at the European level. Bechari is the founder of the Avicenna Institute in Lille and member of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in Vienna.

Scholar and Awards: Bechari has written many books and taken up visiting professor posts at several international universities. He was awarded the King Abdullah II Award for Excellence of the First Class as well as The Medal of Sciences and Arts of the First Class from the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Outspoken: Bechari has been outspoken against those who would incite hatred and violence. He has included not only DA'ISH in this category but also any imams who preach hatred in French mosques. He has been keen to win Islam back from the distorted image portrayed by terrorists. He has voiced his beliefs against DA'ISH and Al-Qaeda who promote terrorism and have distorted the image of Islam worldwide. During an interview on Dubai TV in 2016, he went as far as saying that imams who incite and “preach hatred in the mosques” should be deported.



Dr Amr Khaled
 Preacher and Social Activist
Country: Egypt
Born: 5 Sept 1967 (age 55)
Influence: Media, popular
 multimedia preacher with highly
 visited website and social network
 following
School of Thought: Traditional
 Sunni

47

Rank (2022): 49
 Rank (2021): 50
 Rank (2020): HM

Amr Khaled has been a televangelist to the Islamic world since 1998. He communicates through his TV shows and web campaigns using Islamic ethics in order to inspire, foster community development, tolerance and inter-cultural relations.

Popular Media Figure: Part of Khaled’s influence derives from the fact that he appeals to the common person. He holds a degree in accounting, and has no formal religious education, wears suits and ties, and has a clean-shaven face except for a trimmed moustache—everything you do not expect from a Muslim preacher. Khaled is credited with the launch of the first Muslim reality TV show Mujaddidun on Dubai Television. His website is translated from Arabic into nearly 20 languages and his videos have racked up over 246 million views on YouTube. He has over 47 million subscribers on his various social media.

Community Development: Khaled’s goal is to encourage community development in the Muslim world by its own people with religious faith as the guiding inspiration—something he believes should be linked to interfaith dialogue, tolerance and moderation. The break-up of communities is something Khaled sees as responsible for the malaise in the Muslim World, and something he believes puts the future of young people in jeopardy. One programme he launched to realise this objective of community development was Life Makers, which had the stated goal to encourage youth to work in charity. The show was a great hit and expanded into one of the most famous charity organisations in Egypt

Dr Aref Ali Nayed

Scholar

Country: Libya

Born: 1962 (age 60)

Influence: Scholarly, Political.

Influential figure in Libyan government.

School of Thought: Sunni



Rank (2022): 46

Rank (2021) 46

Rank (2020) 47

48



Dr Aref Ali Nayed is a Libyan public figure, a renowned scholar in the field of Islamic Theology (Kalam) and Philosophy, and a leading pioneer of inter-faith relations. He was former Ambassador of Libya to the United Arab Emirates, former Special Envoy of the President of the Libya House of Representatives to USA, UK, European and African Unions, and led the Libya Stabilisation Team in 2011—and has since played a vital and positive role in the revitalisation of the Libyan political track.

Scholar: Nayed is the Founder and Chairman of two leading think tanks, Kalam Research and Media (KRM) and the Libya Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS). He is also currently a Visiting Senior Research Affiliate of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. He was former professor at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (Rome), and a former professor at the International Institute for Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC, Malaysia). Prior to the Libyan revolution he lectured on Islamic Theology, Logic, and Spirituality at the restored Uthman Pasha Madrasa in Tripoli, Libya, and supervised graduate students at the Islamic Call College in the country.

Political Leader: Nayed is viewed in many circles as a man of integrity, wisdom, strength and diplomatic foresight—virtues that are needed at the highest level to put Libya back on track. In 2017, Nayed launched a new movement for change in Libya named “Ihya Libya” (Reviving Libya) which centres around a comprehensive vision for Libya, and managed to galvanise various social fabric and civil society groups into a political consortium. Ihya Libya aims to create a stable, prosperous and democratic country. Dr Nayed is one of the leading figures in the Libyan diplomatic, civic and political landscapes and is a leading Presidential candidate in the coming elections in Libya.

HE Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada

Leader of the Taliban

Country: Afghanistan

Born: 1 January 1966 (age 56)

Influence: Leader of Taliban which governs 38 million

School of Thought: Deobandi/Taliban



Rank (2022): 50

Rank (2021) 450 Lists

49



Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada was named Taliban leader in 2016 after a US drone strike killed the previous leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour. Akhundzada is known primarily as a religious leader who ran schools from which many of the Taliban have graduated.

Mujahideen and Taliban 1.0: Akhundzada is a former member of the Mujahideen, who fought against the Soviet Union invasion during the 1980s. However, during that time, he was known more for his religious guidance rather than military leadership. He continued in the position as a religious counsellor during the formation of the Taliban in the 1990s and, after the Taliban captured the western Farah province, he was put in charge of reducing crime in the area. Later on, he took on the position as head of the military court, arbitrating disputes among Taliban members. After the US invasion in 2001, he became both head of the Taliban’s council of religious scholars, and as teacher in a village near the Pakistani border for 15 years until his sudden disappearance in 2016.

Taliban 2.0: After the United States’ withdrawal in 2021 and the Taliban’s subsequent takeover, Akhundzada has become the head of the newly announced Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. In 2022, he has vetoed a plan for girls in grades 7 to 12 to return to school, ordered a ban on foreign broadcasts from inside Afghanistan, instructed the government to enforce gender segregation of public parks, prevented women from boarding aircraft if unaccompanied by a male chaperone, and barred male civil servants from going to work if they are not wearing a turban or sporting a full beard. He has published a decree requiring all women in Afghanistan to cover their entire bodies except for their eyes when in public, with the burqa being the recommended covering; and in addition he has issued a decree banning criticism or dissension against the Islamic Emirate.

THE TOP 50 INS & OUTS

THE INS

- Sheikh Yahya Cholil Staquf, Chairman of Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama (450 lists) page
- HE President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania (HM) page
- HE President Abdel Fattah Saeed Al-Sisi, Egypt (450 lists) page
- Sheikh Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri, Founder of Dawat-e-Islami Movement, (HM) page left

THE OUTS

- Professor KH Said Aqil Siradj, Chairman of Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama (19) to 450 page
- Imran Khan, Pakistani Politician to HM (10) to HM page
- Sheikh Mahmud Effendi, Scholar and Preacher (34) – PASSED AWAY (RA) page
- Sheikh Dr Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars (31) – PASSED AWAY (RA) page



Sheikh Muhammad Ilyas
Attar Qadiri
Preachers & Spiritual Guides
Country: Pakistan
Born: 12 July 1950 (age 72)
Influence: Spiritual guide and preacher
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni Barelvi

50

Rank (2022): HM
Rank (2021): HM
Rank (2020): HM

Sheikh Qadiri is an Islamic scholar belonging to the Qadri Razawi order and is the leader of Dawat-e-Islami, a global religious organisation spread over 195 countries. Sheikh Muhammad Qadiri studied for 22 years under the former Grand Mufti of Pakistan, Sheikh Mufti Waqar ud-Din Qadri Razavi. He has authored over 30 books, including Faizan-e-Sunnat on the merits of good deeds.

Dawat-e-Islami: Ilyas Qadiri was head of the youth wing of Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUP) when he was chosen to head the newly formed Dawat-e-Islami in 1981 in Karachi. This movement quickly spread to all parts of Pakistan and soon all around the world. The movement bases itself on the teachings of Imam Ahmed Raza Khan (1856-1921) and has often had rivalry with the Tabligh Jamaat and the Deobandi movements, despite all following the Sunni Hanafi school of jurisprudence.

Global Following: The subcontinent diaspora has carried the movement globally and it is estimated that it has over 200 million followers in over 195 countries. It is non-political, emphasising the love of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as the key component of faith. It centres on the propagation of Islamic knowledge and manages two main activities: the Jamiat-ul-Madina chain of religious schools, and the non-commercial Madani TV channel.

HONOURABLE
MENTIONS

HE Grand Ayatollah
Abdullah Jawadi Amoli
Scholarly
Country: Iran
Born: 1933 (age 89)



Grand Ayatollah Amoli is a leading theologian and interpreter of the Qur'an. He is a prolific scholar having published over 300 articles and books. He is most well known for his commentary of the Qur'an, *Tafsir al-Tasnim*, which has been widely lauded by his peers. Amoli has remained a very public figure throughout his career, having led a diplomatic mission to the USSR, and continues to speak publicly on current affairs.

HE Grand Ayatollah
Mohammad Ishaq Fayadh
Scholarly
Country: Iraq
Born: 1930 (age 92)



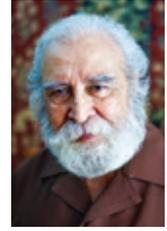
Grand Ayatollah Fayadh, originally from Afghanistan, is one of the four *maraji'* of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq—one of the two most important seats of learning in Twelver Shi'ism. Fayadh is known for his quietist approach to politics and is well-respected especially amongst the Shia population of South Asia.

Professor M Din Syamsuddin
Scholarly
Country: Indonesia
Born: 31 December 1958 (age 64)



Professor Din Syamsuddin served as chairman (2005-2015) of the largest modernist Islamic organisations in Indonesia, the Muhammadiyah. He also served as chairman of the Indonesian Council of Ulema and is currently acting as chairman of its Advisory Council. He is a member of the Group of Strategic Vision Russia – Islamic World, Chairman of the World Peace Forum and President of the Inter Religious Council—Indonesia. He was recently re-elected for another five-year term as President of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace (ACRP). Syamsuddin is still very active in interfaith and intercultural dialogue and was appointed the Special Envoy for Religious Harmony by President Widodo.

Professor Syed Muhammad
Naquib Al-Attas
Scholarly
Country: Malaysia
Born: 5 September 1931 (age 91)



As a scholar of Islam, Tan Sri Syed Naquib has made significant contributions to the contemporary world of Islam in the domains of the Islamisation of contemporary knowledge and of Muslim education. He was responsible for the conceptualisation of the Islamic University, which he initially formulated at the First World Conference on Muslim Education, held in Makkah (1979), and founded and directed the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC). Tan Sri Syed Naquib has written extensively in the fields of Islamic philosophy, theology and metaphysics, history, literature, art and civilisation, religion and education. He is among the few contemporary scholars who is thoroughly rooted in the traditional Islamic sciences, being a competent master in theology, philosophy, metaphysics, history, and literature.

Professor Akbar Ahmed
Scholarly
Country: Pakistan
Born: 15 January 1943 (age 79)



Professor Akbar Ahmed is the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at the American University in Washington, DC and the former Pakistani High Commissioner to the UK and Ireland. In addition to his academic and public sector careers, Ahmed has produced a number of noteworthy films and authored more than a dozen award-winning books. He produced the *Jinnah Quartet* and feature film, *Jinnah* (1998). He was awarded the 2017 Sir Syed Day Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in Poetry, Literature, Arts and the Sciences and declared the 2017 Scholar/Teacher of the Year of the American University School of International Service. Ahmed was awarded the Diplomatic Leadership Award in 2019 from PakPac USA for outstanding academic endeavour. He has produced two films: *Journey into America* and *Journey into Europe*, which are both accompanied with books with the same titles.

Dr Ingrid Mattson

Scholarly

Country: Canada

Born: 24 August 1963 (age 59)

Dr Ingrid Mattson is the London and Windsor Community Chair in Islamic Studies at Huron University College at Western University in Canada. Previously she had worked for 14 years as Professor at the Hartford Seminary in Hartford, and served as Director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. In 2001 she was elected Vice President of ISNA and in 2006 she was elected President. She is the author of the highly acclaimed *The Story of the Qur'an*. In late 2018, Dr Mattson founded a major project to uphold the sacred inviolability (*hurma*) of those who enter Muslim spaces from exploitation and abuse by those holding religious power and authority. The Hurma Project is conducting research, education, training and protocols for professional oversight for imams, chaplains, mosque boards and others.



HE President Mahmoud Abbas

Political

Country: Palestine

Born: 15 November 1935 (age 87)

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, is the President of the Palestinian National Authority, and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He is one of the few surviving founder members of Fatah, the main political grouping within the PLO, and was one of the principal architects of the Oslo Peace Process. He accompanied Yassir Arafat to the White House to sign the Oslo Accords. He was elected President of the PNA in 2005 in what was due to be a four-year term. No elections have been held since then, and so he remains President. President Abbas opposed the “Deal of the Century”, refusing promises of billions worth of investment, but suffered the consequences with aid cuts of hundreds of millions of dollars by the US leaving the economy in ruins. The financial crisis has led to deep salary cuts which in turn have fuelled further unpopularity to his rule.



Ismail Haniyeh

Political

Country: Palestine

Born: 29 January 1962 (age 60)

Haniyeh was elected as the leader of Hamas' political bureau in May 2017 after his predecessor, Khaled Mashal, had completed his two terms in office. Haniyeh has been a senior political leader of Hamas for over 20 years and led Hamas to a shock win over Fatah in the 2006 elections. He served as one of two disputed prime ministers of the Palestinian National Authority. After being dismissed by President Mahmoud Abbas, Haniyeh continued to exercise prime-ministerial authority in the Gaza Strip until 2014 when Hamas and Fatah agreed on a reconciliatory deal. Haniyeh is a popular figure in Gaza, where he lives, and has broadened the appeal of Hamas in Gazan politics.



HE Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

Political

Country: Malaysia

Born: 10 August 1947 (age 75)

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is the current leader of the opposition. He was the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia from 1993-98 before a falling out with Tun Mahathir Muhammad led to Anwar being jailed on controversial charges. He spent the following two decades being charged, imprisoned, freed and in exile. In 2018, the Pakatan Harapan (Alliance of Hope), with Anwar as the de facto leader, won the elections and he was released from prison. The coalition collapsed after 2 years and Anwar now heads the Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition and is also President of the People's Justice Party (PKR. His wife is a former Deputy Prime Minister and his daughter is a current MP). He has held academic positions at institutions globally (including Oxford, John Hopkins, and Georgetown universities).



HE Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad

Political

Country: Malaysia

Born: 10 July 1925 (age 97)

Mahathir is a dominant political figure. In his first tenure as Prime Minister (1981-2003) he won five consecutive general elections. He was the key figure behind the transition of Malaysia's economy from being agricultural based into a newly industrialised market economy. He is noted for his support for liberal Muslim values and has established Islamic institutions such as the International Islamic University of Malaysia. Mahathir has, however, been criticised for his record on civil liberties and for the trials and tribulations that his former Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, endured after being sacked by Mahathir in 1998. After retiring for many years, Mahathir registered a new political party in 2017 and joined the coalition Pakatan Harapan (Pact of Hope) which went on to win the 2018 elections with Mahathir becoming, at 94 years old, the world's oldest sitting head of government. He was expected to serve in this role for a year and then allow Anwar Ibrahim to succeed him, but another falling out between the two prevented this and broke the coalition.



HE Imran Khan

Political

Country: Pakistan

Born: 5 October 1952 (age 70)

Imran Khan became the Prime Minister of Pakistan in 2018 amid huge expectations that he could bring the country forward on issues of governance, accountability and reduction of corruption. He endured a tough time before being ousted in April 2022 through a no-confidence motion. He has maintained that foreign interference played a major role in his ousting and pointed fingers at various institutions in the country. In August 2022, Khan himself was charged by the Pakistani police under anti-terror laws and is currently on bail. Khan still maintains massive popular support in the country as well as with the large and powerful Pakistani diaspora. His challenges are seen as part of the inevitable results of trying to change a system rife in corruption and of trying to reduce the role of the military.



Sadiq Khan

Political

Country: United Kingdom

Born: 8 October 1970 (age 52)

Sadiq Khan, the son of a London bus driver, was elected the Mayor of London in May 2016 and then re-elected in May 2021. His journey to arguably one of the highest posts in the UK included being a human rights solicitor, chair of the human rights group Liberty, councillor for Wandsworth, and then MP for Tooting from 2005-2016. He is a member of the Labour Party and served as Minister in two posts in Gordon Brown's government as well as serving in Ed Miliband's shadow cabinet in more senior ministerial posts. Much has been made of his British Pakistani ethnicity as well as him being Muslim, but he has stressed that those parts of his identity merely strengthen his willingness to serve all parts of society. He has worked to build cohesion among London's diverse communities.



Aminu Ado Bayero

Administration of Religious Affairs

Country: Nigeria

Born: 1961 (age 61)

Aminu Ado Bayero became the 15th Emir of Kano on 9 March 2020. His father had been the 13th Emir (1963-2014) but was succeeded by a nephew, who was subsequently de-throned by the Kano state government in 2020, allowing Bayero to claim the title. The Emir of Kano is historically the second most important Muslim position in Nigeria after the Sultan of Sokoto. The Emir of Kano serves as the leader of the Tijani sufi order in Nigeria.



Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani

Administration of Religious Affairs

Country: India

Born: 14 Jan 1947 (age 75)

Maulana Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani is the current Mohtamim (Vice-Chancellor) of Darul Uloom Deoband in India. He was elected as Mohtamim on 23 July 2011 succeeding Maulana Ghulam Muhammad Vastanvi. The Deoband Darul Uloom is where the Deobandi school was established and it is still the worldwide centre, having some 7,000 students. Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani graduated from Darul Uloom Deoband in



1967 and was appointed as Member of Majlis Shura (Governing Body) of Darul Uloom in 1992.

Sheikh Nuh Keller

Preachers & Spiritual Guides

Country: Jordan

Born: 1954 (age 68)



Sheikh Nuh Keller's *Reliance of the Traveller* is the first Islamic legal work translated into a European language to receive certification from the Al-Azhar University. He also possesses a number of *ijazaat* in various disciplines, most notably as an authorised sheikh of the Shadhiliyyah Sufi order. He teaches students from his zawiya in Jordan as well as at annual gatherings all over the world.

Dr Muhammad Al-Arifi

Preachers & Spiritual Guides

Country: Saudi Arabia

Born: 16 July 1970 (age 52)



Dr Al-Arifi is a well-known scholar and lecturer from Saudi Arabia. He is a founding and honorary member of various *da'wa* organisations, as well as being a member of their advisory committees. He is also a Professor at King Saud University of Riyadh. He takes a special interest in hadith literature and has received licenses for the chains of transmission for various hadith texts from a number of scholars. He has over 42 million followers on social media.

Zakir Abdul Karim Naik

Preachers & Spiritual Guides

Country: India

Born: 18 October 1965 (age 57)



Zakir Abdul Karim Naik is a popular preacher and comparative religion specialist in the mould of the legendary Ahmed Deedat. Naik challenges leaders of other faiths to public debates that are broadcast around the world on Peace TV—a satellite channel that he helped to found. In 2015, he was awarded the King Faisal International Prize for Services to Islam. Since 2016 he has been resident in Malaysia, but is being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on incitement to terror and money-laundering charges. India has requested extradition so he might stand trial on those charges. In 2021, Naik launched Al Hidayah, a new platform with educational content from renowned Islamic

speakers from all over the world. His Youtube channel has close to 228 million views and he has over 22 million Facebook followers.

Ahed Tamimi

Social Issues

Country: Palestine

Born: 31 January 2001 (age 22)



Ahed Tamimi is a Palestinian who has become a globally recognised icon for resistance to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. In 2017, she confronted Israeli soldiers who entered her yard in the West Bank village of Nabi Saleh, and then proceeded to slap and kick them. Her mother was recording the incident and later the video went viral. A few days later, at night, the Israeli army's own camera documented soldiers entering her house, handcuffing and arresting Tamimi. She was then subject to interrogation, a fate common to most Palestinian youth living under occupation, detained for three months and sentenced to eight months in jail. Her mother was also imprisoned but never charged. Ahed was released after serving eight months as a political prisoner and received worldwide support for highlighting the oppressive life faced by Palestinians. She has recently published a book entitled *They Called Me a Lioness*.

Loujain Al-Hathloul

Social Issues

Country: Saudi Arabia

Born: 31 July 1989 (age 33)



Al-Hathloul is a Saudi women's rights activist who has recently been released from prison but is under strict conditions of no travelling or political engagement. She was a fierce critic of the law forbidding women to drive in Saudi Arabia and she used social media to challenge this and the male guardianship system. In 2014, she was detained for 73 days after she attempted to drive into Saudi Arabia from the United Arab Emirates. A year later, Al-Hathloul attempted to stand in the local elections, which marked the first time Saudi women were allowed to vote, but was ultimately barred. She was detained again in 2018, but this time she was tortured and held in prison without charges or trial for 10 months, but then charged the following year with attempting to destabilise the kingdom. She was sentenced to 5 years in December 2020. Her husband, a Saudi stand-up comedian had also been forcefully returned from Jordan to Saudi Arabia and is currently under arrest.

Malala Yousufzai

Social Issues

Country: Pakistan

Born: 12 July 1997 (age 25)

Yousufzai's rise to prominence began tragically when the Taliban shot her in a school bus for encouraging girls to go to school in Swat.

After the assassination attempt, Malala was flown to England, where she recovered and continued her schooling. She received high-profile support for her campaign to ensure that all children worldwide be schooled. In 2013, Yousufzai addressed the UN, received the prestigious Sakharov Prize, and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, which she co-received in 2014 at the age of 17, thereby becoming its youngest-ever recipient. She has been granted audiences with royalty and world leaders, and this along with her high-profile international exposure has led some in her native Pakistan to question whether she has overreached. Now graduated from Oxford University, books published and contracts from media companies, her global profile continues to rise.



Dr Uğur Şahin

Science & Technology

Country: Germany

Born: 1965 (age 57)

Uğur Şahin is an immunologist and CEO of BioNTech, the company which developed one of the major vaccines against covid-19.

His family emigrated to Germany from Türkiye, where he studied medicine at the University of Cologne. He has worked as a professor and lecturer at various university hospitals across Germany. In 2011, Şahin became deputy director of the University Center for Tumor Diseases Mainz and, in 2017, Şahin helped establish the new Helmholtz Institute HI-TRON. But it was in 2008 when Şahin founded BioNTech with his wife, Özlem Türeci and mentor, Christoph Huber. The main focus of his research work is the discovery of mRNA-based drugs for use as individualised cancer immunotherapies, but with the advent of the covid-19 pandemic, BioNTech pivoted to using mRNA-based drugs towards fighting this new threat. By the end of 2020, BioNTech developed the BNT162b2 vaccine and reported a 95% efficacy against the covid-19 disease and became the first mRNA drug approved for human use. Subsequently, Şahin entered a partnership with Pfizer pharmaceutical company to distribute it worldwide.



Sami Yusuf

Arts & Culture

Country: United Kingdom

Born: 19 July 1980 (age 42)

Sami Yusuf is an internationally renowned British composer, producer, vocalist and master musician who has created a revolution in the music industry. Sami Yusuf's works are often inspired by traditional musical systems and mystical poetry that enlighten and inspire the listener. For the past several years, his focus has been on revivifying and promoting musical heritage and he has demonstrated a unique ability to engage contemporary audiences with his dramatically staged performances of his compositions inspired by centuries-old traditions. Performing at sold-out venues on six continents, his music appeals to all age groups, ethnicities and beliefs across the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and North America. With downloads of over a billion, Sami Yusuf has released nine studio albums to date, has over 45 million albums sold, and has 20 million followers across his social media platforms. The artist is also known for his extensive involvement in global charitable initiatives.



Sheikh Abdul-Rahman Al-Sudais

Qur'an Reciters

Country: Saudi Arabia

Born: 10 February 1960 (age 62)

Al-Sudais is the Chief of the Imams at the Grand Mosque of Makkah. He memorised the Qur'an at the age of 12, and studied Shari'ah at Riyadh University, Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University, and Umm Al-Qura University. Al-Sudais is also popular for his sermons and stance on peaceful conflict-resolution. In 2005, he was named by the Dubai International Holy Qur'an Award (DIHQA) Organising Committee as its 9th annual "Islamic Personality Of the Year" in recognition of his devotion to the Qur'an and Islam. In 2017, Al-Sudais supervised the film *One Day in the Haram*, a film about the haram in Makkah, told through the eyes of the workers.



Sadio Mane

Celebrities & Sports

Country: Senegal

Born: 10 April 1992 (age 30)

Sadio Mane is a Senegalese and Bayern Munich footballer, current African Footballer of the Year and globally renowned as one of the best footballers in the world. He had been instrumental in Liverpool's success (2016-2022) winning the Champions League in 2019 and then ending a 30-year wait to win the Premier League in 2020. He also played for the Senegal team which reached the 2020 African nations cup final. He is seen making supplication before the start of each match and performs a prostration every time he scores a goal. He is well known for his modest and humble personality, and has donated significant amounts of his personal wealth to develop the infrastructure in his hometown of Sedhiou. He transformed his childhood village of Bambalia—a village in the south of Senegal—with a number of charitable works, including building a new hospital, school, mosque, sports stadium and other infrastructures.



Khabib Nurmagomedov

Celebrities & Sports

Country: Russia

Born: 20 September 1988 (age 34)

Khabib Nurmagomedov is a former mixed martial artist. As well as being the youngest Russian wrestler in history to compete in the UFC, he was also the first Russian and Muslim to win a UFC title. He was the Lightweight UFC champion holding the longest undefeated streak in MMA history with 29 wins before retiring in March 2021. He won a high-profile fight with Conor McGregor but was involved in a brawl immediately following the fight which led to both fighters being banned for several months. On his return to the ring in September 2019, he beat the interim champion. He is ethnically from the Russian republic of Dagestan and has chosen the nickname "the eagle" to pay homage to this region. This has won him great support amongst many Muslim youth not only in Dagestan but also in Chechnya and other ex-soviet Muslim majority countries. His appeal is not limited to these as he has managed to transcend ethnic complexities and become one of Russia's most popular sportsmen.



وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَنْتُمْ الْأَعْلَوْنَ إِنْ
كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ

Faint not, neither grieve, for you shall prevail if you are believers.

The Family of 'Imrān, 139

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لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ
 مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ
 بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انفِصَالًا لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٥٦﴾
 اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ
 إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُمْ
 مِنَ النُّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ
 فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٢٥٧﴾

There is no compulsion in religion. Rectitude has become clear from error; so whoever disbelieves in the false deity, and believes in God, has laid hold of the most firm handle, unbreaking; God is Hearing, Knowing.

God is the Protector of the believers; He brings them forth from the shadows into the light. And the disbelievers - their protectors are false deities that bring them forth from the light into the shadows; those are the inhabitants of the Fire, therein they shall abide.

The Cow, 256-257

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THE 450 LISTS

🌀 The Lists 🌀

Scholarly

page 123

These scholars, thinkers, and educators are well-respected leaders who have made significant contributions to the study and cultivation of Islamic knowledge and Muslim culture.

Political

page 133

These leaders possess high positions of power over substantial groups of people and exert influence from their status, reputation, or political clout.

Administration of Religious Affairs

page 142

These agents of change are responsible for founding and/or directing institutions that influence the religious affairs of Muslims.

Preachers & Spiritual Guides

page 149

Preachers rely on charisma to inspire millions through multimedia while spiritual guides traditionally teach through live study circles and individualised directives to their disciples.

Philanthropy, Charity & Development

page 156

These activists work in the field, affecting the world through poverty alleviation programmes, emergency aid, charitable giving, sponsorships of various initiatives for people and communities to become self-reliant.

Social Issues

page 159

These individuals address various social issues such as health, education, women's rights, the environment, human rights and conflict resolution.

Business

page 169

These entrepreneurs head and direct key organisations in the business world pushing innovation and financial development forward.

Science & Technology

page 174

These are the main figures from the world of science and technology.

Arts & Culture

page 179

These are artists and cultural ambassadors whose work has become part of people's daily lives.

Qur'an Reciters

page 188

The recitation of the Qur'an is a special art that is valued by Muslim communities across the world. The word al-Qur'an literally means 'the recitation' referring to its origins as an oral text.

Media

page 190

In an age of impulsive news and innovative media, these personalities have garnered influence from their activity in the media world.

Celebrities & Sports Stars

page 195

These instantly recognisable figures have a huge public following due to their prominence in popular culture and sport.

Top Extremists

page 198

These individuals are responsible for heinous acts and controversial statements that are rejected by Muslim orthodoxy, separating them clearly from others engaged in armed conflict.

Middle East and North Africa

ALGERIA

Cherif, Mustapha

Professor Mustapha Cherif is a philosopher and researcher specialising in international relations and dialogue between cultures. Cherif has written numerous works on religion, civilisation and dialogue between cultures. He has held many senior academic and diplomatic positions including Algerian Minister of Higher Education and Ambassador to Egypt. He was awarded the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture and the Ducci Foundation Peace Prize in 2013. He is also a member of the World Catholic-Muslim Forum and a permanent delegate at the Arab League.

BAHRAIN

Yaquby, Nizam

Sheikh Nizam Yaquby was trained in the Islamic sciences in Bahrain and Makkah, studying under some eminent sheikhs, before going on to study at McGill University. He sits on a plethora of shari'ah advisory boards and has been a visiting lecturer at Harvard University. A highly sought-after expert with an immense breadth of experience with the Muslim community, Yaquby recently led a team which issued a fatwa supporting a crypto currency.

IRAN

Amoli, Grand Ayatollah Abdullah Jawadi

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 114

Dabashi, Professor Hamid

Hamid Dabashi is the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University in New York. He has written extensively in major publications and peer-reviewed journals on a variety of topics including religion, literature, cinema and philosophy. He founded Dreams of a Nation, a Palestinian Film Project, dedicated to preserving and safeguarding Palestinian Cinema. He is also a public speaker, a current affairs essayist (contributing opinion pieces regularly to the Al-Jazeera

website, and a staunch anti-war activist. His most recent book is *The End of Two Illusions: Islam after the West*.

Damad, Ayatollah Dr Seyyed Mostafa Mohaghegh

Damad is one of very few high-level clerics in Iran to have been educated in international law in the West. Damad is a forceful advocate for a more progressive interpretation of shari'ah. He is a very well-respected scholar and is currently a professor in the Faculty of Law at Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran. In October 2010, at the Pope's behest, he addressed the Synod in the Vatican, stressing the Muslim view towards Christians as one of friendship, trust, and mutual understanding. He was honoured as a prominent figure of humanities in Iran at the 8th Farabi International Award ceremony in 2017.

Shirazi, Grand Ayatollah Nasir Makarim

Grand Ayatollah Shirazi is a leading theologian teaching at the Qom Seminary, one of the two most important centres of learning for Twelver Shia. He is most influential for his *Tafsir Al-Amthal*, which is a very popular, simplified commentary of the Qur'an. He has also spearheaded the creation of schools and magazines devoted to young people. He has been outspoken in his support for Palestinians.

Sobhani, Ayatollah Jafar

Sobhani is a leading member of the Council of Mujtahids at the Qom Seminary, one of the two most important centres of learning in Twelver Shi'ism. He is the director of the Imam Sadiq Institute in Iran and was previously a member of the Society of Seminary Teachers at Qom. His work in all areas of the Islamic sciences is widely known and receives critical attention. Sobhani is a prolific writer, having published over 300 scholarly works.

IRAQ

Fayadh, Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Ishaq

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 114

Al-Najafi, Grand Ayatollah Bashir

Grand Ayatollah Bashir Al-Najafi is one of the four maraji' of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq, and

one of Iraq's most powerful Shia clerics. As a marja' of the Hawza in Najaf, Iraq's premier Shia institution, Najafi holds a position of immense authority. Najafi, originally from Pakistan, holds less sway amongst Iraq's population than the other maraji' but has significant clout in South Asia.

Al-Qaradaghi, Professor Ali Mohyi

Professor Al-Qaradaghi is the Secretary General of the International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS) and professor of Jurisprudence at Qatar University. He holds key positions in various Islamic Fiqh organisations as well as being on shari'ah supervisory boards for several banks. He is also President of the Board of Trustees of the University of Human Development in Sulamaniyah, Iraq, where he was born. He has written more than 30 works.

Al-Sadr, Ayatollah Al-Faqih

HE Ayatollah Al-Faqih Seyyed Hussein Ismail Al-Sadr is the most senior Shia cleric in Baghdad, Iraq. He heads the Ayatollah Seyyed Hussain Ismail Al-Sadr Foundation Trust, which runs humanitarian, development, and peace and reconciliation projects in Iraq. His role as a social leader and humanitarian has increased significantly during the recent hostilities in Iraq. The issue of reconciliation and dialogue between Iraq's different religious and ethnic communities has featured heavily in the Ayatollah's recent efforts.

JORDAN

Khasawneh, Sheikh Abdul Karim

Sheikh Khasawneh has served Jordan in his capacity as a religious scholar and mufti in various roles. He is a former Mufti of the Jordanian Armed Forces, served as the Grand Mufti of Jordan between 2010-2017, and was reappointed to this post in 2019. Khasawneh is also a member of the Jordanian Ifta Council and a member of the board of the World Islamic Sciences and Education University.

LEBANON

Qabbani, Dr Mohammad Rashid

Mohammad Rashid Qabbani is the former Grand Mufti of Lebanon and the country's leading Sunni scholar. Qabbani speaks out regularly against sectarianism and violence. His is an important voice in a region where tensions can easily escalate.

MOROCCO

Abdurrahman, Professor Dr Taha

Taha Abdurrahman is a Moroccan philosopher famous for his work on the creation of an ethical humanistic modernism on the basis of the ethics and values of Islam. Abdurrahman has won the Moroccan Book Prize twice and was awarded the ISESCO Prize for Islamic Philosophy in 2006. He is the president of the Wisdom Circle of Thinkers, Morocco, and a member of the International Union of Muslim Scholars. In 2020 he received the Necip Fazil Award.

OMAN

Al-Khalili, Sheikh Ahmad

Sheikh Al-Khalili is the Grand Mufti of Oman. He was born, and lived, in Zanzibar until the end of the Al-Said rule (1964) and then moved to Oman along with many others of Omani heritage. He is a strong advocate for religious tolerance and works hard to ensure harmony between the different religious schools of thought in Oman.

PALESTINE

Abu Sway, Professor Mustafa

Professor Abu Sway was appointed as the first holder of the King Abdullah II Integral Professorial Chair for the Study of Imam Ghazali's Work at Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and at Al-Quds University in 2012. He has been Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, Palestine, since 1996. He taught at the International Islamic University in Malaysia (1993-96) and was a visiting Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at the Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University, as well as a Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies at Bard College, NY.

Nusseibeh, Professor Sari

Sari Nusseibeh comes from one of Jerusalem's oldest and most prominent families, having a 1300-year presence in the city. He has studied at various universities including Oxford and Harvard and is a professor of philosophy as well as being a leading public intellectual. He served as president of the Al-Quds University in Jerusalem for more than 20 years.

Al-Tamimi, Justice Sheikh Dr Tayseer Rajab

Al-Tamimi is the Chief Islamic Justice of Palestine and a leading scholar. Popular as an outspoken

thinker and leader on Palestinian-Israeli relations, Al-Tamimi is also the head of the Palestinian Centre for Religion and Civilization Dialogue.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Awni, Dr Hatim

Dr Hatim Al-Awni is the General Supervisor of the International Committee for the Support of the Final Prophet (ICSFP). He has also served in a number of academic and political capacities, including the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia for two separate terms. While his academic research includes dozens of publications, perhaps his greatest contribution is the awakening of Salafi introspection in Saudi Arabia. His widely read articles have pointed out clear connections between militant extremism and core Salafi texts. He also writes extensively on rapprochement between Islamic schools of thought, particularly between Salafi and Traditionalist (Ash'ari and Maturidi) approaches.

Al-Fawzan, Sheikh Salih Bin Fawzan

Sheikh Al-Fawzan is considered to be the most senior scholar of the Salafi movement in Saudi Arabia. He is a member of the Council of Senior Scholars and the Committee for Fatwa and Research. He has authored over 35 books and is one of the major muftis in the country.

Al-Madkhali, Sheikh Rabee ibn Haadi 'Umayr

Sheikh Rabee ibn Haadi 'Umayr Al-Madkhali is one of the most radical thinkers in the Salafi movement. He is an influential writer and speaker whose influence has led to an independent faction within Salafism. Al-Madkhali's adherents are known as Madkhali Salafis and make up one of the most significant and influential branches inside the Salafi movement. A former head of the Sunnah Studies Department at the Islamic University of Madinah, Al-Madkhali is a scholar who has authored over 30 works in the fields of Hadith and Islamic disciplines.

Al-Saffar, Hasan Musa

Hasan Musa Al-Saffar is a Saudi Shia reformist leader who has made significant progress in communicating with Salafi leaders and other senior officials in Saudi Arabia. This is important as sectarian tensions throughout the Muslim world have risen with increased Sunni-Shia hostilities in Iraq.

SYRIA

Al-Nabulsi, Dr Mohammed Ratib

The son of a well-known Syrian religious scholar, Dr Al-Nabulsi has represented Syria all over the world in many Islamic conferences. Muslims know him through his lessons, orations, symposiums, and interviews broadcast on radio and television. He has written a number of Islamic books, many of which have been translated into English. In addition to studying in his native Syria, he has also studied in Ireland and France.

Sub-Saharan Africa

ERITREA

Said, Sheikh Faid Mohammed

Sheikh Faid Mohammed Said was raised in Eritrea, where he was educated by Sheikh Hamid, the Senior Judge of the Sharia Court in Asmara. He later moved to Madinah Al-Munawarah, where he continued his studies under Sheikh Atiyyah Mohammed Salim, the Resident Scholar of Al-Masjid Al-Nabawi and Senior Judge of Madinah. He has also completed a PhD from the University of Minnesota USA. He is currently General Secretary of the Fatwa and Islamic Affairs commission and Imam and *Khateeb* of the Central Mosque in London.

ETHIOPIA

Idris, Hajji Omar

Hajji Omar Idris is a mufti and leader of Ethiopian Muslims, who represent 40 percent of Ethiopia's population. Widely respected, he is a proponent of Muslim unity and was elected as President of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council in May 2019, marking the first peaceful transition of leadership since the council was formed. Hajji Idris is also President of the Fatwa and Da'wa Councils.

GAMBIA, THE

Jah, Ambassador Professor Dr Omar

Jah is an important figure in the Gambian Muslim community and in Gambian scholarship on Islam. Jah was the former Gambian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Secretary of the Muslim Scholars Council of Gambia, and Acting Vice-Chancellor at the Uni-

versity of Gambia. After more than a decade at the University of Gambia, he is now the Pro-Vice Chancellor at the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he was appointed by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

MAURITANIA

Al-Shanqiti, Muhammad Al-Hasan

Muhammad Al-Hasan bin Al-Diddu Al-Shanqiti is a Mauritanian Muslim scholar, author, writer, and poet. He is the President of O'lama Information Centre, and the President of Abdallah ibn Yasin University. He is also head of the country's Centre for the Development of Scholars. In 2014 he was the Vice President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars. He has licenses (*ijazaat*) from various Islamic scholars authorising him to teach all the major hadith collections.

NIGERIA

Zakzaky, Sheikh Ibraheem

Sheikh Ibraheem is the leading force behind the most influential Shia movement in Nigeria and heads its Islamic Movement. The movement has witnessed rapid growth and is based on the model of Hezbollah, focusing on social services, education, charity, etc, but also including military training. In December 2015, the Nigerian Army raided his residence in Zaria, massacred hundreds of his followers, killed three of his sons and held him under state detention before being released. He was arrested again and acquitted, but still has travel restrictions in place.

SOUTH AFRICA

Esack, Farid

Farid Esack is a traditionally trained scholar who is also a successful academic in modern universities. He has authored many famous written works on Islam and is arguably the world's leading Islamic Liberation theologian. He was appointed as gender equality commissioner by Nelson Mandela. Through the organisation, The Call of Islam, Esack played a leading role in the struggle against apartheid. He is an advocate of interreligious solidarity, against all forms of injustice and has worked extensively to support Muslims infected with HIV. He is currently Head of the Department of Religion Studies at the University of Johannesburg and has been a professor at Harvard University. In 2018 he was awarded the

Order of Luthuli (Silver), South Africa's highest civilian order for his contribution to scholarship and work for justice.

Moosa, Ebrahim

Ebrahim Moosa is the Mirza Family Professor of Islamic Thought and Muslim Societies in the Keough School of Global Affairs, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and in the Department of History at the University of Notre Dame. His interpretive and historical research on questions of tradition, ethics, and law includes two monographs as well as several edited and co-edited books. His prize-winning book *Ghazali and the Poetics of Imagination* was awarded the Best First Book prize in the History of Religions by the American Academy of Religion. He is the author of *What is a Madrasa?* (2015). Moosa is also regarded as a prominent public intellectual. In 2007 he was invited to deliver the King Hasan Lecture (Durus Hasaniyyah) to HM King Mohammed VI of Morocco in Arabic. He currently directs the Madrasa Discourses project, advancing scientific and theological literacy amongst young theologians (madrasa graduates) in South Asia.

UGANDA

Mamdani, Mahmood

Mamdani is the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government in the Departments of Anthropology and Political Science at Columbia University in the United States, and Director of Makerere Institute of Social Research in Kampala, Uganda. He is a leading public intellectual. He is the former President of the Council for Development of Social Research in Africa in Dakar, Senegal. Mamdani is well-known for his book *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, The Cold War and The Roots of Terror*, which became significant in liberal policy circles in the US.

Asia

AZERBAIJAN

Pashazade, Sheikh ul-Islam Haji

Allahshukur Hummat

Pashazade is the Grand Mufti of Azerbaijan, the elected Mufti of the Caucasus region, and the Chairman of the Religious Council of the Caucasus. Pashazade is also the world's only Sunni-Shia Grand Mufti, giv-

A Common Word

www.acommonword.com

The 'A Common Word Between Us and You' initiative (ACW) was launched on October 13th, 2007 initially as an Open Letter signed by 138 leading Muslim scholars and intellectuals (including such figures as the Grand Muftis of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Oman, Bosnia, Russia, and Istanbul) to the leaders of the Christian churches and denominations of the entire world, including His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. In essence it proposed, based on verses from the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Bible, that Islam and Christianity share, at their cores, the twin 'golden' commandments of the paramount importance of loving God and loving one's neighbour. Based on this joint common ground, it called for peace and harmony between Christians and Muslims worldwide, who together comprise over 55% of the world's population. ACW was and is an extended global handshake of interreligious goodwill, friendship and fellowship and consequently of world peace.

ACW is a document which uses religion as the solution to the problems of interreligious tensions. By basing itself on solid theological grounds in both religions—the twin Commandments to love God and love the neighbour—ACW has demonstrated to Christians and Muslims that they have a certain common ground (despite irreducible theological differences) and that both religions require them to have relations based on love not on hatred.

During the ten years since its launch ACW has become arguably the most influential interfaith dialogue between Muslims and Christians in history. It has provided a common ground on which thousands of Muslim and Christian religious leaders have been brought together through:

- Initiating a multitude of conferences, seminars, workshops, training programs, and university courses in Jordan, the Vatican, the USA (Yale University, Georgetown University and the College of William and Mary, Fuller Theological Seminary, ISNA, Oregon, Virginia, South Carolina, New Orleans), the UK (Cambridge University, Oxford University, Heythrop College and Lambeth Palace), Oman, Malaysia, Egypt, Sudan, Pakistan, the UAE, the Brookings Institute in Qatar, the Mediterranean Dialogue of Cultures, Germany (the Munich School of Philosophy), the World Council of Churches in Switzerland, the Philippines, and Australia.
- Being the subject of books, articles, PhDs and over 74 dissertations and reports.
- Founding the regular [every 3 years] Catholic-Muslim

Forum, which was first held at the Vatican in 2008, at the Baptism Site, Jordan, in 2011, and at the Vatican in November, 2014.

- Giving rise to a variety of other events, activities, initiatives and even legislative bills.

Thus HH Pope Benedict XVI, said of it (during the First Seminar of the Catholic-Muslim Forum held at the Vatican, 4-6 November 2008:

"The Open Letter 'A Common Word between Us and you' has received numerous responses and has given rise to dialogue, specific initiatives and meetings, aimed at helping us to know one another more deeply and to grow in esteem for our shared values."

Equally, HG Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said of it (in 2010):

"The appearance of the A Common Word [Open Letter] of 2007 was a landmark in Muslim-Christian relations and it has a unique role in stimulating a discussion at the deepest level across the world."

Insofar as Muslim-Christian relations are concerned, Professor Miroslav Volf of Yale University said of it (in 2011):

"The A Common Word Initiative is the most significant initiative in Muslim-Christian relations since *Nostra Aetate* of the Second Vatican Council."

And in so far as Muslim initiatives towards Christians are concerned, Professor David F. Ford (Regius Professor of Divinity, University of Cambridge, U. K. and Director of the Cambridge Interfaith Program) said of it (in 2011):

"The Open Letter A Common Word Between Us and You (2007) was probably the single most important initiative ever taken by Muslim scholars and authorities towards Christians."

The A Common Word initiative was awarded the UK's Association of Muslim Social Scientists Building Bridges Award of 2008; Prince Ghazi, Habib Ali Al-Jifri and Grand Mufti Mustafa Ceric were awarded Germany's Eugen Biser Award for it in 2008, and Prince Ghazi was awarded the St Augustine Award for Interreligious Dialogue in the Mediterranean (Milan, Italy, 2012) and the Interfaith Harmony and Tolerance Prize by the International Islamic University of Malaysia, *Jamia Ma'din* and the National Unity and Integration Department, Malaysia.

ing each group religious edicts (fatawaa) according to their own legal methodology (*madhab*), reflecting Azerbaijan's Sunni-Shia mix. He co-chaired the World Summit of Religious Leaders, held in Azerbaijan in April 2010. He has been spearheading Azerbaijan's initiatives of promoting dialogue between faiths within the region and internationally.

INDIA

Nadvi, Rabey Hasani

Nadvi is an Islamic scholar and a bilingual author of around 30 books in both Arabic and Urdu. His influence emanates from being the fourth President of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Rector of Darul-Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, and a founding member of Rabita Aalam-e-Islami, Makkah Mukarramah. He is also the president of multiple Islamic centres and academies.

Nadwi, Bahauddeen Muhammed Jamaluddeen

Dr Bahauddeen Muhammed Jamaluddeen Nadwi is the founding Vice Chancellor of Darul Huda Islamic University, Kerala, India. He has authored a number of books, treatises, edited volumes, and translations in Arabic, English and Malayalam spanning Qur'anic sciences, Islamic jurisprudence, Hadith, education, Sufism, Comparative Religion, Arabic Language and Literature, and Islamic History. He is the Editor in Chief of an international Journal of Islamic studies, and a member of regional (Kerala), national, and international organisations.

INDONESIA

Bisri, Kyai Haji Achmad Mustofa

Kyai Haji Achmad Mustofa Bisri is widely revered as a religious scholar, poet, novelist, painter, and Muslim intellectual. A graduate of Al-Azhar, he is a former Chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama Supreme Council and has strongly influenced the NU's (Nahdlatul Ulama) social and political development over the past 30 years. He heads the prestigious Raudlatuth Tholibin Islamic Boarding School in Rembang, Central Java. Mustofa Bisri's role in combining spirituality with artistic expression is widely admired in Indonesia, where he is regarded as a cultural icon. Often called the 'President of Poets' he is celebrated for his courage in defending artistic and religious freedom in the face of radical onslaughts.

Syamsuddin, Professor M Din

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 114

MALAYSIA

Al-Akiti, Dato Dr Muhammad Afifi

Al-Akiti is a scholar, trained theologian, and philologist. He is a lecturer of Islamic studies with the Faculty of Theology at Oxford University. He is internationally acclaimed for his 2005 fatwa "Defending the transgressed by censuring the reckless against the killing of civilians", written in response to the 7 July London bombings, which was praised by scholars of Islam and gained a massive readership on the Internet. Al-Akiti was appointed Privy Councillor to the State of Perak, Malaysia by the Crown Prince of Perak. In 2012, he was the sole recipient of the Darjah Dato's Paduka Cura Si-Manja Kini (DPCM) which carries the Malaysian title of "Dato" in the Sultan of Perak Birthday Honours List.

Al-Attas, Dr Syed Muhammad Naquib

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 114

Bakar, Dr Osman

Osman Bakar is currently Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Thought at ISTAC-International Islamic University Malaysia and Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Science at the University of Malaya. He was formerly Distinguished Professor at Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia Chair of Southeast Asian Islam at the Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington DC. Dr Bakar is author and editor of 38 books and numerous articles on various aspects of Islamic thought and civilisation, particularly Islamic science and philosophy and interreligious and inter-civilisational dialogue. His writings have been translated into many languages. He has served as advisor and consultant to a variety of international academic and professional organisations, including UNESCO, the Qatar Foundation, and The European Science Foundation. He was awarded a Datukship by the Malaysian King in 2000.

Kamali, Professor Mohammad Hashim

Kamali was Dean and Professor at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) and the International Islamic University in Malaysia. Kamali is currently Founding CEO of the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**Ceric, Sheikh Dr Mustafa**

Dr Mustafa Ceric was schooled at the Gazi Husrev Beg Madrasa in Sarajevo, Al-Azhar University and the University of Chicago (PhD in Islamic Studies); he became an imam in Zagreb in 1987 and was the Grand Mufti of Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1999-2012. Dr Ceric is an advocate of cross-cultural engagement as well as a peace activist. In 2006, he issued the "Declaration of European Muslims" stating that European Muslims are dedicated to the common values of law, tolerance, democracy and human rights, the value of life, faith, freedom, property, and dignity. In 2008, Dr Ceric led the Muslim delegation of the "A Common Word" initiative to the Vatican, which included a meeting with the Pope. Dr Ceric is currently the President of the World Bosniak Congress as well as an active member of many local and international scholarly organisations and societies.

Karic, Dr Enes

Dr Enes Karic is a Professor of Qur'anic studies and history of the interpretation of the Qur'an at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of Sarajevo. He previously served as the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports with the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1994-1996. Dr Karic has written extensively on the Qur'an and Islamic studies in English and Bosnian and has delivered lectures worldwide. He has also won literary awards for his novels which have been translated into many languages.

RUSSIA**Gaynutdin, Mufti Sheikh Ravil**

Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin is a Moscow-based Muslim scholar. Among various academic roles, he is Grand Mufti of Russia and Chairman of the Union of Muftis of Russia. He is probably the single most important figure in the schema of Russian Islam. As a member of the Russian President's Council for Coordination with Religious Organizations, he is a key figure in relations between the Kremlin and Russia's Muslim population.

in Malaysia. He is the world's leading expert on comparative studies between Islamic and modern law, and one of the most prolific producers of quality scholarship on Islam in the world today. Kamali received the King Abdullah II bin Hussein International Award for the year 2010 in recognition of his intellectual and academic contributions towards serving Islam and Muslims. In February 2010, he worked on the new constitution of Somalia.

PAKISTAN**Ahmed, Professor Akbar**

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Hashmi, Dr Farhat

Dr Farhat Hashmi is an influential Islamic teacher, public speaker, and scholar. She is a prominent name in the burgeoning field of the role of women in Islam. In addition to the academic aspects of Islamic teachings, Hashmi also focuses on its relatable and practical aspects, thereby ensuring that her message resonates with a multitude of women across the globe. She holds a PhD in Hadith Sciences from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. She is the Founder of Al-Huda International, a non-profit institute founded in 1994. Al-Huda promotes Islamic learning and serves in the field of social welfare and has branches across Pakistan as well as internationally.

Najafi, Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Hussain

Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Hussain Najafi is the only marja in South Asia. Based in the Sargodha district of the Punjab province in Pakistan, he was the first scholar from that country to be given the status of marji'yya and is one of only two Ayatollahs from Pakistan.

Al-Qadri, Sheikh Dr Tahir

Sheikh Tahir Al-Qadri is a Professor of law and the founder of Minhaj ul Qur'an International Worldwide and the Minhaj Welfare Foundation. Al-Qadri has authored some 450 published works and given more than 6,000 lectures on various subjects which are aired on international satellite channels. In March 2010, Qadri issued a 600-page fatwa declaring that terrorists and suicide bombers are unbelievers. He has continued to be outspoken against terrorists. His attempts to lead popular revolts against the Pakistani government has led to a fall in his standing. He is based in Canada.

SWITZERLAND

Ramadan, Dr Tariq

Ramadan is a European Muslim intellectual and author about Islam in public life. He was a professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at Oxford University and holds academic positions at other institutions worldwide. In February 2018, Ramadan was accused of raping two women (a third charge was dropped when the testimony of one of his accusers was discredited) and was arrested in that same month pending his trial. In 2020 he was charged with raping two more women. The French justice system has come under scrutiny for the way it has treated Ramadan since then, denying him bail and putting him in solitary confinement where his physical health has deteriorated (he suffers from multiple sclerosis).

TÜRKIYE

Kalin, Dr Ibrahim

Ibrahim Kalin, PhD, is a senior advisor to the President and Presidential Spokesperson. Dr Kalin is the Founding Director of the SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research based in Ankara, Türkiye and served as its director from 2005 to 2009. He is a fellow at the Prince Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. Dr Kalin has published widely on Islamic philosophy, relations between Islam and the West, and Turkish foreign policy.

Karaman, Professor Dr Hayrettin

Karaman is one of the most prominent scholars of Islam in Türkiye, and the pre-eminent scholar of Islamic law (Shari'a) there. He publishes popular academic texts extensively and writes a weekly column in the newspaper *Yeni Safak* (New Dawn). His long career in academia has garnered him much respect. At the pinnacle of his career, Karaman was a dean at Türkiye's premier university, Marmara University. He left this position at the height of the headscarf controversy in 2001.

UNITED KINGDOM

Abdel Haleem, Professor Muhammad

Professor Muhammad Abdel Haleem is a much-loved Professor of Islamic Studies at SOAS, University of London, and Editor of the *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*. He was awarded an OBE in 2008 in recognition of his services to Arabic and interfaith understand-

ing. Born in Egypt, Abdel Haleem memorised the Qur'an (this was a prerequisite for entry to Al-Azhar University) before starting his further education. He has many publications including a widely acclaimed translation of the Qur'an.

Hellyer, Dr Hisham

Dr Hisham A. Hellyer is currently a fellow at the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge, and a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace scholar. In 2020, he was elected fellow of the Royal Society of Arts for his scholarship in politics, international relations and Islamic studies, with his career including positions at Harvard, Warwick University, Brookings, and the American University in Cairo. Trained in the Islamic canon, Shaykh Hisham was also appointed as Council Member of the British Board of Scholars and Imams, the first "senior scholar" of the renowned Azzawia Institute, and the first professorial fellow at Cambridge Muslim College. His books include *Muslims of Europe: the 'Other' Europeans*, *A Revolution Undone: Egypt's Road Beyond Revolt*, *A Sublime Path: the Sufi Way of the Makkan Sages*, and *The Islamic Tradition and the Human Rights Discourse*.

Mangera, Dr Mufti Abdur-Rahman ibn Yusuf

Dr Mufti Abdur-Rahman ibn Yusuf Mangera is a British Muslim scholar educated in both the Islamic and Western traditions. He has memorised the Qur'an and studied with accomplished scholars in the UK, South Africa, India, and Syria. He holds a PhD from SOAS and has served as an imam in the UK and USA. He is the founder of Whitethread Institute, a post-graduate institute for Islamic scholars. He works on scholarly publications through White Thread Press (www.whitethreadpress.com) with many of his lectures being available on www.zamzamacademy.com.

Nadwi, Sheikh Dr Mohammad Akram

Sheikh Dr Mohammad Akram Nadwi is one of the most important Islamic scholars in the Western world today. He has a doctorate in Arabic Language and has authored and translated over 30 titles on Arabic, jurisprudence, Qur'an, and Hadith. He travels extensively, and his courses and lectures have a worldwide following. His biographical dictionary of women scholars in Islamic history (over 40 volumes) is now being published by al-Rabitah al-Muhammadiyah li al-ulama in Rabat. A revised edition of the English translation of the introductory volume *Al-Muhad-*

dithat was published in 2013. He is the subject of the best-selling book: *If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Qur'an* (2015).

Pirzada, Shaykh Muhammad Imdad Hussain

Sheikh Muhammad Imdad Hussain Pirzada has served the global Muslim community for nearly half a century. He is a leading voice in literature, education and training of scholars, and community and charity work. His books guide on educational, religious, and current issues in multiple languages accessible to scholars and the wider society. His 5-volume commentary *Qur'an: The Sublime Word* is acclaimed worldwide in Arabic, Urdu and English. In 2019, he was honoured at the Imam Bukhari Complex in Samarqand to complete his 10-volume commentary *Bukhari: The Sublime Tradition*. Both works are the first to be written in English in the western world. Through Jamia Al-Karam, the institution he founded in 1985, hundreds of male and female British Muslim scholars have studied under his tutelage, who today serve as imams, chaplains, teachers and community leaders. He is founder of Muslim Charity, a leading international relief and development NGO, and he is president of the World Organisation for Al-Azhar Graduates (UK).

Sardar, Ziauddin

Sardar has been described as “Britain’s own Muslim Polymath” by *The Independent* newspaper. He is an award-winning writer who specialises in Muslim thought, futurology, science and cultural relations. He has authored and edited over 50 books and written for various journals (*Nature*, *New Scientist*) and newspapers. He has worked on numerous ground-breaking initiatives representing British Asian and Muslim communities, producing programmes for national TV. He has taught at UK universities and worked overseas as advisor to Anwar Ibrahim (then Education Minister of Malaysia) and in Saudi Arabia. He currently edits the *Critical Muslim* and has recently established the Centre for Post-normal Policy and Futures Studies.

Oceania

NEW ZEALAND

Hayward, Professor Joel (new)

Hayward has taught Islamic Studies in many elite institutions, including the Royal Air Force College (UK), of which he served as Dean for five years, and

The Muslim Council of Elders

www.muslim-elders.com

The Muslim Council of Elders is an independent international body that was established on 21 Ramadan 1435 Hijri (18 July 2014) in order to promote peace in Muslim communities. The goal of the Muslim Council of Elders is to create secure societies that respect knowledge and scholars; to encourage dialogue, tolerance, respect for others, and peace; to restore the role of scholars by using their expertise to improve muslim societies; and to help eliminate causes of fragmentation and promote conciliation.

The council consists of Muslim scholars, experts and dignitaries known for their wisdom, sense of justice, independence and moderateness. They work together to promote peace, to discourage infighting, and to address the sources of conflict, divisiveness, and fragmentation in Muslim communities.

Based in the United Arab Emirates’ capital, Abu Dhabi, the council is the first institutional body that aims to bring the Islamic nation together by extinguishing the fire that threatens Islam’s humanitarian values and tolerant principles, and putting an end to the sectarianism and violence that have plagued the Muslim world for decades.

The Muslim Council of Elders was formed as a result of the recommendations of The Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, and it is a joint initiative by Grand Imam Sheikh Dr Ahmad al-Tayyib, the Sheikh of al-Azhar, and the forum’s chairman scholar Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah.

the National Defence College of the UAE. He weaves together classical Islamic knowledge and methodologies and the source-critical Western historical methods to make innovative yet carefully reasoned sense of complex historical issues that are still important in today's world. His books on Islam include *Warfare in the Qur'an* (2012), *War is Deceit: An Analysis of a Contentious Hadith* (2017), *Civilian Immunity in Foundational Islamic Strategic Thought* (2019), and *The Leadership of Muhammad ﷺ: A Historical Reconstruction* (2021). The latter won the illustrious prize of "Best International Non-Fiction Book" at the 2021 Sharjah International Book Awards. His latest book (2022) is *The Warrior Prophet: Muhammad ﷺ and War*.

North America

CANADA

Mattson, Dr Ingrid

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bewley, Aisha (new)

Aisha Bewley is a scholar, author, writer and one of the most prolific and accomplished translators of classical Islamic works from Arabic to English. Since converting to Islam in 1968, she has spent the decades faithfully learning the Islamic tradition and making available its key texts to the global English-speaking Muslim community, often in collaboration with her husband. She was born 1948 in the United States, obtained an MA in Near Eastern Languages from the University of California and then spent a year at the American University in Cairo. She started her traditional Islamic learning in a Dar al-Ulum and continued her journey following the teachings of Sheikh Muhammad ibn al-Habib of Meknes (passed away 1972) under the late Sheikh Abdalqadir al-Murabit (passed away 2021).

Huda, Qamar-ul

Qamar-ul Huda is an adjunct Associate Professor at Georgetown University and at New York University, Washington, DC. After serving as a senior policy advisor to former Secretary John Kerry's Office of Religion and Global Affairs, he co-founded the Center for Global Policy, a nonpartisan research think

tank. Dr Huda is the editor of *Crescent and Dove: Peace and Conflict Resolution in Islam* and *Striving for Divine Union: The Spiritual Exercises of Subhwardi Sufis*. His forthcoming book, *A Quest of Applied Peace-building*, is about seeding the field of peace education, peacebuilding and conflict analysis in Muslim majority countries. His areas of research are on comparative ethics, religious identities, nonviolence, and strategies for effective education. Dr Huda serves as an expert for the UN Alliance of Civilizations and UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Jackson, Dr Sherman

Jackson is the King Faisal Chair in Islamic Thought and Culture and Professor of Religion and American Studies and Ethnicity, and the Director of the Center for Islamic Thought, Culture and Practice (CIT-CAP) at the University of Southern California. He is a well-respected scholar and author of works dealing with Islam, Shari'a, and the African-American Muslim community. Jackson is the co-founder of the American Learning Institute for Muslims (ALIM) and is featured on the Washington Post-Newsweek blog "On Faith" and the "Huffington Post". He is a former member of the Fiqh Council of North America and a former Professor of Law, Near Eastern Studies and Afro-American Studies at the University of Michigan.

Qadhi, Dr Yasir

Yasir Qadhi is one of very few professors of Islamic studies who is also a classically trained scholar. Currently he is the Dean of The Islamic Seminary of America, the Resident Scholar of the Memphis Islamic Center, and a professor at Rhodes College, Memphis, TN. He has established a reputation as a cleric who appreciates the cultural impact that Muslims have to face in the US. He is also renowned for reaching out to media outlets and mainstream Americans of different religions to promote a better understanding of Islam, and to challenge stereotypes about Muslims in the US.

Middle East and North Africa

IRAN

Ebtekar, Dr Masoumeh

Dr Ebtekar was the first female Vice President of Iran in 1997. A scientist, journalist, and politician, she frequently writes on environmental, political, social, and women's issues in Persian and English. She is one of the founding members of the reformist Islamic Iran Participation Front and served as Head of the Environmental Protection Organization under Rouhani and Khatami. Her accolades include the Energy Globe Foundation Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award, being named one of the seven 2006 Champions of the Earth by the United Nations Environment Program, and one of 50 environmental leaders by *The Guardian* newspaper. In 2016, Dr Ebtekar was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Political Science by the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Korea. In August 2017, Ebtekar was appointed as Women Affairs' Vice President.

Jafari, Major General Mohammad Ali

General Mohammad Ali Jafari has been the Chief Commander of the Iranian Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution (also known as the Revolutionary Guard) since 2007. It is a 300,000 strong elite faction of the Iranian armed forces separate from the armies that report directly to the Velayat-e Faqih. The Revolutionary Guard Corps occupies cabinet positions, parliament seats, and controls an extensive business empire, which it partially used to fund and direct Shia movements abroad such as Hezbollah and the Mahdi Army. Because of this, Jafari has a significant degree of influence in Iraq and Lebanon.

Raisi, President Ebrahim

Raisi (Sayyid Ebrahim Raisolsadati) is the President of Iran. He is seen as more conservative than his predecessor and ran largely on an anti-corruption ticket. Raised in a clerical family, he attended the famous Qom seminary and also attained a PhD in law. He served as Deputy Chief Justice, Attorney General and Chief Justice, before winning the 2021 Iranian presidential election. He has been accused by Amnesty International of overseeing the executions of

political prisoners in the eighties and nineties and is currently under US sanctions. Raisi has frequently pressed for economic reform, such as the development of the agriculture sector over the commercial sector, tripling the monthly state benefits, and tackling corruption and increasing employment. He's also a strong advocate of women's rights, as well as the arts and culture sector.

IRAQ

Barzani, Masoud

Barzani entered the political arena at the young age of 16 under the wing of his late father and became the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in 1979. He played a major role in shaping the new Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. He has been the main force fighting DA'ISH and is adamant about establishing an independent Kurdish state. He was President of the Iraqi Kurdish Region from 2005-2017, but had to resign because of fierce regional opposition to the referendum he held in September 2017 for Kurdish independence (there was overwhelming support for an independent Kurdistan). There are approximately five million Kurds living within the Kurdish region in Iraq, 14.5 million in Türkiye, 6 million in Iran, and less than 2 million in Syria.

ISRAEL

Salah, Sheikh Raed

Raed Salah is the head of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel. He is widely respected in the Islamic world as a religious leader. From 1989 to 2001, Salah also served as the Mayor of Umm Al-Fahm, an Israeli-Arab city. He is frequently arrested and imprisoned by the Israeli government and, in February 2020, a court in Israel sentenced Salah to 28 months in prison for "inciting to terror", much of which has been spent in solitary confinement. In December 2021, he was released from prison after having served 16 months of his sentence.

JORDAN

Abu Rashta, Ata

Ata Abu Rashta is the global leader of the Islamic political party Hizb ut-Tahrir. Having worked closely

The Marrakesh Declaration

www.marrakeshdeclaration.org

In the Name of God, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate

Executive Summary of the Marrakesh Declaration
on the Rights of Religious Minorities in Predominantly
Muslim Majority Communities

25th-27th January 2016

WHEREAS, conditions in various parts of the Muslim World have deteriorated dangerously due to the use of violence and armed struggle as a tool for settling conflicts and imposing one's point of view;

WHEREAS, this situation has also weakened the authority of legitimate governments and enabled criminal groups to issue edicts attributed to Islam, but which, in fact, alarmingly distort its fundamental principles and goals in ways that have seriously harmed the population as a whole;

WHEREAS, this year marks the 1,400th anniversary of the Charter of Medina, a constitutional contract between the Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, and the people of Medina, which guaranteed the religious liberty of all, regardless of faith;

WHEREAS, hundreds of Muslim scholars and intellectuals from over 120 countries, along with representatives of Islamic and international organisations, as well as leaders from diverse religious groups and nationalities, gathered in Marrakesh on this date to reaffirm the principles of the Charter of Medina at a major conference;

WHEREAS, this conference was held under the auspices of His Majesty, King Mohammed VI of Morocco, and organised jointly by the Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs in the Kingdom of Morocco and the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies based in the United Arab Emirates;

AND NOTING the gravity of this situation afflicting Muslims as well as peoples of other faiths throughout the world, and after thorough deliberation and discussion, the convened Muslim scholars and intellectuals:

DECLARE HEREBY our firm commitment to the principles articulated in the Charter of Medina, whose provisions contained a number of the principles of constitutional contractual citizenship, such as freedom of movement, property ownership, mutual solidarity and defence, as well as principles of justice and equality before the law; and that,

The objectives of the Charter of Medina provide a suitable framework for national constitutions in countries with Muslim majorities, and the United Nations Charter and related documents, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are in harmony with the Charter of Medina, including consideration for public order.

NOTING FURTHER that deep reflection upon the various crises afflicting humanity underscores the inevitable and urgent need for cooperation among all religious groups, we

AFFIRM HEREBY that such cooperation must be based on a "Common Word," requiring that such cooperation must go beyond mutual tolerance and respect, to providing full protection for the rights and liberties to all religious groups in a civilised manner that eschews coercion, bias, and arrogance.

BASED ON ALL OF THE ABOVE, we hereby:

Call upon Muslim scholars and intellectuals around the world to develop a jurisprudence of the concept of "citizenship" which is inclusive of diverse groups. Such jurisprudence shall be rooted in Islamic tradition and principles and mindful of global changes.

Urge Muslim educational institutions and authorities to conduct a courageous review of educational curricula that addresses honestly and effectively any material that instigates aggression and extremism, leads to war and chaos, and results in the destruction of our shared societies;

Call upon politicians and decision makers to take the political and legal steps necessary to establish a constitutional contractual relationship among its citizens, and to support all formulations and initiatives that aim to fortify relations and understanding among the various religious groups in the Muslim World;

Call upon the educated, artistic, and creative members of our societies, as well as organisations of civil society, to establish a broad movement for the just treatment of religious minorities in Muslim countries and to raise awareness as to their rights, and to work together to ensure the success of these efforts.

Call upon the various religious groups bound by the same national fabric to address their mutual state of selective amnesia that blocks memories of centuries of joint and shared living on the same land; we call upon them to rebuild the past by reviving this tradition of conviviality, and restoring our shared trust that has been eroded by extremists using acts of terror and aggression;

Call upon representatives of the various religions, sects and denominations to confront all forms of religious bigotry, vilification, and denigration of what people hold sacred, as well as all speech that promote hatred and bigotry; AND FINALLY,

AFFIRM that it is unconscionable to employ religion for the purpose of aggressing upon the rights of religious minorities in Muslim countries.

Marrakesh

January 2016 , 27th

with the organisation's founder, Taqiuddin Al-Nabhani, Abu Rashta gained prominence in Jordan during the First Gulf War when he contested the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In 2003, he became the leader of Hizb ut-Tahrir. Hizb ut-Tahrir is popular in the Levant, the former Soviet Union, South and Southeast Asia, and Western Europe.

HRH Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah

Named Crown Prince in 2009, HRH Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah is the eldest son of His Majesty King Abdullah II, making him heir to the throne. HRH holds the rank of First Lieutenant in the Jordanian Armed Forces and has accompanied his father on several military and political occasions. His efforts to develop the Jordanian youth community started with the Haraq (achieve) initiative, an activity targeting school-aged children. In 2015, Crown Prince Hussein became the youngest person to chair a UN Security Council meeting and in 2017 he delivered Jordan's address at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

KUWAIT

HH Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

HH Emir Sheikh Nawaf served as Crown Prince from 2006 until the passing of his half-brother, HH Emir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in September 2020. Prior to that he had served as Home Minister for a decade and then Defence Minister from 1988. After the Iraqi invasion of 1991, he served as Social Affairs and Labour Minister. He is now 83 years old and his ascension was quite straightforward, as was the selection of the new Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

LIBYA

Haftar, Khalifa

Khalifa Haftar rose to prominence after the uprising against the late General Gaddafi and was the person who announced that the Libyan government had been suspended. A leading figure in Libya's military establishment, Haftar became a major general in the Libyan Army in 2011. Haftar's Libyan National Army is at odds with the UN-recognised government and seized control of Libyan oil ports in 2018. The UAE, Egypt, and Russia continue to support Haftar whereas the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) is headed by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh and is supported by Türkiye and Qatar.

OMAN

HRH Sultan Haitham bin Tariq

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq ascended the throne on the 11 January 2020 after the passing of his cousin, Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Previously, Sultan Haitham served as Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as Minister of Heritage and Culture from 2002, a position he held until his inauguration as Sultan of Oman. In his first speech to his nation, Sultan Haitham promised to "follow the path of Sultan Qaboos and build upon it". Sultan Haitham is a passionate sportsman and was the first to head the Oman Football Association in the early 1980s. He is also chairman of the "2040 Oman Vision" and was described by *The Economist* as "outward-looking and Western-oriented".

PALESTINE

HE President Mahmoud Abbas

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 115

Haniyeh, Ismail

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 115

Mashal, Khaled

Khaled Mashal was Hamas' politburo chief from 2004-2017. His term began after the Israeli assassinations of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and Abdel Aziz Al-Rantisi in 2004 and ended in a peaceful transition to Ismail Haniyah. Mashal saw the organisation through multiple attempts at a roadmap to peace and a major Israeli siege of the Gaza Strip. Mashal has shown a willingness to negotiate with Israel to return to the 1967 borders and grant Palestinians a right of return, while importantly implying the necessary existence of the State of Israel, despite Hamas' historic denial of that possibility. Mashal has been one of the most direct and candid leaders in dialogue and confrontation with Israel and this has garnered international recognition. In 2021, Hamas elected Mashal for a four-year term as head of its office in the diaspora.

SUDAN

Abdalla, Asma Mohamed

Asma Mohamed Abdalla became Sudan's first female Minister of Foreign Affairs in early September 2019 in Sudan's Transitional Cabinet. Previously she had served as ambassador and worked at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs before being dismissed after the 1989 coup d'état which brought Omar Al-Bashir to power. She left Sudan and lived in exile, doing work for IS-ESCO and UNICEF amongst other organisations. During the 2018–19 Sudanese protests, Abdalla joined the Forces of Freedom and Change.

SYRIA

Al-Assad, President Bashar

Al-Assad is President of the Syrian Arab Republic. Since 2011, the civil war between the regime and an assortment of groups (mainly gathered under the umbrella of the Free Syrian Army) has resulted in approximately 450,000 people being killed, six million displaced internally, and about five million having fled the country in a humanitarian crisis which is also having a destabilising influence on neighbouring countries. In May 2021, Al-Assad won a fourth term in office with 95.1 percent of the votes.

TUNISIA

Saied, President Kais (new)

President Kais Saied ran as an independent candidate with broad political support and popular appeal to win the presidential election in 2019. With economic conditions not improving, protests were dealt with in a heavy-handed manner, and then in July 2021 Saied suspended parliament and dismissed the Prime Minister. A year later a new constitution was adopted through a referendum (30 percent turnout) and elections are scheduled for December 2022. Already, most political parties are calling for a boycott amidst the fear that Tunisia is returning to pre-Arab Spring rule.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum is the constitutional monarch of Dubai, as well as the Prime Minister and Vice President of the United Arab Emirates. In 1995, as Crown Prince of Dubai, his chief objective was to make Dubai a resort and business destination. To that end, he helped develop the Palm Islands, the Burj Al-Arab hotel, the Burj Khalifa skyscraper, the Dubai World Cup and the Godolphin Stables. He has also launched multiple charity initiatives from Dubai, such as Dubai Cares, which has reached over 18 million beneficiaries in 53 countries since its inception in 2007.

Al-Qassimi, Sheikha Lubna

Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid bin Sultan Al-Qassimi is the UAE's Minister of State for Tolerance. She was the first woman to hold a ministerial post in the UAE, where she served as the Minister of Economy and Planning from 2000-2004. In 2000, she founded Tejari, the Middle East's first business-to-business online marketplace which now has franchises in Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. In March 2014, she was appointed President of Zayed University.

Sub-Saharan Africa

NIGER

Bazoum, President Mohamed (new)

President Bazoum was elected President of Niger in 2021 marking the first time in Niger's history that a peaceful transition had taken place from one democratically elected leader to another. He is a seasoned politician who has served multiple positions including Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He founded the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism in the 1990s and was elected to the National Assembly in 1993. He is the first Diffa Arab president of Niger. Niger has a population of approximately 24 million, with 99 percent Muslim.

SOMALIA

Adam, Fawzia Yusuf Haji

Fawzia's influence stems from the fact that she was the first woman to be named Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia. (2012-2014) She had a significant role in revitalising the Somali economy by recovering national assets that were frozen, as well as signing an agreement with Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan for bilateral cooperation. A similar agreement was also signed with China. Fawzia launched a TV channel named RAAD TV aimed at providing a better image of the unstable and war-torn Somalia. She ran in the 2022 Somali presidential election but lost to Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

Asia

Baradar, Abdul Ghani

Baradar is the political head of the Taliban and Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan. Baradar fought

against the Soviet invasion until their withdrawal in 1989, then set up a madrasah in Kandahar with his former commander, Mullah Mohammad Omar, which produced the Taliban. During the Taliban's first time in power (1996-2001), Baradar held a number of key posts, including that of Deputy Minister of Defence. In 2010, Baradar was imprisoned in Pakistan and only released after the Trump Administration started talks with the Taliban in 2018. He then became the Taliban's chief ambassador and spoke directly to President Trump.

AZERBAIJAN

Aliyev, President Ilham

Aliyev is the current President of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party. He came to office in 2003 (succeeding his father) and has won three subsequent elections with voter shares of over 80 percent. Not being outwardly religious, his advocacy of a moderate cultural Islam is representative of the demands of the population of the country. Azerbaijan, with a population of 9.8 million Muslims (over 80 percent are Shia Muslim) is an active member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

BANGLADESH

Wazed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Sheikh Hasina Wazed began her fourth term as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in 2019 after her party won 288 of the 300 parliamentary seats in the elections. She served her first term from 1996-2001, becoming the first Bangladeshi Prime Minister since its independence to complete its entire term. She has survived assassination attempts, corruption charges and vote-rigging allegations. Poverty alleviation has become a priority for one of the poorest but most populous Muslim countries. Wazed is the daughter of Mujibur Rahman, the first president of Bangladesh.

CHINA

Kadeer, Rebiya

Kadeer is the de facto leader of the movement for social justice for the 15-million-strong Uyghur ethnic-population of China. She was formerly a successful businesswoman and philanthropist in China but was imprisoned in 1999 for leaking state secrets and now lives in exile in the United States. Before her arrest, Kadeer was running the 1,000 Families Mother's Project which helped Uyghur women start business-

es. She works closely with both the World Uyghur Congress and the Uyghur American Association. She is well-known for her work in Europe and North America publicising the plight of the Uyghur ethnic group and is partially responsible for raising the issue both in China and abroad. The Chinese government sees Kadeer as an agitator.

INDIA

Farooq, Dr Mohammad Umar

Dr Farooq inherited the 14th Mirwaiz (traditional preacher of Muslims in Kashmir) in 1990 at the age of 17 after the assassination of his father. At the young age of 20 he became Chairman and Founder of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, a grassroots coalition of pro-freedom parties in Jammu & Kashmir. He has raised the Kashmiri problem at the UN, the EU parliament, and the IOC, advocating dialogue with both India and Pakistan so that the aspirations of the Kashmiri people may be realised. He has been under house arrest since August 2019.

INDONESIA

Parawansa, Khoffah Indar

Parawansa took office as the 14th Governor of East Java in 2019. She had previously served as the Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives and the Minister of Social Affairs. She has been a strong supporter of inter-faith unity and also led a campaign to reduce red-light districts by offering alternative jobs. She was also chairwoman of the Muslimat, a women's group affiliated to Nahdlatul Ulama. She has 2 million followers on social media and is considered a presidential candidate for 2024.

Subianto, Lt Gen Prabowo

Lt Gen Prabowo Subianto was appointed Defence Minister in 2019. He ran for the vice presidency in 2009, and for president in 2014 and 2019, where he was defeated both times by Joko Widodo. In 2019 his supporters (he has been General Chair of the Gerindra Party since 2014) protested the results leading to violence, but the supreme court decided in Widodo's favour. Prabowo's military past has prompted mixed reactions from various organisations.

Sukarnoputri, Megawati

Megawati Sukarnoputri is the daughter of Indonesia's first President, Sukarno. She served as Vice-President from 1999-2001 and then became Indonesia's first

female president (from 2001 to 2004) and the fourth woman to be the leader of a Muslim-majority nation. She is the current head of the PDI-P party.

KAZAKHSTAN

Tokayev, President Kassym-Jomart (new)

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev became the second President of Kazakhstan in 2019, ending the 28-year rule of Nursultan Nazarbayev. President Tokayev has gradually introduced reform and is leading the country into a more democratic and transparent nation. January 2022 saw some violent outbreaks, but a June referendum has given the President the mandate to push ahead with reforms. Significant reforms include limiting the presidential rule to one 7-year term (the previous president was re-elected 5 times) and reverting to the original name of the capital city, Astana. It had been renamed Nur-Sultan in 2019 in honour of the first President.

MALAYSIA

Ibrahim, HE Anwar

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 115

Mohamad, HE Mahathir

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 116

Wan Ismail, Datuk Seri Wan Azizah

Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail was the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia (the first woman to serve in that position) from 2018-2020. She served as a government doctor for 14 years before deciding to support her husband, Anwar Ibrahim, when he was appointed the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia in 1993. Since then, her political journey has been largely defined by his struggles. Following the dismissal and arrest of her husband in 1998, Wan Azizah moved full-time into politics, forming political parties, alliances and winning seats at general elections.

PAKISTAN

Bajwa, General Javed

General Qamar Javed Bajwa is the current Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of the Pakistan Army having been appointed so in 2016, ahead of two more senior generals, by then prime minister Nawaz Sharif. His tenure of the post was extended for another three years by then prime minister, Imran Khan, in August

2019—something which critics pointed to as further evidence of who is really controlling Pakistan. Since the chaotic political events of 2022, there has been increased public scrutiny of the influence of the army in the democratic system.

Khan, Imran

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 116

Sharif, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz (new)

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif became the 23rd prime minister of Pakistan in April 2022 after a no-confidence motion against former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Sharif is the brother of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and has himself had a long political career, being the President of the Pakistan Muslim League and serving as the Chief Minister of Punjab three times (1997, 2007, and 2013). He was arrested in 2020 on charges of corruption and money laundering and spent a few months in jail before being granted bail in April 2021. Although enjoying a reputation as a competent administrator, he has much work to do to build national and international trust in his government.

Sharif, Nawaz

Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif served as Prime Minister of Pakistan on 3 occasions: from 1990-1993, from 1997-1999 and from 2013-2017. On the last occasion he was forced to resign over corruption charges and in 2018 was convicted of corruption. He received a 10-year sentence and spent 2 months in prison before the Pakistan High Court suspended the sentence (the same happened to his daughter, Maryam). Sharif was then found guilty of fresh corruption charges and an accountability court sentenced him to 7 years in prison and fined him \$25 million. He was allowed to leave for London to receive medical treatment in November 2019 and has yet to return to Pakistan. It is widely expected that this will happen now that his brother has become Prime Minister.

PHILIPPINES

Gutoc-Tomawis, Samira

Samira Gutoc-Tomawis is a strong advocate for Muslims in Mindanao. She has particularly strong support in Marawi City, where she runs relief missions to civilians still suffering the results of the 5-month battle in Marawi between government forces and DA'ISH supporters in 2017. She has been critical of

the delayed rehabilitation of the city ravaged by the war and the continued imposition of martial law in Mindanao. She served as a member of the Regional Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and a member of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission. In 2021, she joined Aksyon Demokratiko's national executive board, but was unsuccessful in her bid for the senate in 2022.

Misuari, Nur

Nur Misuari began his campaign through the Mindanao Independence Movement (MIM) in the 1970s, which later became the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Under Misuari's leadership the MNLF challenged the government until the Tripoli Agreement was negotiated in 1976. Misuari was charged in connection to the deadly 20-day attack in Zamboanga city in September 2013, which left nearly 200 people dead; but in 2016, Misuari was granted a temporary suspension of his arrest and asked for his help in the peace negotiations in Mindanao. In late 2019, President Duterte appointed Nur Misuari as Special Economic Envoy on Islamic Affairs to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). Despite recent pressure to arrest Misuari, he continues to work toward peace with the Philippines' government and has offered to deploy MNLF fighters to help defeat the DAISH-backed Maute Group.

SINGAPORE

Rasheed, Zainul Abidin

Rasheed is Singapore's Ambassador to Kuwait and the Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Middle East. In 2017, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees at the Nanyang Technological University of Singapore. He previously served as Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for Singapore and mayor of the city-state's North Eastern district. Rasheed's activities focus on Singapore's diplomatic relations with the Muslim world and sharing Singapore's expertise in inter-cultural and inter-religious relations with nations that have substantial Muslim populations. Rasheed is widely known domestically, having held numerous positions of leadership throughout his career in journalism, organised labour, and representation of Singapore's large Muslim community.

UZBEKISTAN

Mirziyoyev, President Shavkat (new)

In 2021 President Shavkat Mirziyoyev won a second five-year term, winning 80.1 percent of the vote. Since succeeding the authoritarian Islam Karimov (who ruled for 25 years before he died in office), President Shavkat has introduced gradual reform including restricting the power of the security services, encouraging foreign trade and investment and allowing more political freedom. He has looked to better relations with neighbouring countries as well as the USA, China and Russia. Shavkat served as Prime Minister from 2013-2016 before being elected President.

Europe

KOSOVO

Osmani-Sadriu, President Vjosa (new)

Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu was elected the 5th President of Kosovo in 2021, running on an anti-corruption platform. A law graduate, she has been involved in politics from an early age including being elected to the Assembly of Kosovo, holding the position of speaker and also serving as acting president. She experienced the effects of war in her hometown and went on to help prepare the legal work for Kosovo's independence. As President she is willing to normalise relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

NETHERLANDS

Aboutaleb, Ahmed

Ahmed Aboutaleb has served as Mayor of Rotterdam since 2009. Born in Morocco and arriving in the Netherlands at the age of 15, Aboutaleb has also served as State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment. He has balanced the racial and interfaith tensions that exist in Rotterdam. In December 2020, he was confirmed as Mayor for a third term and in 2021 won the World Mayor Award.

RUSSIA

Kadyrov, President Ramzan

Ramzan Kadyrov is the President of Chechnya and the son of the former president, rebel leader, and Mufti, Akhmad Kadyrov. In 2016, Kadyrov was re-elect-

ed with nearly 98 percent of the vote. He has overseen a massive reconstruction of Chechnya and has held several important international Islamic conferences in Chechnya, including one that attempted to define Sunni Islam in 2016. A Putin loyalist, who was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General in the National Guard, he has offered key support in the war on Ukraine.

TÜRKIYE

Davutoğlu, Ahmet

Ahmet Davutoğlu was Prime Minister of Türkiye from 2014, before differences with President Erdoğan saw him resign in 2016. He is a political science academic who was appointed Ambassador, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and then Prime Minister in rapid succession. In 2019, Davutoğlu resigned from the AKP accusing it of falling into a culture of corruption. He then launched a new political party, the Future Party, becoming its first leader, and now hopes to build it into a political force.

UNITED KINGDOM

Khan, Sadiq

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 116

Shah, Naseem (new)

Naseem Shah, more commonly known as Naz Shah, is a Labour Party politician who is currently the Shadow Minister for Crime Reduction, having previously held shadow ministerial posts of state for Women and Equalities (2018-20) and Community Cohesion (2020-21). She was re-elected as the MP for Bradford West in the 2019 general election with a huge majority. She is a strong voice for victimised groups and community groups. She has championed the voice of the British Muslim community on the issues of Kashmir and Palestine and has spoken powerfully in the House of Commons in defence of the Prophet (PBUH).

Warsi, Baroness Sayeeda

Baroness Warsi was Britain's first Muslim Cabinet Minister. From May 2010 to September 2012 she was the Co-Chairman of the Conservative Party, and a Minister without Portfolio in David Cameron's Cabinet. She was Minister of State for Faith and Communities and Senior Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. She resigned

from her post in August 2014, citing her disagreement with HM Government's policy over the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict. Baroness Warsi is now involved in a number of charities and educational institutions and remains a powerful voice on the issue of Islamophobia. In 2017, Baroness Warsi published her first book, *The Enemy Within: A Tale of Muslim Britain*. In recent years she has appeared in several TV reality shows.

Oceania

AUSTRALIA

Husic, Ed

In 2010, Ed Husic became the first Muslim to be elected to the Australian Federal Parliament. When Kevin Rudd announced the Second Rudd Ministry in 2013, Husic was named as Parliament Secretary to the Prime Minister. Taking his oath on the Qur'an, Husic became the first Muslim sworn in to the Australian federal government frontbench. With his rise in political prominence came growing Islamophobic abuse directed toward him. After Labor's victory in the 2022 Australian federal election, Husic became the Minister for Industry and Science.

North America

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Carson, André

André Carson was the second Muslim to be elected to the US Congress. He was first elected to Congress in 2008, and is now serving his eighth 2-year term as representative of Indiana's seventh congressional district. Alongside national issues, he has spoken against Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory, voted against a House resolution condemning the BDI movement and, at the end of July 2002, he announced a bill to investigate the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

Ellison, Keith

Keith Ellison was the first Muslim to serve in the US Congress. He represented the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota from 2007-2019 before deciding to run for attorney general rather than congress.

He was duly elected as the 30th Attorney General of Minnesota becoming the first Muslim in the US to win statewide office. Ellison has been an outspoken advocate for American Muslims, and his trips to the Muslim world have garnered international support for his outreach to the Muslim world.

Omar, Ilhan

Born in Mogadishu, Somalia, to a Somali father and Yemeni mother, Omar came to the USA in 1995 at the age of 13. She excelled in studies and started work as a community nutrition educator whilst also working as a campaign manager. She is the Director of an association that advocates for women from East Africa to take on civic and political leadership roles. She has been the US Representative for Minnesota's 5th congressional district since 2019 (having received the largest percentage of the vote of any female candidate for US House in state history). She is vocal in her support for the working class, students,

the environment, Palestinians and other causes. Former President Trump tweeted against her on numerous occasions resulting in death-threats from white supremacists.

Tlaib, Rashida

Born in the USA, Rashida Tlaib won the Democratic nomination for the US House of Representatives seat from Michigan's 13th congressional district in 2018 and was unopposed in the general election, thus becoming the first Palestinian-American woman, and joint first Muslim woman, in Congress. She has previously served in the Michigan state house (2009 to 2014) and was the first Muslim woman ever elected to the state's legislature. She has been arrested on several occasions for her political stance; once was against former President Trump; and one at a pro-labor rally supporting union rights for fast food workers.

وَأَوْفُوا بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ إِذَا عَاهَدْتُمْ
وَلَا تَنْقُضُوا الْأَيْمَانَ بَعْدَ تَوْكِيدِهَا وَقَدْ
جَعَلْتُمُ اللَّهَ عَلَيْكُمْ كَفِيلًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ
يَعْلَمُ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ

And fulfil God's covenant when you made a covenant, and do not break [your] oaths after pledging them and having made God surety over you. Truly God knows what you do.

The Bee, 91

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ADMINISTRATION OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Middle East and North Africa

EGYPT

Allam, Shawki Ibrahim Abdel-Karim

Sheikh Allam is the 19th Grand Mufti of Egypt (succeeding HE Sheikh Dr Ali Gomaa). In February 2013, he was elected by Al-Azhar's Council of Senior Scholars, headed by Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayeb. His election by peers was unprecedented, as the Grand Mufti had previously been chosen by the President of Egypt. Allam is also a professor of Islamic jurisprudence and law at the Al-Azhar University, and has written more than 25 works, many of which address issues pertaining to women.

Badie, Dr Mohammed

Dr Mohammed Badie succeeded Mohammad Mahdi Akef as the 8th Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in January 2010. Following the military coup against Morsi's leadership, he was one of many Muslim Brotherhood leaders arrested. Badie—whose son was shot dead during one of the counter-protests against the coup—was sentenced to death in April 2015 along with 13 other senior Muslim Brotherhood members. In 2017, the Cassation Court accepted the appeal of Badie and 49 other defendants against their death sentences. He is currently serving multiple life sentences in prison.

IRAN

Rashad, Professor Ali Akbar

Prof Ali Akbar Rashad founded the Islamic Research Institute for Culture and Thought, and has been its President since its establishment in 1994. He is a philosopher and a scholar in the field of Philosophy of Religion and Islamic studies. In addition to translations and ongoing research, he has written over 35 books and 69 articles. He is also active in international scholarly activities and conferences, particularly in the field of interfaith dialogue.

MOROCCO

Al-Tawfiq, Ahmad

Al-Tawfiq is the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs in Morocco and a strong supporter of Sufi groups. He is a writer for the Association of Moroccan Authors for Publication, as well as the Vice President of the Moroccan Association for Historical Research. Al-Tawfiq is an advocate of interfaith dialogue and is currently on the Board of World Religious Leaders for The Elijah Interfaith Institute.

PALESTINE

Hussein, Muhammad Ahmad

Hussein was appointed the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem in 2006. Previously, he had been the Manager and Imam of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque. He is an outspoken critic of the Israeli occupation and has personally defended the Al-Aqsa Mosque from settlers and the Israeli army. In July 2018, Hussein issued a fatwa forbidding Muslims from selling or transferring any land in Palestine to Jews.

Sabri, Sheikh Dr Ekrima Sa'id

Sheikh Sabri is the head of the Supreme Islamic Council and former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine. He remains an imam of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, where he preaches regularly. Sabri is well-respected in Palestine for his forthright views on Israel. He has been at various times banned from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque and arrested.

SAUDI ARABIA

Altwajjiri, Dr Abdulaziz Othman

Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajjiri was the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and ex-officio Secretary General of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) 1991-2019. He established the Supreme Council of Education, Science and Culture, an alliance designated for work outside of the Islamic world and is a member of numerous international organisations and forums such as the Royal Aal Al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought, and the Nizami

Ganjavi International Center. Dr Altwajri is also a staunch advocate of cultural dialogue and the alliance of civilisations and has received high-level distinctions from over 26 countries. He is an accomplished academic, a senior lecturer, eminent writer and poet.

Al-Issa, Dr Mohammad ben Abdel Karim

Dr Al-Issa was appointed Secretary-General of the Muslim World League in 2016. Prior to that he had served as Minister of Justice and Head of the Supreme Council for Justice. The Muslim World League is an NGO which was founded in 1962 and is based in Makkah. It propagates Saudi teachings worldwide as well as carrying out social work. Al-Issa visited the Vatican in 2017 where he met the Pope and in 2020 led a delegation of Islamic scholars to visit Srebrenica in Bosnia, and Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland.

Al-Malik, Dr Salim M.

Dr Salim M. Al-Malik was appointed as the new Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in May 2019 (replacing Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri). Dr Salim has a PhD in Allergy and Clinical Immunology, and a PhD in Pediatrics. He has previously held various senior positions in Saudi Arabia. ISESCO is based in Rabat, Morocco and strives to strengthen cooperation among member states in educational, scientific, and cultural research, making Islamic culture the focal point of educational curricula at all levels.

Al-Othaimen, Dr Yousef Ahmad

Dr Yousef Ahmad Al-Othaimen has been the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) since 2016. Prior to that, Al-Othaimen was the Minister of Social Affairs for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 2007 to 2015. He holds degrees from Ohio University (1982), and the American University in Washington DC (PhD in 1986). In March 2018, Al-Othaimen met with the Pope to discuss the migration crisis and the plight of the Rohingya.

Sub-Saharan Africa

KENYA

Khalifa, Sheikh Mohammed

Khalifa is the Organising Secretary of the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya. He addresses various

social issues, as well as encouraging Kenyans to campaign peacefully in general elections and to engage in politics on the basis of issues rather than along tribal affiliations.

NIGERIA

Ahmad, Abdrahman Olanrewaju

Sheikh Abdrahman Olanrewaju Ahmad is the National Missioner of the Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria, a 96-year-old Islamic organisation established for the purpose of educational, moral, and social development for Muslims. The organisation boasts millions of members, with its achievements spanning Nigeria's faiths and ethnicities.

Ajibola, Prince Bola

HE Prince Bola Ajibola is the former head of the Nigerian High Commission in London and the President and Founder of the Islamic Mission for Africa. He also served as a judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague between 1991 and 1994. In 1994, Prince Bola Ajibola was appointed a member to the Permanent Court of Arbitration with respect to the court's deliberations on the land dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon. He also served as the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Nigeria, as well as being the former President of the Nigerian Bar Association. He is the founder, proprietor, and president of the Board of Trustee of Crescent University in Abeokuta. Currently he serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN).

Bayero, Aminu Ado

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Oloyede, Professor Ishaq Olanrewaju

Professor Ishaq Olanrewaju Oloyede is the Secretary General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council. He also serves as the President of the Association of African Universities (AAU) and is the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin.

Sanusi, Alhaji Dr Sanusi Lamido

In 2014, Sanusi succeeded his late uncle Dr Ado Bayero to become the 14th Fulani Emir of Kano, the second highest Muslim authority in the land (the Sultan of Sokoto being the first). However, in March 2020 he was dethroned by the Governor of Kano on grounds of

showing disrespect towards government institutions. He has accepted this and asked his followers to recognise the new 15th Emir. Sanusi is the former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) (2009-2014) and a respected Islamic scholar who has won numerous awards. He has pointed out corruption in previous governments, pushed for an end to child marriage and been targeted by Boko Haram.

SENEGAL

Mbacke, Serigne Mountakha

Serigne Mountakha Mbacke was appointed Leader of Senegal's Mourid Brotherhood in January 2018 after the death of his predecessor, Serigne Cheikh Sidy Mokhtar Mbacke who died at the age of 94. He has become the eighth caliph of the brotherhood which was established by his grandfather, the sufi Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba, who died in 1927 and is buried in Touba. It is estimated that over a sixth of all Senegalese are members of the tariqa, and it is particularly influential in the economic and political spheres. The Grand Magal of Touba is a pilgrimage of millions who converge on Touba to celebrate the life and teachings of Amadou Bamba.

Asia

CHINA

Faming, Hassan Yang

Hassan Yang Faming is the President of the China Islamic Association. This is a government-linked body which liaises with China's Muslims. A conservative estimate numbers 30 million Muslims from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. The Hui are the most populous but the Uyghur have the greatest concentration in the Xinjiang region, where internment camps hold over a million Muslims in a bid to "re-educate" them. The "Sinicisation" of Islam has stepped up in relentless fashion in the last few years.

INDIA

Ahmad, Sheikh Abubakr

Sheikh Abubakr Ahmad is the General Secretary of the All India Muslim Scholars Association, Founder and Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Markaz Saqafathu Sunniyya, one of the leading educational and humanitarian institution in India. He is often referred to

by his epithet "Abul Aytam" ("Father of Orphans") for his service to orphans and the destitute. He advocates peaceful co-existence, social harmony and its international propagation and has set up thousands of cultural centres and educational institutes in India. Sheikh Abubakr has authored and published more than 60 books on a variety of topics in Arabic, Urdu and Malayalam.

Al-Bukhari, Sayyid Ibraheemul Khaleel

Sayyid Ibraheemul Khaleel Al-Bukhari is the Founder and Chairman of Jamia Ma'din (Ma'din Academy), Kerala, India. It's an umbrella body of various educational and charity ventures where 25,000 students are enrolled for different courses from primary to research level. He is an advisor to the International Interfaith Harmony Initiative, Malaysia; the Vice President of the Muslim Educational Board of India, New Delhi; General Secretary of Kerala Muslim Jama'at, the apex body of Muslim community in the Kerala; the President of Sunni Management Association. He is also the Managing Editor of *Armonia Journal* (armoniajournal.com) and has penned 22 books in various languages.

Kandhalvi, Maulana Saad

Maulana Saad Kandhalvi is the great-grandson of Maulana Muhammad Ilyas, the founder of the Tablighi Jamaat (TJ) missionary movement and the grandson of its second ameer. He is currently the head of the TJ centre in Nizamuddin, New Delhi, India. A recent falling out with other leaders has led to some clashes between rival followers and a fatwa issued by Deoband criticising Maulana Saad's leadership has led to further ramifications worldwide including at Biswa Ijtema, Bangladesh, the second largest religious gathering in the world.

Nomani, Mufti Abul Qasim

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 116

Noorie, Maulana Shakir Ali

Maulana Noorie is the President of Sunni Dawate Islami, a non-political religious organisation in Mumbai, India. Its Annual Congregation is one of the largest Sunni Muslim assemblies held in India, attracting around 300,000 people annually into the heart of Mumbai, India's financial capital. There are approximately 50 institutions under his leadership providing knowledge to more than 7000 students. Maulana Muhammed Shakir Noorie has authored over 40 books which are published in many languages. He

has initiated several human welfare campaigns including: women empowerment through education, feeding and clothing the poor and downtrodden, counselling assistance to the youth, and a programme against drug abuse and intoxicants.

Owaisi, MP Janab Asaduddin

Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi is an eminent Indian parliamentarian and has served as President of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) since being elected in 2004. Under Owaisi's stewardship, the party won seven assembly seats in each of 2009 and 2014. In 2019, he started his fourth term being elected to the 17th Lok Sabha (House of the People). An outspoken parliamentarian, Owaisi has been instrumental in persuading the Indian government to establish the Ministry of Minority Affairs to look after the welfare of religious minorities in India, including Muslims. He has over five million social media followers.

Ul-Hassan, Maulana Zuhair

Maulana Zuhair Ul-Hassan is a leader of the Tablighi Jamat (TJ) group. He was born and raised in Nizamuddin, New Delhi and completed his Islamic studies in Saharanpur. His late father Zubair Ul-Hasan was one of three leaders appointed as members of the leadership council. The TJ has faced unprecedented divisions of late with Maulana Zuhair's followers clashing with followers of Maulana Saad Kandhalvi over who leads the TJ.

INDONESIA

Achar, Miftahul

Miftahul Achar became the Rais 'Aam (supreme leader) of the country's largest Muslim organisation, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), after the resignation of Ma'ruf Amin (now Vice-President of Indonesia). The NU was established in 1926 and claims a 90-million membership. It is a charitable body funding schools and hospitals as well as organising communities to help alleviate poverty. The majority of its leaders promote Islam Nusantara, a moderate and compassionate approach.

Amin, Maruf

Maruf Amin was the running mate of Joko Widodo in the 2019 general elections and is now the Vice-President of Indonesia. He is an Indonesian Islamic scholar who was chair of the Majelis Ulama Indonesia and general guide of the Nahdlatul Ulama

(NU), the world's largest Islamic organisation (he resigned in late 2018). Amin's early education was at a boarding school established by NU founder Hasyim Asyari, before receiving his bachelor's degree in Islamic philosophy. He then started his lifelong activities of working in *da'wa* (religious propagation) and politics, finding success in both.

Nashir, Dr KH Haedar

Dr KH Haedar Nashir was elected as Chairman of the Muhammadiyah Movement in 2015. He previously served in a variety of other roles in the organisation, which has approximately 30 million members. The Muhammadiyah Movement focuses on promoting moral and spiritual ideals through various social activities. It strongly opposes syncretism but promotes interfaith relations.

MALDIVES

Saeed, Mohamed Shaheem Ali

Dr Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed is a hafiz of the Qur'an, a licensed lawyer, and former Chancellor of the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM). He resigned from his post as the Minister of State for Islamic Affairs of the Republic of Maldives in 2015 and left politics altogether in 2017. Dr Saeed was central to the establishment of the Maldives Hajj Corporation, the Maldives Islamic Bank Pvt Ltd, and a waqf fund. He is a member of the Sharia Advisory Council of the Central Bank of the Maldives. Dr Saeed has authored many articles and books on religious issues and has spoken at forums in 9 countries.

PAKISTAN

Naqvi, Ayatollah Sayed Sajid Ali

Ayatollah Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi leads the Shia Ulama Council (previously called Tehrik-e-Jafaria (TJP) of Pakistan). He was chosen by the Supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei, to lead Shia Muslims in Pakistan and is now his religious representative.

Ul-Haq, Siraj

From humble beginnings, Ul-Haq has worked his way up to senior leadership positions in both religious and political parties. He is a former finance minister of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in Pakistan, resigning in protest against US drone strikes. In 2019, Ul-Haq was re-elected Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, one of the most influential Islamic

movements in Pakistan. He became the Vice-President of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal in March 2018. He served as Senator of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the Parliament of Pakistan from 2015-2021.

SRI LANKA

Mufti, MIM Rizwe

Mufti MIM Rizwe is the President of the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU), the supreme body of Islamic theologians in Sri Lanka. Inaugurated in 1924, ACJU boasts a 7,500-strong membership of scholars while an executive committee of 33 senior scholars run the organisation's 155 branches throughout the island's 24 Districts. Mufti Rizwe is a specialist in the field of Islamic Jurisprudence, and was instrumental in bringing Islamic insurance, interest-free banking and Halal certification to Sri Lanka. His other contributions that have benefited the Sri Lankan community at large include the Maktab Preliminary Islamic Education System, Careline Islamic Counseling, and Mahmood Institute for Skill Development of Ulama.

TAJIKISTAN

Abdulkodirzoda, Mufti Saidmukarram

Mufti Saidmukarram Abdulkodirzoda is the state-selected Grand Mufti and thus head of Tajikistan's Muslims, most of whom are Sunnis, and whose tradition includes following the Hanafi school in matters of jurisprudence and the Naqshbandi spiritual path. They belong to the Persian-speaking Tajik ethnic group who share a language, culture, and history with Afghanistan and Iran.

Europe

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Kavazovic, Husein

Husein Kavazovic has been the 14th Raisu-l-ulama (Grand Mufti of Bosnia) since 2012. Kavazovic had pushed for cooperation with other religious communities and a wider "incorporation of women into the work of the Islamic religious community". His sphere of influence is primarily with the community of 2.5 million Bosniak Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Bosniak diaspora, who number approximately 1.5 million. He speaks Bosnian, Arabic, and English.

BULGARIA

Hadzhi, Mustafa Alish

Hadzhi is Bulgaria's Chief Mufti. Bulgaria has been referred to as "Istanbulgaria" because of the importance of Turkish-Bulgarian relations. Hadzhi is the leader of the Muslim community in a predominantly Christian state with a large influx of Muslims. He defended his community from extreme nationalists who went so far as to attack mosques and worshippers.

GERMANY

Köhler, Ayyub Axel

Köhler is former chairman of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany. He has written numerous articles, primarily for Islamic magazines such as *Al Islam* of the Islamic Centre of Munich, and *Al Fajr* of the Islamic Centre of Hamburg. He also published newsletters for the Muslim League around the issue of the integration of Islamic ways of life into German society.

ITALY

Pallavicini, Imam Yahya Sergio Yahe

Pallavicini is an important figure in the religious life of Italian Muslims. He is also a prominent figure in European relations with the Muslim world. He is Vice President of Comunit Religiosa Islamica (The Islamic Religious Community), Italy, the Chairman of the ISESCO Council for Education and Culture in the West, and an advisor for Islamic affairs to the Italian Minister of Interior. Pallavicini is also the Imam of the Al-Wahid Mosque of Milan in Via Meda, where he organises the training of imams in Italian. His father was the late Abd Al-Wahid Pallavicini, the noted preacher and Head of the Ahmadiyah Idrissiyah Shadhiliyyah brotherhood in Italy.

KOSOVO

Ternava, Sheikh Naim

Naim Ternava is the Grand Mufti of Kosovo. He is the leading religious figure in Kosovo, which emerged after an ethno-religious war resulted in widespread loss of life and destruction. Ternava is a key figure in the attempts of the country's Muslim population to overcome the horrors of war. He was instrumental in the creation of the Inter-Religious Council Organization for Interfaith Relations.

RUSSIA

Nasibullahoglu, Cafer

Cafer Nasibullahoglu is the Imam of the St Petersburg Mosque. He is also the Mufti of St Petersburg, home to close to one million Muslims. His diverse congregation consists of Muslims of Tatar, Kazakh, Uzbek, Tajik, and Arab origins, among others. The sermon at St Petersburg mosque is often conducted in Arabic, Tatar, and Russian.

UNITED KINGDOM

Ahsan, Dr Muhammad Manazir

Dr Muhammad Manazir Ahsan is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Islamic Foundation, and Rector of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education, Leicester, UK. He has published and lectured extensively on Islam and Muslims in Britain. He is also the Editor of *The Muslim World Book Review*, a quarterly journal devoted to analysing the latest publications on Islam and the Muslim World. He has chaired several major Muslim and interfaith organisations in the UK and has received an MBE for his contribution to interfaith and community activities.

Oceania

AUSTRALIA

Alsuleiman, Imam Shady

Imam Shady Alsuleiman is an Australian-born imam who has strongly connected with the Muslim youth and helped integrate the Muslim community with wider Australian society. Alsuleiman is the President of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), which represents over 200 member imams from each of the Australian States and Territories. It is also the body that elects the Mufti of Australia. He's an international speaker with many followers on social media and has also established one of Australia's largest youth and community centres known as the UMA.

NEW ZEALAND

Ghani, Dr Anwar

Dr Ghani has been President of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) for 12 years. He is now leading the national and international relations of FIANZ. His work in leading

FIANZ has been considerable, building bridges with the government, New Zealand's population as a whole, and leaders of other faiths. Dr Ghani was awarded the title of Member of New Zealand Order of Merit by the Government of New Zealand.

North America

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mohammed II, Warithudeen

Warithudeen Mohammed II is the eldest son of Imam W Deen Mohammed. He is President of The Mosque Cares, a charitable organisation established by Imam W Deen Mohammed. The organisation sponsors classes in Qur'anic Arabic and financial literacy, as well as informational sessions in health and nutrition, and business and entrepreneurial initiatives.

South America

ARGENTINA

Hallar, Muhammad Yusuf

Hallar is an active figure in Argentina and is involved in community development for Muslims. He has conducted comprehensive research on Muslims in Latin America and holds a number of positions including Secretary-General of the Islamic Organization of Latin America and the Director of the Office of Islamic Culture. He is also a member of the Expert Committee on Minority Rights for the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

BRAZIL

Bukai, Sheikh Mohamad

Sheikh Mohamad Bukai was born in Syria and studied at Al-Azhar University. He has been living in Sao Paulo since 2007 and is known for his soft speech, kind nature and splendid character. He has previously served as sheikh of the Liga Islamica do Pari and is the Imam of the Mesquita Brasil in Sao Paulo and Director of Religious Affairs of the Uniao Nacional das Entidades Islamicas. His page on Facebook often airs live transmissions of his Friday khutbas as well as short videos on Islam.

Suquillo, Professor Juan

Professor Juan Suquillo is the President and Co-founder of the Islamic Centre in Quito. He received the "National Hero" award in recognition for his services to Ecuador. He is also the General Secretary for the Interfaith Council CONALIR fighting for religious rights and anti-discrimination. His books in Spanish have been popular and Suquillo is regarded as a bridge and reference for Latino Muslim leaders and scholars.



Recite: In the Name of your Lord Who created
The Clot 96 : 1
 Calligraphy by Hasan Kan'an © FreeIslamicCalligraphy.com

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PREACHERS & SPIRITUAL GUIDES

Middle East and North Africa

ALGERIA

Belkaid, Sheikh Abdellatif

Sheikh Abdellatif is well-known in Algeria, Egypt, and Europe as a spiritual teacher and leader of the Hibriyya tariqa. He inherited his father's spiritual gifts. The sheikh's students include many highly placed officials in the Algerian government, as well as the famous Egyptian scholar, Sheikh Sha'rawi, before the latter's death.

Al-Khairi, Sheikh Abdul-Nacer

Sheikh Abdul-Nacer is a master of the Shadhili tariqa, and has a wide following in his native Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Malaysia, and various European countries where his students come from all walks of life. He emphasises the recitation of the Qur'an, as well as abundant *salawaat* (praying for the Prophet Muhammad). He is a descendant of the famous sufi of Prophetic lineage, Abdul Salam ibn Mashish of Morocco.

EGYPT

Abdelkafy, Sheikh Dr Omar

Abdelkafy is an Egyptian preacher and *da'wa* practitioner. A well-respected hafiz of the Qur'an, he is also the Director of the Qur'anic Studies Centre at the Dubai International Holy Qur'an Award. In addition to working in his native Egypt, he travels abroad to help Muslim communities, working specifically with the Muslim community in Canada.

IRAQ

Kubaisi, Sheikh Dr Ahmed

Kubaisi is a very popular Sunni cleric and preacher in Iraq. He advocates the end of foreign occupation in Iraq and the institution of an Islamic state. To this end, he is a spokesperson of the Sunni Ulema Council, an important association of Sunni Muslim scholars in Iraq. Kubaisi leads prayers that are televised worldwide from the state mosque of Abu Dhabi.

JORDAN

Keller, Sheikh Nuh

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 117

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Arifi, Dr Muhammad

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 117

Al-Qarni, Dr Aaidh

Dr Aaidh Al-Qarni is a prominent Saudi scholar, author, and activist preacher, best known for his popular self-help book *Don't Be Sad*. Dr Al-Qarni has garnered a substantial following through a preaching career which spans various modes of broadcast media. He apologised on Saudi TV for his past preaching, calling his prior understanding of Islam "hard-line" and apologising for his past ties with Qatar. He said that he now agrees with the Islamic understanding of Crown Prince MBS.

Al-Shugairi, Ahmad

Al-Shugairi is a televangelist with a huge following around the world. He is at the forefront of a religious revivalist movement that is affecting young people across the Middle East. Best known for his TV program *Khawatir* (2005-2015), Al-Shugairi took a break for a number of years before launching *Seen* in 2021, which is proving to be every bit as successful. With no formal Islamic training and an MBA, his popularity comes from repackaging a balanced understanding of Islam for his throngs of fans of all ages. He has over 53 million fans across social media platforms.

YEMEN

Al-Zindani, Sheikh Abdul Majeed

Al-Zindani is an active Yemeni politician and preacher. He is the Founder of Iman University in Yemen, the Founder of the Commission on Scientific Signs in the Qur'an and Sunnah in Makkah, the Chairman of the Shura Council of the Islah party (the Yemeni Congregation for Reform), and the Head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Yemen. He has been a vocal critic of terrorism and any killing of civilians. At the same time, he is an outspoken critic of US policies, declaring that jihad against any army that invades Yemen is self-de-

fence and is the right of its citizens. The US Treasury labelled him a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) for his indirect association with Al-Qaeda. In 2020 he moved from Saudi Arabia to Türkiye.

Sub-Saharan Africa

GHANA

Sharubutu, Sheikh Dr Osmanu Nuhu

Sheikh Dr Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu is an Islamic scholar, National Chief Imam of Ghana, member of the National Peace Council and Founder of The SONSET Fund and IPASEC. He has worked tirelessly on religious, social and educational issues, helping to promote disadvantaged and vulnerable communities in Ghana. This has enabled him to transcend religious boundaries and be respected by all sectors of the country.

NIGERIA

Bauchi, Sheikh Tahir Usman

Now in his mid-80s, Sheikh Tahir Usman Bauchi of the Tijaniyya Sufi order is celebrated for his Qur'anic schools which specialise in producing *huffaz* (memorisers) of the Qur'an. His public exegesis of the Qur'an, delivered in Hausa every year during the month of Ramadan, attracts thousands. Additionally, millions of West Africans listen to it on the radio or buy recordings. He has critically engaged with puritanical Islamic schools of thought since the early 1980s. In July 2014, he escaped a suicide bombing attack which killed 23 people.

Katsina, Sheikh Yakubu Musa

Sheikh Yakubu Musa Katsina is a popular preacher in Nigeria. He is also the leader of the Izala revivalist sect in Katsina. The Izala, or Jama'at Izalatil Bid'awa Iqamatus Sunnah (Movement Against Negative Innovations and for Orthodoxy), is an activist Sufi brotherhood that calls for a return to the practices of the Prophet Muhammad and a true practice of Islam. His family comes from Katsina, the predominantly Muslim city in northern Nigeria, and he is outspoken against corruption in the country.

Maqari, Sheikh Professor Ibrahim Ahmad

Sheikh Maqari completed his studies at Al-Azhar in 1999 and then his doctorate at Bayero Universi-

ty Kano in 2009. He has lectured across Nigeria as a Professor of Arabic and linguistics. Sheikh Maqari has multiple published books and articles in international journals, and is a member of the Assembly of Muslims in Nigeria, the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, and Founder of Tazkiyyah Educational Resource Center.

ZIMBABWE

Menk, Mufti Ismail Musa

Dr Ismail Menk is the Mufti of Zimbabwe under the Majlisul Ulama Zimbabwe, an Islamic educational and welfare organisation that caters to the needs of the country's Muslims. Mufti Menk is very well-known internationally and is invited frequently to give lectures. His ability to relate religious principles to contemporary settings has made him particularly influential amongst the Muslim youth. His eloquence and humour have endeared him to many non-Muslims as well. He currently has a combined online following of more than 20 million.

Asia

INDIA

Azmi, Hazrat Allama Maulana Qamaruzzaman

Maulana Azmi is the Khalifa of Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilvi's son. He is a prolific speaker and, according to the *Times of India*, has millions of followers worldwide. At the age of 18 he established Al-Jameatul-Islamia, which is now recognised as one of India's top Islamic universities. For over 50 years, he has been building organisations, institutions, mosques, colleges, and universities around the world.

Madani, Maulana Syed Arshad

Madani is the President of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, a group which strongly opposed the creation of a separate Muslim state of Pakistan. In 2006, Maulana Syed Arshad Madani succeeded his brother, Maulana Syed Asad Madani, but since 2008, the group has been split into two factions. Maulana Arshad is also a noted scholar. He is the Principal of Darul Uloom Deoband. He also supervises much social work and heads a number of Islamic seminaries and bodies and is an adviser to eight international Islamic schools.

Naik, Zakir Abdul Karim

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 117

Saifuddin, Syedna Mufaddal

Saifuddin is the 53rd Dai Al-Mutlaq (Unrestricted Missionary) of the Dawoodi Bohras, a subgroup within the Mustaali-Isma'ili Shia branch of Islam. He succeeded—but not without dispute—to the office after his father, Syed Mohammed Burhanuddin passed away in 2014. In 2017, he inaugurated the 14-acre Nairobi campus of Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah, a Dawoodi Bohra institute of higher learning. Kenyan President Kenyatta awarded him the Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart as a result. He also met Egyptian President El-Sisi in 2016 and donated 10 million EGP to the Long Live Egypt fund. He is the spiritual leader of 2-5 million people living in 100 countries.

INDONESIA

Gymnastiar, Abdullah Aa Gym

Abdullah Gymnastiar, more commonly known as “Aa Gym” (“Elder Brother Gym”), was for a long time Indonesia’s most popular preacher. With his style of modern, youthful, enjoyable preaching, he built a substantial following and a large media empire. His regular audience boasted over 80 million Indonesians and had an approval rating that peaked at 91 percent, leading to Gymnastiar being courted by several political parties as a potential vice presidential nominee. In 2006 Gym announced a polygamous marriage and immediately saw a huge backlash from his mainly female audience: his ratings dropped and his commercial enterprises took a huge hit. Over the past several years, Gymnastiar has been slowly regaining his popularity using his unique preacher/performer style. He is an attractive, funny, and charismatic man who tells engaging stories and sings *nash-eeds* (religious songs). He has over 18 million fans on social media.

Shihab, Quraish

Quraish Shihab is an Indonesian expert on Qur’anic exegesis who regularly preaches on national television. He is noted as a progressive scholar who teaches Qur’anic exegesis using context and simple language. He is an author of many Islamic books, including *Tafsir Al-Misbab*. He served as Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs in 1998 and also as Chairman of the Indonesian Ulama Council since 1984. Shihab was also a director of State Islamic University, Syarif Hidayatullah, 1992-1998. He was awarded a medal

for his achievements by Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly in 2020.

MALAYSIA

Awang, Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi bin

Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi bin Awang is the current President of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party or PAS. He was recently appointed as the Prime Minister’s Special Ambassador to the Middle East with ministerial status. He is also the Vice-President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars. He was former Chief Minister of the state of Terengganu in Malaysia from 1999-2004, Member of Parliament for Marang Terengganu, and a state lawmaker for Rhu Rendang. He has written several books related to democracy and politics in Islam. Awang’s Friday morning lectures at Rusila Mosque draw thousands of people.

MrGlani, Sheikh Dr Mahmoud

Born in Madinah to a family of Prophetic lineage, Sheikh MrGlani himself belongs to the Shadhili Sufi tariqa but strongly emphasises the need to recognise all authentic Islamic Sunni Sufi tariqas and sheikhs. His teachings emphasise the need to establish love for the Prophet. To this end, he has founded a number of *zawiyahs* around the world to re-establish the practice of regular and abundant dhikr and *salawaat*. For the past several years, he has been delivering a series of widely attended public lectures titled “Divine Gifts on the Path to Allah” in major Malaysian cities and universities. He encourages people around the world to rediscover and practice their core human values, to oppose colonial and oppressive thinking, and to espouse mutual respect and tolerance among followers of all the heavenly religions.

PAKISTAN

Bukhari, Khanum Tayyaba

Bukhari is one of very few female religious scholars in Pakistan and has significant influence. She is a sought-after speaker who excels in six languages: Urdu, Arabic, Persian, English, Punjabi, and Sirai-ki. She also has a large following in Europe, North America, and Australia. Ms Bukhari is the founder of Bukhari Relief Foundation, a well-known, non-governmental charitable organisation that helps people all over Pakistan who have been displaced by major natural disasters.

Ghamidi, Javed Ahmad

Javed Ahmad Ghamidi is a Pakistani public intellectual and Qur'an scholar. He is the founder of Al-Mawrid Institute of Islamic Sciences and its sister organisation, Danish Sara. He was a member of the Council of Islamic Ideology and in 2009, Ghamidi was awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz, the third highest civilian honour of Pakistan. He appears regularly on TV shows and has a large middle-class professional following.

SINGAPORE

Alattas, Syed Hassan bin Muhammad bin Salim

Syed Hassan, more affectionately known as Habib Hassan, has been a pillar of strength and unity in building religious harmony in Singapore and throughout Southeast Asia. He has condemned acts of terrorism and has been the force behind bringing Islam together with other religions in Singapore. In 2015, during Singapore's 50th National Day, he was conferred one of the highest awards by the Singapore Government in recognition of his outstanding work and contributions toward building a harmonious nation.

Europe

ALBANIA

Naci, Elvis

Naci is an Albanian imam and director at the Islamic Community of Albania. He is extremely popular in Albania and regularly appears as a guest on talk shows. He also has an active Facebook and Youtube profile. In 2019, he was named Man of the Year by several magazines in Albania.

BELGIUM

van Ael, Sheikh Sulayman

Sulayman van Ael converted to Islam in 1994 at the age of 18, after which he travelled to the desert of Sudan to memorise the Qur'an. He studied under numerous scholars and received authorisation (*ijazah*) in the 10 *qira'at* (recitations) and transmitting the books of hadith. He also holds a Bachelors in Theology, and Masters in Mental Care. He previously was Host Professor of Islamic sciences at Erasmus College and Fisb University and at the University of Applied Sciences Rotterdam and currently teaches at the Cambridge Muslim College. He was also re-

ligious advisor and chaplain at University of London colleges including LSE, Imperial College and SOAS.

GREECE

Metso, Mufti Djemali

Mufti Djemali Metso was one of the muftis in Greece's Western Thrace cities of Komotini and Xanthi who were retired compulsorily by the Greek government recently. The Western Thrace region of Greece is home to a Muslim Turkish minority of around 150,000 people, and Mufti Metso had served the community for over 30 years in his capacity as Mufti of Komotini. He still enjoys a close relationship with the community, who look upon him as not only a mufti but as a spiritual leader.

TÜRKIYE

Gülen, Fethullah

Fethullah Gülen is a preacher, intellectual and educator, who assumed the leadership of the Nurcu religious movement started by Said Nursi (1878—1960 CE). He enjoyed huge support among all of Türkiye's religious population until he was accused of orchestrating the attempted coup of 15 July 2016, and his organisations and supporters subsequently bore the brunt of Erdoğan's crackdown. Many of his followers and supporters in state institutions, such as the police, judiciary and education, have been targeted and removed from their posts (over 500,000 people have been detained since the coup). Türkiye has formally asked the United States to extradite Gülen.

Haqqani, Sheikh Mehmet Adil

Sheikh Mehmet Adil Haqqani is the Sheikh of the Naqshbandi Haqqani Order, by his father, the celebrated Sheikh Nazim Al-Haqqani. He is the eldest son of Sheikh Nazim, and was born and raised in Damascus, Syria, while his father was studying there under his own sheikh, Sheikh Abdullah Fa'izi Dagestani. With an uncanny resemblance to his father, and a soft, humble approach, Sheikh Mehmet is currently teaching thousands of students worldwide.

Topbaş, Osman Nuri

Osman Nuri Topbaş is an author, philanthropist, and spiritual leader of a Naqshbandi Sufi order based in Istanbul. His group is known as Eronkoy (named after the town where he was born) and, like other sufi groups in Türkiye, focuses heavily on charitable work. He has written works in history, literature, re-

ligious sciences, and poetry. Translations of his works span 43 languages, including English.

UNITED KINGDOM

Ali, Sheikh Hasan

Sheikh Hasan Ali is a popular preacher and reputable figure in London. In addition to volunteering his expertise at local mosques, community centres, and secondary schools, he contributes to local interfaith programmes and various community events. He is the Founder of Safar Academy and holds a master's degree in Educational Psychology in addition to his Islamic training.

Babikir, Sheikh Ahmed

With his gentle and warm disposition, Sheikh Babikir is a popular figure in the UK. He studied Islamic Sciences in Sudan and is fully authorised in a host of Islamic disciplines, including fiqh, hadith, creed, and Sufism. He holds an undergraduate degree in mathematics and a Master's in Management from the University of London. He has contributed widely to UK society through social, charitable, and educational initiatives. He was the Headmaster of Islamic Primary School for many years, and is currently the Director and Founder of Rumi's Cave, a community hub in West London.

Nakshawani, Ammar

Dr Sayed Ammar Nakshawani is an Islamic Scholar and a popular speaker. Having completed his undergraduate studies at University College, London and his PhD at the University of Exeter, he went on to study at the Islamic Seminary in Damascus, Syria. He was a visiting scholar at the Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge and then moved to the USA to become the inaugural holder of the Imam Ali Chair for Shii Studies and Dialogue among Islamic Legal Schools at the Hartford Seminary. Dr Nakshawani is a former associate at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

North America

CANADA

Philips, Dr Abu Ameenah Bilal

A notable Jamaican-Canadian Muslim convert and Islamic scholar, Dr Bilal Philips is founder of the

first accredited Islamic university in India in 2009: Preston International College, Chennai. However, he is most notably the Founder and Chancellor of the Islamic Online University AKA International Open University (iou.edu.gm), which currently has over 450,000 registered students studying accredited English-medium degree courses in Islamic Studies (Shari'a), Education, Psychology, Banking and Finance, IT and Business Administration, and a BA in Arabic language and literature. The IOU has the distinction of having the most diverse student body of any university in the world. Dr Bilal also reaches mass Muslim audiences through his television appearances on global satellite channels like Peace TV, Huda TV, and Islam Channel as well as through his official Facebook page. He has over ten million social media followers.

Rabbani, Sheikh Faraz

Sheikh Rabbani is the Founder, Education Director, and an Instructor at SeekersGuidance Canada, an educational institute featuring a very popular Q&A service, online courses, and occasional retreats. In August 2011, he helped launch SeekersHub in Toronto with affiliated branches being developed in Australia and elsewhere. He was formerly a central figure with SunniPath, and has continuously been at the vanguard of effectively utilising the latest web technologies and services to teach Islam in the West for over a decade. He serves as a partner and legal advisor with StraightWay Ethical Advisory.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Kabbani, Sheikh Muhammad Hisham

Sheikh Kabbani established the American branch of the Haqqani Educational Foundation, dedicated to the promotion of the fundamental Islamic teachings of tolerance, respect, and peace. Since Sheikh Muhammad Nizam Adil's death in 2014, Kabbani has become the leader of the Naqshbandi Haqqani Sufi Order. In 1991, Kabbani moved to the United States and has since founded 23 study and meeting centres in the United States and Canada as well as an Islamic retreat centre in Michigan focusing on spreading Sufi teachings.

Al-Ninowy, Sheikh Dr Muhammad bin Yahya

Sheikh Dr Muhammad Al-Ninowy is a Syrian-American scholar and author based in Atlanta, Georgia, whose lineage is traced back to the Prophet Muhammad (blessings and peace be upon him). Al-Ninowy

is considered a scholar in hadith. In addition to a PhD in Islamic studies, he also holds a BA in microbiology from the University of Illinois, and a Doctor of Medicine degree. He is the founding director of Madina Institute and Seminaries, the Center for Non-Violence and Peace Studies, and the charitable organisation Planet Mercy, globally. Al-Ninowy is also leading a reformist Rifa'i Shadhili Sufi school aiming to completely realign Sufi principles, litanies, and practices to the Qur'an and Sunnah in an effort to revive the school of *tasawwuf of ahl al-hadith*. His latest release is *The Book of Love*, a reflection on Islam from the perspective of love.

Shakir, Imam Zaid

Zaid Shakir is a senior faculty member and co-founder of Zaytuna College, Berkeley, California, the first accredited Muslim undergraduate college in the USA. Shakir accepted Islam in 1977 while serving in the United States Air Force. He obtained a BA in International Relations and later earned his MA in Political Science. In 2001, he graduated from Syria's Abu Noor University with a BA in Islamic Studies. He is one of America's top Islamic scholars, a voice of conscience, and a compelling force for the improvement of race relations for non-Muslims in America. He co-founded the New Brunswick Islamic Center, formerly Masjid al-Huda in NJ, Masjid Al-Islam in New Haven, CT, and more recent the Lighthouse Mosque, in Oakland, CA. He led the funeral prayer for the late boxing champion and human rights icon, Muhammad Ali. Inspired to work with religious groups on sustainable living and climate change, he is a Green Faith partner in action for the earth. Imam Zaid recently assumed leadership of Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA).

Suleiman, Omar

Imam Omar Suleiman is the President of Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research and a professor of Islamic Studies at Southern Methodist University. He started his journey of Islamic learning in the year 2000 and studied in various countries in the Middle East as well as Malaysia. He has become a hugely popular speaker, delivering regular online lectures which have reached millions, as well as writing frequently for various media outlets. In the 2000s, he was noted on a national level as being a strong advocate of community service, interfaith dialogue, and social justice, and was awarded for his outstanding civic achievement by the Mayor and City Council of New Orleans.

Wahhaj, Siraj

Siraj Wahhaj is Imam of the Al-Taqwa Mosque in Brooklyn, a prolific lecturer, community activist, the leader of the Muslim Alliance in North America, and former Vice-President of ISNA. He first became famous for his successful efforts in fighting drugs and crime in his neighbourhood. In 1991, he became the first Muslim to recite the Opening Prayer of the Qur'an (*Al-Fatiba*) at the US House of Representatives. Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz, proclaimed 15 August "Siraj Wahhaj Day" in honour of his "lifetime of outstanding and meaningful achievement".

Caribbean

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Hosein, Sheikh Imran N

Sheikh Imran N Hosein is an Islamic scholar specialising in contemporary interpretations of Islamic eschatology. Having given up his career as a diplomat in 1985 to dedicate his life to the mission of Islam, Sheikh Imran is a tireless missionary who often travels for 2-3 years at a time in the cause of Islam and calls for Muslims to retreat to faith-based eco-villages until such time as Imam Mahdi appears. He is also a commentator on international monetary economics, and advocates the establishment of free-markets and currency with intrinsic value as a means of savings and aversion of a pending collapse of the "world of paper money". He has very popular videos on YouTube with millions of views, especially related to eschatology, politics, and the economy.

South America

BRAZIL

Hammadeh, Sheikh Jihad

Sheikh Jihad Hammadeh has a long history of contributions to *da'wah* in Brazil. His educational background includes a theological course at the Islamic University of Madinah, a bachelors in History and a masters in Social Communication. Besides being Vice-President of the Uniao Nacional das Entidades Islamicas, he presides over two other islamic institutions. He regularly appears on national TV in Brazil

and other media outlets speaking about Islam and has also worked as a consultant for two Brazilian soap operas on the theme of Muslims and Muslim-majority countries.

رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا الرَّحْمَنُ
لَا يَمْدُكَونَ مِنْهُ خُطَابًا ﴿٢٧﴾ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ
الرُّوحُ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ صَفًّا لَا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ
إِلَّا مَنْ أِذِنَ لَهُ الرَّحْمَنُ وَقَالَ صَوَابًا
﴿٢٨﴾ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمُ الْحَقُّ فَمَنْ شَاءَ
اتَّخِذْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ مَآبًا ﴿٢٩﴾ إِنَّا أَنْذَرْنَاكُمْ
عَذَابًا قَرِيبًا يَوْمَ يَنْظُرُ الْمَرْءُ مَا قَدَّمَتْ
يَدَاؤُهُ وَيَقُولُ الْكَافِرُ يَلَيْتَنِي كُنْتُ تُرَابًا ﴿٤٠﴾

The Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, the Compassionate One
Whom they will not be able to address ﴿٢٧﴾ on the day when the Spirit and the angels stand
arrayed. They will not speak, except him whom the Compassionate One permits, and who says
what is right. ﴿٢٨﴾ That is the True Day. So whoever wishes [to], let him seek resort with his Lord.
﴿٢٩﴾ Lo! We have warned you of a chastisement that is near, the day when a person will behold
what his hands have sent ahead and the disbeliever will say, 'O would that I were dust!' ﴿٤٠﴾

The Tidings, 6-16

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PHILANTHROPY, CHARITY & DEVELOPMENT

Middle East and North Africa

IRAQ

Al-Khoei, Sayyed Jawad

Sayyed Al-Khoei is the Secretary General of the London-based Al-Khoei International Foundation, an international charity promoting the welfare of Shia communities throughout the world. He spends his time between the UK and his native Iraq. As a researcher in Islamic Affairs, Sayyed Jawad has authored various studies and articles on religious minorities in Iraq and the need for interfaith dialogue.

JORDAN

HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah is the wife of HM King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein, but is also in her own right an educational activist with global appeal. Through sheer hard work, she has developed one of the largest virtual followings of any Muslim in the world (over 33 million followers), and she defends and humanises Islam and Arab causes in-and-to-the West as effectively as any Muslim scholar in the world. She is the initiator and key leader behind the launch of several educational initiatives such as the Jordanian Madrasati, “My School”, a project for the development of Jordan’s public school system. In 2017, Queen Rania received the Global Trailblazer Award and the Fellowship Award from “Fashion for Relief” in recognition of her humanitarian efforts towards children caught in conflict.

LEBANON

Al-Sadr, Rabab

Rabab Al-Sadr is a social and human rights activist, and a philanthropist. She is a dynamic thinker and is the President of the Imam Al-Sadr Foundation, one of the most successful humanitarian organisations working in Lebanon. The foundation’s projects focus on training, development, and poverty alleviation across Lebanon. She is the sister of Imam Musa al-Sadr.

QATAR

HH Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah is the mother of the current Emir of Qatar, and Chairperson of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. The Foundation has brought some of the leading US university programmes to Qatar. It also promotes international research and provides scholarships around the world. Sheikha Mozah also serves as the President of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and is Vice Chairperson of both the Supreme Education Council and the Supreme Health Council. She plays a very active role in promoting a wide range of issues at home, in the Gulf region, and internationally.

SAUDI ARABIA

AbuSulayman, Muna

Muna AbuSulayman was the first Saudi woman to become an iconic TV personality and is internationally recognised as a leader in the fields of philanthropy, media and social impact. She is one of the founding co-hosts of the social issues show *Kalam Nawaem*, which was ranked number one across the Arab World for eleven years in a row. She was also chosen as the first Saudi UN Goodwill Ambassador for the UNDP as well as a Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum in the same year while managing one of the largest Muslim foundations. Recently, AbuSulayman has successfully launched, managed, and scaled multiple businesses and is running a Social Impact investment fund and consultancy that focuses on finding “Big Ideas that Work” to solve problems in education, gender inequalities, sustainability and social cohesion.

Al-Madani, Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali

Al-Madani is the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which aims to provide short- and long-term solutions to poverty alleviation in the Muslim world. The IDB is the principal financing institution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Al-Madani is keen on taking the IDB to the next level of excellence with Vision 1440H, a plan

that aims at alleviating poverty, eradicating illiteracy, providing better health facilities to people, strengthening ties with the private sector and NGOs, and women's development. Previously, Al-Madani served as the Deputy Minister of Education in Saudi Arabia, and as Secretary General of the Muslim World League. He currently serves as a Member of the Board of Trustees of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qassimi

Sheikh Sultan is the ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah. He had the educational vision to start University City in 1997, which included the American University of Sharjah, the University of Sharjah, and other colleges. Since then, his vision has inspired neighbouring emirates and countries to emulate his endeavour of bringing world-class university education to the region. He is known for his philanthropic activities and has endowed chairs for Arabic and Islamic studies in Western universities (e. g. Exeter University). He is also an accomplished poet and an academic.

Sub-Saharan Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

Sooliman, Dr Imtiaz Ismail

Sooliman is the founder of the Gift of the Givers Foundation. It is the largest disaster relief organisation of African origin on the African continent. His organisation has delivered over \$250 million in aid to 45 countries around the world. The organisation has also designed and developed the world's first and largest containerised mobile hospital, which has been deployed in Bosnia. It also runs 24 development projects in South Africa and Malawi. He was awarded South Africa's Order of the Baobab for distinguished service in April 2010. In 2016, he received the Global Citizen Award from Henley and Partners in London.

Asia

INDIA

Premji, Azim

Premji is an Indian business tycoon and philanthropist who is the Chairman of Wipro Limited, a leader in the software industry. In 2011, he was awarded Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award by the Government of India. In 2013, he signed the Giving Pledge, agreeing to give away at least half of his wealth and has given away billions in charity since then. The Azim Premji Foundation supports programs that reach more than 2.5 million children. It also pledged \$134 million towards providing aid for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Qasmi, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal

Maulana Badruddin Ajmal is a prominent Indian businessman who runs the Ajmal Group of Companies, which sells attar perfume, oils, and textiles. He is a proponent and member of various social service organisations and is also a scholar of Islam, having studied at the Darul Uloom Deoband. Qasmi is also a politician who founded the Assam United Democratic Front political party. He is noted for his contributions to charitable hospitals, orphanages and educational institutions, including a women's science college.

INDONESIA

Bagir, Haidar

Haidar Bagir is the founder and Director of Mizan, a large publishing company that significantly shapes the development of Islamic discourse in Indonesia. Bagir has founded and lectured in many educational institutions, and his philanthropic contributions include work on community development. He has written extensively on sufism.

MALAYSIA

Al-Bukhary, Syed Mokhtar

Syed Mokhtar Al-Bukhary is one of the top ten richest Malaysians. He owns a variety of companies including the Malaysian Mining Corporation, a behemoth that has been awarded multiple, multi-billion-dollar projects. He was recently awarded a 5G contract from the government, showing his political connections. He has established many humanitari-

an projects including rebuilding the lives of Afghan refugees, helping Pakistan's tsunami victims, and establishing an AIDS hospital in Uganda. He also supports many educational foundations.

PAKISTAN

Rizvi, Professor Dr Adib

Dr Rizvi is one of Pakistan's leading humanitarians, having established the largest free health organisation in Pakistan. He works as a doctor and an administrator at SIUT in Karachi, which was founded in 1971 as an eight-bed unit but is now the largest health organisation in Pakistan. SIUT provides free and comprehensive services in urology, nephrology, transplantation and liver-related diseases. He is the recipient of many awards for his life's work.

SINGAPORE

Faizal, Mohamed

Mr Mohamed Faizal is a passionate champion of educational initiatives who has conceived of scholarship programmes specifically targeted at lower-income students. He has received the President's Volunteerism and Philanthropy Award, being the second Muslim in its history to receive it. Many in Singapore's Muslim community consider him the foremost jurist on the MUIS Appeal Board, the city-state's highest body of Islamic law. He is the only Muslim Senior Counsel in Singapore.

Europe

UNITED KINGDOM

Al-Banna, Dr Hany

Al-Banna founded Islamic Relief, the largest Western-based international Muslim relief and development NGO. Established in 1984, the organisation provides assistance in over 30 countries worldwide. HM the late Queen Elizabeth honoured Al-Banna's work, giving him an OBE for his services to the community. In 2015, Islamic Relief signed a memorandum of understanding with the African Union, formalising a partnership to tackle poverty in the continent.

Ismail, Sufyan

Sufyan Ismail is an award-winning Entrepreneur and Philanthropist whose enterprises have been featured in *The Sunday Times* Top 100 listings. Having retired from business in 2014, aged 38, he founded Muslim Engagement and Development (MEND) to tackle Islamophobia. MEND engages in media monitoring, advocacy in Parliament, works with police forces, local councils and, most importantly, empowers grass-roots Muslim communities. Today, MEND employs dozens of staff members across offices nationally dedicated to protecting Islam and Muslims in the UK and internationally. Over 40,000 Muslims have sat through MEND's Islamophobia presentations and around 3,500 people have been trained on its media/politics masterclasses. The World Economic Forum and the EU's *The Parliament* magazine have commended MEND's work.



Will you not then remember?
Those Who Set The Ranks, 155

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Middle East and North Africa

EGYPT

Karam, Dr Azza

Dr Azza Karam is the Secretary General of the World Conference of Religions for Peace. She previously served as the senior advisor on social and cultural development at the United Nations Population Fund, and was a senior policy research advisor at the United Nations Development Programme, where she coordinated the Arab Human Development Reports. She also holds the endowed Professor position of Religion and Sustainable Development at Amsterdam's Vrije Universiteit.

IRAN

Ebadi, Shirin

Shirin Ebadi is a lawyer who, in 2003, became the first Iranian to win the Nobel Peace Prize. She is the founder of Children's Rights Support Association and has defended and supported the rights of children and women. Ebadi lectures about the human rights situation in Iran and espouses a liberal view of Islam appreciated by many Muslim feminists. Since the presidential elections of 2009, she has been forced to live in exile (in London) while her husband is barred from travelling out of Iran.

MOROCCO

Al-Soufi, Nawal

Nawal Al-Soufi won the UAE "Arab Hope Maker" Prize in 2017 and was awarded 1 million AED for her dedication to the cause of helping refugees. She arranged rescue missions for Syrian refugees fleeing across the Mediterranean Sea.

PALESTINE

Abu Elaish, Dr Izzeldin

Izzeldin Abu Elaish is a Palestinian physician and internationally recognised peace and human rights activist devoted to advancing health and educational opportunities for women and girls in the Middle East. He is also known for using health as a vehicle

for peace. Dr Abu Elaish's book, *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey*—the story of his loss of his three daughters, Bessan, Mayar, and Aya, and his cousin Noor to Israeli shelling in 2009 and his subsequent transformation—has achieved critical acclaim. Published in 2010 and translated into 17 languages, the book has become an international best seller. It is a testament to his commitment to forgiveness as the solution to conflict, and the catalyst towards peace. He has received a number of national and international awards for his work, including The Public Peace Prize in 2014.

Abu Sarah, Aziz

Aziz Abu Sarah is a Palestinian activist who is globally recognised for his work on peace and conflict resolution in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He is a former Executive Director of the Centre for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. He was named as National Geographic Explorer in 2011, and a TED fellow in 2014. He was the First Intercultural Innovation Award winner, an award issued in partnership by the UNAOC and BMW. Aziz has published articles at *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Alarabiya*, *National Geographic* and others. His new book, *Crossing Boundaries, a Traveler's Guide to World Peace*, was published in 2020.

Al-Faqih, Judge Kholoud

Faqih made history when she became the first female Shari'a judge in the Middle East (in Ramallah, Palestine). She has travelled internationally to speak about her struggles in succeeding in a male-dominated field and has become an inspiration to many women outside the Middle East as well. She ranked number 10 in the 100 Most Powerful Arab Women in 2012 by *CEO Middle East* and *Arabian Business* magazines. An award-winning documentary, *The Judge*, was made about her life in 2018.

Al-Hroub, Hanan

A schoolteacher from occupied Palestine who won The Global Teacher Prize in 2016, Hanan Al-Hroub started teaching traumatised Palestinian children who had faced violence, or whose parents had been shot in front of them. Hanan Al-Hroub instilled confidence, self-esteem, and the ability to live a nor-

mal childhood in her students. She published a book entitled *Play and Learn* that includes educational games that help children overcome the challenges they face.

Tamimi, Ahed

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 117

QATAR

HH Sheikha Aisha bint Faleh bin Nasser Al-Thani
Sheikha Aisha al-Thani is the Founder of the Doha Academy and Board Member of Reach Out to Asia, Qatar. She is also a member of the Qatar Supreme Education Council, the highest education authority in Qatar. She is a modernist development thinker who promotes a more pronounced and well-judged engagement with people of faith. Sheikha Aisha's perspective resonates with the more concerted efforts by humanitarian organisations to look at the networks of people of faith as a solution to practical development problems.

Al-Thani, Dr Abdulla bin Ali

Dr Abdulla bin Ali al-Thani is the President of the Hamad Bin Khalifa University in the State of Qatar and is Chairman of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE). Dr Abdullah, a member of Qatar's ruling family and a former university professor, is the man at the centre of many of Qatar's educational initiatives and is leading the way to transform Qatar's education system.

SAUDI ARABIA

Badawi, Samar

Samar Badawi is a Saudi Arabian human rights activist. She has been arrested several times, imprisoned and been subject to a travel ban. She has campaigned for women driving, women voting and other women and human rights issues. She has received international recognition for her activism. Her recent arrest in 2018, alongside fellow activist Nassima Al-Sadah, prompted a defence from Canada and then a response from Saudi Arabia leading to a major diplomatic falling out between the two countries. She was released from prison in June 2021.

Al-Hathloul, Loujain

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 117

Obaid, Thoraya Ahmed

Thoraya Obaid is one of the few Saudi women on the Shura Council. She was formerly the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, the world's largest multilateral fund for population assistance. She was the first Saudi national to head a UN agency and was also Chair of the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the principal inter-agency organisation for coordinating management matters within the UN. She underlined religion and culture as important aspects for the agency's development work.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Al-Ameri, Khalid (new)

Khalid Al Ameri is a content creator with millions of followers on his social media platforms and hundreds of millions of views on his youtube channel. His videos showcase humanitarian efforts as well global multiculturalism with the aim of promoting better understanding and harmony. Many of his videos have also looked at aspects of family life and love.

Barakat, Maha

Maha Barakat was appointed Director-General of the recently established Frontline Heroes Office (The Fakh Al Watan Office) which aims to support all frontline workers in the UAE. She also serves as the Board Chair of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, having previously been the Director General of the Health Authority Abu Dhabi from 2013-2018. Prior to that she worked at the Imperial College London Diabetes Centre which she founded in Abu Dhabi. She was awarded an OBE in 2010 and given the Imperial College Medal in 2013. An outstanding academic with a PhD from Cambridge University, she serves on various boards and committees related to research and development issues in the medical field.

Mattar, Dr Maryam

Dr Maryam Mattar is Director General of the Community Development Authority (CDA), a newly launched Dubai government authority that takes responsibility for setting up and developing frameworks for social development. She is also the founder and Executive Director of two non-profit civil associations: UAE Down's Syndrome Association and UAE Genetic Diseases Association. She has also initiated several national community outreach pro-

grammes such as UAE Free of Thalassemia by 2012 and established a number of wellness centres. She received the Arab Women's Pioneer Award for Health Innovation 2019.

YEMEN

Karman, Tawakkol

Karman was one of three women jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011. She is a Yemeni journalist and activist who has regularly led protests against the government. Over the past several years, she has campaigned for the release of political prisoners and advocated freedom of expression and other human rights. These activities have caused her to be jailed several times. She has repeatedly called for an end to US drone strikes in Yemen. More recently, she has spoken out against both the Houthi coup and the "Saudi-UAE occupation" of Yemen.

Sub-Saharan Africa

BURKINA FASO

Aboubakary, Maiga

Aboubakary is the Secretary General of the Burkina Faso Islamic Organization for Population and Development. His organisation promotes family planning in mosques around the country. The tremendous growth rate in Burkina Faso has put great strain on the economy there and threatens to sharpen the already serious problem of poverty.

BURUNDI

Nkunduwiga, Haruna

Nkunduwiga is the Secretary General of the Muslim Community of Burundi. He has been working recently to battle the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Burundi with other faith leaders by raising awareness and asking people to "stay clean". HIV/AIDS is a serious problem in Burundi, affecting close to 20 percent of the urban population and nearly 10 percent of the rural population.

COTE D'IVOIRE

Abdoulaziz, Sheikh Sarba

Abdoulaziz is the leader of the Association Soulatine pour les Actions de Bienfaisance. He works in Côte

d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso on the development of the Muslim community and the fair treatment of Muslims. He has been active at major international conferences that deal with the problem of Islamophobia.

GAMBIA, THE

Bensouda, Fatou

Bensouda is former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, being the first African woman to hold such a position. She has been the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor since June 2012, after having served as a Deputy Prosecutor in charge of the Prosecutions Division of the ICC since 2004. She is the former Attorney General and Minister of Justice of The Gambia. In September 2020, the Trump administration named Bensouda a "specially designated national", forbidding all US persons and companies from doing business with her. The Biden administration revoked this in 2021.

GHANA

Ibrahim, Sheikh Mustapha

Sheikh Mustapha Ibrahim is a religious scholar who has written over 20 books. He is among the few Islamic scholars in Ghana who have had the benefits of both classical Islamic training (the madrasah study circle) and the modern secular model. He founded the Islamic Council for Development and Humanitarian Services (ICODEHS) in 1996 to help reduce the high level of poverty in society and empower the less privileged. In collaboration with several partner NGOs in the Arab and Muslim world, ICODEHS' humanitarian footprints have spread throughout Ghana and into 12 other countries in West Africa.

MALAWI

Chabulika, Sheikh Dinala

Chabulika is the Islamic Information Bureau's national coordinator. He is known as an Islamic rights activist and has taken it upon himself to present the need to address social issues as religious duties. Chabulika works on health and exploitation issues as well as building bridges with non-Muslims in Malawi. He also fought against the forced teaching of religious texts to schoolchildren.

UN World Interfaith Harmony Week

www.worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com

In September 2010, His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed a World Interfaith Harmony Week at the Plenary session of the 65th United Nations General Assembly in New York. This was a call to establish a week every year where people of all faiths, and those of no faith, would promote the message of *'Love of God, and Love of the neighbour'*, or *'Love of the Good, and Love of the Neighbour'*. The Draft Resolution for the World Interfaith Harmony Week was later written and presented by HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, Chief Advisor to King Abdullah II for Religious and Cultural Affairs and Personal Envoy of King Abdullah II, before the United Nations General Assembly where it was unanimously adopted on 20 October 2010.

UN Resolution A/65/PV. 34; the World Interfaith Harmony Week, as it is called, recognises the first week of February of every year as a time when people of all faiths, and those of no faith, work together to promote and celebrate religious and cultural understanding and cooperation, to address each other in favourable terms drawn from their own traditions and to accept and respect 'the other' based on the foundations of *'Love of God, and Love of the Neighbour'*, or *'Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour'*. Remarkably the World Interfaith Harmony Week excludes no one and includes and unites everyone.

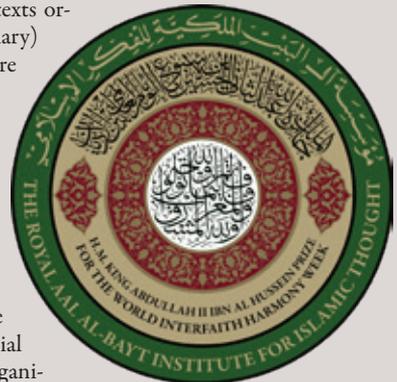


The HM King Abdullah II World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize

The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan established the World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize in 2013 to recognise the three best events or texts organised during the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week (first week of February) which best promote the goals of the World Interfaith Harmony Week. Prizes are awarded to each event or text that is judged to have been most successful in promoting interfaith harmony and impacting religious understanding. Since 2014, this prize has been known as the King Abdullah II World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize. The prizes are:

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| First | \$5,000 and a gold medal |
| Second | \$3,000 and a silver medal |
| Third | \$1,000 and a bronze medal |

In 2021, over 1,020 events held in over 50 countries were registered on the site. They were arranged by groups as diverse as government agencies, social groups, schools, private individuals and of course the numerous interfaith organisations that exist worldwide.



NIGER

Mindaoudou, Dodo Aichatou

Mindaoudou is a former Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and African Integrity. She has served the government since the mid-1990s and is also the former Secretary-General for the Network for Rural Law. Ms Mindaoudou has written extensively about economic development and women's issues. She is one of the most senior-level women politicians in West Africa having been the UN Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire, Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) from 2013-2017 and in 2020, she was appointed co-chair by the World Health Organization (WHO) of an independent commission to investigate claims of abuse by aid workers.

NIGERIA

Ashafa, Imam Muhammad

Ashafa is the Co-director of the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Centre in the city of Kaduna (Northern Nigeria), a leading task force that resolves conflicts across the country. He works with Christian Pastor James Wuye to promote peace between religions. Previously, both leaders encouraged hatred of others, but they changed their ways after being injured and affected by inter-religious violence. Pastor Wuye and Imam Ashafa have gained a worldwide audience and intense interest in their story by speaking about their successful work in resolving conflicts. In April 2013, they were awarded the first prize in the World Interfaith Harmony Week by the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Amman, Jordan.

SENEGAL

Kane, Zeinaba

Zeinaba Kane is the President of Women of the Rassemblement Islamique du Sénégal (Alwahda), the largest Islamic organisation in Senegal, having over 40 Islamic associations operating within it. Kane works on the improvement of living conditions for rural women in Senegal. She has written many articles and is frequently interviewed by the media.

SOMALIA

Dayib, Faduma

Dayib is a development expert and a social change activist. In 2016, defying many death threats, she

became the first woman to run for President of Somalia. Despite pulling out at the last minute, she has nevertheless raised awareness on the monumental roles Somali women continue to play in peacebuilding and state-building since independence. Born in Kenya to illiterate parents, she didn't learn to read and write until she was 14. At 17, she moved to Finland and completed two master's degrees before winning a fellowship to study public administration at Harvard.

Elmi, Asha Haji

Asha Haji Elmi is a peace activist and a former member of the Federal Parliament of Somalia. In 2008, she won the Right Livelihood Award (known as the alternative Nobel Prize). She is an activist for women's rights and formed the Six Clan 125 movement when women were excluded from the peace process in Somalia that involved the five traditional clans. Elmi is also the founder of Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC) and campaigns internationally against female genital mutilation in Somalia and in other areas of Africa.

Asia

AFGHANISTAN

Joya, Malalai

Malalai is a well-known activist, writer, and a former politician from Afghanistan. She was a Parliamentarian in the National Assembly of Afghanistan, later to be dismissed for publicly condemning the Afghan Parliament. She was the first ever to speak against the democratically elected Karzai administration and its western supporters, specifically the United States. She is renowned for her attempts to teach women and girls to read and write in the refugee camp where she resided during the Soviet-Afghan war. She fled Afghanistan after the Taliban take over and is now taking refuge in Spain.

Samar, Dr Sima

Sima Samar is a medical doctor who lived as a refugee for over a decade. She established the Shuhada Clinic to provide health care for fellow Afghan women refugees in Pakistan. Upon her return to Afghanistan she served as Minister of Women's Affairs of Afghanistan (2001 to 2003). She has established an institute of higher education and carries on human rights work

both nationally and internationally. She was State Minister for Human Rights and International Relations in Afghanistan before the ministry was dissolved in 2020.

BANGLADESH

Hossain, Dr Hameeda

Dr Hossain has published many books and articles relating to human rights and women's issues in Bangladesh and around the world. She is a founding member of Ain o Salish Kendra, a legal aid and human rights organisation. She received the Bangladesh Development Initiative's (BDI) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021.

Sultana, Razia

Razia Sultana is a Bangladeshi lawyer and human rights activist who has worked tirelessly for the Rohingya people. She interviewed hundreds of Rohingya women and published their accounts of sexual violence by the Burmese security forces. She is a coordinator of the Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC) and a director of the Arakan Rohingya National Organization (ARNO). She won the International Women of Courage Award 2019.

Yunus, Mohammad

Mohammad Yunus is the founder of the Grameen Bank. He developed the concept of microcredit for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. His efforts focus on creating economic and social development, helping the impoverished escape poverty by providing loans on terms suitable to them, and teaching them sound financial principles. Yunus' work has been recognized by many international organisations, including the King Hussein Foundation, Jordan, and UNESCO. In 2012, he was named the Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland. In 2016, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him to the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth. Recently, he has represented the People's Vaccine Alliance and initiated the "Make COVID-19 Vaccine A Global Common Good" campaign.

CHINA

Tohti, Ilham

Ilham Tohti is the most renowned Uyghur public intellectual in the People's Republic of China. For over two decades he has worked tirelessly to foster

dialogue and understanding between Uyghurs and Chinese. Frequently harassed and arrested, in 2014 he was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of separatism. Much of the evidence against him included his teaching materials and interviews with foreign journalists. For his work in the face of adversity he was awarded the PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award (2014), the Martin Ennals Award (2016), the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize (2019), and the Sakharov Prize (2019). Current reports estimate over a million Uyghurs have been detained in internment camps undergoing "re-education" and forced abortions and sterilisation as the intensity of the Chinese crackdown on Muslim practice in the eastern region continues.

INDIA

Bano, Bilkis

Bilkis Bano, known popularly as Dadi (grandmother), is an 82-year-old woman who inspired protests in India against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), both of which discriminate against Muslims. Her Gandhian style of protest attracted thousands of mainly Muslim women in the Delhi locality Shaheen Bagh and continued unabated for 100 days until a COVID-19 lockdown was enforced. The Indian government's arrests and assaults on the protests are another front in the battle for India's soul (Gandhi vs RSS – Hindu Nationalism) and democracy.

Khan, Dr Saniyasnain

Dr Khan has been a prolific writer of children's books. He established Goodword Books in 1999 and has published over 100 titles. His books focus on Islamic themes and have been translated into many languages. He is the trustee of CPS International, which aims to promote a culture of peace through mind-based spirituality. He is a regular contributor of articles in various newspapers and magazines as well as hosting a weekly TV show.

Ramzan, Dr Mubeena

Dr Mubeena Ramzan educates and empowers women in Kashmir. She runs the Jamia Islamia Mahdul Muslimat, based in Sopore and in Srinagar and also heads a socio-religious organisation, Ansar un Nisa. The former institute graduates *ulimaa'* (religious scholars) whilst the latter provides a helping hand to the needy, would-be brides, widows and orphans and also establishes vocational training centres.

INDONESIA

Siradj, Professor KH Said Aqil

Siradj served as the Nahdlatul Ulama Chairman from 2010 to the end of 2021. He had previously served on Indonesia's National Commission for Human Rights and was a strong advocate for minority rights. He has an extensive academic background in the Islamic sciences and regards education as a tool for development. He founded the Said Aqil Centre in Egypt, a study centre that focuses on developing Islamic discourse, particularly in the Arab World. He is involved in various organisations addressing social and religious issues.

MALAYSIA

Anwar, Zainah

Zainah Anwar co-founded two ground-breaking women's groups to promote the rights of women living in Muslim contexts. She is the co-founder and Director of Musawah: A Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family. Prior to this, she founded and was Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, an organisation committed to gender issues and increasing respect for women. She is also a journalist who has contributed to the *New Straits Times* and *The Star*—the country's two main newspapers—and has written a book about Islam in Malaysia. She addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos and delivered a keynote address at Harvard University titled "Islam, Human Rights, and Activism". *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast* named Anwar one of the 150 women "Who Shake the World".

NEPAL

Siddiqui, Mohammadi

Mohammadi Siddiqui is a pioneering female Muslim politician, social worker, and human rights activist. She established the Fatima Foundation in 2003 to ensure Muslim women's rights on two related fronts: the personal daily struggle of women against discrimination; and the social and legal practices that influence women's independence and access to basic rights. The foundation organises Muslim women's groups and works with religious scholars and women leaders to educate women and raise awareness of their rights in order to advocate for the practice of actual Islamic law and ensure social justice for women. The foundation also publishes books and translations

of the Qur'an in the local language and provides services to the victims of domestic violence.

PAKISTAN

Mazari, Muniba

Muniba Mazari is an artist, motivational speaker, humanitarian, TV host, model and Pakistan's First Goodwill Ambassador to UN Women Pakistan. She derives her strength from the tragic car accident that took place when she was 21 which left her wheelchair-bound. Since then, she has been a pioneering voice heard in different countries around the world, being a motivational speaker through TEDx, Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO), Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), VCon Malaysia, VCon Dubai, and several others. In June 2019, Muniba was appointed by former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, to be a part of Pakistan's first-ever National Youth Council. She has over 5 million followers on different social media platforms.

Yousafzai, Malala

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 118

PHILIPPINES

Rasul, Santanina Tillah

The first Muslim woman elected to the Senate of the Philippines, former Senator Santanina Tillah Rasul is also the founder and Chair of the Magbassa Kita ("Let us Read") Foundation Inc, which focuses on literacy and education. She is noted for her work on women's empowerment, effective civil service, improved literacy for the Muslims of Mindanao, and equitable treatment of Muslims of the Philippines. She authored much landmark legislation, including the Women in Development and Nation-Building Act that empowered women. She also allocated development funds for women's initiatives and opened the Philippine Military Academy to women. A peace champion, she was a member of the government panel during the peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front that led to a peace agreement that was signed in 1996. In 2019 she was conferred the Tandang Sora Award.

Rasul-Bernardo, Amina

Amina Rasul-Bernardo, an advocate for peace and democracy, is President and co-founder of the Philippine Centre for Islam and Democracy (PCID) and a columnist with *Business World*. Appointed Director

of the Mindanao Development Authority, she was a member of the cabinet of former President Fidel V Ramos, former Commissioner for Women, former Director of the Development Bank of the Philippines, and Director of the Philippine National Oil Corporation. She led the organisation of the National Ulama Conference of the Philippines and the Noorus Salam (Light of Peace), a national network of female scholars and Muslim women civil society leaders. She also led the development of an Islamic Model for Peace Education for Mindanao. The UN Act for Peace Programme named her the Mindanao Peace Champion in 2010. In 2013, she won second place in the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize.

SRI LANKA

Ismail, Jezima

An educator for over three decades, Jezima Ismail is the Chairperson of People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), President Emeritus and Founder of the Sri Lanka Muslim Women's Conference (SLMWC), Founder and Chairperson of the Academy of Adult Education for Women (AAEW), Member of the Board of Management for the Center for Human Rights at the University of Colombo, Coordinator of the Muslim Women's Research and Action Forum, Vice-President of the Girl Guides Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of Helpage in Sri Lanka. In 1989, the Government of Sri Lanka conferred on her the title of Deshabandhu, the third highest national honour.

Marsoof, Justice Saleem

Justice Dr Saleem Marsoof is a former President of the Court of Appeal, a Judge of the Supreme Court and Acting Chief Justice. Throughout his career Justice Marsoof has played major roles in the fields of higher education and law reform as well as major contributions in the field of Company Takeovers and Mergers, Arbitration Law and Muslim Matrimonial Law. He is the founding President of the University of Colombo Muslim Majlis, Vice-President of the YMMA Central and Chairman of the Zahira College Colombo Board of Governors.

THAILAND

Sabur, M Abdus

Sabur is the Secretary General and co-founder of the Asian Resource Foundation and the Asian Muslim Action Network. He is also Co-director of the

School of Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation in Bangkok. In the 1990s, Sabur served as coordinator of the Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD). He has edited a number of publications on peace and dialogue in Southeast Asia, including: "Understanding Human Rights: Perspectives from South Asia", "Interfaith Conference on the Culture of Peace", "Globalization and Asian Perspectives for an Alternative Development", and "Towards Peace in Multi-Ethnic Asia".

Europe

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mahmutćehajić, Prof Dr Rusmir

Rusmir Mahmutćehajić is a Bosnian academic, author, and former statesman. Considered one of Bosnia's leading intellectuals and public figures, he is the foremost advocate of the idea of a diverse Bosnia. A scholar of the Muslim intellectual tradition and a contributor to contemporary Muslim thought and the liberal interpretation of Islam, Professor Mahmutćehajić has served his country as Deputy Prime Minister and as Energy Minister through the process of independence and much of the war (1991-95). For the past 15 years, he has been President of International Forum Bosnia, which is dedicated to the development of critical intelligence and a plural society in Bosnia. He is the author of more than 20 books in Bosnian, some 12 of which have been published in multiple languages, and author of several hundred academic articles and essays.

Muftić, Elmedina (new)

Elmedina Muftić is a journalist, author and social and political activist, having published over 500 articles on the impact of the genocide in Bosnia and the role of women in Bosniak society. Elmedina's life mission is to ensure that the victims of the Bosnian genocide are never forgotten. Her passion is to raise Bosniaks' awareness of who they are, to awaken their dignity and cultural pride, and to fight for their historical and traditional heritage.

UNITED KINGDOM

Henzell-Thomas, Dr Jeremy

Dr Henzell-Thomas has been a major force as a writer, editor, lecturer and advisor in the campaign to

reform education in the Muslim world and the way Islam tends to be treated in Western educational circles. He founded the Book Foundation, served as first Chair of FAIR (UK Forum against Islamophobia and Racism) and now serves as Associate Editor of *Critical Muslim*. He remains a Research Associate at the Centre of Islamic Studies at Cambridge, serves as an Executive Committee member of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists UK and is a Fellow at the Royal Society of Arts. His most recent publication is *Rethinking Reform in Higher Education: From Islamization to Integration* (co-authored with Ziauddin Sardar).

Qureshi, Khawar

Khawar Qureshi QC is one of the world's leading advocates on international arbitration, administrative and constitutional law, public international law and commercial litigation. He was the youngest advocate ever to have appeared before the International Court of Justice in 1993 for Bosnia's genocide case against Yugoslavia. From 1999 to 2006, he remained one of only 20 barristers which the UK Government had appointed for representing it in civil matters. He routinely appears at the International Court of Justice, most recently as the counsel for Pakistan in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case, the Indian spy convicted on charges of terrorism, espionage and sabotage. He has been a Deputy High Court Judge and Bencher of Middle Temple since 2014, as well as having taught Commercial Law, International Law and International Arbitration at Cambridge University, King's College, University of London.

Oceania

AUSTRALIA

Chowdhury, Sheikh Tawfique

Chowdhury is the Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Mercy Mission, one of the world's fastest-growing Muslim social enterprises. Its premier programme is the AlKauthar Institute (alkauthar.org), which offers courses in Islamic disciplines to the general public through a medium that is accessible to working professionals. When AlKauthar initially launched in 2005, its offerings were limited to Australia. AlKauthar Institute has since spread its reach across the Western world, South Africa, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Malaysia. A medical doctor by profes-

sion, Chowdhury studied Islamic theology in Madinah, specialising in Islamic finance, personal law, and Islamic medical ethics. He also runs a successful multinational IT company, and is a corporate trainer and business coach to many successful people worldwide.

North America

CANADA

Dayrit, Flordeliza

Flordeliza Dayrit is the co-founder and COO of MuslimKids TV, the category leader in children's streaming services for Muslim audiences. The MuslimKids TV platform has over 5,000 video titles, interactive games, and eBooks available in over 60 countries. Flordeliza began her career in 2004 as Co-producer of the documentary series "A New Life in a New Land: The Muslim Experience in Canada" (Vision TV, SCN, CLT). In 2006, Flordeliza worked as an Art Director for several TV projects in Cairo, Egypt. She then started writing and directing TV series in 2007 with the "Hurray for Baba Ali" series, which has been viewed over 17 million times on YouTube.

Kutty, Faisal

A leading North American Muslim lawyer, Faisal Kutty is outspoken on issues of human rights, Islamic thought and anti-terror legislation. He is principal lawyer at Kutty & Associates, a respected Toronto law firm with an international client base. He co-founded the Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association and served as its first legal counsel and previously served as the vice-chair and legal counsel to the Canadian Council on American Islamic Relations (now renamed the National Council of Canadian Muslims). He is a widely invited public speaker and has written numerous op-eds, academic articles, papers, reviews and essays on topics ranging from national security to religion and law.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Awad, Nihad

Nihad Awad is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR). CAIR is the most prominent Muslim lobby group in the US and is frequently sought out by the media and politicians for the Islamic perspective on

events. Awad is one of the signatories of “A Common Word Between Us and You” and participates regularly in the US Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. Awad coordinated the formal release of the “Open Letter to Al-Baghdadi,” signed by over 120 leading Muslim scholars and academics, which rejected the extremist teachings promoted by DA’ISH.

Beydoun, Khaled

Khaled A Beydoun is a scholar on Islamophobia, civil liberties and constitutional law. He lectures frequently and regularly writes for leading media outlets. His 2008 book, *American Islamophobia: The Roots and Rise of Fear* has been published to wide acclaim, and will be followed in 2023 with his new book, *The New Crusades: Islamophobia and the Global War on Muslims*. He serves as Associate Professor of Law at the Wayne State University School of Law, and currently serves on the US Commission for Civil Rights. In a Twitter campaign, Beydoun asked his followers to “Boycott the 2022 Olympics in Beijing China — where a Uyghur Muslim genocide is currently taking place,” and he has raised awareness and millions of dollars for humanitarian causes. Beydoun holds degree from the University of Michigan, UCLA and Harvard.

Khan, Salman

Salman Khan is a pioneer of online learning, having founded the Khan Academy in 2008. The online educational website features more than 5,500 mini-lectures, free of charge, to anyone in the world. The videos are hosted on YouTube and teach a variety of subjects, such as: mathematics, history, healthcare, medicine, finance, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, economics, cosmology, organic chemistry, American civics, art history, macroeconomics, microeconomics, and computer science. Khan published his international best seller, *The One World School House*, in October 2012. As of July 2022, the Khan Academy channel on YouTube has 7.33 million subscribers, and its videos have been viewed more than 1.97 billion times.

Magid, Imam Mohammed

An outstanding figure in interfaith activities, Imam Magid is the Executive Director and Imam of the ADAMS Centre in Virginia, and former President of ISNA. He is an advocate for youth and women, and serves on the FBI’s Muslim, Sikh, and Arab Advisory Committee. In recognition of his efforts toward

interfaith bridge-building, Imam Magid was among the 10 Washingtonians of the Year in 2010 presented with *Washingtonian Magazine’s* award for outstanding leadership. He has served as an advisor to many in Washington, including President Obama.

Mogahed, Dalia

Dalia Mogahed is the Director of Research at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. She was previously a Senior Analyst and Executive Director at the Gallup Centre for Muslim Studies, as well as the Director of the Muslim West Facts Project. Former President Obama appointed her to serve on the Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, making her the first hijab-wearing Muslim woman to hold a White House advisory position. Mogahed has also held high positions in the US-Muslim Engagement Project and is co-author of the book *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*.

Sarsour, Linda

Linda Sarsour is an American-Palestinian human rights and social justice activist, and a campaigner against increasing Islamophobia in the United States. Sarsour is the Executive Director of the Arab American Association of New York and Senior Strategist for the Campaign to Take on Hate. She is also the Co-founder of the Muslim Democratic Club of New York, the first of its kind in New York City. Her numerous distinctions include: the White House’s Champion of Change, the New York City Council’s Shirley Chisholm Women of Distinction Award, and CAIR’s inaugural American Muslim of the Year. Linda has also written for—and been featured in—local, national, and international media on issues related to Arab-Muslim American communities, immigration, criminal justice issues, and Middle East affairs. In March 2020, Simon & Schuster published Sarsour’s autobiography, *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders*.

Middle East and North Africa

BAHRAIN

Al-Zayani, Afnan

Afnan Al-Zayani is the CEO of Al-Zayani Commercial Services (AZCS), a multimillion-dollar corporation. She is responsible for the passing of personal status laws in Bahrain that ensure the protection of Muslim women's rights in divorce and custody proceedings, something she oversaw during her leadership of the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society (BBS). Subsequently, Al-Zayani led the Middle East and North Africa Businesswomen's Network. In 2010, she received the Leadership in Public Life Award from Vital Voices, a women's empowerment organisation. In 2016, she was honoured by the IWEC Foundation at the annual conference in Belgium.

EGYPT

Helal, Lobna

Lobna Helal was appointed by a Presidential decree as Deputy Governor of Egypt's Central Bank in 2016 after having served as the first woman to serve on its board, as Second Deputy Governor from 2011-2013. Helal also holds key positions such as the Deputy Chair of the Egyptian Banking Institute and recently joined Telecom Egypt's board.

IRAN

Ansari, Anousheh

Anousheh Ansari is Chairman, CEO, and Co-founder of Prodea Systems, a private US-based company offering technological solutions for businesses. In 2006, she became the first privately funded woman, and first Iranian, to explore space. In 2015, the National Space Society awarded Ansari the Space Pioneer Award for her service to the space community. She received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Utah Valley University. In 2017, Ansari co-represented Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi at the 89th Academy Awards, accepting the Oscar on his behalf for his film *The Salesman*. Farhadi did not attend himself due to his opposition to President Trump's immigration ban.

JORDAN

Abu-Ghazaleh, Talal

Abu-Ghazaleh is the Chairman and founder of the organisation by his name. He is credited with introducing the concept of intellectual property to the Arab World. Abu-Ghazaleh has been selected as Deputy Chairman of the UN Global Compact, as well as being appointed by the UN as Chair of UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development. He is the only person who is not from one of the G8 countries to be listed in the IP Hall of Fame in Chicago, US.

KUWAIT

Al-Bahar, Shaikha

Shaikha Al-Bahar is the Deputy CEO of the National Bank of Kuwait, valued at over \$100 billion in total assets. She is in charge of loans, investment banking, marketing, and treasury. Al-Bahar is also Chairperson of Al-Watany Bank of Egypt, Vice-Chair at NBK Capital (a subsidiary of the National Bank of Kuwait), and sits on the board of the International Bank of Qatar. She studied at Harvard Business School, Stanford, Duke, and the University of California.

Al-Ghunaim, Maha

Al-Ghunaim is a pivotal figure in Arab and Kuwaiti banking and finance. In 1998, she founded Global Investment House, one of the most renowned companies in the Arab World. She is well-known for taking the company international and onto the London Stock Exchange in 2008, making it the first Kuwaiti company to be listed there. The firm is also listed on the Kuwait, Dubai, and Bahrain stock exchanges.

MOROCCO

Bouhia, Hynd

Dr Hynd is a strategic entrepreneur and founded the Believe Act Lead Method to empower women to become great leaders by creating wealth and making an impact. She has accumulated more than 20 years of professional experience in high-level leadership positions. She was nominated by Forbes among the 100 most influential women, in the Arab Women in Business list, and honoured as a member of the Johns

Hopkins Society of Scholars (2018). With a Harvard PhD in engineering, she started her career at the World Bank in Washington before joining Morocco's Prime Minister and Casablanca Stock Exchange as the Managing Director. Dr. Hynd is the author of two motivational and inspiration books about women empowerment.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Amoudi, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Ali

Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Ali Al-Amoudi has a portfolio of businesses in oil, mining, agriculture, hotels, hospitals, finance, operations, and maintenance in various countries including Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia. His charitable and philanthropic works are substantial, especially in Ethiopia. In November 2017, Al-Amoudi, alongside several Saudi princes and other billionaires, was detained in an anti-corruption crackdown. He was eventually released in January 2019.

Bin Laden, Bakr

Bakr bin Laden, half-brother of the deceased Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, is the Chairman of the Saudi Binladin Group. Revenue of his company is estimated at \$6 billion. His company is responsible for construction projects in the Al-Haram Al-Makki in Mecca, such as the expansion and the *jamaraat* projects. The group has been involved with several major projects in the country, including the King Abdullah Economic City, the King Abdul Aziz International Airport, and the King Saud University. In November 2017, he was detained, along with several Saudi princes and billionaires, on an anti-corruption drive. He spent three months at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Riyadh before being released in January 2018.

HRH Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal Al-Saud

Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal is a member of the Saudi royal family who built his fortune through entrepreneurship and investment in real estate and the stock market. His philanthropic contributions are wide-ranging and include a contribution of \$20 million to found the Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding at Georgetown University, which remains one of the key institutions globally working on Christian-Muslim relations. In November 2017, he was one of several Saudi princes and billionaires detained on an anti-corruption drive. He spent three months at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Riyadh before

being released in January 2018. In April 2020, Al-waleed Philanthropies allocated \$30m to the battle against COVID-19.

Olayan, Lubna

Lubna Olayan is internationally recognised as Saudi Arabia's top businesswoman. She was Chief Executive Officer of the Olayan Financing Company, and a board member for organisations such as Saudi Hollandi Bank, Rolls Royce, and Citigroup, among others. She was reappointed in January 2020 to serve a 3-year term at Saudi British Bank, and assumed the position after the merger between SABB and Alawal Bank.

Al-Suhaimi, Sarah

Al-Suhaimi is the first woman to chair the Saudi Arabian stock exchange (Tadawul), which is the largest in the Middle East. Additionally, she holds the position of CEO and Member of the Board of Directors of NCB Capital, where, in 2014, she was tasked with reviving the flagging investment bank and raising morale in the workforce. Within the next 2 years, she had reversed NCB Capital prospects and returned it to growth. Previously, she held the position of CIO at Jadwa Investment.

SUDAN

Ibrahim, Dr Mohamed "Mo"

Mohamed Ibrahim—more commonly known as Mo Ibrahim—is a Sudanese-born entrepreneur currently based in the UK. A successful telecommunications businessman, he founded one of Africa's largest cellular phone companies, Celtel. He came into prominence for establishing the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership in 2017, an award that provides the recipient a \$5 million initial payment, plus \$200,000 annually for life. The prize was conceived as a way to promote good governance and curb corruption by African leaders seeking financial security when they leave office. The prize is believed to be the world's largest, surpassing the \$1.3 million Nobel Peace Prize.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Alabbar, Mohamed Ben Ali

Mohamed Ben Ali Alabbar is a member of the Executive Board of the Government of Dubai and the Director of the Department of Economic Development. Under his leadership Dubai has been one of

the fastest-growing economies in the world. He has been successful in increasing the financial regulations requiring transparency, making Dubai a more attractive place to invest and do business in. He is one of the main assistants of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, and is the Managing Director of Emaar, one of the world's largest real estate companies.

Al-Gurg, Raja

Raja Al-Gurg is Managing Director of the Easa Saleh Al-Gurg Group LLC (ESAG). Al-Gurg is the first Emirati woman on the board of HSBC Bank Middle East Limited and is also on the advisory board of Coutts Bank, the wealth management division of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group. She also plays an active role in several philanthropic, social, and women's societies, including serving as Deputy Chair of the Dubai Healthcare City Authority and President of the Dubai Business Women Council. Her autobiography: *Raja Al-Gurg —An Autobiography* was published at the end of 2019.

Al-Jaber, Fatima

Al-Jaber is an Emirati businesswoman and Chief Operating Officer of the Al-Jaber Group. She supervises more than 50,000 employees and manages around \$4.9 billion in assets. She is also a regular speaker at economic conferences. Al-Jaber was the first ever Emirati woman to be elected to the Board of Directors at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce in December 2009. She has received many awards and has been featured in *Forbes* and *Arabian Business*.

Al-Rostamani, Hana

Al-Rostamani is the Group CEO of the First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) and was responsible for turning the bank's focus towards a digital-first approach. Previously, she held the position of Independent Director in Emirates Integrated Telecommunication Company (Du) and Vice-chairperson of the Emirates Institute for Banking and Financial Services. She has over 20 years' experience in the financial world and was ranked 3rd in Forbes Middle East's Power Business Women 2021 list.

Sub-Saharan Africa

NIGERIA

Dangote, Alhaji Aliko

Dangote is the Chairman and CEO of the Dangote Group, the largest industrial group in Nigeria. Aliko is the richest man in Africa in 2022, with an estimated net worth of \$19.8 billion. In January 2009, Dangote was honoured for being the leading provider of employment in the Nigerian construction industry. In 2011, Dangote was also awarded Nigeria's second highest honour, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) by the President of Nigeria. As a philanthropist, he has donated to the National Mosque, the Presidential Library, and a host of charities. In March 2020, Dangote donated 200 million Naira towards curbing the spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria.

Asia

BRUNEI

HM Sultan Hajj Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah

HM Hajj Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah has been the Sultan of Brunei since 1967. Following the death of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 2016, the Sultan is the wealthiest monarch in the world. His official residence has over 1,800 rooms and he maintains a car collection in the thousands. He owns many properties (via the Brunei Investment Authority) in the UK including the famous Dorchester Hotel. He is estimated to be worth \$20 billion.

INDONESIA

Indrawati, Sri Mulyani

Sri Mulyani Indrawati is one of a few Indonesian policymakers with an international profile. During her time as Finance Minister, Southeast Asia's largest economy became one of the 20 leading economies in the world and one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, partly thanks to a combination of sound economic policies and a stable political environment. She was appointed Managing Director of the World Bank in 2010, where she served until 2016.

Thohir, Erick (new)

Erick Thohir is an Indonesian businessman and politician who has served as Indonesia's Minister of State Owned Enterprises and as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since 2019. He founded the Mahaka Group, a conglomeration that focuses on sports and entertainment in the print, radio, and television media. He also owns solely and in partnership several football and basketball teams in Indonesia and abroad. He is the president of SEABA (Southeast Asian Basketball Association).

Europe

TÜRKIYE

Sabancı, Güler

Sabancı is a renowned, award-winning Turkish businesswoman and the Chairperson of the family-controlled Sabancı Holding, a \$25-billion industrial and financial corporation, the second largest in Türkiye. Ban Ki-moon appointed Sabancı as a member of the Board of United Nations Global Compact, the UN's highest-level advisory body involving business, civil society, labour, and employers' organisations. She was recently honoured with the David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award for her philanthropic contributions.

Ulukaya, Hamdi

Hamdi Ulukaya is the founder and CEO of the multi-billion-dollar yogurt business, Chobani. He immigrated to the USA in 1994, purchased a yoghurt factory in 2005 and developed his own recipe based on his Kurdish ancestry and the eastern Turkish farm he grew up on. He has developed a humane working culture for his 2,000-plus employees. He focused on employing from the local community as well as refugees and has given his employees a 10 percent stake in the company. He has won numerous awards.

UNITED KINGDOM

Aziz, Asif

Asif Aziz is the founder and Chief Executive of Criterion Capital, which manages a London property portfolio. He has made significant charitable contributions across a range of sectors in the UK, and is currently Chair of the Aziz Foundation, which runs a huge postgraduate scholarships program for Brit-

ish Muslims, having awarded over 500 scholarships to date. The Aziz Foundation also works in partnership with organisations in sectors where Muslims are traditionally underrepresented, like journalism, and work to reduce Islamophobia.

Randeree, Shabir

Randeree is a hugely successful entrepreneur and philanthropist and was recognised for his efforts with a CBE. He is the Chairman of DCD Group, Deputy Chairman of Al Baraka Bank South Africa and Founder Director at IBB Bank plc. He is the Chair of Mosaic (founded by King Charles) and involved in a number of other educational institutes. He has served on government task forces and in 2016 was inaugurated as the new Chancellor of the University of East London. In 2020 he was elected the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Woolf Institute.

Shafik, Nemat

An active economist who has held significant positions in international organisations, Shafik became Director of the London School of Economics in September 2017. She was the youngest ever Vice-President of the World Bank, at the age of 36, served as the Bank of England's Deputy Governor of Markets and Banking, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Permanent Secretary of the United Kingdom Department for International Development. She has written extensively on the fields of globalisation, emerging markets and private investment, international development, the Middle East and Africa, and the environment. She was granted the title Dame Commander of the British Empire in the June 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List. In 2020, she was permanently selected as a Member of the British House of Lords.

North America

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

El-Erian, Mohamed

El-Erian's career started at the International Monetary Fund, where he worked for 15 years and served as Deputy Director. He also served as Managing Director at Citigroup in London and PIMCO, a global investment management firm and one of the world's largest bond investors, where he was CEO and CIO. He is currently Chief Economic Adviser at

Allianz, the world's largest insurance company, and President of Queens' College, Cambridge. In 2012, President Obama appointed him Chair of the Global Development Council. El-Erian contributes to major economic publications such as the *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg*, *Business Insider*, *CNN*, and *Foreign Policy*. *Foreign Policy* named him on the list of the "top 100 Global Thinkers" for 4 years in a row. He has authored two *New York Times* bestselling books, sits on several boards, and received various professional and philanthropic awards.

Khan, Shahid

Khan moved to the USA from Pakistan in 1967, aged 16, graduated in Industrial Engineering and since then has gone on to become a billionaire businessman. His main company is Flex-N-Gate, which manufactures components for companies in the automobile industry. It currently has a revenue of over \$6 billion and a workforce of 13,000 employees. He

is also the owner of the American national football league team, the Jacksonville Jaguars and the English football team, Fulham. More recently he has launched All Elite Wrestling, a professional wrestling entertainment company and is a major financial backer of Black News Channel, a 24-hour cable news channel.

Altafsir.com

www.altafsir.com

Altafsir.com is a completely free, non-profit website providing access to the largest and greatest online collection of Qur'anic Commentary (tafsir or tafseer), translation, recitation and essential resources in the world.

Over
149 MILLION
visitors to altafsir.com

It was begun in 2001 by the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought, Jordan, being the brainchild of HRH Prince Ghazi, the Chief Advisor for Religious and Cultural Affairs to H. M King Abdullah II. Today the website is fully operational in Arabic and English and provides the original Arabic texts of 150 or more books of Qur'anic Commentary, Interpretation and Explanation (tafsir or tafseer), recitation (tajwid) tutorials and Hadith collections, and other fields, pertaining to the study of Qur'anic exegesis. Translations of the meanings of the Qur'an are currently available in 24 different languages, and in several cases more than one translation is available. The site also includes audio Qur'an recitations; resources on Qur'an syntax; resources on the Contexts of Revelation (asbâb al-nuzûl); resources on the meanings of words found in the Qur'an, and other works on the Qur'anic sciences. It contains over a million pages of Qur'anic Commentary and translation. Some of the texts presented here exist only as manuscripts and have never previously been published in book form despite their historical importance and influence. Altafsir.com is thus a complete website for the study of the Qur'anic Sciences.

In addition to presenting the standard Classical and Modern Commentaries on the Holy Qur'an (tafsir or tafseer) texts of all eight schools of jurisprudence, the site also contains works of various mystical, philosophical, linguistic and theological currents. Moreover, the first time in one place, comparative studies between the Shafi'i, Hanafi, Maliki, Hanbali, Ja'fari, Zaydi, Ibadi and Thahiri schools can be carried out complete with multi-screen displays and search programs.

In 2012 altafsir.com added the highly praised *Love in the Holy Qur'an* as a free downloadable pdf, and received 8 million visits bringing the total number of visits to over 27 million visitors.

In 2013, the Prince Ghazi Trust for Qur'anic Thought put up a sister website with a special emphasis for mobile devices. You can now read tafsir wherever you go by visiting www.GreatTafsirs.com and downloading the app for Android or iOS.

Middle East and North Africa

EGYPT

El-Baz, Farouk

Farouk El-Baz is a geologist who worked with NASA on the selection of landing sites on the moon and the training of Apollo astronauts in visual observations and photography. He is well-known for applying satellite images to groundwater exploration in arid lands. The Geological Society of America established two awards in his honour: the Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research (1999) and the Farouk El-Baz Student Research Award (2007). He has received numerous honours and awards, including Egypt's Order of Merit (First Class). El-Baz ranked number 51 in the Power 100 of *Arabian Business*. In 2019, NASA named an asteroid after Farouk El-Baz in recognition of his outstanding scientific contributions.

El-Naggar, Zaghoul

El-Naggar is an Egyptian geologist and scholar who writes and speaks on science and the Qur'an. He is a fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences and is well-respected by the global scientific community for his work in geology. He has published close to 200 academic articles and scientific studies. He also works for the Arab Development Institute.

IRAN

Khademhosseini, Professor Ali

Dr Khademhosseini is the CEO and Director of the Terasaki Institute in Los Angeles, one of the leaders in researching the use of nanotechnology for minimally invasive medical procedures. Formerly, Khademhosseini was the Levi Knight Professor of Bioengineering, Chemical Engineering, and Radiology at UCLA and Professor at Harvard Medical School. He is the author of more than 650 peer-reviewed journal articles, editorials and review papers and holds more than 70 patents. He is the recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) and for the past 5 years Khademhosseini has been selected by Thomson Reuters as one of the World's Most Influential Minds as a Highly Cited Researcher. He has been awarded

many more honours, such as the Mustafa Prize, the Pioneers of Miniaturization Prize from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the Clemson Award of the Society for Biomaterials.

Shokrollahi, Professor M Amin

Dr Shokrollahi is a renowned Iranian mathematician working in the field of information communication. He is the inventor of tornado codes and one of the principal developers of raptor codes and chordal codes, which are specifically designed for communication on electrical wires between chips. Shokrollahi holds over 150 patents in the area of information transmission and was the Chief Scientist of Digital Fountain, which Qualcomm Inc acquired in 2009. Most recently, he is the CEO and Founder of Kandou, a research firm in Switzerland specialising in improving speed and efficiency in communication between microchips. Shokrollahi has won multiple awards for his work, including the IEEE IT Best Paper Award (2002), the ISSCC Jan van Vessem Award (2014), and the Mustafa Prize (2017).

JORDAN

Dajani, Professor Rana

Rana Dajani is a Professor of molecular biology and a powerful advocate for science education for women. She has also founded the initiative, "We Love Reading", which develops changemakers through reading aloud. This earned her the Jacobs Social Entrepreneurship Award 2018. In 2017 she was selected by Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study as a fellow of the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University. Her awards include: the UN Science, Technology and Innovation Award 2019, the UNHCR Nansen refugee award 2020, and the Schwab Social Entrepreneur Award 2021.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Namankany, Dr Abeer

Dr Al-Namankany made history when she developed a new standard for measuring patient anxiety and treating it with drug-free psychotherapy, thereby protecting patients from the risks of general anaesthesia and the side-effects of sedatives. She is the winner of six distinguished clinical and research awards from

the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry, the Emirates Medical Association, and others. In addition to her brilliant medical career, Dr Al-Namanany is also a social activist and a defender of women's and children's rights.

Sindi, Dr Hayat

Dr Hayat Sindi is a pioneer in the field of medical science with a number of significant ground-breaking scientific contributions. She is Advisor to the President of Saudi Arabia's Islamic Development Bank Group on Science, Technology and Innovation. She was the first female member of the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia, the first Saudi to complete her studies at Cambridge University in the field of biotechnology, and the first Arab to complete a doctoral degree in the field. She was ranked by *Arabian Business* as the 20th most influential Arab in the world and the 9th most influential Arab woman in 2012. Sindi has been appointed by UNESCO as a Goodwill Ambassador in recognition of her efforts in promoting science education in the Middle East. Her other distinctions include membership at the Clinton Global Initiative 2014 and receiving the Leadership in Civil Society Prize.

Asia

INDIA

Hasan, Dr Hashima (new)

Dr. Hashima Hasan is a key scientist behind the James Webb Space Telescope project, which is sending the earliest images of the universe we currently have. Educated at Aligarh, Mumbai and Oxford, she is widely published and has received numerous awards. She joined NASA in 1994 and has worked on various programmes cementing her reputation as one of the top scientists in the organisation.

INDONESIA

Afifa, Dr Nadhira Nuraini (new)

Dr Nadhira Afifa is an Indonesian medical doctor and public health consultant graduated from Harvard University. She focuses on health and nutrition education to the general public through her YouTube and Instagram accounts as well as contributing to national news media. She works on multidimensional

issues from child nutrition, poverty, to disaster management. Her interest is centred on the burden of disease in developing countries. She is currently in residence at the University of Indonesia.

Mumpuni, Tri

Tri Mumpuni spent 15 years improving rural communities in Indonesia through electrification initiatives based on developments with micro-hydro-electric power plants. Her influential work, which offers economic incentives for implementation of the micro-hydro system, has been applied in 65 villages across Indonesia and a village in the Philippines. She was presented with the Award for Community Power at the Ashden Awards in 2012. Mumpuni is the Executive Director of IBEKA, a non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote community development via the provision of local energy, mainly hydroelectricity, and also clean water. She pioneered a community private partnership model to build small power plants equally owned by the community and private sector, and is responsible for introducing an energy garden to remote villagers.

MALAYSIA

Shukor, Dr Sheikh Muszaphar

Dr Shukor, an orthopedic surgeon by profession, was the first Malaysian in space. He was selected as one of two astronauts to be trained at Star City in Russia and was subsequently selected to be the astronaut to further Malaysia's Angkasawan programme, which sent him to the International Space Station in 2007. Images of him praying and celebrating Eid increased his popularity in the Muslim world. His launch also prompted the Malaysian National Fatwa Council to issue specific rulings regarding observance of religious obligations (praying and fasting) while in space. He is the author of best-selling books including *My Way of Parenting* and *49th Rule*. Dr Shukor is currently at the National University of Malaysia UKM as a Research Fellow focusing on global issues like climate change, world hunger and humanitarian aid.

PAKISTAN

Atta-Ur Rahman, Professor

Atta-Ur Rahman is the Coordinator-General of the OIC's COMSTECH, the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the promotion and cooperation of science and tech-

nology activities among the OIC member states. In 1999, he became the first Muslim scientist to win the UNESCO Science Prize. In 2013, in recognition of his work in the field of science, the largest Malaysian university, Universiti Teknologi Mara, named its Research Institute of Natural Products after Professor Atta-ur-Rahman. In 2014 he was awarded the International Cooperation Award, the highest award of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In 2016, he was elected as Emeritus Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, thereby becoming the first scientist from the Islamic world to be granted this honour. The same year, Professor Rahman was appointed Co-Chairman of a United Nations Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation covering the member countries of UNESCAP.

Saif, Umar

An award-winning scientist, entrepreneur, innovator, and a tech tycoon, Dr Saif studied at Cambridge University and was a core member of the \$50 million Project Oxygen at MIT. He created the first start-up incubators in Pakistan: the Saif Center of Innovation. He is also the founding Vice-Chancellor of the Information Technology University in Punjab and is one of the main forces behind the IT ecosystem in Pakistan. The *MIT Technology Review* named Saif in its list of the “World’s Top Young Innovators for the year 2011”, and he was named “Young Global Leader” by the World Economic Forum in 2010. In recognition of his services to the country, in 2014 the Government of Pakistan conferred on him the Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence), one of the highest civilian awards in Pakistan. In 2017, he received the British Council Alumni Award for Professional Achievement. In 2019 he received an investment directly from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop innovative Artificial Intelligence models for data collection.

Siddiqi, Irfan

Irfan Siddiqi is an award-winning pioneering scientist who is best-known for the development of the Josephson bifurcation amplifier. He was born in Karachi and moved to the USA where he studied at Columbia, Harvard and Yale universities. He is Director of the Advanced Quantum Testbed and Professor of Physics at the Quantum Nanoscience Laboratory (established by him) and the Department of Physics at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2021, he received the Joseph F. Keithley Award.

THAILAND

Dahlan, Professor Dr Winai

Professor Dr Winai Dahlan is the Founding Director of the Halal Science Center Chulalongkorn University (HSC) in Thailand, named the best innovation in the halal industry and the world’s first halal science institution by Malaysia’s Halal Journal. HSC promotes halal industry and commerce through digital platforms, namely SPHERE, HALPLUS, and scientific regional cooperation with halal laboratories in Indonesia, Malaysia and worldwide. Dr Winai Dahlan has produced many intellectual properties and written more than 50 books and several thousand articles on science and nutrition.

TÜRKIYE

Gelenbe, Erol

Erol Gelenbe has studied and taught in Türkiye, Europe and the USA including holding named Chairs at NJIT, Duke, the University of Central Florida in the USA, and Imperial College London. A pioneer in the field of modelling and performance evaluation of computer networks, the inventor of the random neural network, the G-networks, and the Cognitive Packet Network, he is currently Professor in the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Informatics of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Honorary Professor University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Research Professor Yasar University, Izmir, Türkiye, and is affiliated with the I3S CNRS Laboratory of the University of Cote d’Azur (Nice). Gelenbe has received multiple fellowships and honours for his work.

Europe

FRANCE

Guiderdoni, Dr Bruno Abd al Haqq

Dr Guiderdoni is an astrophysicist and French convert to Islam. A specialist in galaxy formation and evolution, he has published more than 140 papers and organised several conferences on these subjects. Guiderdoni serves as Director of the Observatory of Lyon. Besides his extensive writings on science, he has also published around 60 papers on Islamic theology and mysticism and is now Director of the Islamic Institute for Advanced Studies.

GERMANY

Şahin, Dr Uğur

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 118

TÜRKIYE

Sancar, Aziz

Sancar was co-awarded (along with Tomas Lindahl and Paul Modrich) the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2015 for his work on DNA repair. His contributions over the years have shed light on the processes of aging, causes of cancer and how cells work. Sancar studied at Istanbul University before moving to the USA where he is currently Professor at the University of North Carolina. He is also a co-founder of a foundation which promotes Turkish culture and supports Turkish students in the USA (the Aziz & Gwen Sancar Foundation). He is the 2019 recipient of the Hyman L. Battle Distinguished Cancer Research Award.

İmamoğlu, Ataç

İmamoğlu is an award-winning physicist whose alma maters include the Middle East Technical University in Istanbul and Stanford. He was Professor at the University of California and then the University of Stuttgart before becoming the head of the research group on Quantum Photonics, at ETHZ (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), Switzerland. His academic interests are quantum optics, semiconductor physics, and nonlinear optics.

UNITED KINGDOM

Al-Hassani, Dr Salim

Dr Salim Al-Hassani is a former Professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, and the celebrated author of *1001 Inventions: Muslim Heritage in Our World*, a best-selling account of scientific and technological developments in Islamic history. Dr Al-Hassani also serves as the Chairman and Founder of the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation. The Foundation partners with the Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation, a British charity which showcased the 1001 Inventions Global Touring Exhibition across the UK, United States, and Türkiye in 2010.

North America

CANADA

Ghilan, Mohamed

Mohamed Ghilan is a Canadian Muslim who has managed to combine a high degree of learning of modern science and traditional Islam. Born in Riyadh, to parents from Sudanese and Yemeni backgrounds, he attended high school and university after immigrating to Canada. In 2007 Mohamed began his full-time studies in the Islamic Tradition after having made connections with several Muslim scholars. In May 2015, Mohamed earned a PhD in neuroscience at the University of Victoria, where he studied synaptic plasticity in Huntington's disease, as well as the effects and molecular mechanisms of stress on the brain in Fragile X syndrome. He hopes his research can eventually be used to develop new therapies which can be used to assist individuals with movement disorders or intellectual disabilities.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Elgamal, Taher

Taher Elgamal, widely known as the “father of SSL (Secure Sockets Layer)”, is a world-renowned Egyptian-American cryptographer. In addition to being the driving force behind SSL, the technology used to secure web browsing online, his work is also used as the basis for Digital Signature Algorithm (DSA) adopted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology as the Digital Signature Standard (DSS). He is a recipient of the RSA Conference 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award and received the 2019 Marconi Prize with Paul Kocher.

Khan, Mehmood

Dr Mehmood Khan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Hevolution Foundation, which focuses its efforts on extending healthy human lifespan, or healthspan. An illustrious career has included posts such as being the former PepsiCo Vice-Chairman and Chief Scientific Officer. He previously consulted for the Mayo Clinic on diabetes and other diseases and was President of Takeda Pharmaceuticals. He is one of the world's leading thinkers in food, nutrition, and innovation. Dr Khan sits on numerous boards.

Siddique, Teepu

Professor Siddique is a neurologist and scientist known for his ground-breaking discoveries concerning genetic and molecular abnormalities. He was head of the team that discovered the cause behind the mysterious and deadly disorder known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He studied at Dow Medical College in Karachi, where he earned his medical degree in 1973 before moving to the USA. He was a Professor of neurology and cell and molecular biology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine before becoming Director of the university's division of neuromuscular medicine.

University and was Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT before becoming the Executive Director of the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN), Singapore. Her interdisciplinary research is focused on nanostructured materials and systems for catalytic and biomedical applications. She has authored over 350 articles and has over 170 patents issued or pending. In 2017, she was awarded the Abdeali Taybali Lifetime Achievement Award and also was named a Fellow of the United States National Academy of Inventors (NAI). In 2018 she was awarded the TÜBA Academy Prize and in 2021, she was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

Ying, Jackie

Professor Jackie Y Ying heads the NanoBio Lab at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research in Singapore. She received her PhD from Princeton



O people, worship your Lord Who created you and those that were before you, so that you may be fearful.

The Cow, 21

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Middle East and North Africa

ALGERIA

Mosteghanemi, Ahlam

Ahlam Mosteghanemi is a best-selling author who has won numerous prizes, including the Naguib Mahfouz Prize for *Memory in the Flesh*, a novel about Algeria's struggle against foreign domination and the problems that plagued the emerging nation after its independence. Written in Arabic, the book has sold over a million copies. She earned her PhD at Sorbonne in France and now lives in Beirut. She is the first contemporary Arab author to sell millions of copies of her work and dominate book charts for years in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, and the UAE. In 2016, she was named UNESCO Artist for Peace. She has over 14 million social media followers.

EGYPT

Al-Aswany, Alaa

Alaa Al-Aswany is the recipient of many distinguished international literary honours and awards. His novels are acclaimed in the field of contemporary literature, selling millions of copies in three dozen languages and adapted into film and theatre performances. Al-Aswany reached international literary acclaim with his ground-breaking 2002 novel *The Yacoubian Building*. Through the prism of a fashionable downtown Cairo building, he exposes the corrupt dealmaking and exploitative relationships of power in Mubarak's Egypt. His latest novel *The Republic, As If*, published in 2018, is set during the events of Egypt's 2011 revolution. Al-Aswany is the author of 17 books—novels, short story collections, and compendiums of his articles. He has taught and lectured at universities and leading cultural institutions around the world. A leading democracy advocate, his op-eds have appeared in influential publications and he also pens a weekly column for Deutsche Welle's Arabic news site.

Badreya, Sayed

Badreya is an Egyptian-born actor who played significant roles in a number of Hollywood films such as *Iron Man* and *The Dictator*. His production company

Zoom in Focus emerged with the purpose of showing the world the Arab-American story. Much of his efforts in this regard have been publicised in prominent news outlets such as *The New York Times*, BBC, ABC, and Fox News.

Waked, Amr (new)

Amr Waked is an Egyptian actor who has become a crossover star in Hollywood. Politically active with over 7 million Twitter followers, Waked was involved in the street protests that eventually toppled Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and was also active in the 2013 protests that led to the overthrow of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. In 2019 an Egyptian military court sentenced him, in absentia, to 8 years in prison for "publishing fake news and insulting state institutions". Since late 2021 Waked has been producing and presenting an award-winning documentary series on Al-Jazeera called "Decoded" (*Dahaleez* in Arabic) which has racked up millions of views on YouTube. He currently lives in Spain.

El-Wakil, Abdel-Wahed

Abdel-Wahed El-Wakil is an international architect and a contemporary icon of Islamic architecture. A student of the famous Hassan Fathy, El-Wakil has designed over 50 buildings around the world, including one for King Charles. He is the two-time recipient of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and received first prize for the design of contemporary mosque architecture in Riyadh.

IRAN

Alidoosti, Taraneh

Taraneh Alidoosti was named as one of the best actresses of the decade by *Film Monthly Magazine* and was the youngest person ever to win the Crystal Simorgh for Best Actress. She starred in *The Salesman* which won the Oscar for best Foreign Language Film in 2017. She boasts over 7 million followers on different social media networks. She recently received a suspended sentence for criticising the Iranian government.

Farhadi, Asghar

Asghar Farhadi is an award-winning Iranian film director and screenwriter who explores the depths and

complications of everyday relationships and themes of jealousy and trust in an evocative way and often includes strong female leads. He has won two Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film for his films *A Separation* (2012) (becoming the first Iranian to win an Oscar) and *The Salesman* (2016), as well as receiving a Golden Globe Award and numerous other awards. He famously did not attend the 2017 Academy Awards citing President Trump's travel ban as the reason. He sent two famous Iranian Americans to receive the Oscar on his behalf. In 2021, he received the Cannes Film Festival's Grand Prix for his film *A Hero*.

Majidi, Majid

Majid Majidi is an Iranian film director whose films have won many international awards. His *Children of Heaven* was nominated for Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards. In August 2015, he released the first part of an intended trilogy on the life of the Prophet, with *Muhammad: The Messenger of God* being the most expensive film in Iranian movie history (\$40 million). His film *Sun Children* was shortlisted for the 2021 Oscars best foreign film.

Nazeri, Shahram

Shahram Nazeri is a world-famous icon of classical Persian, folkloric Kurdish, and Sufi music. Hailed as "Iran's Pavarotti" by the *Christian Science Monitor*, Nazeri has released over 40 recordings to date and performed in major venues worldwide. In 2014, Nazeri received France's National Order of Merit.

JORDAN

Al-Baghdadi, Abbas Shakir Al

Abbas Al-Baghdadi is one of the world's foremost experts in Islamic calligraphy. Born in 1951 in Baghdad, he has had a distinguished career as a calligrapher and teacher of calligraphy. He adheres strictly to the rules of classical calligraphy and is averse to modern calligraphy, especially when its practitioners do not master the art in its traditional form. He is well-known for the balance, clarity, and majesty of his works.

LEBANON

Assaf, Roger

Roger Assaf is a prominent Lebanese director, actor, and playwright. With his actress wife Hanane Hajj-Ali, he co-founded the Al-Hakawati Theatre Company and the Shams Cultural Cooperative for Youth

in Theatre and Culture, an organisation providing underprivileged individuals with a forum for self-expression through drama.

MOROCCO

Lalami, Laila

Laila Lalami is an award-winning novelist and essayist. Her many books include *The Moor's Account*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and *The Other Americans*, a finalist for the National Book Award in Fiction. Her opinion pieces and political commentary appear regularly in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, and *The New York Times*. She has received a British Council Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, and has been honoured by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader. She is currently Professor of creative writing at the University of California at Riverside.

PALESTINE

Al-Barghouti, Tamim

Tamim Al-Barghouti is a Palestinian poet and columnist who has a weekly programme on AJ+ entitled "Ma' Tamim". Al-Barghouti has been nicknamed the "Poet of Jerusalem" and has been compared to the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. Tamim's rousing poetry is eagerly anticipated on social media. Al-Barghouti has a PhD in political science from Boston University and he has taught at the American University in Cairo, the Free University of Berlin and Georgetown University. His 2007 critically acclaimed poem "Fil-Qudsi" ("In Jerusalem"), which he presented on the Emirati television show "Amir al-Shu'ara" ("Prince of Poets"), has been watched by millions. His first book, *In Jerusalem and Other Poems* was translated into English and published by Simon & Schuster.

QATAR

HE Sheikha Al-Mayassa Al-Thani

Sheikha Al-Mayassa is the Chairperson of Reach Out To Asia, an NGO under the Qatar Foundation that contributes to the development of societies in Asia, including the Middle East. Its specific area of emphasis is improving the quality of both primary and secondary education in addition to achieving some of the goals of UNESCO's Education For All (EFA) and the United Nations Millennium Development

Goals (MDGs). She is the Chair of the Board of the Qatar Museums Authority and has spearheaded Qatar's recent massive investment in art. She was named as the most powerful person in the art world by *Art and Auction* magazine.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Esa, Majed

Al-Esa has produced several music videos which have gone viral online. The video "Hwages" highlights issues faced by women in Saudi Arabia and has already more than 65 million views on YouTube, bringing the total number of views of all his videos to over 214 million. Al-Esa is connecting to the younger generation of Saudis and his videos are causing concern in more conservative circles.

SUDAN

Aboulela, Leila (new)

Aboulela was born in Egypt, but grew up in Sudan, until she moved to Scotland to begin her literary career. Her life was filled with multi-cultural influence, which she often portrays in her writing, featuring migrant Muslims facing struggles in the West. Her work has been highlighted in the *Washington Post*, *Harpers's Magazine*, *The Guardian* and BBC Radio, who adapted a number of her plays, most recently the historical drama, "The Lion of Chechnya". She has been awarded a number of prizes for her literary works, including the Caine Prize for African Writing, the Scottish Book Awards, and the Saltire Fiction Book of the Year Award.

Sub-Saharan Africa

MALI

Keita, Salif

Known as the "golden voice of Africa", Salif Keita is an Afro-pop singer-songwriter from Mali. His West African music is combined with influences from Europe and the Americas. In 1977 Keita received a National Order Award from Guianese President Sekou Toure. His music is very popular in the Francophone world, and more broadly in Europe. After a 40-plus-year career and having produced over 25 albums, Keita released his final album "Un Autre Blanc" in October 2018.

NIGER

Souleymane, Mahamadou

Mahamadou Souleymane, known as Mdou Moutar, is a Tuareg songwriter, musician and actor from Agadez, Niger who became famous through a music trading network of cell phones and memory cards in West Africa. He is one of the first musicians to perform modern electronic adaptations of Tuareg guitar music. He reached a global audience when Sahel Sounds released his music on the Music from Saharan Cellphones: Volume 1 compilation. His fifth studio album "Ilana" ("The Creator"), released in 2019 to international acclaim, has been called "the most fiery psych-rock of the 21st century" and one of "the 25 best psychedelic rock albums of the 2010s". He also has the starring role in the 2015 film *Akounak Tedalat Taba Tazoughai*, which translates as "Rain the Colour of Blue with a Little Red in It". It is the world's first feature film in a Tuareg language.

SENEGAL

N'Dour, Youssou

Youssou N'Dour became Senegal's Minister of Tourism and Culture in April 2012. He is a world-famous composer, singer, percussionist, and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. In 2005, N'Dour received a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music Album for his album "Egypt". In 2011, N'Dour was awarded an honorary doctoral degree in music from Yale University. In 2013, N'Dour won a share of Sweden's \$150,000 Polar Music Prize for promoting understanding between faiths as well as for his music.

SOMALIA

Abdulmajid, Iman (new)

Iman Abdulmajid was born Zara Mohamed Abdulmajid in Mogadishu, Somalia in 1955. She is a supermodel, entrepreneur, and activist. She became a muse to many prominent designers, including Halston, Gianni Versace, Calvin Klein, Issey Miyake and Donna Karan. Iman started her own cosmetics firm in 1994, focusing on difficult-to-find shades for women and built the company into a \$25-million-a-year business. She has also appeared in several TV series and films. In 2010, she received a Fashion Icon lifetime achievement award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA). Iman is also actively involved in a number of charitable endeavours in

cluding the Enough Project to end the global trade in conflict minerals and played a key part in the public campaign against blood diamonds. She was married to David Bowie from 1992 until his death in 2016.

SOUTH AFRICA

Bhikha, Zain

Zain Bhikha is a South African singer-songwriter and a pioneer performer of English *nasheed* songs. He is a much-loved household name amongst Muslims worldwide. He is also known for his collaborative efforts with other prominent Muslim entertainers, including Yusuf Islam and Dawud Wharansby-Ali. Bhikha writes and directs plays as well as holding creative expression workshops conducted specifically within schools. He has released over 10 albums in his career spanning 25 years.

TANZANIA

Gurnah, Abdulrazak

Abdulrazak Gurnah was awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature. He writes on culture and post-colonialism and is the author of 10 novels, some of which have been shortlisted for the Booker prize, the Whitbread Prize and the Los Angeles Times Book Award. Born in Zanzibar, Gurnah emigrated to Britain as a student in 1968, at the age of 20, and went on to become Professor of English and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Kent.

Asia

AFGHANISTAN

Hosseini, Khaled

Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1965. Following the USSR invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, his family was granted political asylum in the United States. Hosseini earned a medical degree in 1993. In March 2001, while practicing medicine, Hosseini began writing his first novel, *The Kite Runner*, which launched his literary career, and today, Hosseini is one of the most recognised and bestselling authors in the world. His books, *The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, and *And the Mountains Echoed*, have been published in over 70 countries and sold more than 40 million copies worldwide. In 2006 Khaled was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Inspired by a trip he made to Afghanistan with the UNHCR, he later established The Khaled Hosseini Foundation, a non-profit, which provides humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. He lives in Northern California with his wife and two children.

Sayed, Aryana

A singer, songwriter and TV personality, Sayeed emigrated from Afghanistan with her family at the age of 8. Her family eventually settled in Switzerland, where at the age of 12 she was admitted to a music school where she would often perform with a choir. She released her first music single in 2008 and soon went on to become a household name in Afghanistan. She has won numerous music awards and in 2017, she was named “Voice of Afghanistan” by the Afghanistan National Television and Radio Network. She continued her musical success with a television career, where she judged at talent shows, such as “Afghan Star” and “The Voice of Afghanistan”. She fled the country when US troops withdrew and the Taliban took control.

AZERBAIJAN

Qasimov, Alim

Alim Qasimov is an Azerbaijani musician and one of the most recognised singers of Islamic folk music in the world. In 1999, he was awarded the prestigious International IMC-UNESCO Music Prize. Qasimov has recorded 9 albums and performed in many concerts around the world. According to *The New York Times*, Alim Qasimov is simply one of the greatest singers alive. Back in 2010, Alim Qasimov was nominated for the United States National Public Radio’s “50 great voices” series.

CHINA

Noor Deen, Haji (Mi Guang Jiang)

Haji Noor Deen Mi Guang Jiang is a renowned master of Arabic calligraphy. He was born in Yucheng in the Shandong Province of China in 1963. In 1997, Haji Noor Deen was awarded the Certificate of Arabic Calligrapher in Egypt, the first Chinese person to be honoured with this prestigious award. His work has been displayed—often as the first Chinese-Arabic artist—in galleries and museums around the world, including the British Museum, the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, the National Museum of Scotland, and Harvard University. His work focuses

on writing Arabic using a combination of traditional Chinese calligraphic brushes with quick organic strokes to fuse both the Chinese and Arabic arts uniquely. After 10 years of preparation and persistent practice, he completed the transcription of the entire Qur'an in the traditional Chinese Mus'haf style in 2021. Meanwhile, he published the *Guiding Criterion for Calligraphy in the Chinese Mus'haf* in 2022.

INDIA

Azmi, Shabana

Azmi has been described as one of India's finest actresses of film, television, and theatre. She has been involved in over 120 movies, both in Hindi and foreign languages, many to international acclaim. During her extraordinary career, Azmi won the National Film Award for Best Actress 5 times and garnered several international honours. She has also received 4 Filmfare Awards. In addition to her successful career, Azmi is a social activist and supports issues such as women's rights, child survival, and fighting AIDS and injustice through the use of mainstream media. She was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador for India by the United Nations Population Fund in 1998. She is also a member of Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian parliament. She was conferred with an honorary doctorate by TERI University in 2014.

Khan, Aamir

Aamir Khan is one of the leading stars of Bollywood. His phenomenal success has won him awards in India and acclaim abroad. His film *Lagaan* was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars while his venture *Dhoom 3* was the highest-grossing Bollywood film of all time. He is also a UNICEF brand ambassador, promoting child nutrition. He performed the Hajj in 2012.

Rahman, Allah Rakha

Rahman is a prolific composer, record producer, and musician for the Indian film industry. In 2011, *Time* described him as the world's most prominent and prolific film composer. He is the first Indian to receive a Golden Globe Award and two Academy Awards for the soundtrack of *Slumdog Millionaire*, a movie for which he also received two Grammy Awards. He was named CNN IBN Indian of the Year for 2009. In 2004, Rahman was appointed the Global Ambassador of the Stop TB Partnership, a World Health Organization project. A street was named in his honour in Markham, Ontario, Canada.

INDONESIA

Nadia, Asma

Asma Nadia is a prolific Indonesian author, songwriter, creative consultant for tv programmes and international public speaker. She has written over 70 books, including short stories, novels, and nonfiction on topics such as self-improvement, the family, and motivational books. Thirteen of her books have been made into movies, and 7 books became TV series. She is also a producer of Islamic movies, a columnist for *Republika* daily newspaper and a hijab traveller who's been to 72 countries and 545 cities. Nadia also established the I Can Write Community which aims to help young writers and has opened 290 libraries around Indonesia for unprivileged children and youth.

Rosa, Helvy Tiana

Helvy Tiana Rosa has written more than 70 books in various genres and is well known as one of the pioneers of the Islamic literary genre in Indonesia. Some of her works have been translated into other languages, and a few titles of hers have been made into movies. With a writing career spanning over 30 years, Helvy has won 50 national and international awards in literacy and women empowerment. Helvy founded the writing community Forum Lingkar Pena (FLP) in 1997 which since then has spread to over 200 cities in Indonesia and abroad and inspired many members to become professional and popular writers, especially in the Islamic literary genre.

Sulis

Born in 1990 in Java, Indonesia, Sulis grew to fame as a protege of the famous *nasheed* singer, Haddad Alwi. At 9 years old, she released her first album with her teacher, Alwi, called *Cinta Rasul Vol. 1*. Millions of copies were distributed across Indonesia and she quickly gained popularity nationwide. This was later followed by 6 more albums in the *Cinta Rasul* series. As part of the new wave of *nasheed* singers, she's known for incorporating guitars and drums in her tracks as backing instruments to her vocals.

KAZAKHSTAN

Kudaibergen, Dimash (new)

Dimash (Dinmukhammed Kanatuly Kudaibergen) is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist with a wide vocal range, spanning from bass to soprano. He became an overnight sensation in China follow-

ing an appearance at a popular singing show and has gained popularity since then, winning every major singing award in China, Russia and his home country of Kazakhstan. He's known for his charitable efforts in his own country and his hometown of Aktobe recently announced a museum dedicated in his honor.

MALAYSIA

Hamidun, Hafiz

Hafiz Hamidun is currently the most influential *nasheed* singer in the Far East. He is a multi-platinum award winner with approximately 4 million followers on social media. His albums have sold more than 5 million copies and have more than 300 million streams. Besides being a *nasheed* singer, Hamidun is also an award-winning music producer and music arranger.

Nurhaliza, Dato' Siti

Dato' Siti Nurhaliza binti Tarudin is a Malaysian singer who has won numerous musical awards. She has also been honoured for her contributions to charitable venues and was one of the recipients of the Icon of Malaysia Award. She has over 14 million followers on different social media outlets.

PAKISTAN

Ismail, Al-Hajj Siddiq

Al-Hajj Siddiq Ismail is a world-renowned *naat* and *hamd* reciter, philanthropist, and spiritual leader. He has been reciting for the past 50 years in over 10 languages. Ismail has performed in the presence of presidents, prime ministers, governors, chief ministers, and foreign dignitaries. He was presented with Pakistan's national award, the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, and the prestigious Pride of Performance Award, which he donated to the victims of Swat and Malakand.

Obaid-Chinoy, Sharmeen

Obaid-Chinoy is an internationally acclaimed journalist, filmmaker and activist. Initially known for her film-work highlighting women's rights, she has gone on to win two Oscars, six Emmy awards for her films (three personally), and become the first artist to co-chair the World Economic Forum. The Government of Pakistan has honoured her with the Hilal-i-Imtiaz, the second highest civilian honour in the country, and Canada has awarded her a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 2020, it was announced that Sharmeen will be co-directing the "Ms. Marvel" series for Disney+, bringing a Muslim super-hero to the big screen.

Parveen, Abida

Abida Parveen is an internationally acclaimed vocalist, often referred to as "the Queen of Sufi mystic singing". She is the only woman to reach this level of influence in devotional music. She specialises in traditional *ghazals*, and often performs before stadium-sized audiences across South Asia and globally. In 2017, she was designated a Peace Ambassador by SAARC. In 2020, Parveen received the PISA Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2021 was awarded the highest civilian award, the Hilal-e-Imtiaz, by the President of Pakistan.

Qadri, Muhammad Owais Raza

With millions of followers, Qadri is considered a legend in the field of *naat* recitation. He is known for his passionate performances as well as his beautiful voice. A devout Muslim, he is particularly vocal on the subject of his love for the Prophet Muhammad. He has over 4 million followers on social media and his Youtube videos have over 235 million views.

Europe

IRELAND

O'Connor, Sinéad

Sinéad O'Connor is an international pop star who has achieved platinum and Grammy success since the late 1980s. Her signature shaved head and powerful voice make her instantaneously recognisable. Outside of singing, her views and actions have also attracted much attention. She holds strong political, social and religious views and was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1999 with a church not affiliated to the Roman Catholic Church (an institution she has heavily criticised). In October 2018, aged 51, she converted to Islam and took the name Shahada Sadaqat. Almost a year later, she returned to the stage after a 5-year hiatus and performed her most famous hit *Nothing Compares 2 U*—dressed in a red abaya and matching hijab—to rave reviews.

NETHERLANDS

El Mouhandiz, Rajae

Rajae El Mouhandiz is a Dutch/Moroccan/Algerian interdisciplinary artist, producer, curator, art consultant and policy advisor, with extensive experience in the arts/culture sector in the Netherlands and

abroad. In 2005 she started her own label, Truth-seeker records, and in 2015 she transformed it into Kahina Productions. In 2019 she launched Ellae Foundation to counter the gender, culture and socioeconomic gap in the arts/culture sector. She still produces interdisciplinary art, directs Ellae Foundation, and is Senior Advisor to the founder/MD of Caravane Earth Foundation, an international foundation which promotes social, cultural and ecological transformation.

SWEDEN

Zain, Maher

Multi-platinum award-winning Swedish singer, songwriter and music producer of Lebanese origin, Maher Zain is a household name across global Muslim audiences. Maher's debut album "Thank You Allah" reached the number one spot on Amazon's World Music charts. He is the most popular Muslim artist on social media with 37 million fans and the most viewed Muslim artist on YouTube with over 6 billion views. Maher has performed in over 100 charity concerts across 35 countries and is a high-profile supporter of UNHCR.

TÜRKIYE

Duzyatan, Engin Altan

Engin Altan Duzyatan is a Turkish actor who plays the starring role in the hit Turkish drama, *Dirilis Ertugrul* ("Resurrection Ertugrul") which is about the legendary father of Osman the First, the founder of the Ottoman Empire. The series centres around the migrations of the Kayi Tribe and their struggles against betrayal from within as well as battles against the Templars, the Mongols, Crusaders and the Byzantine Empire. It also gives a prominent role to the famous mystic Ibn al-Arabi. The series has captivated audiences not just in Türkiye, but also huge numbers of Muslims globally. Engin is also well-known for his charitable works in Africa where he has set up access to clean drinking water for over 100,000 people.

Pamuk, Orhan

Pamuk is one of Türkiye's most prominent writers and was the first ever Turkish Nobel laureate. His 10 novels to date have been translated into over 60 languages and sold more than 13 million copies. His novels explore many aspects of Türkiye's rich culture past and present as well as philosophical questions. As an academic and intellectual, his voice is impor-

tant nationally and internationally and he has voiced opinions on Kurds, Armenia and the current presidency. He teaches at Columbia University, USA.

Yalçın, Rabia

Rabia Yalçın is a Turkish fashion designer. Her creations represent a synthesis of local and international cultures and are inspired by the opulence of her homeland's Ottoman past. With her line Rabia Yalçın Haute Couture, Yalçın has a strong presence on the European fashion scene.

Çelebi, Master Hasan

Master Hasan Çelebi is an eminent Turkish calligrapher who is hailed for his classical Ottoman calligraphy style. His exhibitions have been featured globally, and he is celebrated for his restoration of calligraphic panels in mosques around the world, from the Al-Masjid Al-Nabawi in Madinah to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul.

UNITED KINGDOM

Ahmed, Riz

The multi-talented Riz Ahmed continues to advocate for a variety of issues ranging from fundraising for Syrian and Rohingya refugees to highlighting the lack of positive representation of Muslims in the media at the British House of Commons. Riz became a household name through his acting work in films such as *Star Wars*, *Rogue One*, *Nightcrawler* and *2018's Venom* along with his Emmy-winning turn in HBO's *The Night Of*. His performance in *The Sound of Metal* was met with critical acclaim and earned him his first Academy Award nomination for best actor which he followed up with his feature writing debut, *Mogul Mowgli*, which touched on a number of the themes of his 2020 album, "The Long Goodbye". All these achievements, alongside his continuous and outspoken activism, led to Riz being listed in *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2017.

Islam, Yusuf

Formerly known as Cat Stevens, Yusuf Islam is a globally influential British musician and singer-songwriter. In 1977, he converted to Islam and left the music industry for educational and philanthropic causes. His international fame and high regard have probably made him the single most influential figure in the field of arts and culture in the Muslim world. Islam is a vocal opponent of terrorism and extremism,

and in 2004 was recognised with the Man of Peace award by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Committee. He made a gradual return to music over the past 5 years with his latest albums “An Other Cup” and “Roadsinge:”. He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2014. Islam received 3 distinctions in 2015: the Global Islamic Economy Award, the Steiger Award, and BBC’s Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2019, Islam was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Sanders, Peter

Peter Sanders began his career photographing the music icons of the 1960s. He was amongst the first Europeans to photograph the Hajj in 1971 and has continued to travel internationally, creating exhibitions, presentations and undertaking photographic workshops. He has just finished his latest collaboration *Exemplars for Our Time*, building on his previous book *Meetings with Mountains, Encounters with the Saints and Sages of the Islamic World*. He is currently working on a book about Muslims in China. Sanders continues to act as a translator of Islam to those interested in acquiring a greater understanding and to encourage broader and deeper interactions between people of different races and faiths.

Yusuf, Sami

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 118

North America

CANADA

Wharnsby, Dawud

A Canadian singer-songwriter, poet, performer, educator, and television personality, Dawud Wharnsby is best known for his pioneering efforts in the musical/poetic genre of English-language *nasheed* and spoken word. His songs have influenced a whole generation of English-speaking Muslims by promoting the spirit and love of Islam.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Aden, Halima

Halima Aden is a trailblazer in the world of fashion and beauty. She was the first ever contestant to wear a hijab and burkini in a USA pageant. She was the first hijab-wearing model to be signed by a major model-

ling agency and the first to appear on the front cover of *Allure*, *Vogue*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Essence* magazines wearing a hijab and burkini. Aden quit the industry in November 2020, citing that the profession was not compatible with her beliefs, but she seems to have returned a year later. All this is a far cry from her birth in a Kenyan refugee camp to Somali parents 24 years ago.

Chappelle, David Khari Webber (new)

Dave Chappelle is an American stand-up comedian and actor best known for his satirical comedy sketch series *Chappelle’s Show* (2003–2006). He has appeared in several films and TV series and has a \$20-million-per-release comedy-special deal with Netflix. Chappelle converted to Islam in 1991. Chappelle has received many awards and nominations for his work in stand-up and television including three consecutive Grammy Awards for Best Comedy Album. He has also received 5 Primetime Emmy Awards and 1 Screen Actors Guild Award. In 2019, Chappelle was awarded the prestigious Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

Friedlander, Shems

Shems Friedlander—writer, artist, filmmaker, photographer and educator—has published his 10th book, *Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi’s Forgotten Message*. The book contains interactive digital content via QR codes. Among his other books are *Winter Harvest*, *Rumi and the Whirling Dervishes* and *When You Hear Hoofbeats Think of a Zebra*. Friedlander has recently been appointed Emeritus Professor at the American University in Cairo where he taught graphic design and painting for 20 years. He has won over 30 awards for graphic design. Friedlander has also written two monodramas and his documentary films have been shown at film festivals in the US and abroad.

Henry, Aisha Gray

Aisha Gray Henry is the Founder and Director of the charitable foundation and publishing company Fons Vitae, which is currently engaged in bringing out Imam Al-Ghazali’s *Ihya Ulum al-Din* in English for parents and teachers as well as adapting it to accommodate children’s workbooks and school curricula. It will also publish an instructional DVD. “The Book of Knowledge” and “The Principles of the Creed” educational sets are available and in use internationally with “Purity and Prayer” nearing completion. Translations into Urdu, Arabic, and Malay are underway. Fons Vitae also has a children’s interactive website

www. GhazaliChildren. org, and has established a pilot school project and prison programme. The Fons Vitae Ghazali Project has been launched to great acclaim in Morocco, Canada, Indonesia, England, and the USA.

Wilson, Willow

Wilson is a writer and artist, notable for her works such as *Alif the Unseen*, which won the World Fantasy Award in 2013. She is also known for her comic series, “Ms. Marvel”, featuring a Muslim teenager who becomes a superhero. “Ms. Marvel” won the Hugo award for best Graphic Novel in 2015. Wilson has received multiple awards and nominations throughout her career and is currently contributing to Neil Gaiman’s “Sandman” comic book series.

Youssef, Ramy

Ramy, a comedian, actor and writer, is best known for his eponymously titled show which explores an Egyptian-Muslim family navigating the various challenges of reconciling their religious and cultural identity within 21st-century America. Ramy Youssef created, co-wrote, executive produced and played the titular role of the show which won him the Golden Globe Award for best actor in a TV series (musical or comedy) ahead of Hollywood heavyweights like Paul Rudd and Michael Douglas. A second series of Ramy debuted in 2019, and in its second season added multiple Oscar winner Mahershala Ali to the cast.

Zakariya, Mohamed

A machinist by training, American-born Mohamed Zakariya is a classically educated Islamic calligrapher who earned diplomas in three calligraphic scripts from the Research Center for Islamic History, Art, and Culture in Istanbul. His work has been collected and displayed worldwide, including most recently at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar. Zakariya designed Eid holiday stamps for the US Postal Service in 2009, 2011 and 2013. He has been featured in several movies, including the 2002 PBS documentary *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet*.

South America

GUYANA

Shah, Ryhaan

Ryhaan Shah is considered to be among the best contemporary writers in Guyana and the Caribbean, best known for her 2005 novel *A Silent Life*. Shah is also an active public figure as the President of the Guyanese Indian Heritage Association. She came under criticism for race baiting in Guyana’s 2015 election.



For truly with hardship comes ease.

Solace, 5

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QUR'AN RECITERS

Middle East and North Africa

EGYPT

Sobhi, Islam

Sobhi is an Egyptian medical student who started reciting Qur'an and uploading his videos on YouTube, now reaching more than 300 million views. His beautiful voice has attracted millions of followers, and the young reciter boasts more than 7 million followers on different social media outlets.

IRAQ

Al-Kurdi, Raad Muhammad (new)

Raad Muhammad Al-Kurdi is from Kirkuk, Iraq. Raad began memorising the Qur'an at a young age and won many recitation competitions as a child. He obtained a traditional license in recitation from Sheikh Ibrahim bin Fadel Al-Mashhadani. At the age of 15 he became the imam of Imam al-Shafi'i Mosque in Kirkuk. Since gathering a following of nearly 3 million subscribers on YouTube, he has become a visiting Imam at Al-Kharafi mosques in Sulaibikhat, Kuwait and often leads prayers during Ramadan at the Ahmad Al-Habbai Mosque in Dubai, UAE.

KUWAIT

Al-Afasy, Sheikh Mishary bin Rashid

Al-Afasy is an Imam at Masjid Al-Kabir in Kuwait, and is also a singer of Arabic-language *nasheed*. He has gained international acclaim through his innovative use of technology to promote Islam through two satellite channels, a website (www.alafasy.me), and videos on YouTube. He has more than 44 million followers on social media.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Ajmi, Sheikh Ahmad Ali

Al-Ajmi is a Qur'an reciter from Khobar Province in Saudi Arabia. Prior to gaining prominence for his recitation style as an Imam at mosques in Khobar and Jeddah, he studied Qur'anic interpretation in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Al-Ghamdi, Sheikh Saad ibn Said

Al-Ghamdi has served as Imam to Muslim communities across the globe, and is currently the Imam of Kanoo Mosque in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Al-Ghamdi studied *usool al-deen* (fundamentals of Islam) and *isnad* (hadith transmission), and is recognised as an influential Saudi theologian. In 2009 he was appointed by Royal Decree as a co-Imam for the taraweeh prayers in the Al-Haram Al-Madani in Madinah.

Al-Mueaqly, Sheikh Maher bin Hamad

Al-Mueaqly is an Imam at the Grand Mosque in Makkah. He left his career as a mathematics teacher to become a scholar in Makkah and is now a popular preacher and teacher of Qur'anic studies. He has over 100 million views on his YouTube channel.

Al-Shatri, Sheikh Abu Bakr

Al-Shatri is a leading reciter of the Qur'an. Although he studied accounting, he became increasingly influential for his recitation of the Qur'an at international Islamic events, particularly across the Middle East and in Saudi Arabia. He is now based in London.

Al-Shuraim, Sheikh Saud Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Muhammad

Al-Shuraim is a leading reciter of the Qur'an known for his unique recitation style across the world. He formally studied *usool al-deen* (fundamentals of Islam) in Saudi Arabia before becoming a teacher, and subsequently became Imam of the Grand Mosque in Makkah. He recently created a Twitter account which had close to 3 million followers before it was deleted.

Al-Sudais, Sheikh Abdul

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 118

Asia

INDONESIA

Hasballah, Muzammil (new)

Muzammil Hasballah is from the Paya Tijue Village in Indonesia. He holds a degree in architecture from Bandung Institute of Technology. He began studying

recitation at the age of 4 and later enrolled in Madrasah Ulumul Quran. During his secondary education, he won several recitation competitions. Because of his melodious recitation, he was given the position of Imam at the mosque where he attended university. He began uploading videos of himself leading prayers in the mosque and has gained millions of followers on YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook.

Ulfah, Hajjah Maria

Hajjah Maria Ulfah is an internationally acclaimed reciter of the Holy Qur'an, and is the first woman to win an international Qur'an recitation competition. She has popularised the Egyptian style of recitation, and currently serves as Director of the Women's Department at Institut Ilmu Al-Qur'an in Jakarta. She also lectures at the Islamic University of Indonesia.

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوْهُ
 وَأَنْصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ﴿٢٠٤﴾
 وَأَذْكُرْ
 رَبَّكَ فِي نَفْسِكَ تَضَرُّعًا وَخِيفَةً وَدُونَ
 الْجَهْرِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ وَلَا
 تَكُنْ مِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ ﴿٢٠٥﴾
 إِنَّ الَّذِينَ
 عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ
 عِبَادَتِهِ وَيُسَبِّحُونَهُ وَهُوَ يَسْبُحُونَ ﴿٢٠٦﴾

And when the Qur'an is recited, listen to it and pay heed so that you might find mercy.

And remember your Lord within yourself, humbly, and fearfully, and more quietly than speaking out loud at morning and evening. And do not be among the heedless.

Surely those who are with your Lord are not too proud to worship Him; they glorify Him, and to Him they prostrate. ∞

The Heights, 204-206

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ALGERIA

Benganna, Khadija

Benganna is an award-winning journalist who began her journey at Algerian TV and radio station. She went on to become part of the founding team at Al-Jazeera, where she remains as Senior News Anchor and Journalist. Benganna has covered major historical and political events, interviewed heads of state and key personalities in government. In addition to being a renowned journalist, Benganna has worked with the United Nations' High Commission for Refugees and boasts over 14 million followers on different social media outlets.

EGYPT

Howeidy, Dr Fahmy

Howeidy is one of the leading columnists in the Arab World. He writes for the Egyptian daily *Al-Abram*, where he is the Deputy Editor-in-Chief; his articles, however, are syndicated to seven other Arabic publications. Howeidy is influential both through his popularity and the fact that he has highlighted issues concerning Muslim communities outside the Arab World in ground-breaking work on Chinese, Bosnian, and Senegalese Muslims, among others. Muslims appreciate and respond well to Howeidy's use of Islam as a frame of reference in his articles.

Mansour, Ahmed

Ahmed Mansour is a Journalist and TV Presenter for Al Jazeera. He is best known for his coverage of wars, most prominently in Iraq and Afghanistan from where he published more than 1000 reports. He is also the presenter of a widely watched TV programme "Bela Hodod" ("Without Borders") and "Shahed Ala Al-Asr" ("A Witness to History"). He was arrested in Berlin by German police at the request of the Egyptian Government, but was later released. Mansour has published 25 books.

JORDAN

Al-Fares, Ola

Al-Fares is a Jordanian lawyer, TV presenter and journalist currently working for Al-Jazeera. She has over 13 million followers on various social media outlets and has won several awards including: Young Arab Media Professionals Award (2009), Best Jordanian Media Award (2009), Creative Youth Shield (2010), Jordanian Model for Successful Youth (2011) and Arab Woman Of The Year (2015). She is considered to be one of the most influential media figures in the Arab world.

KUWAIT

Al-Mutawa, Dr Naif

Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa is the creator of the popular Islamic-themed comic and animation series "The 99" which aired on global television in several languages and won several global accolades including the 2014 Islamic Economy Award for Media. He has been twice honoured by WEF who named him a Social Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009 and a Young Global Leader for 2011. Dr. Naif is also Professor of clinical psychology at Kuwait University's Faculty of Medicine and the Founder of Kuwait's first neuropsychology centre. A practicing clinician, he is licensed and operates in New York, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE. Dr Naif's work as an entrepreneur in both the media and health verticals led to his launch of Tenweem, the first Islam themed Arabic language hypnotherapy app which has since been rolled into an expanded Mental Health Tech offering under the name Tuhoon.

Suwaidan, Sheikh Dr Tareq

Tareq Suwaidan is the CEO and owner of Gulf Innovation Group in Kuwait, and was the General Manager of Al-Resalah Satellite TV. An entrepreneur and TV personality, his shows rank among the highest in the Middle East. Suwaidan is also prominent as a motivational speaker and author of books on Islam. Suwaidan has over 20 million social media followers and uses the *seerah* as a source for leadership and strategic skills.

PALESTINE

Khanfar, Wadah

Khanfar was at the helm of Al-Jazeera for 8 years as Managing Director and Director General. During that time, the network transformed from a single channel into a media network. During this period, the Arab world witnessed historic transformation, including the Arab Spring. Khanfar, who resigned from the network in September 2011, has been named as one of Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers of 2011 as well as one of Fast Company's Most Creative People in Business of the Year. Khanfar has a diverse academic background with postgraduate studies in philosophy, African studies, and international politics. He is currently the President of Al Sharq Forum.

El-Kurd, Mohammed and Muna

During the most recent crisis in Palestine, the evictions at Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood, Mohammed and Muna El-Kurd were two of the few activists to post daily on social media and keep the world updated. Their message resonated globally and contributed to widespread rallies opposing the relentless continued displacement of the Palestinian people and the Judiasation of Jerusalem. It marked a shift in the media discourse, which managed to connect the current aggression as a continuation of the plight of the Palestinians over the past 70 years. In 2021, Mohammed and Muna El-Kurd were named to *Time* magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Omer, Mohammed

An award-winning journalist, Mohammed Omer has been credited with reporting on the crisis in Gaza for major media outlets including the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, Al-Jazeera, the *New Statesman*, Pacifica Radio, Electronic Intifada, and *The Nation*. He was raised in the Rafah refugee camp and, despite calamities faced by his family—his father was imprisoned, his teenage brother was killed, and his mother was injured in a demolition—he dedicated himself to journalism and reporting on the crisis. He is the recipient of the 2008 Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism. He is the author of *Shell Shocked: On the Ground Under Israel's Gaza Assault*, a book that received testimonials from a wide range of well-known authors, including Noam Chomsky.

QATAR

Al-Ruwaini, Nashwa

Al-Ruwaini worked for Qatar TV and MBC before establishing her own production company, Pyramedia Ltd. Pyramedia is one of the largest and most successful production companies in the region, producing some of the highest-rated TV shows, including the "Million's Poet" and Prince of Poets TV competitions on Abu Dhabi TV, as well as her self-titled "Nashwa" talk show on Dubai TV. *Forbes* listed her among The Top 100 Most Powerful Arab Businesswomen 2020 while the *Hollywood Reporter* selected her as one of the 25 Most Powerful Women in Global TV.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Ibrahim, Waleed bin Ibrahim

Waleed Al-Ibrahim is the Chairman of Middle East Broadcasting Center (MBC). He founded MBC in London in 1991 as the first independent Arabic satellite TV station. In 2003, he launched Al Arabiya, a 24-hour news channel. MBC now includes 11 channels catering to all viewers in Arabic, English, and Persian. In November 2017, he was detained, along with several Saudi princes and billionaires, on an anti-corruption drive. He spent three months at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Riyadh before being released in January 2018. The Government of Saudi Arabia arranged to acquire 60 percent of MBC, leaving the remaining 40 percent of the company in Al-Ibrahim's hands.

Omran, Lojain

Omran is one of the most famous Arab television presenters across the MENA region. She started in shows such as "Ya Hala" and "The Situation with Lojain". Most recently, she hosts the popular show "Good Morning, Arabs!" which is based in Bahrain. She has also worked as a UNHCR Ambassador to refugee camps across the Middle East. She has over 12 million social media followers.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Al-Awadhi, Najla

HE Najla Al-Awadhi is a former Member of Parliament (the Federal National Council) of the United Arab Emirates and a distinguished media pioneer in the Middle East. She is one of the first women in the history of the UAE to become an MP, and also

holds the distinction of being the youngest parliamentarian in the UAE. During her 4-year term in parliament, she served on the Education, Youth, Media and Culture Committee. Najla Al-Awadhi is also the first Arab woman to hold a chief executive post in a state-run media organisation. With a particular focus on television, she served as the Chief Executive Officer of Television Channels at Dubai Media Incorporated.

Al-Kaabi, Noura

Noura bint Mohammed Al-Kaabi was appointed the Minister of Culture and Youth in 2020, having previously been the Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development for the United Arab Emirates since October 2017. She was also the Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs from February 2016 to October 2017. Educated in the UAE and London, she has a broad range of experience and has been recognised for her efforts. As of March 2018 she has been a board member of the UAE National Media Council, Image Nation, the Abu Dhabi Sports Council and the United Arab Emirates University.

Asia

AFGHANISTAN

Mohseni, Saad

Mohseni is a successful businessman, as well as the founder and head of the Moby Group, Afghanistan's largest media company. The Moby Group has interests in television, radio, print, production, online news services, directories, IT&T, and retail. In 2011, *Time* magazine named him one of the world's most influential people.

CHINA

Hoja, Gulchehra

Gulchehra Hoja was a prominent figure in various Chinese media, including producing and hosting the first TV programme in Uyghur for children. With the Chinese crackdown on anything Uyghur, her image was banned on Chinese media and she was forced to flee the country. She has continued to speak out for the rights of the Uyghurs despite huge personal loss: 25 members of her family are currently held in "re-education" camps which aim to remove all traces of Uyghur identity and replace it with the majority

Han culture. This policy extends to those Uyghurs who are also not in camps by having Han Chinese officials forcibly live in Uyghur houses and report on "unChinese" behaviour. In 2020, Hoja received the Courage in Journalism Award by the International Women's Media Foundation.

INDONESIA

Mohamad, Goenawan

Goenawan Mohamad is a writer, editor, activist and award-winning journalist. He is the Founder and Editor of *Tempo* magazine, Indonesia's most widely circulated weekly. His criticisms of the regime resulted in the magazine being forcibly closed twice by President Suharto's New Order administration. He has 1.39 million followers on Twitter.

PAKISTAN

Hamid, Zaid

One of the most influential television and social media personalities in Pakistan, Zaid Hamid is a security consultant and strategic defence analyst by profession. He is also a popular political commentator, former host of a highly popular TV series on geo-politics and Islamic history, and is the founder of Brass Tacks, a Pakistani think tank on global politics. He maintains a huge audience within Pakistani society, with millions of followers on social media, especially among the youth and Armed Forces. In 2015, he was arrested by Saudi authorities while on Umrah because of his opposition to the proposed Pakistani participation in the Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen. He was released shortly afterwards after intervention by the Pakistani army.

Iqbal, Salman

Salman Iqbal owns ARY Digital Network, the largest media network in Pakistan. The network's reach covers Pakistan, the Middle East, Europe, North America, and many other regions of the world. He is recognised as an independent media voice in Pakistan and one of the most powerful and influential media personalities in the Muslim World.

Shakil-ur-Rahman, Mir

Shakil-ur-Rahman is the owner of the Independent Media Corporation, Pakistan's largest media conglomerate. The Geo TV network and Jang Group are both under this umbrella organization. Shakil-ur-Rahman is also President of the All Pakistan

Newspapers Society and the Chief Executive and Editor-in-Chief of the Jang Group, which publishes a number of newspapers and magazines in Urdu and English. Shakil-ur-Rahman was arrested on 12 March 2020 on the allegation of land fraud and was granted bail after eight months.

Europe

UNITED KINGDOM

Ali, Zeeshan (new)

Zeeshan Ali runs the hugely popular “Smile2Jannah” youtube channel as well as other social media platforms. He addresses contemporary topics in a light-hearted way, often showing up geo-political double standards and expressing a layperson’s frustrations with mainstream reporting. His videos combine animation and special effects. Ali made his name alongside others (Muhammad Hijab and Ali Dawah) through debates at Hyde Park Speaker’s corner. His calm demeanour, insights and wit have appealed to many in the global English speaking Muslim community, but especially the youth.

Hasan, Mehdi

Mehdi Hasan is a leading Muslim political journalist whose analysis and comments on contemporary issues find resonance with many Muslims, especially the younger generation. He has worked as Political Editor for *Huffpost UK* and is a columnist and senior contributor at *The Intercept*. He has hosted Al Jazeera English’s “Head to Head” and other weekly interview and discussion programmes. He now hosts his own show, “The Mehdi Hasan Show”, on NBC’s streaming channel, the Peacock, which continues to promote an understanding of events in a wider context and to feature Hasan’s characteristic insightful reporting and probing interviews that hold people in power to account.

Husain, Mishal

Husain has worked as a producer and presenter for the BBC for more than 20 years. As well as being a newsreader for BBC TV and BBC Radio, Husain has hosted high-profile shows which have seen her interview figures such as Boris Johnson, San Suu Kyi, and Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. She has won a variety of awards including the Broadcaster of the Year Award at the London Press Club Awards in

2015. She is a judge for the Amnesty International Media Awards and is an ambassador for the charity Mosaic which supports young people from deprived communities. She has recently written a book entitled *The Skills: From First Job to Dream Job—What Every Woman Needs to Know*, which has been described as “the ultimate handbook for women”.

North America

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mohyeldin, Ayman

Ayman Mohyeldin is an MSNBC anchor, analyst, and morning show host. He has interviewed world leaders, politicians, and diplomats, including President Erdoğan after the failed coup attempt in Türkiye. He reported on DA’ISH in Iraq, Syria, Europe, and Türkiye. He participated in the network’s coverage of the 2016 US Presidential Elections. Mohyeldin was previously an international correspondent. He covered the Euromaidan Revolution in Ukraine, the revolutions of the Arab Spring, and the attacks on the US Consulate in Benghazi, where he was one of the first journalists to report the situation. His coverage of the 2014 Israeli War was widely cited and praised. Prior to joining NBC News, Mohyeldin was a correspondent for Al Jazeera English. From 2008-2010, he was the only foreign broadcast journalist based in the Gaza Strip, and during the 2008-2009 War on Gaza, he was the only American journalist reporting live from Gaza.

Oz, Dr Mehmet

Dr Oz first came to prominence in 2004 with appearances as a health expert on The Oprah Winfrey Show before spinning off and hosting his own hugely popular television. The show focused primarily on medical issues and healthy living and he often drew upon his Turkish heritage when giving advice. It aired its final episode in January 2022. Since then, Dr Oz, a cardiothoracic surgeon and a Columbia University Professor, has moved into politics becoming the Republican nominee for the 2022 United States Senate election in Pennsylvania. He has co-authored, with Michael F. Roizen, 6 *New York Times* best sellers, and has a regular column in *Esquire* magazine amongst others. He has almost 12 million followers on different social media outlets.

Zakaria, Fareed

Fareed Zakaria is one of the United States' foremost public intellectuals. He hosts CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS" and is a *Washington Post* columnist. Prior to this, he was Editor-at-Large for *Time* magazine and Editor of *Newsweek International* and *Foreign Affairs*. His book, *The Post-American World: Release 2.0*, is an expanded version of his international best-seller. In 2013 he became one of the producers for the HBO series "Vice", serving as a consultant.

يَكَادُ الْبَرْقُ يَخْطِفُ أَبْصَرَهُمْ
كُلَّمَا أَضَاءَ لَهُمْ مَشَوْا فِيهِ وَإِذَا أَظْلَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ قَامُوا
لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَذَهَبَ بِسَمْعِهِمْ وَأَبْصَرِهِمْ إِنَّا لِلَّهِ عَلَى
كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

The lightning well-nigh snatches away their sight; whensoever it gives them light, they walk in it; and when the darkness is over them, they stop; had God willed, He would have taken away their hearing and their sight; Truly, God has power over all things.

The Cow, 20

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CELEBRITIES & SPORTS

Middle East and North Africa

EGYPT

Aboutrika, Mohamed

Aboutrika is regarded as one of the best African football players of all time having lifted 28 major titles, including three Africa Cup of Nations titles over his 16-year career. He has also been named UNDP Goodwill Ambassador and is widely followed, having almost 17 million fans on different social media outlets. He has criticised African fans for excessively following European football clubs and for European football not acknowledging African leagues and merely using the talent of their players.

PALESTINE

Assaf, Mohammed

Mohammed Assaf won first place in the popular TV program “Arab Idol 2013” after his final performance of “Ali al-Keffiyeh” (“Raise Your Keffiyeh”), a nationalistic Palestinian song and de facto anthem which has now garnered over 90 million views. Raised in Khan Yunus refugee camp in the Gaza strip, he has become the face and voice of Palestinian youth and the voice of its peoples suffering. Assaf became UNRWA’s Goodwill Ambassador, was named Ambassador of Culture and Arts by the Palestinian National Authority, and was given a position with diplomatic standing by the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. He has over 22 million fans on social media.

TUNISIA

Jabeur, Ons

Jabeur was born and raised in Tunisia, and started her trailblazing tennis career by winning the junior Grand Slam title in 2011, the first for a North African woman. 2022 proved to be somewhat of a breakthrough year in that she reached the final of both Wimbledon and the US Open, but lost both. This propelled her to be ranked number 2 in the world. She has won 3 singles title on the WTA tour.

Sub-Saharan Africa

SENEGAL

Mane, Sadio

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 119

Asia

CHINA

Lei, Wu

Wu Lei was the youngest football player to appear in the Chinese league at the age of 14 and went on to become the all-time top goal scorer for Shanghai SIPG with 169 goals. In 2019 he transferred to Espanyol in La Liga and his debut attracted 40 million viewers in China. He is ethnically Hui, which has a population of around 10 million. They are composed of mainly Muslim Chinese who emigrated from Persia and Türkiye during the time of Mongol rule in China.

MALAYSIA

Yusof, Vivy

Vivy Yusof is an entrepreneur, a fashion icon and a social media influencer with millions of followers. She co-founded the international e-commerce fashion company Fashion Valet and the dCK group, which focuses on hijabs. She has won multiple prestigious awards, including in the fields of entrepreneurship and social media. Her popular show “Love Vivy” which follows her life as a mother, and businesswoman is in its third season.

Europe

DENMARK

Nadim, Nadia

Nadim fled Afghanistan and settled in Denmark where she started playing professional football in

2005. Since then she has represented major clubs in USA, UK and French leagues, winning league titles. She has also played for the Danish national team since 2009, reaching 100 caps in 2022, quickly becoming one of their most important players. In parallel to her sports career, she has continued her medical studies and graduated as a surgeon from Aarhus University in January 2022. She also speaks 11 languages and was awarded the title, UNESCO Champion for Girls and Women's Education, in 2019. Nadia is also the only female football player that is an Ambassador for the FIFA Men's World Cup 2022 in Doha.

FRANCE

Benzema, Karim (new)

Karim Benzema is a French footballer of Algerian origin who plays as a striker for Real Madrid. Benzema started senior football in 2005 in Lyon with his hometown club Olympique Lyonnais. In 2009, he moved to Real Madrid and has been a prolific striker ever since. He has scored over 400 career goals scoring over 320 goals for Real Madrid, second only to Cristiano Ronaldo. Benzema has also been awarded French Player of the Year 4 times by France Football.

Pogba, Paul

Pogba was the most expensive footballer in the world when he moved to Man Utd from Juventus for £89 million in 2016. A talented midfielder, he was part of France's 2018 winning World Cup side and scored in the final. Pogba was born to Guinean parents and is one of a large number of European Muslim football players who rank among the best in the world. He has more than 90 million followers on social media. He has frequently documented his visits to Makkah on social media.

Zidane, Zinedine

Zinedine Zidane is a French footballing legend of Algerian descent. Born in a poor neighbourhood of Marseilles, he went on to become one of the greatest footballers ever, winning all major prizes on the personal, club, and country levels and winning player of the year 3 times. In 2018, Zidane, managing Real Madrid, became the first manager in the history of football to win three consecutive UEFA Champions League titles. A few days after the victory, he resigned as Real Madrid coach. After Real Madrid's poor performance, the following season, Zidane returned and won the La Liga for the second time in his managerial career before leaving again.

ITALY

Lame, Khaby (new)

Khaby Lame is a Senegalese-born Italian who is currently the most followed Tik Toker in the world with over 142 million followers. His TikTok videos are mainly silent and mock overly complicated life hack videos. Although living in Italy since he was 1, he was only granted nationality in 2022 (aged 22). He studied in a Qur'an memorisation school in Senegal for a year when he was 14 years old.

RUSSIA

Nurmagomedov, Khabib

Please read bio in Honourable Mentions page 119

UNITED KINGDOM

Farah, Mohamed

The most successful British athlete ever, Farah won the gold in the 5000m and 10,000m at the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games as well as 6 other global golds. Born in Somalia but raised in the UK from the age of 7, Farah has captured the hearts of the British public with his hard work, success, smile and warm personality. He is a popular role model to follow for people from all over the world, especially in the Muslim world. He was awarded a CBE in 2013 and knighted in 2017, the year he announced his retirement from track running. His winning celebration, the 'mobot' is mimicked internationally.

Hussain, Nadiya

Since winning the BBC's "The Great British Bake Off" in 2015, Nadiya Hussain has gone from being the most famous British baker to being a columnist, author and television presenter. She has produced a popular documentary giving insight into Bangladesh, her country of origin, as well as a TV cooking series. She has become a household name and an instantly recognisable face in the UK, Bangladesh and for Muslims worldwide. She was bestowed the honour of being asked to produce a cake for the 90th-birthday celebrations of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Oceania

NEW ZEALAND

Williams, Sonny

Sonny Williams is an international rugby player and former heavyweight boxing champion from New Zealand. Williams converted to Islam in 2008 and is the first Muslim to play for the legendary All Blacks. In 2013, he was judged the World's Best Rugby League Player at the annual RLIF Awards. He memorably gave away his World Cup winner's gold medal to a young supporter just after the 2015 final.

North America

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Kareem, Abdul-Jabbar

Abdul-Jabbar played basketball for 20 seasons for the Milwaukee Bucks and the LA Lakers before being honoured as one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History. In 2012, he was selected by the Secretary of State to be a US Global Cultural Ambassador and in 2016 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian honour. Abdul-Jabbar is

also a best-selling author of 17 books and is an 8-time Columnist of the Year for his essays in *The Hollywood Reporter*. He has acted in numerous television series and movies including *Airplane*, *Game of Death* and most recently FXs number one rated comedy, *DAVE*. He has also taken on activism in his later years, speaking out against Islamophobia and other forms of social injustice. In 2021, The NBA created the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award. He publishes weekly at Kareem.substack.com.

Tyson, Mike (Malik Abdul Aziz)

Tyson won his first title in 1986 at 20 years old making him the youngest heavyweight champion in history. His dominance in the ring faded as his wild personal life grew out of control leading him to serve 3 years in prison where he converted to Islam. After his release, he went on to regain his WBC and WBA titles, becoming one of the few men to do so. He retired in 2006 and was inducted in both the International Boxing Hall of Fame and the World Boxing Hall of Fame. After his retirement, Tyson went on to publish books and act in television and movies. In 2012, he launched a foundation for troubled youth. Though he has had episodes of controversial behaviour after retirement, his sincerity in trying to uphold the values of his religion and improve himself morally and spiritually inspire millions.

يَوْمَ يَخْرُجُونَ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ سِرَاعًا كَأَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ نُصُبٍ يُوفِضُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾
خَشَعَةً أَبْصَرُهُمْ تَرَهِقُهُمْ ذَلَّةٌ ذُلُّكَ الْيَوْمِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ ﴿٤٥﴾

The day when they will come forth from the graves hastening, as if racing to a target ﴿٤٤﴾ with their eyes humbled, overcast by abasement. Such is the day which they are promised. ﴿٤٥﴾

The Ascending Stairways, 43-44

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TOP EXTREMISTS

Middle East and North Africa

JORDAN



Al-Maqdisi, Abu Muhammad

Abu Muhammad Al-Maqdisi (born Isam Muhammad Tahir Al-Barqawi) is a Jordanian-Palestinian Salafi leader who became a mentor for Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, while they were in prison together. Al-Maqdisi's writings are still a source of inspiration for many Salafi-Jihadis despite his criticism of the extreme violence of Al-Zarqawi and other jihadis. He is especially known for his book in which he declared *takfir* on the Saudi regime. Al-Maqdisi was recently found guilty on terrorism charges and sentenced to 5 years in prison by a Jordanian court.

SYRIA



Al-Julani, Abu Muhammad

Al-Julani is the current Emir and founder of the Syrian militant group now known as Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS). This group was formed in 2017 with the merging of several other militant groups. It is the main force fighting the Syrian regime and until recently was allied to Al-Qaeda. It formally renounced links with Al-Qaeda in July 2016 in an attempt to show that the group is focused on regime change in Syria alone and does not have wider regional goals.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ ❶ لَا أَعْبُدُ
مَا تَعْبُدُونَ ❷ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ
مَا أَعْبُدُ ❸ وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ مَا عَبَدْتُمْ ❹
وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ❺
لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ ❶

Sub-Saharan Africa

SOMALIA

Umar, Ahmad

Ahmad Umar, also known as Abu Ubaidah, has been the Emir of Al-Shabaab since 2014, after US airstrikes killed the previous Emir (Ahmed Abdi Godane). When Umar became advisor to Godane in 2013, he purged Al-Shabaab of its foreign fighters, and oversaw all the domestic policies of the group. Umar adheres to *takfiri* ideology and strives to fulfill Godane's vision for Al-Shabaab. Al-Shabaab still carries out terrorist attacks in Mogadishu, Somalia, despite the presence of thousands of Somali government and African Union troops. They have targeted hotels and resorts as well as Ugandan and Kenyan troops.



Asia

INDONESIA

Bashir, Abu Bakar

Abu Bakar Bashir is an Indonesian Muslim cleric and leader of the Indonesian Mujahedeen Council (MMI). He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment at his third trial in June 2011 on charges of planning and encouraging terrorist operations. In August 2014, he publicly pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, leader of DA'ISH, and his declaration of a caliphate. In 2021, Bashir was released from prison and put onto a deradicalisation programme.



In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Say: 'O disbelievers!

I do not worship what you worship,
and you do not worship what I worship,
nor will I worship what you have worshipped,
nor will you worship what I worship.
You have your religion and I have my religion.

The Disbelievers, 1-6

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وَالسَّمَاءَ رَفَعَهَا وَوَضَعَ الْمِيزَانَ
الْأَتَطَّعُوا فِي الْمِيزَانَ
وَأَقِيمُوا الْوَزْنَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا تُخْسِرُوا الْمِيزَانَ

And He has raised the heaven and set up the balance, ﷻ declaring that you should not contravene with regard to the balance. ﷻ And observe the weights with justice and do not corrupt the balance. ﷻ

The Beneficent, 7-9

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THE OBITUARIES

رَبِّ قَدْ آتَيْتَنِي الْمُلْكَ وَعَلَّمْتَنِي مَا أَرِيدُ
 فَاطِرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنِّي مُسْلِمٌ وَاحِدٌ

My Lord, indeed You have given me of sovereignty and You have taught me the interpretation of events. Originator of the heavens and the earth! You are my Protector in this world and the Hereafter. Take me to You in submission and join me to the righteous

Joseph 12 : 101

Calligraphy by Hasan Kan'an © FreeIslamicCalligraphy.com



Ahmed, Dr Ibrahim Datti

Scholarly

Country: Nigeria

Born: 1936

Died: 30 December 2021

Dr Ibrahim Datti Ahmed was the President-General of the Supreme Council for Sharia in Nigeria (SCSN). A medical doctor by profession, he was also the pro chancellor and chairman of the governing council of Obafemi Awolowo University. He was a disciple of the late Aminu Kano and became known as a sincere Islamic scholar striving for peace and justice on many fronts.



Maarif, Syafii

Scholarly

Country: Indonesia

Born: 31 May 1935

Died: 27 May 2022

Maarif was one of Indonesia's most famous scholars whose political comments regularly attracted significant attention. This former president (1998-2005) of the Muhammadiyah organization was actively involved in interfaith and peace movements both domestically and internationally, largely through his Maarif Institute for Culture and Humanity. In 2008 he was awarded the prestigious Magsaysay Award for guiding Muslims to embrace tolerance and pluralism. He was also recognized for his role in promoting interfaith dialogue and religious harmony at the Habibie Awards. Maarif was also a Prof of history at the National University of Yogyakarta and a productive author and columnist.



Desai, Mufti Ebrahim

Scholarly

Country: South Africa

Born: 16 January 1963

Died: 15 July 2021

A prominent and world-renowned scholar, Mufti Desai had been issuing fatwas in various fields for more than 25 years. He ran the Darul Iftaa Mahmudiyah in Sherwood, Durban – South Africa where he trained students to become muftis. He also issued fatwas through the askimam.org website. He was an Islamic finance expert who served as sharia advisor to various Islamic financial institutions.



Effendi, Sheikh Mahmud

Scholarly

Country: Türkiye

Born: 1929

Died: 23 June 2022

Sheikh Mahmud Ustaosmanoglu, also known as Sheikh Mahmud Effendi, was one of the most popular Islamic teachers in Türkiye. He emphasised the Sunnah and was well-known for having revived many of the Sunnah practices. Sheikh Effendi became a hafiz (one who has memorised the Qur'an) at the tender age of 6. He then started studying Arabic and Persian at first, and then went on to study the Islamic Sciences. Sheikh Effendi was appointed imam of the Ismail Agha mosque in Istanbul in 1954, where he remained until he retired in 1996. Preaching: He

began delivering spiritual and ethical guidance from 1960 following the death of his Shaikh Ali Haydar Effendi. He devoted three weeks per-year to teach people across Türkiye and made several missionary and educational tours in several countries, including Uzbekistan, India, Germany and the United States. He has a Qur'an tafsir (commentary) named Ruhul Furkan in Turkish. He had millions of followers and established various religious, social and charity organisations such as the Marifet Association, the Federation of Marifet Associations and Ahle Sunnah wal Jamaah Confederation.



Al-Nahyan, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed

Political
Country: United Arab Emirates
Born: 7 September 1948
Died: 14 May 2022

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan was the president of one of the fastest-growing nations in the world. Under his leadership, the UAE saw significant economic growth, and the renaming of the Burj Dubai to Burj Khalifa is considered a symbol of Al-Nahyan's financial power. He made substantial donations to many health institutions around the world, and financed a major housing programme in the Gaza Strip. He also inaugurated Warner Bros. Plaza at Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, the first indoor Warner Bros themed amusement park as part of his continued drive to make the UAE a prime tourist destination.



Alemov, Usman
Administration of Religious Affairs
Country: Uzbekistan
Born: 1 January 1950
Died: 15 August 2021

Alemov had been the Grand Mufti of Uzbekistan since 2006. He was respected for his moderate stance and proven record in coping with extremists in the Samarkand region where he was formerly a mufti. Alemov was instrumental in making Tashkent the ISESCO Capital of Islamic Culture for 2007.



Crane, Dr Robert
Administration of Religious Affairs
Country: United States of America
Born: 29 March 1929
Died: 12 December 2021

Dr Crane was the chairman of the Center for Understanding Islam and Muslims, which has produced the influential textbook, Islam and Muslims: Essence and Practice. Between 2012-2015 Dr Crane was a professor in the Qatar Foundation's Faculty of Islamic Studies and Director of its Center for the Study of Islamic Thought and Muslim Societies. Earlier in his career, under President Nixon, he was appointed Deputy Director for Planning in the National Security Council, and under President Reagan he was the US Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, charged with initiating two-track diplomacy with leaders, including Tunisia's Sheikh Rachid al Ghanouchi, in branches of the Muslim Brotherhood.



Edhi, Bilquis
Philanthropy, Charity & Development
Country: Pakistan
Born: 14 August 1947
Died: 15 April 2022

The wife of the late Abdul Sattar Edhi, Bilquis Edhi was a professional nurse and philanthropist in her own right. She ran several non-profit organisations for orphans, widows, and elderly people. Serving the nation for more than 50 years, she was known by the honorific title "Mother of the Nation". In 2015, she received the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice.



Al-Zawahiri, Ayman
Top Extremists
Country: Egypt
Born: 19 June 1951
Died: 31 July 2022

Ayman Al-Zawahiri had been the leader of Al-Qaeda since the killing of Osama bin Laden. Born into a prosperous medical family in Egypt, he completed his medical studies and set up a clinic. In the 1980s he was already part of the Islamic Jihad group in Egypt and was arrested and tortured in prison. He went on to become the leader of Egypt's Islamic Jihad, which he merged into Al-Qaeda in 1998. He emerged as bin Laden's personal advisor and physician. He is often credited with being the "real brains" of Al-Qaeda.



Al-Qaradawi, Sheikh Dr Yusuf

Scholarly

Country: Egypt

Born: 9 September 1926

Died: 26 September 2022

HE Sheikh Dr Yusuf Al-Qaradawi
(9 September 1926 – 26 September

2022) was a man of faith, of courage, of letters, of oration, of the people, and of political and social activism. Declared the third most prominent public intellectual by *Foreign Policy* in 2008, Al-Qaradawi was both intelligent and bold. Such intellectuals are polarizing by nature, and Al-Qaradawi was no exception.

Like the late Queen Elizabeth II, Al-Qaradawi was born in 1926, two years after the dissolution of the Caliphate and two years before the formation of the Muslim Brotherhood. Al-Qaradawi's life spanned the tail end of colonialism, the partition of India, the formation of the State of Israel, repeated Arab military defeat, the Soviet-Afghan War, the fall of the Soviet Union, the 9/11 attacks and the American-cum-Global War on Terrorism, the Arab Spring, the rise and following pariah-status of the Muslim Brotherhood, and Arab-Israeli normalization. The child is father of the man: the global events before and during Al-Qaradawi's life instilled in him a sense of pan-Islamic urgency.

Born in Suft Al-Turab in rural Egypt, Al-Qaradawi's father died when he was just two years old. He was raised by his uncle and, at the age of fourteen, went on to study at Al-Azhar's branch in Tanta. His formative years were spent studying the Sharia; he graduated from Al-Azhar in 1953 and was sent to Qatar in 1962, where he established the Department of Islamic Studies and the Faculty of Islamic Law and Islamic Studies at the Teacher Training College in Doha. Having gained favour with the then-emir of Qatar, Sheikh Ahmad Bin Ali Al Thani, Al-Qaradawi became a Qatari citizen. This was the first step to his role as a global scholar.

Al-Qaradawi's career in the Arabian Gulf exposed him to hardline Salafis, a group with which he engaged respectfully. Being no stranger to controversy, he combined the thought of Ibn Taymiyyah with the traditional madhabist approach taught at Al-Azhar. By this point, he had already established himself as a pan-Sunni theologian. Upon returning to his native, Shafi'i-dominated village after studying at Al-Azhar, Al-Qaradawi would sometimes teach the local community Hanafi dispensations. For his was a way of

fiqh al-taysir, or giving Muslims easier, pragmatic solutions to practicing their religion in everyday life.

Unlike many Arab scholars, Al-Qaradawi's reach spanned far beyond the Arab world and the Western Arab diaspora. His PhD thesis on zakat (1973)—later published as a book and deemed to be the most comprehensive work on the topic—established him as a globally recognized scholar. It was praised by Abul Ala Maududi, who, along with Abul Hasan Nadwi, were sources of influence to Al-Qaradawi. He visited and cooperated with Salafi, Sufi, and Deobandi groups in the Indian Subcontinent, and his scholarship earned the praise of Mufti Taqi Usmani. In 1979, Al-Qaradawi led Maududi's funeral prayer.

Al-Qaradawi established the international Union of Muslim Scholars, a pan-Islamic (including Shia) organization with headquarters in Doha and Dublin. Beyond traditional Muslim lands, Al-Qaradawi was responsible for the establishment of the European Council for Fatwa and Research. He also influenced the Fiqh Council of North America both directly and through his students.

Al-Qaradawi authored 120 books, many in a simple, accessible style. He extended his global reach through www.islamonline.net and Al Jazeera (particularly through the program *Al-Shari'a wal Hayat*), for which he was the de facto religious guide, a rank that he also held with the Muslim Brotherhood.

While Al-Qaradawi's theology polarized sectarians, his role as an advocate of the Muslim Brotherhood was the source of the greatest rift in public opinion regarding him, both among Muslims and non-Muslims. Al-Qaradawi maintained that Muslims were not at loggerheads with the West but had the right to defend themselves against injustices. As per his vision of *wasatiyya* (moderation), he defended Islamic jihad while condemning terrorism. He initially issued a fatwa that permitted suicide bombings by Palestinians against Israelis but later redacted it when circumstances had changed. He was one of the first Islamic scholars to condemn the 9/11 attacks. His support for the Arab Spring and Western-backed regimes would ultimately lead to political antagonism from Egypt (where he was sentenced to death in absentia in 2015), Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Morsi's fall from popularity and the resulting coup brought down the Muslim Brotherhood with it, and Al-Qaradawi's popularity also waned.

Al-Qaradawi is survived by his third wife, four daughters, three sons, and twelve grandchildren. May Allah envelop him in His mercy.

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Nisar Shaikh

Protecting Al-Aqsa Mosque (also known as Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa or Al-Haram Al-Sharif)

by Dr. Wasfi Kailani

STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The direct stakeholders in managing Al-Aqsa Mosque (Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa) are the Hashemite Custodian of the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem, His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein, and His Excellency the President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas. The stakeholders also include the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Endowments, the Hashemite Fund for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, the General Directorate of the Jerusalem Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs, together with its board, the Council of the Islamic Jerusalem Awqaf, in addition to other competent Islamic Palestinian authorities and entities. These include the Islamic-Christian Committee in Support of Jerusalem and its Sanctuaries; the Supreme Muslim Council; the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine, the Supreme Judge of Palestine, in addition to hundreds of entities and Muslim and Christian scholars in Palestine and Jordan.

All these direct stakeholders maintain the firm position that Al-Aqsa Mosque is the entirety of the Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif which is a holy place of worship solely for Muslims and brooks no division or partnership or sharing whether tangibly or intangibly. This position has been stated repeatedly by the Custodian of the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem, H.M. King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein:

We will persist in undertaking our religious and historical responsibilities towards the entirety of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif which suffers repeated incursion attempts by extremists. As Custodian of the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem, I will continue my efforts to protect these Holy Sites and to confront any attempt to violate them or their sanctity and any attempts to divide Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif temporally or spatially.

Our responsibility towards the Islamic Holy Sites in Jerusalem is foremost among our priorities on the international scene. We will use all our capabilities

to defend the entirety of *Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif* which brooks no partnership or sharing or division. We have successfully pushed to get this definition adopted repeatedly before the United Nations and UNESCO. We retain all the political and legal options to confront any violations and to protect the Holy Sites

THE SITE OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE (AL-MASJID AL-AQSA)

The Caliph Omar chose to build on the site of Al-Aqsa Mosque for the following reasons:

- Because it is stated categorically and explicitly in the Qur'an and Sunnah that Al-Aqsa Mosque is a mosque (masjid).
- Glory be to Him Who carried His servant by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Farthest Mosque (Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa); the environs of which "We have blessed, that We might show him some of Our signs. Indeed He is the Hearing, the Seeing" (Al-Isra', 17:1).
- Because Al-Aqsa Mosque was the Muslims' first qiblah (direction of prayer).
- Because Al-Aqsa Mosque is the place where the Prophet Muhammad's miraculous Night Journey (*al-Isra' wal Mi'raj*) occurred and where he led all God's Prophets and Messengers ﷺ in prayer.
- The site was not occupied by any other religious group when the Caliph Omar entered Jerusalem.

It should further be noted that when it comes to the issue of control over holy sites, Islam always respected continuity. This means that Muslims never took control of a holy site if another religious group, whether Christian or Jewish or indeed any other religion, had continuous presence or custodianship over that site. This is seen very clearly from the fact that the Muslims never had any intention of turning the Church of the Nativity into a mosque despite the fact that it was one of the three stations that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ alighted during his Night Journey (*al-Isra' wal Mi'raj*).

Affirming this Muslim position towards holy places, the Caliph Omar refused the invitation to pray

THE DEFINITION OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE (AL-MASJID AL-AQSA)

in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and instead chose to pray just outside the Church. And indeed, the Mosque of Omar still stands on that spot till this very day. When he was asked why he did not pray inside the Church, the Caliph Omar said: “I fear that if I prayed in it, later Muslims would prevail over you in its affair [the Church] and say: ‘Here prayed the Commander of the Faithful.’”

Had the Jews had a presence in Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Caliph Omar would not have built a mosque there. If this indicates anything, it indicates that Muslims—whose faith is incomplete until they believe in all the Prophets and Messengers ﷺ—consider themselves to be the people with the best claim to honouring them. This is because they have always respected the continuity of the worship of the People of the Scripture (*Ahl al-Kitab*) in their houses of worship. Muslims would never expel Christians, who have continuously, and without interruption, cared for the sites of Jesus’ ﷺ birth, crucifixion and ascension, for generations.

It stands to reason that since Islam enjoins kindness to “the people of hermitages” in extenuating circumstances such as war, then this injunction must *de jure* apply in times of stability.

Muslims would not have built a mosque in place of a synagogue or church had either been standing on the land of the Al-Aqsa Mosque at the time of the Islamic conquest of the land of Palestine.

Al-Aqsa Mosque is the name of the holy Muslim place and land inside the walled Old City of Jerusalem of 144 dunums (each dunum = 1000m²) (including all its constructions and buildings) surrounded on all four sides by walls. From the western side it is 491m long, from the east 462m, from the north 310m, and from the south 281m. Al-Aqsa Mosque includes the Dome of the Rock; the Qibli Mosque; Al-Jami’ Al-Aqsa; the Marwani Mosque; the Underground Aqsa; Al-Rahmah Gate; and all the Gates, plazas and courtyards; prayer places; hallways; and historic buildings and constructions within the Haram. It also includes all the mastabas; cisterns; aqueducts; and aquifers and all that is above and below the ground and all the pathways; entryways; and ramps outside that lead to its Gates, including the Gates themselves. It also includes the Buraq (Western) Wall and the pavements in front of the Walls. Al-Aqsa Mosque includes tens of waqf properties, real estate and buildings inside the walled Old City of Jerusalem that are waqf endowments tied to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Al-Aqsa Mosque (aka Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa or Al-Haram Al-Sharif) from the walls of Jerusalem, 1862
Photography by Francis Firt (US Library of Congress)





*Jerusalem before World War Two
Photography by American Colony (Jerusalem), (US Library of Congress)*

THE STATUS QUO OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE (AL-MASJID AL-AQSA)

Al-Aqsa Mosque is an exclusively Islamic Holy Site. Muslims began reconstruction of the Masjid on the land of Al-Aqsa Mosque in 138 CE. This means that this Holy Site has been used as—and declared—an exclusively Islamic Holy Site for almost 1400 years (except the 88 years when the Crusaders held it 1099-1187)

Thus, regarding the Status Quo; non-Muslim prayer is forbidden in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the entry of non-Muslims to it is conditional upon the approval of the Custodian of the Holy Sites and those who represent him on the ground, i.e., the Jordanian Islamic Awqaf Department in Jerusalem.

Exclusivity; not partnership or sharing, is the Status Quo of places of worship in Jerusalem. The current status of the Holy Places in Jerusalem is rooted in the Status Quo which was established over consecutive Islamic Ages when the governing principle of tolerance and coexistence regarding organization of worship was separating the places of worship. The Jews were permitted to worship by the Wailing Wall (which is part of the Buraq Wall) of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and until 1967 CE, the perimeters of their place of worship were 22m long and 3m wide. Permission was granted to the Jews to visit the area of the Wailing Wall, but it should be noted that under a League of Nations Commission in 1931 CE, the Wall and the plaza belong solely to Muslims. It is also important to note that Jordan did not object to these arrangements during the 1949 CE Armistice Agreement.

Following is a brief description of the historic and legal Status Quo since 1852 CE:

1852 CE

The recognized arrangement known as ‘The Status Quo in the Holy Places’ was adopted in 1852 CE when the Ottoman Sultan Abdul-Majid issued an edict (firman) freezing all claims of possession of Christian Holy Places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem by religious communities, thereby forbidding any construction or alterations to occur to their existing status.

1856-1878 CE

This arrangement was internationally recognized at the 1856 CE Conference of Paris (at the end of the Crimean War) and in the 1878 CE Treaty of Berlin (between European Powers and the Ottomans). Article 62 of the Treaty of Berlin states that: “It is well understood that no alterations can be made to the status quo in the Holy Places.” Article 62 extended that arrangement to include all—not only Christian—Holy Places.

1920 CE

Following the defeat of the Ottomans and the partitioning of their Empire after World War I, the British Mandate Authorities in Palestine (1920-1947 CE) upheld the Status Quo arrangement and included Al-Buraq (Western) Wall at Al-Aqsa Mosque and Rachel’s Tomb on the outskirts of Bethlehem.

1928 CE

The first major violation of the Status Quo Arrangement occurred in September 1928 CE, when a group of Jewish worshippers set up chairs at Al-Buraq (Western) Wall to separate men and women performing Yom Kippur prayers, triggering one of the

first periods of significant unrest in Jerusalem. A subsequent White Paper, submitted to the British government in November 1928 CE, reiterated the rights of Muslims to Al-Buraq (Western) Wall. Although unsuccessful in their search for documentary evidence of Jewish rights to Al-Buraq (Western) Wall, the Zionist movement continued to demand its expropriation for the Jews.

1929-1930 CE

Disputes over prayer arrangements at Al-Buraq (Western) Wall escalated. In August 1929 CE, protests turned violent and resulted in dozens of both Jewish and Arab deaths, as well as hundreds of injuries. The conclusions of the subsequent British Inquiry Commission, presented in December 1930 CE, included the following:

To the Moslems belong the sole ownership of, and the sole proprietary right to, the Western Wall, seeing that it forms an integral part of the Haram-esh-Sherif area, which is a Waqf property.

To the Moslems there also belongs the ownership of the Pavement in front of the Wall and of the adjacent so-called Moghrabi (Moroccan) Quarter opposite the Wall, inasmuch as the last-mentioned property was made Waqf under Moslem Sharia Law, it being dedicated to charitable purposes.

King Faisal I of Iraq and King Abdullah I of Jordan meet in Jerusalem 1933

Photography by American Colony (Jerusalem), (US Library of Congress)



1967 CE

Despite the aforementioned, during the 1967 War, Israel forcibly seized control of Al-Buraq (Western) Wall, confiscated the key to Al-Aqsa Mosque's Al-Magharbeh Gate and destroyed Al-Magharbeh Quarter which was located in front of Al-Buraq (Western) Wall. In place of Al-Magharbeh Quarter, a large prayer plaza for Jewish worshippers was created which was gradually extended from an area of 66m² (22m x 3m) to an area of some 6300m² (90m x 70m) and these measures have recently been extended much wider. The Israeli authorities and settlers have also constructed a huge building of Beit Hali-ba while their unilateral covert excavations erased many Byzantine and Islamic remains without proper documentation.

Immediately after the 1967 War, Israel nominally recognized the historical status and religious significance for Al-Aqsa Mosque for Muslims, as well as Jordan's Custodianship of it. Despite this nominal recognition, however, the Israeli authorities have controlled entry into Al-Aqsa Mosque through its Gates ever since and can enter it at will and can allow others to enter it as it pleases. They respected the authority of Jerusalem Awqaf in permitting non-Muslims entry into al-Aqsa until 2000. Moreover, all successive Israeli governments and their police and military forces have attempted to undermine the internationally recognized Status Quo.

1981 CE

International efforts were made to protect the status and integrity of Al-Aqsa Mosque, including through the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 1981, the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site upon the request of the Government of Jordan. In 1982, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger, thereby highlighting the threats and risks to the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its sites. Since then, the World Heritage Committee, its Executive Board and the UNESCO General Conference have taken tens of decisions that call on Israel, as the Occupying Power, to stop its continuous violations against the heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls. Israel, however, continues its efforts to change Jerusalem's pre-1967 Status Quo.

1994 CE

Until the Oslo Accords in the early 1990s of the 20th Century, the Jordanian Awqaf Administration's management of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Waqf properties attached to it was relatively respected and stable. Article 9 of the Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty of 26th October 1994 CE stipulates that: "Israel respects the present special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem" and that "when negotiations on the permanent status will take place, Israel will give high priority to the Jordanian historic role in these shrines."

2000 CE

Over the past few decades extremist Jewish elements have become increasingly more vocal, more powerful and more mainstream. Since the second Palestinian Intifada—which erupted in September 2000 CE after the provocative visit of then Likud opposition leader Ariel Sharon to Al-Aqsa Mosque—and against the wider backdrop of the failure of the Oslo Accords—thousands of Israeli police and soldiers have been deployed in and around the Old City of Jerusalem and its environs (including inside Al-Aqsa Mosque).

2003-2004 CE

During the course of the Second Intifada, Israel constructed a wall in and around East Jerusalem on the pretext that it was necessary for security purposes. On December 8th, 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations requested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an Advisory Opinion on the question of the legal consequences of the construction of that wall by Israel as an Occupying Power. On July 9th, 2004, the International Court of Justice delivered its Advisory Opinion that Israel's construction of the wall is contrary to international law as it impeded the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and further constituted a breach of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights instruments. Israel continues to fail to comply with the ICJ's findings which it is obliged to respect.

2013 CE

In furtherance of the ongoing and ceaseless efforts to maintain the status and integrity of Al-Aqsa Mosque, His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine signed an *Agreement on the Holy Places in Jerusalem*, on March 31st, 2013, that recalled Al-Aq-

sa Mosque's "unique religious importance, to all Muslims."

As for the claims of Jewish extremists and the many Israeli officials in Israel who attempt to describe the Status Quo in Jerusalem as changeable and fluid according to the Occupying Power in the Holy City; this is an occupation theory that subscribes to the law of the jungle and that survival and rule belong to the party that is the more powerful and not the party that has the legal and moral claim. This is in contravention of dozens of international law decisions issued by the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, and UNESCO which state that every single change committed by Israel, the Occupying Power, is null and void and must be revoked. The Occupying Power, Israel, maintained the Status Quo in Al-Aqsa Mosque until the year 2000 CE when Ariel Sharon violently violated the Mosque with force of arms and under the protection of the Israeli police and army. That violation and trespass on the Holy Site became a course of action followed by extremist Jews who continue to violate Al-Aqsa Mosque through force and violence till this very day.

VIOLATIONS OF THE STATUS QUO BY THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES

Incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque by non-Muslims (Jews and others) without the Jordanian Awqaf Authority's approval of, or supervision of the entry permits or the behaviours of the 'visitors'. The number of extremist intruders into al-Aqsa has been increased more than ten times during the last twelve years.

- Enabling hundreds of Jewish extremists to practice Jewish rituals, dance, raise flags, politicize the holy site, shouting insulting and hatred phrases against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) / Muslims / Palestinians inside al-Aqsa.
- Knesset members and political activists were enabled to lead the above-mentioned incitement activities.
- Obstructing the Awqaf Authority's renovation and restoration projects in Al-Aqsa Mosque; interfering in the affairs of reconstruction in the Haram; and the interrogation of experts, employees and officials responsible for reconstruction and renovation.
- Obstructing the entry of Muslims to Al-Aq-

sa Mosque and attempting to prevent them from praying in it; or repeatedly limiting the number of worshippers over the days of the year.

- Covert and overt tunnelling around the perimeters of Al-Aqsa Mosque, particularly on the sides of the western and southern walls of the Mosque.
- Imposing by force building projects that Judaize the perimeters of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the areas of the Umayyad Palaces; the Magharbeh Pathway; the Tel Al-Magharbeh; the Buraq Plaza; Ribat Al-Kurd; and by the southern and western walls of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Israeli Occupation Authorities do this without the Awqaf's permission or coordination with them.
- Converting a number of rooms and tunnels surrounding Al-Aqsa Mosque into Jewish places of worship despite their demonstrably Islamic history; history that was uncovered by Jewish scholars and archaeologists. Examples of this are the Shari'ah Court building, the Tankaz Baths and Khan, and the Umayyad Palaces.
- Repeated violations against employees of the Jerusalem Awqaf by preventing them from undertaking their duties at the Mosque, such as reconstruction; and renovation; serving worshippers and keeping check of the behaviours of non-Muslims who enter it. The violations have extended to the point of hundreds of cases of physical assault and arrest and preventing employees from reaching their place of work and even preventing some employees from beginning their employment.
- Continued daily obstruction of Muslims from reaching and entering Al-Aqsa Mosque through the following measures:
 - ▶ Since Jerusalem fell under Israeli occupation in 1967 CE, most Muslims from around the globe have been deprived of reaching Al-Aqsa Mosque. This deprivation continues for Muslims who perform Hajj and Umrah who have—for centuries—finished their Hajj or Umrah to the Meccan Haram and Medinan Haram by visiting the third Haram in Jerusalem: Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif.
 - ▶ Depriving most of the inhabitants of Palestine from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from reaching Al-Aqsa Mosque, particularly

since the year 2000 CE. The right of access is lacking, particularly for Jerusalemites and Arab Israelis who carry blue identification cards. Indeed, hundreds of men and women have been put on blacklists and denied entry to Al-Aqsa Mosque indefinitely.

- ▶ Israeli Occupation Authorities harass Muslim worshippers (most of whom are women and elderly men) accustomed to attending morning religious instruction sessions held in the plazas of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Israeli Occupation Authorities confiscate their IDs and deny them their rights (and their families rights) to medical care. They also use the tactic of physical intimidation and attacks, in addition to imprisonment. Indeed, the situation has reached the point of not only disrupting Qur'anic recitation sessions but of forbidding them from continuing because they inconvenience the Jewish extremists during their incursions of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- ▶ Confiscating parts of Al-Aqsa Mosque beginning with the Tankaziyyah School and the Omariyyah School since 1967 CE. Muslims have been denied the right of access to them and performing rites there. More recently, Israeli Occupation Authorities have tried to confiscate waqf properties in Bab Al-Ghawanmeh and have confiscated the Ribat Al-Kurd Plaza and turned it into what is termed Al-Buraq Al-Sagheer (Mini Wall). It is one of the Gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Israeli Occupation Authorities also attempted to annex Bab Al-Rahmah through keeping it closed between the years 2003-2019 CE. This very nibbling away itself is a spatial division of the Mosque and a Judaization of parts of it.

NON-MUSLIM VISITORS TO AL-AQSA MOSQUE (AL-MASJID AL-AQSA)

Before 1967 CE and until 2000 CE, the Jordanian Awqaf Administration in Jerusalem used to arrange the entry of non-Muslims—including Jews—to Al-Aqsa Mosque. It used to do so smoothly and without incident. However, in the year 2000 CE; visiting Al-Aqsa Mosque was closed to non-Muslims by the Occupation Police after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's incursion. In 2003 CE Israeli Occupation Authorities reintroduced non-Muslim visitation to

the Mosque and then controlled the procedures organizing entry into it. They allowed non-Muslims to enter without purchasing a ticket of entry from the Islamic Awqaf and without its involvement, approval, or supervision.

The Awqaf reject Jewish incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque even more vehemently now after calls for recognition of a Jewish right to perform religious rituals and Talmudic prayer in Al-Aqsa Mosque and calls for establishing a temple on it. These voices have found support and momentum from Israeli society and the Israeli government through greater election of the extremist Israeli right to the Knesset and the Israeli government.

Indeed, covert and overt prayers have begun to be practiced inside Al-Aqsa Mosque under the cover and protection of the Israeli police and border patrol. It reached its peak in September 2021 and September / October 2022 CE when hundreds of cases of religious rituals were practiced in a short period of time never before seen at Al-Aqsa Mosque. For these reasons Muslims term these 'visits' as violations, incursions, and desecrations of the sanctity of the Mosque and are rejected by Islamic and Christian entities in Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Awqaf Authorities Refuse to Coordinate with the Israeli Occupation Authorities Because it is Coercion

Israeli soldiers threaten Muslim worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque (aka Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa or Al-Haram Al-Sharif), 2022

The Islamic Awqaf reject calling coerced and imposed interference from the Occupation Authorities coordination because it does not respect the Awqaf's exclusive and independent right to administer Al-Aqsa Mosque. Furthermore, the Awqaf Authorities refuse to coordinate with the Israeli Occupation Authorities for the following reasons:

- Coordination in matters related to Al-Aqsa Mosque is in contravention of the Status Quo as it was pre 1967 CE and constitutes an illegal recognition of the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem.
- The Jerusalem Awqaf Authority leaves diplomatic efforts to official Jordanian channels by virtue of the relationship between Jordan and Israel as two states with institutionalized relations since the signing of the 1994 CE Peace Treaty. This is so the Jerusalem Awqaf Authorities can avoid turning into just another Jerusalemite civil society organization under the thumb of the Occupation Authorities. It should be borne in mind that the Jerusalem Awqaf Authorities have repeatedly declared that Al-Aqsa Mosque submits to no one other than God ﷻ and that the institution of the Awqaf is part of the Hashemite Custodianship of the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem.



- The State of Israel has undertaken legal, religious, and official steps to undermine the Status Quo in a manner that both implicitly and explicitly supports the building of a Jewish Temple in place of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Following are some examples of the steps adopted and executed by the Israeli Authorities in their attempts to make Al-Aqsa Mosque subject to the laws of the Occupation:

- In July 2012 CE Yehuda Weinstein, the Israeli Attorney General, informed the Israeli Antiquities Authority's (IAA) legal advisors, the Jerusalem Municipality, and the Israeli Police that the Al-Aqsa Mosque constitutes a part of the land of Israel and therefore the law of Israel, and by extension the Antiquities Law, and the Planning and Construction Law, apply to the Mosque.
- In March 2015 CE, the Israeli Supreme Court recognized the right of Jews to pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- In June 2016 CE, David Lau, the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel said he would like to see the Jewish Temple rebuilt on the Temple Mount (Al-Aqsa Mosque).
- On 14th August 2016 CE, Israeli Deputy Defence Minister, Eli Ben-Dahan, spoke to Jewish crowds gathered for the Temple Mount March and said: "We aren't embarrassed to say it: we want to rebuild the Temple on the Temple Mount."
- When Danny Ayalon was Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, he posted a short video on

his YouTube channel entitled: "The Magic of Jerusalem" which showed the Dome of the Rock magically disappearing and being replaced by a Jewish temple.

- The subject of Jewish prayer in Al-Aqsa Mosque was raised six times in the Israeli Knesset in 2014 CE alone. Arab Knesset members foiled those debates. However, Benjamin Netanyahu's government, for all intents and purposes, allowed Jews to perform prayers and religious rituals in Al-Aqsa Mosque, particularly near Bab Al-Rahmah since early 2017 CE.
- In November 2014 CE, the Israeli Foreign Minister gave out a paper to ambassadors to Tel Aviv in which Al-Aqsa Mosque is incorrectly described as part of the so-called Temple Mount. According to this paper, the Temple Mount contains the Al-Aqsa Mosque; the "third-holiest site in Islam" and the Dome of the Rock; "the fourth-holiest site in Islam (and is not a mosque) and many other small structures." The paper went on to claim that the "Aqsa Mosque with the bronze dome is on the southern edge of the Temple Mount and covers a relatively small part of its area."
- Over the last three decades Israel has directly financed various "Temple Movements" which aim to increase awareness regarding the importance of the "Temple Mount" and rebuilding it tangibly after completing rebuilding the Temple emotionally in place of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Netanyahu and Trump announce the "Deal of the Century"



WHY JORDAN AND PALESTINE INSIST ON NOT USING “TEMPLE MOUNT” NEXT TO “AL-AQSA MOSQUE”

Israel claims that Jordan and Palestine are leading a worldwide campaign to deny the history of the Jewish people by refusing to use the term “Temple Mount” next to the term “Al-Haram Al-Sharif / Al-Aqsa Mosque”, as has been done in UN and UNESCO decisions over the last ten years. Jews lived in Palestine and the Islamic World in peace and harmony for centuries without any denial of their history or rights to secure living and worship. The Zionist Project in the early 20th Century committed consecutive *nakbahs* (catastrophes) against the people, land, and Holy Sites of Palestine. It was then that the balance of power shifted and the demands to recognize the religious and historic rights of Jews were paired with the demand for depriving Palestinians of their rights to land, a state, and Holy Sites that had been preserved for them for centuries. The most important reasons for the rejection of the nomenclature of “The Temple Mount” are:

- The Israeli demand to use the term “Temple Mount” synonymously with “Al-Haram Al-Sharif / Al-Aqsa Mosque” is intended to be a step forward in recognizing a Jewish right to the entirety of Al-Haram Al-Sharif / Al-Aqsa Mosque or to divide it or Judaize it as has been declared in tens of Jewish religious, official, popular, and juridical statements. Jordan and Palestine are certain that the Occupying Power will be able to use its power to Judaize the Holy Site and divide it if Muslims and the world agree to the principle of partnership or sharing whether in terms of nomenclature or in terms of concept. As historian Nazmi Al-Jubeih, Professor of history at the University of Birzeit, asked: “Would anyone in the world accept that the term ‘Temple of Jupiter’ be used next to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre because some archaeologists and historians say that the Church was built in place of the pagan Temple of Jupiter?”
- Using the term “Temple Mount” for “Al-Haram Al-Sharif / Al-Aqsa Mosque” is contrary to the historic, religious, political, and legal Status Quo of this Holy Site.
- Using the term “Temple Mount” in United Nations and UNESCO documents has legal implications on the ground. It would be a de

facto recognition of a Jewish right to worship in Al-Aqsa Mosque. This ultimately means undermining the Status Quo even more and putting Al-Aqsa Mosque and the security of the region and the entire world in real danger because of the religious conflict and chaos which would ensue.

- Al-Masjid-Al-Aqsa / Al-Haram Al-Sharif is land under occupation. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have declared any, and all measures taken by Israel, as the Occupying Power, to change the Status Quo of occupied Jerusalem as invalid.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that the legitimacy of the claim that Al Masjid Al-Aqsa / Al-Haram Al-Sharif is an exclusively Muslim Holy Site is founded upon solid and irrefutable religious, political, and legal evidence. Muslims will continue to believe, as they always have, that Al-Aqsa Mosque is a part of their creed and that it is their first qiblah (direction of prayer). Al-Aqsa Mosque holds a place in Muslim hearts equal to that of the Blessed Ka’aba. Muslims are certain that Al-Aqsa Mosque is in Jerusalem. Muslims are certain that it is their right to access Al-Aqsa Mosque and pray in it; and that it is Palestine’s beating heart, and the centre of its cause and the cause for which thousands of Companions and Companions of the Companions were martyred, in addition to those who fought alongside Salahuddin Al-Ayyoubi. It was for the sake of the liberation of Al-Aqsa Mosque that the battles of Mu’tah, Yarmouk, Ajnadayn, Hattin, and Ain Jalut were fought. In addition to battles fought in the modern era, starting with the Great Arab Revolt in 1916 CE and the 1936 CE Revolution and the battles fought for the liberation of Jerusalem and Bab el-Wad. Palestinians and Muslims will continue to struggle in defence of Al-Aqsa Mosque until it is honoured and dignified once again.

Any change to the historic status, character or function of Al-Aqsa Mosque will be met with public and popular rejection and opposition on the level of the Islamic World; 1.9 billion souls. Any change to the character or function of Al-Aqsa Mosque according to the whims and desires of extremist Jews will lead to a religious war between Muslims and Jews that will most certainly spread beyond the borders of Palestine and will threaten the peace and security of the entire world.

Economics of Growth: An Ecological Conundrum

Fazlun Khalid

As the post-colonial world emerged in the middle of the last century, it left in its wake a host of dismembered traditional societies which for millennia had faith as their anchor and which embraced the natural world as the source of life. The transition to the New World Order was in a sense seamless as the colonial powers offloaded their territories creating secular nation states in their own image. The emerging states were left with institutions defined by the departing powers, the most important of which was the Central Bank whose ability to create money out of thin air sustained the model with debt. Thus was created the umbilical cord that tethered each new state to the departing power and ultimately to the evolving global system.

The mid-20th century world was unrecognisable from the world Iberian sailors opened up in the closing years of the 15th century. This period witnessed the unfolding of one of the major episodic events in human history, resulting in the emergence of a new paradigm in which faith communities no longer held sway. It had taken a mere 500 years, a minuscule amount of time measured against the evolution of the human story, to destroy what faith communities and traditional societies had nurtured for millennia. This left them all adrift and, as one thinker pronounced, caused a psychological shift in allegiance in this period from the divine to the human. This process objectified nature to the extent that sources of life were turned into resources for plunder.

We now face the “triple threat” identified by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution. Climate change is seen as the big issue as it can be felt and experienced by people all over the world. Predictably, there have been serious divisions in the COP (Conference of Parties) process which is the annual negotiating platform for the global community on climate change. COP 26 was held in Glasgow, Scotland in 2021. The term “game changer” on the one hand was used by a politician to proclaim success, and on the other by a scientist to pronounce failure. Whilst numerous NGOs and FBOs (Faith Based Organisations) were demonstrating palpable enthusiasm for change, the oil lobby and big business kept quietly working away at the delegates to keep things as they are. The picture this conjures up in my mind is that of an ever-enlarging hole being dug out

by huge bulldozers driven by the banks and big business whilst a host of people try to fill it up with little buckets. Egypt will host COP 27 in 2022.

Alongside climate change our other major concern is about the decline of biological diversity. We are in the middle of the sixth mass extinction on Planet Earth and it is easy to see now that the roots of this crisis lay in the destruction of the cultural diversity that protected the sources of life. Our efforts to create a better world to live in has been at the expense of other sentient beings as we learn that they are irreversibly woven into the web of life that we too are a part of and upon which we depend. This is not to say that past societies were always benevolent towards nature, and the fact does remain that when they inevitably collapsed the sands covered their traces and the forests grew over them: they were biodegradable. But not so the civilisation we live in today. It is conceivable that archaeologists of the future may not only have to contend with ubiquitous plastic and poisonous chemicals but may need to wear radiation suits in order to explore the debris we have left behind.

As we struggle to make sense of the numerous enormities we have foisted on Mother Earth, it is becoming evident that they are in fact direct consequences of processes emerging from the evolution of modernity. As we chase after progress and development, not only are we destroying Earth's systems but are in the process harming ourselves by ingesting toxic chemicals into our bodily systems that did not exist at the time of our grandparents. This adds up to a new reality: that we now live in a global village viewing existence as a linear continuum of economic progress going right against the grain of the natural world.

Geologists have proposed that we now live in the Anthropocene: the age of the human reflecting the fact that we have now come to be a force of nature. It is suggested by some scientists that this epoch began in the mid-20th century with the emergence of nuclear energy, disposable plastics and the human population boom. Others point their fingers at the industrial revolution. In my view, however, it began with the creation of the Bank of England in 1694. It institutionalised the processes of creating money out of thin air and lending it for a fee (usury/interest), a practice that is strictly forbidden in Islamic teachings. This provides the convenient illusion that there

is more wealth to be had than actually exists in the natural world, a proposition reducing the money we use today to the nature of a virus. This is called “Capitalism”—projecting the idea of abundance for all seen by many as a serious diversion from reality.

The Global footprint network informs us that “Earth Overshoot Day” 2022 fell on 28 July. We are thus living on borrowed time, and for the rest of 2022 will be helping ourselves to the depleting stocks of the Earth’s resources, the lion’s share being sucked up by the richest countries of the world. This reminds us quite clearly of what the Club of Rome demonstrated to us in *limits to growth* way back in 1972. Looked at from this perspective sustainable development needs to be rethought, because in order for the less well-off to meet their needs without a consequent negative impact on Earth systems, those who already have more than enough should accept considerably less. There is some balancing to be done here which is to remind the well-off of their obligations—so policy makers please note. Or is Wall Street too hot to handle?

Traditional and indigenous communities lived in a manner that was integral to nature, and in the absence of scripture the natural world itself was the text. Eastern traditions also had a close affinity with nature, and it was looked upon as a gift from the Creator by all three Abrahamic faiths. All spiritual traditions teach us mindfulness, caring and sharing. However, in today’s world greed has been institutionalised and it is now known as “Consumerism”. Our rituals are incomplete without going shopping. We are now seamlessly becoming green consumers, hooked into social media and trapped by the mobile phone heralding the consolidation of techno-civilisation much to the delight of big business. This is where we hit the buffers of biodiversity. Where will we continue to find the rare earth, the cobalt and the lithium that are going to give us high efficiency batteries that will drive our civilisation? And where are we going to dump these batteries by the ton when they are exhausted?

It is time now to elevate our level of consciousness to another level of reality. There is a space between optimism and pessimism which we need to populate.

This is called “realism” and in a sense it reflects the thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) when he told his followers to plant the seeds in their hands even if they thought the world was coming to an end the next day. What and where are the seeds of hope we must plant today? How can we create a green civilisation and avoid falling into the trap of green consumerism?

How can faith communities trigger changes in a system which is dominant and all-pervasive and not of their own making? Their belated re-entry into the affairs of the world was heralded by the *Assisi Declaration - Messages on Humanity and Nature from Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism*, back in 1986. This was the brainchild of the late Prince Philip when he was president of the WWF international. It triggered many faith-based initiatives, while the next major event in this area of concern was Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si* which emerged in 2015. Currently Muslims scholars are putting together *Al Mizan* [“A Covenant for the Earth”] which is an encapsulation of Islamic perspectives on the environment and is expected to be published in 2022. There are Hindu and Buddhist versions to follow thanks to the initiatives taken by the Faith for Earth division at UNEP.

Whilst science figures prominently in the environmental discourse, the underlying agenda in the give-and-take process is as always economics. All nations have their own individual economic agendas which invariably involves growth and which they are hardly likely to give up. And growth actually means taxing Earth resources which goes contrary to any collective agreement, whether it relates to climate change, biodiversity loss, land, sea and air pollution, or any other subject the international community may choose. There are lessons to learn for all of us from this and what we need is a strong movement that would inject the reality that we need to take less—much, much less—from a finite planet at the expense of our children. This idea in the emerging lexicon of the new economics is represented by “degrowth”. It is still not too late to take this fork in the road—so will Muslim nations lead the way before our present trajectory brings Planet Earth to its knees?

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The Clash of Artificial and Natural Intelligences: Will It Impoverish Wisdom?

Osman Bakar, PhD

INTRODUCTION

This essay covers some of the major issues that arise in contemporary human thoughts following the fast-expanding and problematic interface of natural and artificial intelligences that we have been witnessing during the last several decades. Not only is the interface rapidly expanding, but it is also getting more complex and epistemologically muddier. Moreover, it is sending more signals that it is now venturing into danger zones for human security. The very nature and characteristics of the interface could only mean that more major issues will emerge to haunt the contemporary human mind. We observe that the interface has become more controversial in recent years.

For the purpose of this essay, by natural intelligence (NI) is meant that part of the human person comprising all his cognitive organs, physical and non-physical, together with their respective functions and activities in information gathering and organisation for the purpose of knowledge-processing and acquisition and understanding the mysteries of human language. In Islamic civilisation, NI thus understood is signified by the term *'aql*, which is usually translated as intellect or reason.¹ Interestingly, the same term is used in Islamic philosophy and cosmology to refer to angelic intelligence apparently for the reason that human and angelic intelligences are regarded as of being of the same nature; namely, a form of incorporeal light that is described in theological language as “spiritual”. And by artificial intelligence (AI) is meant humanly created intelligence that seeks to simulate human intelligence in machines by programming them to think like humans and mimic their actions. In short, AI is the name of a programme to create human-like intelligence to the greatest degree of complexity and sophistication possible.

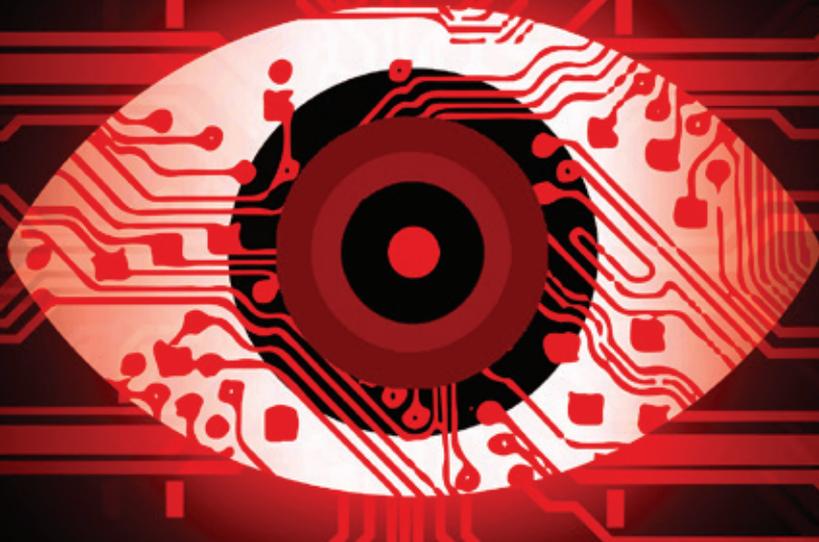
The interface of NI and AI we are now discussing was essentially generated by the encounter of two important developments in postmodern science

and technology. One key development was scientific advances in neuroscience and related disciplines in human biology, particularly in relations to cerebral intelligence, that were enhanced by new biomedical engineering and biotechnological tools. Cerebral intelligence studies have rapidly advanced as a result. The other key development, which is perhaps more important than the first in terms of impact on human beings and their society, is contemporary man's desire to create AI in the image of his own NI. His attempt to exteriorise this desire in societal space, which is essentially driven by materialism in various forms, has already produced visible fruits that invite mixed reactions from individuals and groups and even governments. The first early images of human intelligence on the material plane, albeit only partial and not total, have appeared in the forms of a number of AI technological objects. The present prediction is that it would be only a matter of time before bolder and more sophisticated images of human intelligence will appear in our contemporary material civilisation. What the consequences of such a development would be we can only speculate and conjecture at this point in time.

THE AI AGENDA: THE IDEOLOGICAL DIMENSION

The AI agenda, which is presently pursued with vigour especially in the more scientifically and technologically advanced countries in both East and West, is an outcome of the two key developments I have just mentioned. In a sense, although related, the two developments may be viewed as different from each other in terms of orientation and goal. The main interest in the first line of development is theoretical, meaning the pursuit of scientific research of the human brain with the expressed purpose of deepening man's understanding of his own intelligence. The assumption here is that the brain is the true seat of hu-

1 In Islamic thought, there are non-human forms of natural intelligence. These are animal intelligences and invisible spirits known as *jinn* found in the terrestrial world, and angelic intelligences in the extra-terrestrial world. There is abundant literature on the relationship between animal and human intelligence in both modern science and traditional Islamic thought which, however, study the subject from different philosophical points of view. The relationship between human and angelic intelligences was also extensively discussed in Islamic philosophy and science, but such a discussion is not within the purview of modern science, since supernatural beings such as angels have long been taken out of the Western cosmos. For a detailed discussion of Islamic theory of intelligences, see Osman Bakar, *Classification of Knowledge in Islam* (Cambridge: The Islamic Texts Society, 1998), particularly Chapter 2.



man intelligence and knowledge and the source of his cognitive powers.² The orientation and goal of brain research is towards the progressive enhancement and empowerment of human natural intelligence. Interest in AI, however, is not excluded from this research enterprise, but it is subordinated to the theoretical goal of revealing the mysteries of human intelligence, which is viewed as the essential attribute of human nature or the core of humanness.

The orientation and goal in the other line of development is quite different. It is practical or more precisely technological. It is to create AI in the image of NI in the analogous way that the Abrahamic religious traditions speak of “man as being created in the image of God”. In the latter case, the image is understood to be total. As such, the image of NI has to be total in nature as well. Theoretically, this would mean the creation of AI that would be a replica of NI and that would be as good as it. But the most ambitious of the contemporary technological minds are not content with this envisaged achievement. They harbour the dream of creating AI that would be superior to NI. The idea of the possibility of a future AI being superior to NI is being entertained by them and other prime shapers of the second line of development, because they strongly believe that human evolution will make it happen. In fact, as we shall later see, there are organised voices within the ranks of these prime shapers of AI who are optimistic about the coming of such a technological future.

However, notwithstanding the difference in orientation, goal, and concentration between the two lines of scientific-technological developments, there are common philosophical ideas and issues about intel-

ligence that bind them together, thus meriting their epistemological merger into one greater cultural movement. The common philosophical ideas underlying the concepts of both NI and AI that have been defined are found rooted in the theories of human nature. Both religion and science have a deep interest in human nature, but they differ in their perspectives of understanding this very important subject. Not only are they different in their formulation of fundamental questions about human nature—such as its origin, purpose, development, implications for human behaviour, and significance for the Earth’s planetary ecology—but also in the answers they provide to these questions. These differences explain the multiple and contending theories of human nature that have been borne out of the wombs of religion and science.

But differences aside between the religious and the scientific perspectives in respect of meaning and significance which they confer on human nature, there is convergence in their appreciation of the distinctiveness and centrality of intelligence in human nature. More fundamental still is convergence in their characterisation of self-consciousness and self-discovery as important psychological features that are integral to human nature. Such a view that posits intelligence, self-consciousness, and self-discovery as core features of human nature is especially characteristic of the religion of Islam. Moreover, Islam’s theological perspective on human nature has been consistent in maintaining the idea of the complementary role of science as a source of knowledge to help empower that very perspective. Epistemologically, human nature is perhaps the most fertile ground for a

2 A contending assumption in both science and religion is the idea of the heart as the true seat of intelligence and knowledge. In other words, cardiac intelligence is a more fundamental psychological concept and reality than cerebral intelligence.

productive encounter between religion and science in the history of Islamic thought. In particular, human intelligence has served as an illustrative case of this broad encounter, especially during the most creative phase of Islamic civilisation when the subject was extensively discussed and explored, albeit largely theoretical in nature. Now, in the light of the extraordinary interest in intelligence studies, both natural and artificial, and theoretical and applied, it might be a welcome idea for Muslims in particular to revisit past discourses in their civilisation to gain new insights on the subject.

The classical Islamic discourse on human intelligence may serve as an objective and independent critic of the contemporary AI Agenda, its ensuing controversial debates, and the various projections into the technocratic future of AI. Roberto Paura³ has described some of these future projections as over-optimistic, wish-fulfilment fantasy, and utopian. He is referring in particular to the technocratic utopia of transhumanism, a contemporary cultural and philosophical movement whose ideology is centred on the idea of the feasibility of a technological enhancement of the human body, and thus the emergence of a new type of humanity.⁴ Transhumanism was born in the United States during the 1980s “as a product of the technological revolution represented by the mass distribution of information technology and cybernetics, as well as by the first scientific studies on nanotechnologies”⁵ Transhumanists believe in the future appearance of a post-human species “whose members can theoretically live forever thanks to breakthrough findings in medicine, biotechnology, nanotechnology, computer science and artificial intelligence”⁶ The ultimate goal of transhumanism is nothing less than a total fusion between humans and artificial intelligences. It is “to get rid of hardware by transferring the whole content of our brains inside of supercomputers, so to preserve the software, i.e., our consciousness, untouched”⁷ Arguing from the Islamic perspective, Mahmoud Dhaouadi, a professor of Sociology at the University of Tunisia, upon reviewing the ongoing controversy over AI and NI,⁸ concludes that the two can never be equal, let alone AI

surpassing NI in quality and performance. The main message from the Qur’an, says Dhaouadi, is that “AI can never be equal to NI, for God has not imparted to it His divine breath.”⁹

From the theological point of view, AI will always be inferior to human NI, simply because it is man’s creature. It is against logic and natural law for a creature to be equal to its creator. But man’s desire to create things in his image will always be part of his consciousness, because God has implanted that desire in his nature to permanently remind him of the truth that he has been created in His image. Man’s desire to know everything about his intelligence and to create its replica in physical form is none other than the expression of his self-discovery as an intelligent being who is an image of divine intelligence and as *homo faber* (man the maker) who is an image of God the Maker. In the light of this theological perspective, it may be argued that man’s pursuit of AI has a metaphysical justification and should, therefore, be fully supported. But a counterargument from theology is that perfect human imitation of divine intelligence is to be pursued on the spiritual plane. On the physical plane man’s creation of AI cannot have limitless possibilities, constrained as it were by the laws of biophysics.

THE AI AGENDA: ITS SOCIAL DIMENSIONS, REAL AND IMAGINED

There is no doubt that the desire of contemporary man to create AI to various degrees of sophistication is an important issue for our time. Turning this desire into physical and social reality can have many implications, both positive and negative, for present and future humanity. There are many questions that can be asked about this human desire such as: What is its nature? Why has it surfaced at a particular moment in human history, namely in post-modern times? What is it that motivates and sustains it? And what explains its technological progress?

The scope of this essay does not allow us to address these questions. However, we have at least touched on the appearance of transhumanism and its histor-

3 Alberto Paura is a physicist at the Department of Physics, University of Perugia, Italy and a researcher at the Italian Institute for the Future, Napoli.

4 For an informative article on transhumanism, see Roberto Paura, “Singularity believers and the new utopia of transhumanism”, *Im@go: A Journal of the Social Imaginary*, Number 7 – Year V, June 2016, pp. 23-55.

5 Roberto Paura, “Singularity believers and the new utopia of transhumanism”, p. 23.

6 Roberto Paura, “Singularity believers and the new utopia of transhumanism”, p. 25.

7 Roberto Paura, “Singularity believers and the new utopia of transhumanism”, p. 25.

8 Mahmoud Dhaouadi, “An exploration of the nature of human artificial intelligence and the Qur’anic perspective”, Abdelwahab M. Elmessiri, ed., *Epistemological Bias in the Physical and Social Sciences* (The International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2006), pp.158-173.

9 Mahmoud Dhaouadi, “An exploration of the nature of human artificial intelligence”, p. 173.

ical and technological background, which gives us some insights into the current thinking on the future social space that is expected to be dictated by the progress of AI.

The ongoing interface between AI and NI has thus far aroused mixed responses and assumed a new significance for the world community on which it seems worth reflecting, not least out of our concern for the future of NI itself that has been traditionally accepted as an essential defining element of humanness and humanity. The general concern in the minds of many people, especially those following the discourse, is about the serious implications of the interface for the global socio-economic order. The gulf in economic wealth between rich and poor nations keeps progressively widening, which could only threaten the well-being of the global community. It is to be noted that the current agenda of AI, which is dominated by rich countries that are also the most advanced in science and technology, is motivated by several considerations, including scientific-technological, economic, and political-military. Consequently, this agenda has generated activities of multiple kinds in different sectors of societal life.

There is, first of all, the purely scientific-technological motive directed at the pursuit of AI that would serve as tools of scientific research on NI itself and on extra-terrestrial intelligences. There is also the economic motive, which is mainly interested in the large-scale production of robotic and other forms of AI for commercialisation purposes to serve sectarian economic interests. How we wish that the economic motive is closely tied up to a social motive in the name of the pursuit of AI for the sake of a common social good! But such a joint motive is apparently missing from the agenda of AI. That would leave the impression that the economic interest in AI is mainly dictated by profit-making at the expense of social security, as humans in the job market have to give way to robots. And then there is the political-military motive that is aimed at the creation of the most sophisticated AI-supported weaponry of the day in the name of national security and military superiority such as that which is pursued by the United States.

These various motives have resulted in rapid growths of demands for AI. The expanding scientific and technological applications of AI are increasingly shaping the public view of what is and what is not important for humans to know about NI. In short, contemporary man's appreciation of his own NI is beginning to be clouded if not also devalued by his increasing admiration for AI.

In theory, it is rather strange that we could be entertaining the idea of a clash between AI and NI considering the fact that the source of the former is none other than the latter. But the point is that the clash has become a reality, as may be inferred from various contending positions in contemporary discourse on the interface between the two forms of intelligences. There are several explanations for this clash. For the sake of brevity, I am offering here only one explanation, which I think, however, is the most important. It pertains to the clash of understandings about the respective natures and powers of NI and AI. There would be no clash possible if we always bear in mind that AI owed NI its origin and existence and whatever powers it has received from its human creator. But a clash would occur if we overestimate the worth of AI and at the same time underestimate the worth of NI. I argue that such a condition has already been fulfilled, and hence the clash!

To avoid clashes, it is important for us to be intellectually honest about the fundamental differences between AI and NI that many insist are irreconcilable, and also to refrain from making excessive claims on the potential powers of AI. Intellectual honesty demands from us sound knowledge of the true nature, characteristics, and powers, and developmental possibilities of NI. There is such a thing as the collective treasury of human knowledge about NI drawn from both religious traditions and modern science. Islam would insist on adding Qur'anic ideas on NI to the treasury. It is in the light of the total treasury of knowledge about NI that the contemporary world should pursue the AI Agenda so that destructive conflicts between the two forms of intelligences could be avoided.

It is also important to take note that the contents and dimensions of NI are perceived or understood differently by different groups of scientists, philosophers, and theologians, even if they live and think within the same civilisation. Quite often, we don't mean the same thing when we used the word NI. Thus, when we say that there is a clash between AI and NI, to which conception of NI are we referring? From the Islamic perspective, it may be argued that the human NI that is currently serving as the model for AI is not what is portrayed in its fullness in Islamic and many other religious traditions as well as by many modern psychologists and cognitive scientists, but rather what is believed and understood by proponents of AI who have reduced NI to cerebral

intelligence. The objective model of NI to be emulated in Islam is the prophetic intelligence, which is generally regarded as the most perfect intelligence that is possible for man. This prophetic intelligence that embraces cerebral, intuitive, and cardiac intelligences in their most excellent form may be presented as the best argument against the claim that it is possible to create an intelligent bio-machine that would be superior to human intelligence. After all, the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) is believed in Islam not only as the best human but also as the best of all creatures!

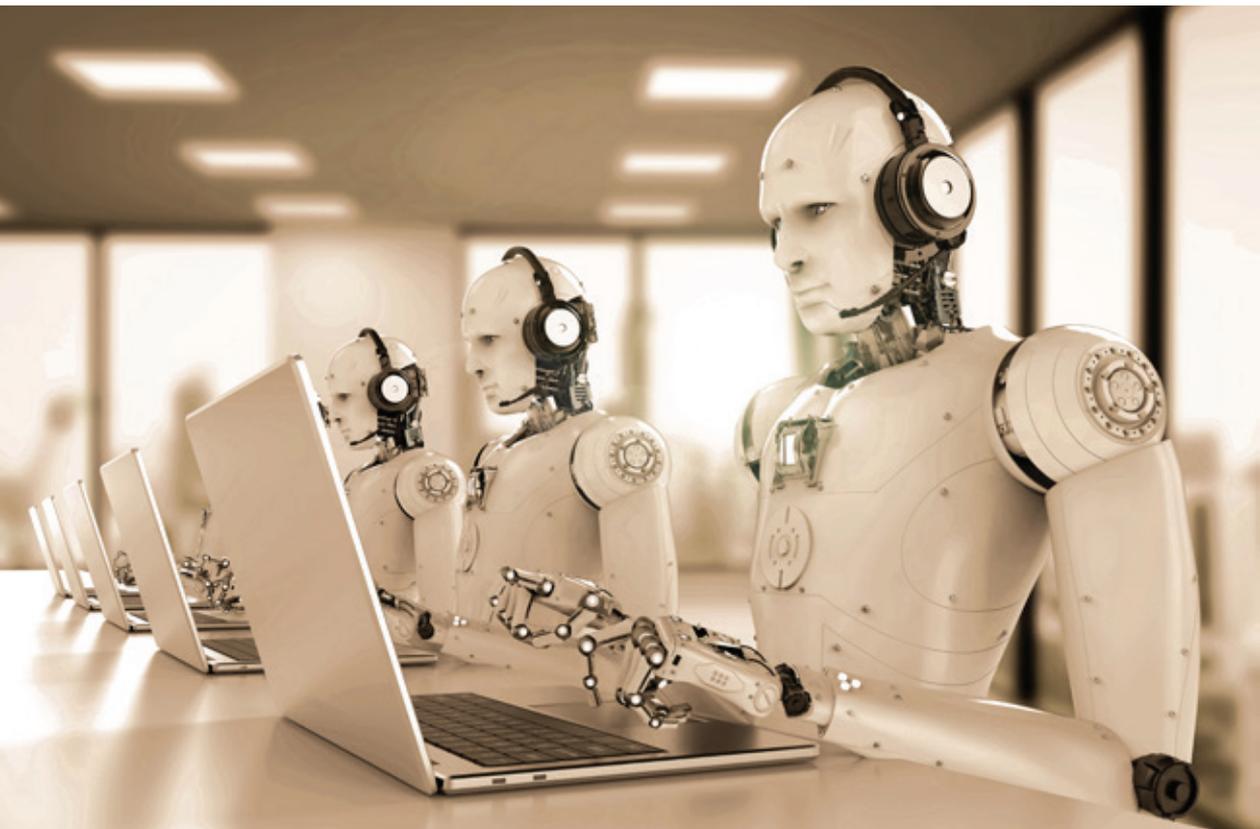
CONCLUSION: ANY FUTURE FOR WISDOM?

Until modern times, wisdom or Qur'anic *hikmah* has been universally extolled as the most excellent form of human knowledge and intelligence. The issue of the future of wisdom in the economy of human intelligence is seen as inextricably tied up to the future of civilisation itself and which, therefore, must be

of due concern to our present and future humanity. In the light of the AI agenda, the future of wisdom is at stake for two main reasons. First, there is growing acceptance of cerebral intelligence as man's highest achievement. This belief would lead to the impoverishment of wisdom, since cerebral intelligence is not its source. Rather, wisdom is identified with intelligence of the heart and of the intellect and with intuition. In short, wisdom will flourish only if higher forms of intelligence are given ample spaces to grow and develop. Second, the popularisation of AI that is pursued at the expense of NI, especially as understood in religion, will further erode man's appreciation of the higher forms of NI that by nature cannot be reduced to logical thinking, be it human or bio-machine.

Consequently, it is imperative to pursue an AI agenda that would not be in destructive conflict with NI. Not only that, contemporary man needs to be reminded of the intelligence that defines his humanness and the role of the prophetic intelligence as the model to be emulated.

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Understanding Difference and Diversity

Shaykh Faïd Mohammed Saïd

All praise be to God Almighty, the One to whom is all glory. We bear witness that there is no God but God. We bear witness that Muhammad is His messenger, peace and blessings be upon him and his family. Blessings are upon his followers and those who enjoin good.

Islam is indeed a religion of peace, justice, moderation, the middle path, and joint peaceful coexistence. There was to be no difference between the rights of Muslims and others as it is the religion of justice. This was the foundation of the community that was established by the Prophet Muhammad in Madinah, a town that included Jews, non-Muslim Arabs, Christians, and others.

At their core the Qur'an and the Sunnah are concerned with relationships among individuals, communities and nations, and the meaning of joint peaceful coexistence between Muslims and others is at the core of Islamic belief. In the Holy Qur'an, God expresses the importance of understanding and tolerance, which elevates the concept of joint peaceful coexistence. This is the approach set by Islam and adopted in dealing with people who do not believe in Islam, as exemplified by the following verses:

"And if anyone of the idolaters seeketh thy protection (O Muhammad), then protect him so that he may bear the Word of Allah, and afterwards convey him to his place of safety. That is because they are a people who know not," [Al-Tawba, 9:6] and: *"and speak kindly to mankind,"* [Al-Baqarah, 2:83].

There are also other verses that point to the nature of relationships with non-Muslims. This is to encourage the raising of generations with honour, and the building of communities that are diverse yet are understanding and tolerant of other traditions. It is such nations that Islam helped to build and ultimately flourish.

A significant development in the world of telecommunications has meant the instantaneous exchange of information among people at incredible speed. Although this has its many benefits, there is also a case of information overload. Thinkers, educators and guardians face challenges in their local environments in trying to search and figure out a solution for relevant concerns that occupy the community. In an increasingly virtual world, people use social media

to interact. This in turn is a big burden and challenge to all those who raise children, whether parents or people who run educational institutions.

When looking at coexistence it is essential to look at the essential principles upon which Islam is based. The practical side of the life of the Prophet Muhammad was based upon principles laid out in the Holy Qur'an that he practiced throughout his life. The mother of the believers Aisha, when asked about the behaviour of the Prophet Muhammad, replied: *"Qur'an was the basis of his behaviour."* God Almighty in the Qur'an speaks of previous nations that were calling for what they do not apply to themselves: *"Enjoin ye righteousness upon mankind while ye yourselves forget (to practice it)? And ye are readers of the Scripture! Have ye then no sense?"* [Al-Baqarah, 2:44].

In addition, the Qur'an states that the origin of all lies in the unity of the human race: *"O mankind! Lo! We have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes that ye may know one another. Lo! the noblest of you, in the sight of Allah, is the best in conduct. Lo! Allah is Knower, Aware."* [Al-Hujurat, 49:13] This verse not only states the original unity of the human race, but also asserts the greatness of such a bond. It is the origin that shall be the basis of dealing with people. God Almighty made different beliefs among people to reflect the diversity of human civilization, which the human shall accept and believe that it is the will of God in order to make us different. As the Qur'an says: *"And if thy Lord had willed, He verily would have made mankind one nation, yet they cease not differing, save him on whom thy Lord hath mercy; and for that, He did create them. And the Word of thy Lord hath been fulfilled: Verily I shall fill hell with the jinn and mankind together."* [Hud, 11:118-119]

God asserts further by saying: *"And if thy Lord willed, all who are on the earth would have believed together. Wouldst thou (Muhammad) compel men until they are believers?"* [Yunus, 10:99]. In another verse, this meaning is reaffirmed: *"Had Allah willed He could have made you one community. But that He may try you by that which He hath given you (He hath made you as ye are). So vie one with another in good works. Unto Allah, ye will all return, and He will then inform you of that wherein ye differ."* [Al-Ma'idah, 5:48]

God shows in these verses that it is not His will to create people as one nation, but He wants to grant each person the freedom and will to worship Him



voluntarily; and by so-doing differences occur that reflect the diversity of human civilisation. Divine laws call for worshipping God and having faith in Him on the basis of searching, thinking, reasoning, and seeing proof without any form of coercion.

Today, the world talks about universal values, global policy, global behaviour, a global economy and global culture. This represents a big challenge in a globalised world. The cultural contributions that have been achieved by immigrants in the West are the best proof of how cultures can mix and benefit one another. The fear of globalisation and its repercussions have subsided as we see these cultures continually evolve, and this can be helped further through interaction and constructive dialogue based on mutual respect.

The Messenger of God built a great society in which he laid down the principles of justice and freedom. He spread the values of tolerance and cooperation and in it elevated the status of good morals to the point that he said, *“The most beloved of you to me and the closest to me on the Day of Resurrection are the ones with the best morals.”*

In our present age, the concept of coexistence has become one of the necessities of life. This is true not only for leaders, politicians, thinkers, writers, and business owners, but also for the entire human race and their societies, with their various groups and religious, sectarian and intellectual affiliations.

COEXISTENCE IN LANGUAGE

Living with each other in terms of language means interaction, and the most supporting proof is in the words of God Almighty: *“And have appointed the day for livelihood.”* [Al-Naba, 78:11] God made the day to interact and deal with the universe, the whole universe, and in His saying: *“And We have given you (mankind) power on the earth, and appointed for you therein livelihoods. Little give ye thanks.”* [Al-A'raf,

7:10] God Almighty prepared the earth in order to facilitate interaction and dealing between people on two basic pillars: benevolence and justice: *“Lo! Allah enjoineth justice and kindness, and giving to kinsfolk, and forbids lewdness and abomination and wickedness. He admonishes you in order that ye may take heed.”* [Al-Nahl, 16:90]

God makes this an important condition in our attempt to get closer to Him: *“and speak kindly to mankind”.* [Al-Baqarah, 2:83] He made one of the characteristics of the true believers turning away from the ignorant and this being one of the symbols of his faithful worshippers: *“and when the foolish ones address them answer: Peace.”* [Al-Furqan, 25:63]

COEXISTENCE AND ITS MEANING:

This is a modern term about which definitions have varied amongst groups or parties that use it. The definition closest to the concept of coexistence in Islam is communication with the other in all forms of interaction, cooperation, and positive constructive integration that stems from charity, kindness, care, an individual and a community. In order to reach that which is in the interests of both parties, religiously and worldly, in the present and in the future, this cooperation helps organise thought, social, political, economic, cultural and education.

CITIZENSHIP

The principle of citizenship is one of the important principles in the cohesion of societies, or between them and the representatives of power. Citizenship in its Arabic linguistic meaning is derived from the word for homeland, which is the house in which you reside, and it is the homeland of a person. Citizenship is from the verb that means being a citizen who participates in the place of residence and birth.

CITIZENSHIP AND ITS MEANING

Citizenship, idiomatically, is the description of a citizen who has rights and duties imposed on him by the fact that he belongs to a homeland. These rights include, without limits, the right to education, health care, and work in a particular homeland. As for duties, they include, without limits, the duty of loyalty to the homeland and defending it, and to perform and excel in work. Accordingly, citizenship is the relationship of the individual to his homeland, which is determined by the constitution and the laws emanating from it, which carry and guarantee the meaning of equality between citizens.

What are the general and important principles that determine coexistence in Islam? It is an important question to address in our minds.

THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF BELIEF

This principle has been emphasised by the Holy Qur'an more than once. God forbids compulsion in religion, saying: *"There is no compulsion in religion. The right direction is henceforth distinct from error. And he who rejecteth false deities and believeth in Allah hath grasped a firm handhold which will never break. Allah is the Hearer, Knower."* [Al-Baqarah, 2:256] God is able to do everything and is able to give people the freedom to choose to say: *"Say: (It is) the truth from the Lord of you (all). Then whosoever will let him believe, and whosoever will let him disbelieve."* [Al-Kahf, 18:29] He affirms that it is among the requirements of the diversity of life that people are part of many nations. He says Glory be to Him: *"Had Allah willed He could have made you one community."* [Al-Nahl, 16:93] This principle is one of the fundamental constants of Islam: *"This is nought else than a reminder unto creation, Unto whomsoever of you willeth to walk straight."* [Al-Takwir, 81:27-28]

Even after the Muslims became powerful in Madinah, God confirmed this meaning in the verse: *"Say: Obey Allah and obey the Messenger. But if ye turn away, then (it is) for him (to do) only that wherewith he hath been charged, and for you (to do) only that wherewith ye have been charged. If ye obey him, ye will go aright. But the Messenger hath no other charge than to convey (the message) plainly."* [Al-Nur, 24:54] Among the freedom of people in their beliefs is the respect for their religions and rituals, and this leads to their respect for Islam and Muslims. Therefore, Islam forbids insulting non-Muslims or insulting their gods:

"Revile not those unto whom they pray beside Allah lest they wrongfully revile Allah through ignorance. Thus unto every nation have We made their deed seem fair. Then unto their Lord is their return, and He will tell them what they used to do." [Al-An'am, 6:108]

THE PRINCIPLE OF RECOGNITION OF OTHERS

Even if we do not see the validity of His belief, God said: *"Unto you your religion, and unto me my religion."* This Chapter in the Qur'an is called "Surat Al-Kafirun", and God began it by saying: *"Say: O disbelievers!"* [Al-Kafirun, 109:1] Despite this, he acknowledged to them that they have their own religion, and God said: *"Lo! those who believe (this revelation), and those who are Jews, and the Sabaeans and the Christians and the Magians and the idolaters... Lo! Allah will decide between them on the Day of Resurrection. Lo! Allah is Witness over all things."* [Al-Hajj, 22:17]

THE PRINCIPLE OF DIALOGUE

You can find this in its finest form and best example, where the Qur'an calls for goodness in dialogue; and if the other offends, God, says: *"And argue not with the People of the Scripture unless it is in (a way) that is better, save with such of them as doing wrong; and say: We believe in that which hath been revealed unto us and revealed unto you; our Allah and your Allah is One, and unto Him, we surrender."* [Al-Ankabut, 29:46] Rather, this is a calling for those who do not improve dialogue and do not find in themselves the scientific competence nor the patience to avoid engaging in dialogue. Great good can be found in this Qur'anic direction to the violator, as God instructs us to follow the best means and beautiful words in addition to the best behaviour in dialogue. It is a calling for dialogue in the most effective form, which is to exaggerate the goodness and make the effort to convey the information through this door into the other person's heart.

BENEFICENCE AND BENEVOLENCE

Unless an enemy fights and declares war, kindness and fairness is stipulated for all: *"Allah does not forbid you from dealing kindly and fairly with those who have neither fought nor driven you out of your homes. Surely Allah loves those who are fair."* Al-Mumtahanah, [60:8]

THE HIGH NATURE OF THE HUMAN RACE TO GOD

Whatever his affiliation, colour, race, or gender, man is honoured by God Almighty: *“Verily we have honoured the Children of Adam. We carry them on the land and the sea, and have made provision of good things for them, and have preferred them above many of those whom We created with a marked preferment.”* [Al-Israa, 17:70] God honoured man by making him a representative on earth.

In the Holy Qur’an, God’s call to people is mentioned by the saying *“O Children of Adam”* in Surat Al-A’raf four times *“O Children of Adam! We have revealed unto you raiment to conceal your shame.”* *“O Children of Adam! Let not Satan seduce you as he caused your (first) parents to go forth from the Garden.”* *“O Children of Adam! Look to your adornment at every place of worship, and eat and drink.”* *“O Children of Adam! When messengers of your own come unto you who narrate unto you my revelations.”* *“And (remember) when thy Lord brought forth from the Children of Adam.”* [Al-A’raf, 7:26] We are all children of Adam, peace and blessing be upon him. In this, there are signs through which it appears that human dignity is linked to the status of Adam and the dignity of his humanity by the Grace of God Almighty, and this can be read from the kindness inherent in this appeal.

THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUITY IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE OF A DIFFERENT BELIEF

Regarding those who quarrel with people who condemn our religion, Allah warns us: *“O ye who believe! Be steadfast witnesses for Allah in equity, and let not*

hatred of any people seduce you that ye deal not justly. Deal justly, that is nearer to your duty. Observe your duty to Allah. Lo! Allah is informed of what ye do.” [Al-Ma’idah, 5:8] *“Unto this, then, summon (O Muhammad). And be thou upright as thou art commanded, and follow not their lusts, but say: I believe in whatever scripture Allah hath sent down, and I am commanded to be just among you. Allah is our Lord and your Lord. Unto us our works and unto you your works; no argument between us and you. Allah will bring us together, and unto Him is the journeying.”* [Al-Shura, 42:15]

THE PRINCIPLE OF CALLING FOR SEARCHING AND PROMOTING COMMON PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Regarding this principle, Allah says in the Qur’an: *“Say: O People of the Scripture! Come to an agreement between us and you.”* [Al Imran, 3:64] The Messenger of God raised his companions on this great principle, and we see that clearly in the dialogue of Jaafar bin Abi Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, and the King of Abyssinia, when the first Muslims migrated from Makkah to Abyssinia and the Quraysh demanded their return. Jaafar bin Abi Talib said,

“Oh King, we were an ignorant people, worshipping idols, eating dead meat, committing immorality, cutting ties of kinship, abusing our neighbours, and the strong among us devouring the weak. We were on that until Allah sent us a Messenger from among us, whose lineage, honesty, trustworthiness, and chastity we know, so he called us to Allah to unite and worship Him, and to cast off the stones and idols that we and our fathers used to worship besides Him, and blood,

Syrian refugees struggle behind barbed wire in Turkey.





Rohingya refugees struggle behind barded wire in Bangladesh.

and forbade immorality, false speech, consuming orphan's money, and slandering chaste women, and commanded us to worship Allah alone and not associate anything with Him, and commanded us to pray, zakat and fasting." He added: "He enumerated the matters of Islam on —so we believed him and believed in him, and we followed him according to what was brought from Allah; so we worshipped Allah alone, and we did not associate anything with Him, and turned away from what was forbidden to us, and made lawful what was permitted to us. When they oppressed us and oppressed us and oppressed us, and prevented us from our religion, we went to your country, and we chose you over anyone else, and we desired to be near you, and we hoped that we would not be wronged by you, O King."

Jaafar bin Abi Talib—may Allah be pleased with him—focused on the common values of honesty, good neighbourliness, abstaining from incest and bloodshed, and other such values. Muslims lived in Abyssinia and coexisted in what was a new society and a different culture. They were able to hold firm to the values that united them and not focus on their differences.

THE PRINCIPLE OF PROMOTING INITIATIVES AND PROMOTING EQUALITY AND ELIMINATING INJUSTICE

The Messenger of God, after he was given the Divine message, was able to penetrate people's hearts. He was a role model who led by example. People knew

him in Makkah in his childhood; they knew his noble morals, fairness to the oppressed, and insistence on always speaking the truth. Subsequently God honoured him with prophethood and he was told to proclaim the message of peace, justice and love.

One day a man from Zabid (a tribe from Yemen) came to the city of Makkah with merchandise. The goods were sold to Al-A'as ibnu Wael, but were not paid. The man was oppressed. The man from Zabid asked for help from the Quraysh, but they did not want to help him. Al-Zubayr bin Abdul Muttalib got up and said, "*Why are we allowing injustice?*" Elders gathered Banu Hashim, Zahra, and Banu Taym bin Murra in the house of Abdullah bin Jadaan. The elders made the Al-Fudhul (Pact of Curiosity) agreement and helped the man from Zabid. They immediately met Al-A'as bin Wael and returned the merchandise to its rightful owner. Even though this happened prior to the proclamation of Islam, the Prophet of God said of the agreement, "*...if I was asked in Islam for something like this, I would have accepted it.*"

THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPASSION AND MAINTAINING DIGNITY AND HUMANITY

It is not possible to build a coexisting society if a large part of that society lives in a state of misery and suffering. This is one of the most important ways of Allah. The Messenger of God, said: "*One who strives to help the widows and the poor is like the one who fights in the way of Allah.*" And: "*I will be like this in Jannah with the person who takes care of an orphan.*"

Imam Ahmad and Al-Bayhaqi narrated from Abu Hurairah, "*A man complained to the Messenger of Al-*

lah—Peace be upon him— of the hardness of his heart, and he said to him: 'if you want your heart to soften, then feed the needy, and stroke the head of the orphan.'”

THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPECTING OTHERS' OPINIONS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

The Messenger of God was keen to prevent dissonance within the community. We see this clearly in the wisdom of not rebuilding the Kaba after Islam had been proclaimed. Sayyidna Aisha—may God be pleased with her—related what the Prophet said:

“O 'Aisha! If the people had not been so close to the pre-Islamic period of ignorance I would have dismantled the Kaba and made two doors, one for its entrance and the other for an exit.”

THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF COEXISTENCE IN THE HISTORY OF MUSLIMS

The basis for this is looking at the biography of the Prophet because God Almighty directed Muslims to follow His guidance and obey His commands and the Mighty one said: *“You have a good example [to mankind] in the Messenger of Allah.”* [Al-Ahzab, 33:21]

FIRST: DEALING WITH THE HYPOCRITES

The Messenger of God had to deal in Makkah with those who did not believe in his message. They showed him hostility and tested him and his companions with all kinds of torment, including verbal and physical abuse, economic and social siege, and forced displacement. But when the Prophet came to Madinah, he faced three types of people whose interests were intertwined and converged in resentment toward him. They were the pagans, Jews and hypocrites. The hypocrites were the ones who pretended to belong to this new religion, yet the faith did not touch their hearts, so they remained in confusion, hesitation and fear. The Quran speaks about the psychological aspect of this group of people and the root of their hostility to this religion—but what concerns us is how the Messenger of God dealt with them. God Almighty said regarding them: *“Lo! the hypocrites (will be) in the lowest deep of the Fire, and thou wilt find no helper for them,”* [Al-

Nisaa, 4:145] and verses of the Quran speak of their reprehensible characteristics, bad morals, and dispositions that involve falsehood which they endeavoured to spread among the people. However, the Messenger of God did not use the certainty of his Lord to kill them or punish them. Rather, he continued to call for the values of the true religion and generally warned against the characteristics of hypocrisy, and treated them outwardly with kindness, to the extent that he did not expose them among his companions so that one of them would not be reckless and expose one of them. Only Hudhaifah bin Al-Yaman, his secretary, told of their names. Abdullah bin Ubayy bin Salul converted to Islam and remained close to the Messenger of God, and the Muslims did not treat him with the crime of his father.

The Holy Quran mentions to us in more than one verse that this group of people posed a serious threat to civil society and harm to the Messenger of God. *“Surely, if we return to Al-Madinah the mightier will soon drive out the weaker,”* [Al-Munafiqun, 63:8] *“And of mankind, there is he whose conversation on the life of this world pleaseth thee (Muhammad), and he calleth Allah to witness as to that which is in his heart; yet he is the most rigid of opponents.”* [Al-Baqarah, 2:204] *“And when he turneth away (from thee), his effort in the land is to make mischief therein and to destroy the crops and the cattle, and Allah loveth not mischief.”* [Al-Baqarah, 2:205] *“And when it is said unto him: Be careful of thy duty to Allah, pride taketh him to sin. Hell will settle his account, an evil resting-place.”* [Al-Baqarah, 2:206]

Here we must stand and look at this emerging state in which the enemies are lurking, and the danger of the existence of the internal enemy is not hidden from anyone, yet the Prophet does not attack them, but rather leaves their affairs to Allah. The one who is able to coexist with the enemy who realises its danger and its apparent hatred, and in the event of war that threatens to eradicate the Muslims, represents the pinnacle of the greatness of that person and the advancement of that society.

DEALING WITH THE JEWS

The interaction of the Prophet of God with the Jews represents the height of tolerance and fairness. Here it is necessary to list some of the established examples of the Prophet's dealings with the Jews.

When the Prophet came to Madinah he was informed that the Jews would fast on the tenth of Muharram in thanks to God for the victory of Mo-

ses, so the Prophet said, “*I am indeed closer to Moses than them,*” and ordered his companions to fast on that day. It is understood from this that the Prophet wanted by this act to teach all people that Muslims revered the victory of Moses, peace be upon him, and his victory was also a victory for them since the message of the Prophets is one.

When the Prophet married Safiya bint Hayyi (the mother of the believers), who was a Jew before her conversion to Islam, and was reproached for being Jewish, he said to her: “*You are the daughter of a prophet, your uncle is a prophet, and you are under a prophet.*” This is an indication that blaming people for their affiliation is not part of the religion at all, as the Messenger of God orders his wife to celebrate her origin and affiliation.

When the funeral of a Jew passed by, the Messenger of God stood up for it, and he was questioned about it, he said: “*Is this not a soul?*”

A Jewish boy who was serving the Prophet of God became ill, and he visited him. The Prophet called him to Islam while he was dying. Here it must be pointed out that the Prophet was not seeking to achieve gains from visiting the patient and conversing with him. He had in fact the best interests of the boy at heart.

The Prophet of God’s shield was mortgaged to a Jew, and this is further evidence of civilised dealings with people of a different faith.

Zaid ibn Su`nah was one of the very notable Jewish scholars of Madinah who lived at the time of the Holy Prophet. The Prophet took a loan from Zaid to help other people in the city and promised to pay it on a certain date. The Prophet of God, who was with Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and a number of other companions—may God be pleased with them—had offered funeral prayers before Zaid came to the Prophet and grabbed him by his shirt. It was two or three days before the due date to repay the debt. Zaid spoke to him angrily and said: “*O Muhammad! Why don’t you pay off my due? By Allah, I know nothing of your family except deferment [on debts]. I know well of your people.*”

At this Umar became extremely angry and said: “*Did you actually just say what I heard you say to the Messenger of God? Did you really just do to him what I saw? By the One Who holds my life in His hand, I would have struck your head with my sword.*” The Prophet, who was looking at Zaid ibn Su`nah quietly and patiently, said: “*O Umar! We don’t need this. I was more in need of your advice to pay off his loan well, and your advice to deal with him courteously. Go with him*

O Umar, pay off his loan, and give him extra because you frightened him.” Umar took Zaid ibn Su`nah, paid off his debt, and gave him an extra twenty *saa*’ of dates. Zaid then asked him for the reason of the increase and Umar replied that the Prophet of God had ordered to give it because Umar had scared Zaid.

Zaid, then asked: “*Do you recognise me, Umar?*”

“*No,*” he said.

“*I am Zaid ibn Su`nah*”

“*The scholar of the Jews?*” Umar asked.

“*Yes, the same one.*”

“*Then what made you behave and speak with the Prophet of God as you did?*” Umar asked.

“*O Umar!*” he replied, “*I recognized all of the signs of prophethood upon seeing the face of Muhammad except two signs that were not immediately evident: One, that his forbearance would precede his rashness, and that his forbearance would increase upon encountering excessive rashness. Now I have recognised these two signs as well. Bear witness, O Umar! I am pleased with Allah as my Lord, with Islam as my religion, and with Muhammad as my Prophet. Also bear witness that I give half of my wealth—and I have plenty of wealth—in charity to the nation of Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him).*”

Umar and Zaid then returned to the Prophet of God and Zaid publicly proclaimed: “*I bear witness that none is worthy of worship besides Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger and I believe in him.*” Thus, Zaid testified to the Prophet Muhammad’s message and took the pledge of allegiance on his hand. Later, Zaid participated in a number of expeditions along with the Prophet and was martyred in the Battle of Tabuk.

DEALING WITH THE CHRISTIANS

The Prophet of God, who is the best example, had huge respect for religious rituals in his dealings with Christians. On the authority of Muhammad bin Jaafar bin Al-Zubayr, when the delegation of Christians from Najran came to the Messenger of God they entered his mosque following the afternoon prayer. When their time of prayer came, they were told they could pray in his mosque. Some people wanted to prevent them, so the Messenger of God said: “*Leave them.*” The Prophet’s treatment of the Christians was based on respect. Their treatment signifies Islam’s teachings relating to religious pluralism in a society with different religious beliefs and practices.

Peaceful coexistence with the other in Islam is a well-established fact confirmed by the texts of the

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Qur'an and Sunnah, and the chapters of Islamic history and its events. Islam guarantees freedom of belief for all people. It is not permissible under any circumstances to force non-Muslims to convert to Islam. It also guarantees the interaction of Muslims with others in sales, trade, and visits, and represents peaceful coexistence in light of the purposes and rules of Shari'ah.

Islam and the teachings of the Beloved Prophet aim to spread the culture of tolerance and moderation in order to achieve coexistence with communities of different nationalities, ethnicities, and sects. In many ways that guarantees a peaceful life that derives its effectiveness from the values, principles and best constants of Islam.

The origin of Islam is peace, not war, and war is not resorted to except in cases of necessity. Disagreement in belief is not a reason for fighting opponents, and aggression by actions is the only logical reason for fighting and self-defense.

The human origin was mentioned by the Prophet in the farewell sermon: *"O people, your Lord is one, and your father is one. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a White has no superiority over a Black nor does a Black have any superiority over a White except by piety and good action."*

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وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ
اللُّسِنِ وَالْوَرَوِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the differences of your tongues and your colours. Surely in that there are signs for all peoples.

The Romans, 22

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The Necessity of Peace Education

Qamar-ul Huda, PhD

Within the field of conflict studies, concepts of debate, nonviolent debate, critical thinking skills curriculum, and fostering the appreciation of diverse perspectives, are interconnected to the field of peace education. As the field of conflict resolution was gaining attention in the 1950s and 1960s, with a heavy emphasis on the rule of law and human rights, scholars like Johan Galtung, in 1969, established the International Peace Research Association (IPRA). Galtung was adamant in the idea that peace needs to be learned, practiced, and reinforced in the educational system. To practice peace or peacebuilding it must be taught at the earliest levels of school for society members to comprehend and practice peace.

Distinguishing between negative peace and positive peace, Galtung asserted that 'positive peace' is a condition where nonviolence, ecological sustainability, and social justice remove the causes of violence. A positive peace curriculum requires both the adoption of a set of beliefs by individuals and the presence of social institutions that provide for an equitable distribution of resources and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

By the mid-1970s the establishment of organizations such as the Stockholm Institute of Peace Research (SIPRI) and the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) and the outstanding work of Galtung, Ruth Sivard's publications on military expenditures, and Peter Wallensteen and Karin Axell's works on the costs of the Cold War illustrated how little resources were allocated toward peace education. The Quaker mathematician Lewis Richardson established precedents for tracking and statistically assessing data for comparative research in peace education.

In midst of the 1980s Cold War, conflict researchers were acutely concerned about the threat of nuclear war, interstate conflict, human rights, mass atrocities, and genocide prevention. In this milieu, new research works produced the stage of peace education. For instance, *Education for Peace by a Norwegian* (Brocke-Utne, 1985); *Comprehensive Peace Education* (Reardon, 1988); and *Peace Education* (Harris, 1988). Specifically, Reardon argued that the core values of schooling should be care, concern, and commitment, and key concepts of peace education was about planetary stewardship, inculcating humane relationships, and global citizenship. Professor Harris proposed the importance of peace ed-

ucation to understand violent behaviour, to develop intercultural understanding, to provide for a future orientation, to teach peace as a process, to promote a concept of peace accompanied by social justice, to stimulate a respect for life, and to end violence. Harris was a proponent of a pedagogy based upon cooperative learning, democratic community, moral sensitivity, and critical thinking skills.

During the same time in November 1998 the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution for the culture of peace and another declaring the year 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace and the years 2001-2010 to be the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World." From this mandate UNESCO developed eight areas of action necessary for the transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace. The first of these is "Culture of Peace through Education" which stated that the only one way to fight violence is with nonviolent education.



Peace education takes on different shapes as educators attempt to address different forms of violence in diverse social, cultural, political, developmental contexts. In countries of the global south where the problems of poverty and underdevelopment cause violence, this form of education has often been referred to as “development education” where students learn about different strategies to address problems of structural violence. In Ireland peace education is referred to as “Education for Mutual Understanding,” as Catholic and Protestant peace educators try to use educational strategies to undo centuries of enmity.

While the field of Peace Education as a discipline and field of study is approximately seventy years old, the academic field has yet to be an established field of study in Muslim majority countries. For a variety of complex reasons ranging from the limitations of ministries of education to make impactful change, the professional training and emphasis on the sciences and mathematics, the inability to reform in higher education, the lack of imagination to expand educational disciplines, and even the xenophobic attitudes among ministers of education that the field of peace education was a western construct incompatible with Arab and Muslim majority societies.

AIMS OF PEACE EDUCATION:

But what exactly is peace education and what are the aims of the field? Peace educators agree that children need formal training in dealing with variety forms of violence and to move beyond the limited moment of violence with interventions. Teachers can create innovative curricula, extra-curricular activities for students to value nonviolent dialogues, and debates to embrace pluralism as an asset to their communities. These peacebuilding activities address the issues of anger management, social perspective taking, decision making, social problem solving, peer negotiation, conflict management, valuing diversity, social resistance skills, active listening, and effective communication to express oneself clearly and succinctly. This education provides students with peace-making skills that they can use to manage their interpersonal and intrapersonal conflicts.

Perhaps the primary aim of the peace education field is to develop to prepare students to be self-aware and to learn to analyse thinking, which means identifying objectives in thinking, the questions being asked, the information being used, the assumptions being taken for granted, the concepts guiding the thinking, reasoning, logic, and supporting evidence.

Teachers stress the need to learn to assess thinking itself by using intellectual parameters such as clarity, accuracy, depth, breadth, fairness, significance, and relevance. It is the aim to develop intellectual traits, such as intellectual integrity, intellectual humility, intellectual perseverance, empathy, impartiality, comprehension, and an intellectual sense of justice.

Courses are designed and executed with a focus on specific skills, concepts, and stories relating to effective ways to handle cultural differences in conflict and peace building fields. With an emphasis on frameworks, skills and approaches to deal with issues of prejudice, bias, bullying, stereotyping, and ethnocentrism in conflict settings, students engage in interactive exercises, role-plays, real-life case studies, and simulations to learn constructive ways of addressing intercultural encounters with experiential learning methods.

A FEW KEY CONCEPTS:

Peace educators are interested in violence prevention to get their students to understand that anger is a normal emotion that can be handled positively. To counter hostile behaviours or the use of violence learned in the broader culture, peace educators believe that the necessity of dealing with violence should utilize alternative narratives, or reframing techniques. Students are taught anger management techniques that help students avoid fights in school and resolve angry disputes in their immediate lives. Acknowledging that images of violence in the mass media are both disturbing and intriguing to young people, and that many of their students live in homes that are violent, it is important to first recognize various forms of violence.

The point of the violence prevention course is to provide young people with alternatives to fighting and thinking that violent force is the primary way to resolve interpersonal and communal conflicts. Teaching students to be peacemakers involves creating a cooperative context that encourages disputants to reach mutually acceptable compromises and not dominate each other. Preventing conflict skills involved recognizing incompatible goals and rising tensions within discussions and role-playing specific methods in deescalating discord with dialogue.

Within Peace education a pedagogy based upon modelling open peaceful democratic classroom practices, discussion, debates, and intense debates. The understanding is that through peace education methods and practices people can develop certain

thoughts and dispositions that will lead to peaceful nonviolent behaviour. Important virtues and dispositions expand upon kindness, tolerance, cooperation, and caring for oneself and for others. While developing such virtues are an important part of peace education, it is not the complete picture. As much as the problems of violence lie in the individual and communities suffering from violent conflict, peace educators advocate people to understand how to live these virtues considering broader social forces and institutions that must be addressed. For example, violence in schools mirrors the violence in society and is exacerbated by the availability of guns, urban and rural poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic abuse- the teaching here is a person can live with virtues of peace despite the existence of institutional violence.

Peace educators use the teaching and learning processes as an act of peacebuilding where students are engaged in modelling and practicing dialogue to emphasize the process allowing for the development and recognition of individuals' voices. In essence, dialogue refers to both a quality of relationship arising, however briefly, between two or more people, and a way of thinking about human affairs highlighting their dialogic qualities.

Fundamentally, every peace educator believes that critical thinking skills is one of the goals of their curriculum. While definitions vary, fostering critical thinking skills is the process of applying reasoned and disciplined thinking to a subject, and is different from the formal transmission of facts and ideas. It involves examining assumptions, identifying hidden values, and assessing evidence to reach conclusions. It is an important element of the peacebuilding curriculum as it helps people understand and resist propaganda or political manipulation.

Among a growing number of researchers there is a consensus to integrate critical thinking across disciplines which can be taught by teachers in various disciplines. It is understood that critical thinking cannot be an abstract philosophical exercise, rather, it needs to be integrated into all curricula. Peace education specialists insist that data reveals that students will thrive as thoughtful good citizens concerned with

the public interest or as global citizens interested in peacebuilding in local communities.

One of the most interesting areas within peace education is to examine, evaluate, and assess their national and global histories critically. They pose questions as to who the authors of history are, how it was recorded, if the information is based upon reliable sources, if there are numerous stories that are unexplored, and if the past needs to be understood with uniformity and without critical reflection. This examination is designed to help students understand how we are shaped by histories based on war, battles, victories, land acquisitions, imperial power, and the struggle between global powers. At the same time, to explore past periods of peace to explore divergent historiographies and narratives.

Cultivating the passion to debate, explore through discussions, critical exchanges as a social learning process, a process that only improves knowledge and skills if only practiced often. Under a thoroughly designed curricula, carefully designed debates are encouraged but students are instructed to identify bias and hatred in arguments. Identifying assumptions of peers, the teachers, and texts are examined; then assumptions are examined for accuracy and context; nonviolent debates and discussions uncover evidence, test generalizations, and identify if examples of evidence are supportive or not. In this manner students learn various methods and styles of debate and critical thinking by teachers modelling them, and repeated practice.

The abovementioned themes sketch out fundamental activities and techniques for debate, dialogue, critical thinking skills to be learned and practiced. The curriculum stresses the importance of teachers modelling debate, dialogue, and critical thinking to demonstrate how it is done effectively and ensure the sequencing is understood properly. Identifying alternative perspectives, self-examination, checking assumptions, and taking informed actions fosters a shared understanding of critical thinking and helps students in various disciplines. It is long overdue for the field of Peace education to be established as an academic study in Muslim majority countries.

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by Nisar Shaikh

THE CURRENT POPULARITY OF MARTIAL ARTS

What connects Khabib Nurmagomedov with the city of Sialkot in northern Pakistan and Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE? There is an unseen yet common thread shared by the renowned Dagestani fighter and these two contrasting cities—something nobody would have guessed.

The Muslim 500 2022 edition saw the introduction of a chapter on Muslim Olympians for the first time, highlighting the growing number of Muslim medallists, their nationalities, and respective sports. Interestingly, 67% of these Olympians medalled at the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics in martial arts.¹ This observation mirrors the increasing popularity of MMA and its associated martial forms, namely Boxing, Muay Thai kick boxing, Freestyle and Greco-Roman styles of wrestling, Sambo, Judo and Jiu-jitsu, and has garnered more followers and practitioners than each of these arts have accrued individually over the last three decades. There also appears to be a noteworthy correlation between increased viewership in MMA—with the top three being Muslim majority countries, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Turkey²—and the highest purchased pay-per-view UFC event in history, UFC229 in 2018.³ At 2.4 million purchases, the event was headlined with a championship bout between an Irishman and a Muslim mixed martial artist. With the number of Muslims engaging in sports on the rise, it seems pertinent to ask: what value does martial arts have in Islam—if any?

Following an intense training session at the renowned Carlson Gracie Team London headquarters in Hammersmith, the conversation between the students and instructors is often heightened by the natural endorphins a tough Jiu-jitsu session releases. All manner of discussion takes place on the wet tatami mats as the humid steam begins to settle from the live

sparring just moments before. It's no holds barred, with the brown and black belts claiming authority in all manner of topics—from politics to religion, nutrition to sex advice—as their more 'naïve' white belts listen on eagerly.

On one particular evening, the conversation was unusually refreshing and nuanced, with a debate on the most valuable contributions to the world of grappling in the 21st century. One instructor, presumably aware that I discuss and write on grappling from an Islamic perspective, said abruptly, "Nothing more than a call to arms, Nisar. Getting ready for that 'holy war', eh?"

I was saddened by yet fully expecting such a narrow-minded, bigoted comment. I batted back that the contributions of Muslim individuals and nations were significant, positive, and far-reaching. I remarked how ridiculous and prejudiced he sounded by suggesting that the Muslim contribution to and interest in martial arts is solely rooted in an apparent "call to arms", when he stood there dressed head to toe in a Jiu-jitsu Gi, belt, rash guard and spats all manufactured in Sialkot, Pakistan.³ Or the fact that Khabib, who he praised as "his favourite MMA fighter", was a practising Muslim and not just "a Russian". Or that what he deemed the "best grappling comp in the world" was indeed founded by a particularly competent Muslim grappler in the UAE.

Among the eighteen sons of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan (b.1918-d.2004)—statesman, philanthropist, and first president of the United Arab Emirates—two of them, namely, Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed, a highly skilled Jiu-jitsu practitioner, and his older brother, Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed, the current president of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi, are credited with the creation of the two major grappling revolutions of the 21st century.

Firstly, through the introduction of what is considered the most prestigious international submission

1 There are eight martial arts at the Olympics: Archery, boxing, fencing, judo, karate, taekwondo, freestyle wrestling, and Greco-Roman wrestling.

2 UFC Viewership Statistics - <https://www.mmahive.com/ufc-viewership-statistics/#:~:text=million%20of%20revenue.,How%20Many%20MMA%20Fans%20Are%20There%20In%20The%20World%3F,7%25%20of%20the%20global%20population>

3 Sialkot is the 13th most populous city in Pakistan. Since 2017, Sialkot has enjoyed renown as a central manufacturing and exporting hub of the Indian Subcontinent, exporting an average of \$3 billion per annum, about 10% of Pakistan's total exports. The city is known as the world's largest producer of combat apparel, producing items from MMA gloves, punch bags and mitts to Jiu-jitsu Gis, wrestling singlets and compression rashguards. Often the sole supplier for major global combat federations, organisations, and events, bespoke and custom designed combat clothing is churned out en masse to meet the huge demand of practitioners around the world. Undoubtedly an impressive contribution to the world of combat sports from a Muslim country.

wrestling⁴ competition, ADCC Submission Fighting World Championships, a grappling competition held every two years, in which professional grapplers of every conceivable grappling style compete amongst each other in what can be considered the “Olympics of Submission Wrestling”. Secondly, through the instituting of Jiu-jitsu, a ground grappling style identical to *newaza* found in Judo, into all schools within the UAE since 2008, in which the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) adopted Jiu-jitsu in the curriculum of public schools.⁵ There are now more than 76,000 students participating in Jiu-jitsu, with regular competitions throughout the year.

Along with the valuable contributions of a developing Muslim nation by clothing the world in combat apparel, and soon after the founding of possibly the greatest grappling competition on earth, comes an unlikely hero from a troubled land. The great-grandson of Muhammad Nur, who assisted the great Imam Shamil (the Dagestani Muslim spiritual and military leader who resisted Imperial Russia’s attempts to annex the Northern Caucasus region in the 1800s), is a courageous fighter, whose legendary rearing as a child included wrestling bears, swimming in the icy rivers of Dagestan and training with elite fighters “until they, and not he, became exhausted and could no longer continue”.

Khabib Nurmagomedov, an undefeated Mixed Martial artist whose dominating and “smashing” style against the best of the world’s fighters, whose humble demeanour and simple post-fight discussions filled with “Alhamdulillah” and “InshaAllah” and unabashed Muslimness provided the Ummah, for perhaps the first time since the great boxing legend Muhammad Ali, a truly pious and endearing role model. For many Muslims, he provides a living example of someone who embodies martial skill yet is wholly committed to his faith, family values and the Prophetic way. Known for his 29-0 undefeated MMA world record, he revived in many not only a return to the Prophetic art of wrestling on the mats, but also provided a model of conduct in the face of racist and anti-Muslim bigotry off the mats. His advocacy of the removal of ring girls in event promotions, extensive charitable work, and desire to give back to his country not only showcased his principled manner,

but challenged the stereotypical image of arrogant, tattooed fighters and caffeine-fuelled drama MMA viewers have become accustomed to.

Far from the suspicions of “radicalisation” laid upon young Muslims who take up physical training,⁶ we are witnessing a far-reaching revival of the martial arts amongst Muslims. From the high velocity throws of Judo, the lightning body slams of Greco-Roman wrestling to the speedy scrambles of freestyle wrestling and the devastating locks of Jiu-jitsu, the Western world is slowly witnessing a growing dominance of Muslim martial artists. But is this something new?

MARTIAL ARTS IN MUSLIM CULTURES

There is a slight amnesia amongst Muslims relating to the martial arts of our pious predecessors. We must not and should not forget the important figure of the Prophet ﷺ; that amongst his many roles as an educator, statesman, spiritual leader, father, and husband, he ﷺ was also indeed a warrior. The Prophet ﷺ was a man of unparalleled martial prowess, with tremendous combative skill and great physical strength. He was a swordsman par excellence, adept in spear fighting, able to tame and ride the wildest of Arabian stallions, taken to archery and a master grappler. Amongst his many miracles are recorded feats of strength, wrestling, and overcoming the strongest men of his time in multiple bouts, his ability to dismantle rock boulders during military excavations and swiftly traversing the desert with walking strides that left his more youthful companions exhausted, watching on as the earth would seemingly fold up for him ﷺ.

His bravery in battle was exemplary; when in the most intense moments of combat his companions took shield behind the Prophet ﷺ himself. Amongst the most courageous and capable companions, his own cousin, Ali ﷺ said “When the situation grew hot, fearfully intense and the fighting fierce, we sought protection behind the Messenger of God ﷺ. None was closer to the enemy than he. I saw him ﷺ on the Day of Badr when we were keeping close to him, and he was the closest to the enemy. He was the bravest person that day.”⁷ Abdullah Ibn Umar ﷺ said “I never saw anyone more courageous,

4 Differs in rules and victory criteria from conventional freestyle or Greco Roman wrestling which are primarily concerned with taking down one’s opponent and pinning their shoulders to the mat. The aim of Submission Wrestling is to end the match by applying a joint lock or choke hold to one’s opponent and forcing them to submit.

5 <https://sportsjournal.io/youth/introduction-to-uae-jiu-jitsu-school-program/>

6 Suhaimyah Manzoor Khan, *Tangled in Terror: Uprooting Islamophobia* (Pluto Press, 2022)

7 Ibn Hanbal, an-Nasai, at-Tabarani, al-Bayhaqi, Muslim has part of it (taken from Qadi Iyad’s *As-Shifa*, p.60)



"The Wrestling Master Is Challenged By His Pupil"
by Mahmud Muzahhib, Bukhara (AH 968/1560-61 AD)

intrepid, generous or pleasing than the Messenger of God ﷺ.⁸ This warriorhood was finely tempered and balanced in his noble person ﷺ; never excessive nor lacking, maintaining the epitome of chivalry and a perfect disposition as a fighter.

Grappling, the wider genre of the more specific art of wrestling, was amongst the dominant martial arts of the Arabs, considered the “King of Sports” and extensively used in unarmed combat at the time of the Prophet ﷺ. Bouts would involve grappling to pin one’s opponent’s shoulders on the ground, and forcing them out of the designated arena with a single or multiple number of falls constituting victory.

With wrestling being the staple of mainly young men across Islamic civilisation, the histories of the various caliphates and Muslim empires are littered with legends of grappling. The Abbasid caliph Amin al-Rashid was known as a man of physical strength and combat who famously wrestled a lion. Years later, the Buyid caliph al-Mustakfi organised wrestling tournaments that were held in public squares along with swimming races in the Tigris River. The Buwayhid, Mu’izz al-Dawla at Baghdad hosted regular grappling bouts:

Wrestling matches of the 4th/10th century held at the bidding of the Buwayhid Mu’izz al-Dawla at Baghdad present a remarkable scene. On the day of the Wrestling competition a tree was set up in the race-course (*maydan*) with prizes containing valuable things hanging thereon and purses of dirhams were also placed at the feet of the tree. The contest continued for hours and the winners received rewards and robes of honour from Mu’izz al-Dawla.⁹

The men and women around the Prophet ﷺ were undoubtedly people given to martial conduct. They led difficult lives of poverty, conflict and confrontation, but maintained a stoic discipline to traditional martial training that not only readied them for war but also elevated their worship to their Creator.

Upon seeing some of the Companions preoccupied in shooting arrows and having not offered their obligatory prayer, another Companion asked the Prophet ﷺ whether it would not

be better for them to pray instead. To this, the Messenger of God ﷺ replied,

“Their busying themselves with the bow is as if it were part of the prayer...”¹⁰

IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF GRAPPLING FOR MUSLIMS

It seems the ‘Eagle’s’ hopeful and timely arrival into the MMA world ruffled a few feathers in the face of what many perceive as the crisis of modern Muslim masculinity. In a recent publication, *Futuwwah and Raising Males into Sacred Manhood*, the notable scholar Imam Dawud Walid penned an Islamically-embedded solution to this problem, first by establishing what he perceives as the main issues surrounding a type of Muslim emasculation:

[There are] an endless array of young men embroiled in ‘arousal addiction;’ instead of undergoing the difficulty of carrying familial and societal responsibilities, men are now content to just engross themselves in endless hours of pornography and video-game addiction. Why bear the nagging of a spouse and the crying of babies when sexual arousal without all that ‘baggage’ is available? This problem has been exacerbated further by the current pandemic with men flocking to social media platforms like OnlyFans for companionship at ever-increasing rates. Suicides, dropping out from education and occupations, increasing rates of obesity, pursuit of criminal activity in gangs, and illegal drug use are many ways in which men in the West, and the East to a lesser degree, are crying out for help.¹¹

This resonates with my own observations as a martial arts instructor, having spent the last ten years teaching grappling within a growing mosque and instructing in Muslim-concentrated communities around the UK. I have had countless encounters with young Muslim men who appear sadly emasculated, immature, and blindly chase vain pursuits. The compound effect of the entrenched racism and Islamophobia prevalent in the UK,¹² anti-Muslim sentiment and negative portrayal in national media

8 Ad-Darami (taken from Qadi Iyad’s *As-Shifa*, p.59)

9 Nisar Shaikh, *Prophetic Grappling* (Beacon Books, 2022)

10 Ibid, p.16

11 Dawud Walid, *Futuwwah and Raising Males into Sacred Manhood* (Imam Ghazali Institute, 2022)

12 Suhaimyah Manzoor-Khan, *Tangled in Terror—Uprooting Islamophobia* (Pluto Press 2022)

along with the disabling effects of pornography and social media addiction, has resulted in a generation of Muslims feeling disenfranchised and disabled. It has become clear to me that one conducive solution would be to combine physical training with an awareness of mental and spiritual rectification.

Whilst “smothering” by well-intentioned mothers has certainly proven to exacerbate this ‘failure to launch’, fathers must also re-evaluate what values and example they are setting to their children. It seems the appearance of the Imam at the Friday prayer—often overweight, sedentary, and seemingly only giving lip service to the Sunnah—is enough hypocrisy for the youth to “check out” of this religion. The rigours of grappling, an emphatic practice of the Messenger of God ﷺ and his Companions, provides a wholesome means to train the entire body, with functional movements strengthening each joint and a cardiovascular workout that is unrivalled.

Grappling, a language of the physical, is like the “verb”, in that it is very much a *doing* art. It inherently teaches the practitioner through a theatrical yet completely improvised live contest (sparring) how to move, what to do and when to do it. A cerebral conversation takes place between the practitioner and his opponent, which after years of sparring, tactile touch, feeling and a deep exploration of the exponential combative situation results in a mastery of the craft, and to some extent yourself.

The grappling arts only but drive intentionality on the part of its proponent, only right action will garner the desired outcome.¹³

In a strange metamorphosis, we witness a positive transformation take place in the young man who may have once walked with a lack of confidence, indecisive in every action or disabled through irresponsibility, but now through the practice of grappling is capable, confident and knows the need to act. Or perhaps it was that arrogated bully, who mistreated the women in his home, showed disrespect to those around him through a false sense of self, that after being continually humbled by much smaller or apparently less capable opponents was forced to concede, check his ego and self-reflect.

There is much to be gained from a physical art that helps to unearth the unsavoury elements within us,

brings about a closeness to true causation, continually challenges the ego and even draws us near to our own mortality.

Nothing is more real in our existence than closely experiencing or contemplating its end. Death is the great leveller, the most certain of matters, the ‘destroyer of pleasures’. And yet it is this closeness of death that compels us to truly live.¹⁴

And once bitten by “the grappling bug”, the practitioner is then further drawn into a wholesome landscape of self-improvement—abstaining from processed junk food, meticulousness in developing one’s strength and conditioning, disciplined immersion in the techniques and drills of a noble art—all of which provide healthy alternatives to modern addictions, substance abuse and indecent habits.

That which inspires one to pursue his highest self, losing himself and human weakness along the way, through complete immersion in a medium; when one cannot be distracted by the world because he has created his own; a more vivid, real existence in the expression of himself through his chosen pursuit.¹⁵

Earnest application of any given Prophetic practice, from daily acts of prayer, personal cleanliness, distribution of wealth or physical activity, with a sincere intention promotes it to the realm of the sacred. It is through this sacredness that hidden wisdoms are revealed, and its practice sustained. It seems one of the wisdoms behind the practice of the Prophetic art of grappling is to provide not only a physical elevation of self, but a sacred and metaphysical elevation.

REFINEMENT OF SELF, REPLACING VICE WITH VIRTUE

Upon looking at his noble person in a mirror, the Messenger of God ﷺ supplicated “*Praise be to God. O God, as you have beautified my form, beautify my character.*”¹⁶ This acknowledgement of the waning of physical attributes and intrinsic connection to one’s character and conduct provides us a subtle indication of perhaps a greater import in the way Muslims participate in sport.

13 Nisar Shaikh, *Microcosm on the Mats* (Unpublished)

14 Ibid

15 Chris Matakas, *On Jiu-jitsu* (Build the Fire Publishing, 2017)

16 *Kitab al Athkar*—Imam Nawawi

It is my contention that such physical disciplines of the Messenger of God ﷺ, when practised conscientiously, with a noble intention and observing one's conduct, can reveal knowledge of self and specifically an awareness of the propensities of the self (*Amrad al-Qulub*). It can serve as a valuable tool in unearthing those unbecoming vices and base inclinations which manifest in the face of true adversity or have remained hidden for years, and immediately turning thereafter to God's guidance and the Prophetic tradition for the remedy.

It would be remiss of us to believe that such physical practices in and of themselves would rid us of these spiritual maladies, of which Islamic scholars contend are at least twenty-five in number.¹⁷

The Day of Judgement is described as, "The day when neither wealth nor children will benefit, save one who comes with a sound heart."¹⁸ A sound heart, free of spiritual defects and blemishes of character, is what our Lord calls us to. This was the principal understanding of the third and final part of the famous hadith of Gibril: "Excellence is to worship God as if you see Him, for if you do not see Him, He surely sees you." (Muslim)

The spiritual heart (as opposed to the physical one) is one acknowledged by nearly all religious traditions. Islam's great libraries are filled with volumes upon volumes written by true masters of the self who articulated the symptomatic features of the sick spiritual heart, the subtleties of each sickness and their remedies through the Quran and the Prophetic way. Ridding oneself of miserliness, envy, ostentation, vanity, covetousness, or anger for instance, requires a degree of concerted study of their signs, symptoms and remedies from the Book of God, Prophetic traditions, and the company of the Righteous. They are subtle and the degree to which one may possess them (or more importantly, remove them) can become more and more granular.

Equally, personal experience has shown me, that alongside the conceptual understanding of these maladies and the observation of the masters of the heart (*Ulama al-Qulub*), there is certainly an unveiling of them through the traditional martial arts. I recall my own experience training in the dojo and how vanity (*'ujb*), or the pursuit of a physical form proved useless in the face of true mastery and skill. The ostentatious posturing (*riya*) on the mats and the bouts of boastfulness (*fakbr*) were unbecoming and in fact, led to an arrogance (*kibr*) and leaving of the martial art in the face of inevitably not being able to fulfil one's brags. As sufficient time passes and knowledge increases a type of miserliness (*bukhl*) sets in, with the self wanting to withhold knowledge of techniques and their consequences. Covetousness in seeking leadership (*sum'a*) is quelled through the demonstration of true authority and deep knowledge of an instructor over superficiality in training. Or maybe a more honest regulation of the deep-seated anger (*ghadab*) remaining uncontrollable within you which is only crushed through true provocation in the dojo. Or even the regular exposure to something that resembled death that led to a relinquishing of the love of the material (*hubb ad-dunya*) and a recognition of the pointless nature of excessively lengthy hopes (*tiil al-amal*) through continual, albeit temporary, exposure to semblances of death and dying found in submission wrestling.

Whilst the reasons for the popularity of martial arts in recent times are numerous, I suspect that the "addiction" of many to the grappling arts, for Muslims and others, is closely tied to this unveiling of the self, an opportunity to rectify those vices and the hope for a sound heart.

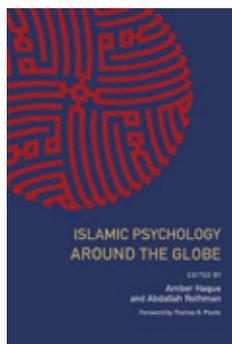
"The mats are honest, even if you're not."

Nisar Shaikh is an avid grappler, having trained extensively in Jiu-jitsu and cross trained in freestyle and Greco-style Wrestling, Judo and Sambo. He holds a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Jiu-jitsu under the Carlson Gracie Team London and has been instructing all levels, from professional MMA fighters to children, for over twenty years. He has also authored *Prophetic Grappling*, a short publication on the history of grappling in the Islamic world and the Objectives of Sports in Islam.

¹⁷ Hamza Yusuf, *Purification of the Heart* (Starlatch Press, 2004)

¹⁸ Ash-Shura-26:88/89

BOOK REVIEWS



Edited by Amber Haque and Abdallah Rothman

Islamic Psychology Around the Globe

IAIP Publishing

Review by Lamya Al-Khraisha

It is evident that psychology and psychiatry are going through a paradigm shift with debates over issues that were once taken as scientific fact such as “The Serotonin Hypothesis” or the “Chemical Imbalance Theory” of mental illness. Psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy is no longer the stuff of pulp fiction, nor is chasing “peak experiences” aided by psychedelics disregarded out of hand now. As these debates have raged over the past few years, in 2021 the International Association of Islamic Psychology (IAIP) quietly published its first book: *Islamic Psychology Around the Globe*.

Edited by Professors Amber Haque and Abdallah Rothman, the book is a collection of 17 essays that examine the development of Islamic Psychology (IP) in 17 countries around the world written by practitioners of IP in those countries. The countries are: Australia; Bosnia; Egypt; India; Indonesia; Iran; Saudi Arabia; Malaysia; Nigeria; Pakistan; Somalia; South Africa; Sudan; Türkiye; the United Kingdom; the United States, and Western Continental Europe. The book charts the history, challenges and prospects of Islamic Psychology in these countries.

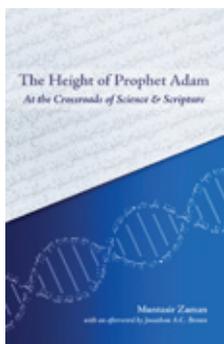
During the Islamic Golden Age, the body of knowledge known in Arabic as *ilm al-nafs* (science of the soul) flourished. Muslim scholars going back to the 9th century wrote about it informed by their knowledge and understanding of the Qur’an and Sunnah. It diminished in significance over time and with the advent of the 19th century, and increasingly over later centuries, the study of be-

havior and mental processes was done through a secular lens.

Over the last 40 years, decolonization of different bodies of knowledge has encouraged Muslim scholars to retrace the roots of sciences back to the classical tradition; this includes Islamic Psychology. The revived field of study and practice of Islamic Psychology has as its foundation an Islamic worldview behind the study of soul which the International Association of Islamic Psychology (IAIP) defines as including the mind, heart, self, and spirit.

The integration of religion, spirituality, and psychology in a thoughtful and sensitive manner, coupled with evidence-based scholarship has been lacking in the study of psychology over the last century. By and large psychology has been a secular field with most psychologists being dismissive of religion and spirituality. Indeed, many psychologists and psychiatrists consider too much interest in these subjects a sign of psychopathology. Thankfully, a sizeable minority of psychologists and psychiatrists, have rejected this view and undertaken quality research and provided evidence-based clinical practice approaches to the integration of religion, spirituality, and psychology.

People who take their religious and spiritual identities and beliefs seriously need well-informed and religiously-minded psychotherapists who can comprehend their worldview in order to serve them better. *Islamic Psychology Around the Globe* serves as a wonderful guide for religiously oriented psychologists and psychotherapists who counsel Muslims in these increasingly troubled and challenging times.



Muntasir Zaman

The Height of Prophet Adam: At the Crossroads of Science and Scripture

Beacon Books

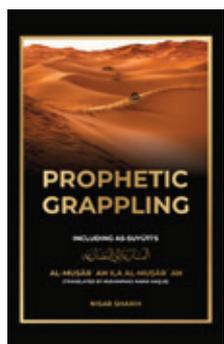
“In this highly learned, wide-ranging, and meticulously researched study, Muntasir Zaman brings the full weight and sophistication of the Islamic

intellectual tradition to bear upon an empirical quandary that, as it turns out, is not an exclusively modern one.”—Carl Sherif El-Tobgui, Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Brandeis University

The conflict between scripture and science is a common source of anxiety for people of faith, and Muslims are no exception. The inability to justify certain matters of Islam in light of current scientific consensus has led some Muslims to doubt their faith. Yet, tension between hadith and other disciplines is not without historical precedent. Since the advent of

Islam, Muslim scholars have ruminated over this conflict and formulated methods to resolve it.

The Height of Prophet Adam: At the Crossroads of Science and Scripture explores scholarly efforts to treat the conflict between hadith regarding Prophet Adam’s height and extant empirical data. What may appear as a straightforward hadith about the father of humankind brings to the fore a web of interconnected disciplines: epistemology, science, archeology, the status of the Sahihayn, the evolution of hadith analysis, and the *isra’iliyyat*. This case study hopes to contribute to two broader conversations: (1) the conflict between science and hadith, a crisis of faith for many Muslims today, and (2) the notion that the scholars of Islam’s rich intellectual history were oblivious to the issues plaguing the minds of modern Muslims.



Nisar Shaikh

Prophetic Grappling

Beacon Books

“An excellent translation of a necessary work whose great benefit is that it shows Muslims who naturally (like myself) love and practise martial sports that

they integrate them into their religious life and indeed benefit from them spiritually.”—HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad

Sport has been a hallmark of every culture throughout history, and Islamic civilisation was no exception. At the time of the Messenger of God ﷺ, noble arts such as Archery, Swordsmanship, Equestrianism and Wrestling were the established sports of the day. But how were these sports practised and what purpose did they serve? What emphasis does Islam place on martial arts?

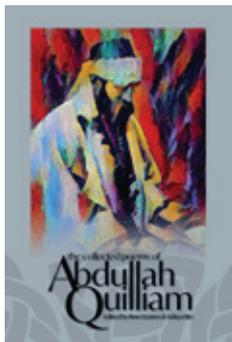
Drawing on hadith literature and classical texts, this short work looks at the art of wrestling as practised by early Muslims, including:

- A brief history of wrestling in Arabia and amongst the Companions

- A translation and commentary on the short treatise by the great 9th century Imam Jalaluddin as-Suyuti’s *al-Musar’ah ila al-Musar’ah* (‘Swiftly to Wrestling’). This is a short collection of eighteen traditions (*hadith*) and sayings (*athar*) of the Messenger of God ﷺ and his blessed Companions, mentioning his ﷺ encouragement of and engagement in the art of wrestling.

- A discussion on the objectives of sports in Islam with excerpts from *Silat al-Riyadati bil-Din wa-Dawruha* (‘The Relation Between Exercise and Religion’) by the late Shaykh Muhammad ibn Alawi al-Maliki (1944-2004).

In a time when sport is heavily commercialised, *Prophetic Grappling* hopes to inspire a new generation to turn to the noble example of the Messenger of God ﷺ and use traditional martial arts as a means of spiritual, as well as physical, growth.



Edited by Ron Geaves and Yahya Birt
The Collected Poems of Abdullah Quilliam

Beacon Books

“A unique and fascinating window into the soul of British Islam in its earliest days.”—Sheikh Abdal Hakim Murad

When William Henry Abdullah Quilliam (1856-1932) declared his conversion to Islam publicly in 1887, he was not content to merely practise his new faith as did other early British converts of the period. Rather, he set about the task of establishing Islam in Britain, starting with his home city of Liverpool. To this end, he established the first mosque community in the UK, and through its various activities converted approximately 250 inhabitants of the city to Islam. He sought ways to establish Islam that chimed with what he saw as the best values of Victorian Britain, and so he promoted the best values of Victorian society as synonymous with Islam. His efforts to promote Islam were recognised by the Caliph, Sultan Abdul-Hamid II, and by Abdur-Rahman, the Amir of Afghanistan, and both bestowed various titles, honours and gifts upon him and his family.

His weekly newspaper *The Crescent*, in which he published much of the poetry in the present collection, ran from 1893 to 1908 and circulated to over eighty nations. Poetry permitted Quilliam to draw upon both British and Eastern literary heritages, sometimes combining both in his poetic endeavours. Some of Quilliam’s poems show yearning for God, others love for nature. There are also poems about historic or topical events, and those that reveal the poet’s affections, including his romantic interests. A good portion of his poetry can be plausibly read as autobiographical: Quilliam often used his poetry to express his deepest feelings about his life, those closest to him, and his faith; as he put it, his “most inmost heart”.

The Collected Poems of Abdullah Quilliam brings together the secular and religious poetry of Abdullah Quilliam in a single volume for the first time. This comprehensive collection covers his entire four-decade poetic output and reveals much about the inner spiritual and emotional life of Britain’s most famous Muslim convert, about the private man behind the public figure.

أَقْرَأُ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

Recite: In the Name of your Lord Who created,
The Clot, 1

© FreeIslamicCalligraphy.com

MAJOR EVENTS

Major Events

2021

OCTOBER

- 1 • The 2020 World Expo in Dubai begins. Its opening was originally scheduled for 20 October 2020 but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3 • Pandora Papers investigation reveals secret wealth of 30 current and former world leaders including Jordan's King Abdullah II, Czech PM Andrej Babis and former UK PM Tony Blair
 - Tropical Cyclone Shaheen makes landfall in Oman and Iran, killing at least nine people
- 4 • Three years worth of rain (14 inches or 300 mm) falls in 12 hours in city of Al Khaburah, Oman, in the wake of tropical cyclone Shaheen
- 7 • Zanzibar born writer Abdulrazak Gurnah is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 13 • 24 year old Rumeysa Gelgi from Turkey confirmed as World's tallest living woman by Guinness World Records at 215.16 centimetres 215.16cm (7ft 0.7in)
- 15 • MP David Amess was stabbed multiple times outside a constituency surgery meeting in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, UK. The attacker, Ali Harbi Ali, was found guilty of murder and preparing acts of terrorism.
- 20 • A double bombing of a Syrian Army bus in the Damascus, Syria. Saraya Qasioun claimed responsibility.
- 21 • Syria's government says it has executed 24 people for starting devastating wildfires in 2020 that killed three
- 24 • The 2021 Uzbek presidential election is held.
- 25 • Sudan's military takes control of the country, dissolving the power-sharing government and declaring a state of emergency
 - Afghanistan to become world's worst humanitarian crisis as nearly 23 million people face acute hunger over winter according to the World Food Program
- 28 • One of world's largest floor mosaics unveiled after restoration at Hisham's Palace (660-750 AD) by Palestinian authorities in Jericho, West Bank
- 30 • The 2021 FIFA Arab Cup is held in Qatar, and is won by Algeria. (November 30 – December 18)

NOVEMBER

- 2 • Jihadist gunman ambush and kill 69 people, including a local mayor in south-west Niger, adding to the 530 killed in 2021 to date
- 7 • Attempt to assassinate Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi through drone attack on his home in Baghdad
- 9 • Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai ties the knot with Asser Malik in an Islamic Nikkah ceremony in Birmingham, England
- 21 • A gunman opened fire on civilians in Jerusalem, Israel, killing and injuring four. He was shot dead by the police. The shooter was a member of Hamas.
- 23 • Egypt reopens its 3000 year old Avenue of the Sphinxes in Luxor with a grand ceremony
- 25 • A suicide car bomb exploded outside a school in Mogadishu, Somalia as an African Union Mission to Somalia convoy drove through. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility.

DECEMBER

- 3 • A bus in the Mopti Region, Mali carrying civilians was attacked by unknown militants, killing 31 and injuring 17. The suspected Islamists shot at the bus and set it on fire.
- 4 • Mt Semeru erupts on Java island, Indonesia, killing at least 14 and injuring 56
- 9 • More than 40 camels disqualified from the King Abdulaziz Camel Festival beauty contest after Botox injections and other cosmetic enhancements were discovered

2022

JANUARY

- 2 • Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok resigns in a televised address amid political deadlock after a rejection of his deal with the military by pro-democracy forces
- 4 • Floods in Indonesia killed nine people.
- 5 • State of emergency declared across Kazakhstan amid unrest and protests against fuel price rises, 164 killed in three days
- 6 • The CSTO deploys a "peacekeeping" mission in Kazakhstan, including Russian paratroopers, following a request by Kazakh president Tokayev.
 - Floods in Oman killed at least six people.
- 8 • A blizzard in Murree, Pakistan killed 23 people.
- 9 • At least 200 people killed and 10,000 displaced by armed bandits in north-western Nigerian state of Zamfara, after military raids on their hideouts, amid continuing struggle for order in the region
- 13 • Landmark conviction of former Syrian intelligence officer Anwar Raslan for state-sponsored crimes against humanity in Koblenz, Germany
- 15 • A British Pakistani man falsely claiming to be the brother of Pakistani prisoner Aafia Siddiqui attacked a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, and held four Jews hostage. The assailant was eventually shot dead during the incident.
- 17 • Houthi rebels attacked the capital of the UAE with a drone due to its participation in the Yemeni Civil War.
- 18 • Indonesia's parliament approves bill to relocate its capital to Borneo and announces new city's name will be Nusantara, (meaning archipelago)
- 19 • Floods in Malaysia, locally called Banjir Shah Alam, caused by Tropical Depression 29W, killed 54 people with two missing and caused over \$4.77 billion (2021 USD) in damage across Malaysia.
- 20 • An IED planted on a motorcycle in a market in the Anarkali Bazaar in Lahore, Punjab, exploded. Three people were killed and 28 injured. A spokesperson for the Baloch Nationalist Army claimed responsibility for the attack. He said the bombing targeted employees of a nearby bank.
- 21 • ISIL gunmen stormed a military base in Diyala Governorate, Iraq, killing eleven soldiers as they slept.
- 21 • Yemen detention centre in Saada held by rebel Houthis bombed killing more than 70 people
- 23 • Heavy rains in Pakistan killed eight people from multiple landslides and building collapses.
- 24 • Coup in Burkina Faso as military announce on TV they have overthrown President Roch Kaboré after his failure to stem an Islamic insurgency
 - 19 die in a fight and a fire at a nightclub in Sorong city, West Papua, Indonesia
- 25 • Militants stormed a security post belonging to Pakistani military in a remote area of Dasht, Kech District in Balochistan. The clash lasted for a few hours and killed 10 security personnel and injured three others. One militant was killed and several others were injured or arrested. The Balochistan Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the attack.
- 27 • Forces of the Jordanian army uncovered a drug-smuggling operation from Syria to Jordan, started after a Jordanian army officer was killed by drug smugglers from Syria earlier in January. Clashes broke out between the drug smugglers and the Jordanian army after the operation was thwarted. 27 drug smugglers were killed by the Jordanian army.
- 30 • Kurdish-led militia and American forces regain control of Sinaa prison in Hasaka, Syria, after a week-long assault by ISIS fighters, with the loss of 500 lives

FEBRUARY

- 2 • More than one million Afghans have fled the country for Iran since October due to the country's economic crisis, according to immigration authorities threatening a new migrant crisis
 - Twelve people died from hypothermia in Turkey, during a cold wave.

- 3 • ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi blows himself and his family up during a raid by US Special Forces in Syria
- 5 • Body of five-year old Moroccan boy Rayan Oram retrieved from the well he fell down four days previously after huge rescue effort
- 7 • An avalanche killed 19 people in Afghanistan.
- 8 • Horn of Africa with 13 million people now facing humanitarian crisis amid drought where the rainy season has failed three years in a row, according to UN World Food Program
- 9 • Nearly four million bottles of beer destroyed in large crackdown on alcohol in northern Nigerian state of Kano, where alcohol prohibited under Sharia law
- 12 • French forces say they have killed 40 fighters in air attacks in Burkina Faso linked to deadly attacks on Benin border
- 15 • A series of floods in Indonesia killed one person and affected over 10,000 people.
- 17 • 28,000 women apply for 30 jobs driving trains after they are advertised for women in Saudi Arabia for the first time
- 21 • 60 people die in an explosion at an unregulated gold mine near Gaoua, Burkina Faso
- 22 • The Museum of the Future designed by Killa Design architecture studio and engineered by Buro Happold opened to public in Dubai.
- 24 • 6 Syrian soldiers were killed after Israel launched airstrikes targeting Syrian army positions near Damascus, Syria.
- Zahir Zakir Jaffer sentenced to death in Islamabad, Pakistan for the rape, murder and beheading of Noor Muqaddam after she refused to marry him, highlighting violence towards women in the country

MARCH

- 2 • A bomb exploded near a police van in Quetta, Pakistan. Three people, including a superintendent deputy of the police, were killed and 24 people were injured.
- 4 • Suspected suicide bomb attack on a Shia mosque in Pakistani city of Peshawar kills at least 56 and injures 190
- 5 • Two Syrian civilians were killed by an Israeli missile attack on a Syrian military position near Damascus according to the Syrian Ministry of Defence. Iran later announced that two IRGC colonels, Ehsan Karbalaipour and Morteza Saeednejad, had been killed in the attack and that “Undoubtedly, the Zionist regime will pay for this crime”.
- 10 • Five well-decorated ancient tombs found at the Saqqara necropolis were put on display in Cairo. They date back to the Old Kingdom of Egypt, around 2700BC to 2200BC.
- 12 • Saudi Arabia executes 81 convicted criminals, the country’s largest known mass execution in modern times
- 2022 Turkmenistan presidential election. The former President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow’s son Serdar Berdimuhamedow won with 89% of the total votes
- 16 • British-Iranians Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori return to the UK after being detained for five and six years on spying charges
- 17 • Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari apologies for recent fuel shortages and power outages, including the failure of the national electricity grid and an increase in adulterated fuel
- 22 • A Negev Bedouin man stabbed and ran over several people in the Southern Israeli city of Beersheba.
- 27 • Two gunmen killed two officers and wounded two others in Hadera before they were killed. The two terrorists were Arab Israeli cousins from Umm al-Fahm. One of them had previously attempted to join IS forces in Syria, and had served 18 months in prison. The Islamic State claimed responsibility.
- 29 • A Palestinian man killed 5 people in a mass shooting in the streets of Bnei Brak, Israel. The attacker was killed by the police. The al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack.
- 31 • Expo 2020 closes in Dubai after a 6-month run; originally scheduled for April 10, 2021, it was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

APRIL

- 3
 - The Taliban government bans cultivation of opium in Afghanistan, with consequences for world supply as it produces 80%
 - Pakistan plunges into constitutional crisis after Prime Minister Imran Khan dissolves parliament and calls for new elections, avoiding a no-confidence vote
 - Arooj Aftab, a Pakistani vocalist, music composer, and producer based in the United States, wins a Grammy for Best Global Music Performance for her song “Mohabbat”.
- 5
 - A stabbing attack at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, Iran killed two Shia clerics and wounded another one. The attacker, an Uzbek Takfiri who was illegally in Iran, was arrested immediately after the attack.
- 7
 - Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi transfers power to an eight-member council to negotiate with the Houthis in attempt to end country’s seven-year civil war
 - Palestinian, Raad Hazem, killed 3 people and wounded 11 others in a mass shooting on Dizengoff Street in central Tel Aviv. Hazem was killed the following day.
- 10
 - Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan removed from power after losing a no-confidence vote in parliament
- 11
 - Shehbaz Sharif elected Pakistan’s new Prime Minister by the country’s parliament, replacing Imran Khan
- 14
 - The biggest surge in years of attacks by Arab militants in Israel leaves 14 dead, leading to Israel army operations that kill a further 20
- 17
 - After further altercations at the Al-Aqsa mosque, the United Arab List (Ra’am) announced it would temporarily halt its coalition membership in the Government of Israel in protest against the situation at al-Aqsa. According to the U.S State department, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi discussed the situation on 18 April and “Secretary Blinken emphasized the importance of upholding the historic status quo at the Haram Al-Sharif/ Temple Mount, and appreciation for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan’s special role as custodian of Muslim holy places in Jerusalem,” Jordan’s King Abdullah, speaking with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said that “provocative acts” by Israel violated “the legal and historic status quo” of the Muslim holy shrines.
- 19
 - Three bombs targeted the Abdul Rahim Shahid School in the Shia Hazara neighbourhood of Kabul. 6 people were killed and 25 others, including students, were injured. No group has claimed responsibility yet, but the Islamic State is suspected.
- 21
 - A remote-controlled booby trapped bag exploded in the Shia Seh Dokan mosque in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan killed 31 people and injured 87 others. The Islamic State claimed the attack as part of an ongoing global campaign to “avenge” the deaths of its former leader and spokesman.
- 22
 - A bombing attack at the Sufi Khanaqa-e-Malawi Sikandar mosque in Kunduz, Afghanistan killed 33 people and injured 43 others. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.
- 24
 - Violent clashes between Arab nomads and members of the Massalit community in Sudan’s West Darfur state result in the deaths of at least 168 people
- 26
 - A 4,500-year-old statue of Anat, the Ugarit goddess of war and hunting, was discovered in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip.
 - A female suicide bomber struck a van near the University of Karachi’s Confucius Institute, killing three Chinese citizens and their Pakistani driver. The Balochistan Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack.
- 27
 - In the early hours of the morning, Israeli warplanes carried out airstrikes against an ammunition depot near Damascus, Syria, killing 9 people, including 5 Syrian soldiers.
 - In Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria, Islamic State militants attacked the house of former Syrian Democratic Forces spokesman Nouri Hamish, during iftar. Seven people, including Hamish, were killed and four others injured.
- 29
 - A heat wave affects India and Pakistan. Temperatures exceed more than 50 °C (122 °F) and at least 90 people have died.

MAY

- 3 • Heatwave continues across North and Central India disproportionately affecting the poor, with March and April temperatures the hottest ever recorded in 122 years
- 5 • In El'ad, Israel, two Palestinian men attacked people celebrating Israel's Independence Day in a park with axes. Three people were killed and four injured.
 - The monthly average carbon dioxide (CO₂) level in Earth's atmosphere exceeds 420 parts per million (ppm) for the first time in recorded history.
- 7 • Afghan women issued decree to cover their faces in public (hijab reaching head to toe) by Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, or her male guardian faces criminal punishment
- 11 • Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh shot and killed by Israeli forces in city of Jenin, in the West Bank
- 12 • Israel gave final approval for 2,791 housing units in illegal settlements, advanced plans for 1,636 and retroactively authorized two Israeli outposts. The move, previously condemned by the US, was also condemned by the UN and by the EU.
- 13 • Israeli warplanes conducted airstrikes on a Syrian military site in the city of Masyaf, Hama Governorate. Six Syrian soldiers and a civilian were killed in the attack and several others were injured.
 - Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is elected as the 3rd president of the United Arab Emirates by the Federal Supreme Council following the death of Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan a day earlier.
- 15 • Hassan Sheikh Mohamud elected President of Somalia in a vote restricted to the country's 328 members of parliament amid security concerns
- 20 • Israel launched a missile attack on a Syrian military position near Damascus International Airport, killing three Syrian soldiers.
- 22 • Heavy rains have caused widespread flooding in north-eastern parts of Bangladesh and in the state of Assam, India, leaving millions stranded and 41 dead.

JUNE

- 1 • Turkey officially changes its name to Türkiye at the United Nations and internationally
- 2 • Salman Rushdie was appointed Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour by Queen Elizabeth II for services to literature.
 - Morocco reported its first case of Monkey pox, citing its health ministry.
- 4 • Retired general Bajram Begaj is elected the 9th President of Albania by the parliament in the 4th round of voting.
- 5 • A group of five terrorists attacked the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Ondo State, Nigeria while worshippers were celebrating Pentecost. The attackers started shooting at everyone and threw explosives. At least 40 people are thought to have died in the attack. 61 people are being treated for injuries. No group has claimed responsibility yet; the federal government says that Islamic State – West Africa Province is behind the attack.
- 8 • "Ms Marvel" TV miniseries premieres on Disney+, with Disney's first on-screen Muslim superhero story, starring Iman Vellani
- 9 • The controversial Saudi-backed LIV Golf Invitational Series gets underway at the Centurion Club, Hertfordshire; PGA suspends 17 participating players
- 12 • Iraqi political crisis: dozens of MPs resign from the Iraqi Parliament.
 - Suspected jihadists attacked the village of Seytenga, Burkina Faso. They went from shop to shop to kill the men, the women and children were spared. Homes were burned down in the attack. The death toll is expected to be over 100.
- 18 • Four million stranded after severe flooding in Bangladesh and nearby Indian states, with at least 41 dead
- 22 • 6.1 magnitude earthquake hits Afghanistan, near Khost, killing at least 1000 and injuring 1500
- 29 • French court convicts Salah Abdeslam, and 19 others, of terrorism and murder charges, sentences him to a rare 30-year prison term for the November 2015 Paris Attacks

JULY

- 9 • In Wimbledon, Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan claims her first Grand Slam title over Tunisia's Ons Jabeur; first Kazakhstani player to win a major title
- 11 • The UN annual report Children and Armed Conflict was released. Commenting on Israel, Secretary General António Guterres wrote "Should the situation repeat itself in 2022, without meaningful improvement, Israel should be listed". In 2021, the report said that "Israeli security forces killed 78 Palestinian children, maimed another 982 and detained 637 Palestinian children."
 - UK Olympic gold medallist Sir Mo Farah reveals he was trafficked from Djibouti to the UK as a child to work as a domestic servant
- 13 • US President Joe Biden lands in Israel to begin a four-day trip to the Middle East
- 15 • US President Joe Biden visits Saudi Arabia to ask for an increase in oil production
- 22 • UN, OCHA, issued the Protection of Civilians Report covering the period 28 June to 18 July 2022. During the reporting period, there were 166 Israeli military search and arrest operations in the West Bank, 3 (63 year to date) Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces and 0 (11 year to date) Israelis were killed by Palestinians, and 51 Palestinian-owned structures were demolished.
- 22 • 3 Syrian soldiers were killed in an Israeli missile attack on the outskirts of Damascus, Syria.
- 28 • "The Line", a futuristic 106 mile one-building city to house 9 million people, powered by renewable sources, announced by Saudi Arabia
- 31 • Ayman al-Zawahiri, the Egyptian terrorist who became the 2nd Emir of Al-Qaeda after Osama bin Laden's death in 2011, is killed in an airstrike in Kabul, Afghanistan conducted by the United States' Central Intelligence Agency.
 - Supporters of Maqtada Al-Sadr storm the Iraqi parliament, demanding an end to Iranian influence

AUGUST

- 5 • Israeli airstrikes on Gaza killed at least ten Palestinians, including a 5 year old, and wounded another 55, according to the Gaza health ministry. Israel said it was targeting the Islamic Jihad militant group in response to threats made by the group following Israel's arrest of al-Saadi earlier in the week. Islamic Jihad said that Taysir al-Jabari, a commander of the Al-Quds Brigades, died in an air strike on an apartment in the Palestine Tower.
- 7 • Ceasefire called after 43 people killed in Gaza during three days of violence between Israeli military and Palestinian Islamic Jihad fighters
- 9 • Russia launches Iranian satellite, Khayyam, into orbit
 - The Palestinian Ministry of Health said 3 Palestinians were killed and 40 wounded during a raid by Israeli forces on Nablus. The dead included a senior commander of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, another militant and a 16 year old.
- 10 • John Bolton was the target of Iranian murder plot in 'likely' retaliation for general's death: Prosecutors
 - Afghan immigrant arrested in connection with the murder of 4 Muslim men in New Mexico
 - Ilhan Omar wins Democratic nomination for U.S. House in Minnesota's 5th Congressional District
- 11 • UNESCO World Heritage confirms that at least 10 buildings in the Old City of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, have collapsed in recent days due to heavy rainfall
 - A series of flash floods in Pakistan killed 549 people.
- 12 • Assailant leaves author, Salman Rushdie, in critical condition during a lecture in New York. A Shia man is taken into custody and charged with attempted murder.
- 16 • Saudi woman given 34-year prison sentence for using Twitter to retweet and promote activists and dissidents.
- 17 • Suicide bomber self-detonates in a Kabul mosque, killing 21 and injuring 33
- 18 • Recep Tayyip Erdogan and UN Secretary General António Guterres meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during a summit in Lviv, warning of "another Chernobyl" due to fighting by Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant
- 19 • 30-hour siege begins on Hayat Hotel, Mogadishu, by Shabab militants leaving 21 dead and 117 injured

- 20 • 22 million now at risk of starvation in Horn of Africa, up 9 million since January, according to the UN, after worst drought in 40 years
- 23 • Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak sentences for money laundering and other crimes, sentenced to a 12-year prison term from the High Court
- 28 • Pakistan appeals for international aid as the death toll from monsoon rain and floods rises to over 1,000 people
- 29 • Baghdad suffers its worst violence in years, with 30 killed and 700 injured after Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr announces he is withdrawing from politics
- 31 • Human rights abuses against the Uyghur population in Xinjiang “may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity” according to new report released by the UN.

SEPTEMBER

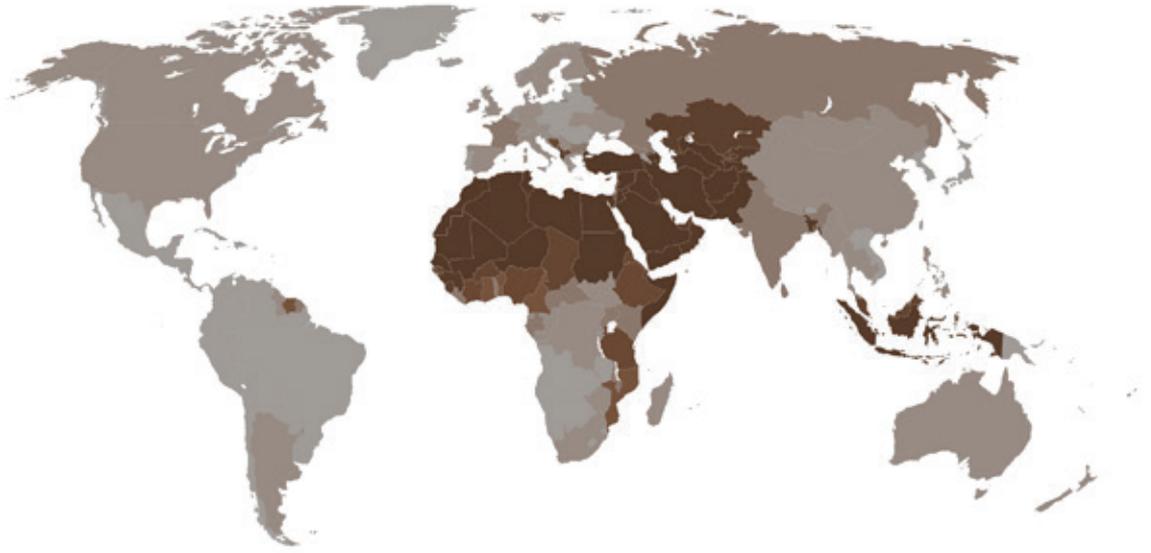
- 1 • The High Court of Malaysia finds Rosmah Mansor, wife of former Prime Minister Najib Razak, guilty of corruption
- 2 • Eighteen people are killed and 23 others are injured by a suicide bombing at a Sunni mosque in Herat, Afghanistan
- 3 • Twenty people are killed in a mass shooting by al-Shabaab insurgents against vehicles transporting food supplies
- 5 • Thirty-five civilians are killed and 37 others injured as a convoy of vehicles carrying supplies strikes a roadside bomb in Soum Province, Burkina Faso.
- 6 • Pakistan tries to avert lake overflow amid catastrophic flooding that left over 1,300 dead and 1/3rd of the country underwater
 - Al-Qaeda kills at least 20 fighters aligned with Yemen’s southern separatists in the Abyan province
- 7 • 6 Gulf countries demand Netflix remove LGBTQ+ content targeting children or face a nationwide bans
- 12 • The James Webb Space Telescope reveals its first photos of the Orion Nebula, which is located in the Orion constellation
- 13 • Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev agrees to change the name of Kazakhstan’s capital from “Nur-Sultan” back to “Astana”.
- 16 • Protests break out in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini, who was allegedly killed in police custody after being arrested for not wearing proper hijab.
- 18 • The death toll from the fighting between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan increases to 94
- 27 • Kazakhstan says that around 98,000 Russian civilians have entered the country by land and air since Russian president Vladimir Putin ordered a military mobilization.
- 28 • Four Palestinians are killed and 44 others are injured when Israeli soldiers storm a refugee camp in Jenin, West Bank.
- 29 • Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launches ballistic missiles at Erbil, the capital of Iraq’s Kurdistan Region, killing nine civilians and injuring 32 others.
- 30 • Twenty-six people are killed and 56 others are injured by a suicide bomber at a school in Dashte Barchi, Kabul, Afghanistan.

OCTOBER

- 1 • At least 125 people are killed in a human crush following the dispersal of rioters by tear gas. The riot occurred between supporters of Indonesian football teams Arema F.C. and Persebaya Surabaya at the Kanjuruhan Stadium in Malang Regency, East Java, Indonesia.
- 10 • Prime Minister of Malaysia Ismail Sabri dissolves parliament, with snap elections to be held later this year
- 13 • Rival Palestinian factions sign an agreement in Algiers, Algeria, aimed at resolving over 15 years of discord, calling for legislative and presidential elections to be held in Palestine within one year
- 15 • An explosion in a Turkish coal mine in Bartın kills 41 and injures 11.

APPENDIX I
Population Statistics

World Muslim Population



Country/Region	Population	Percent Muslim	Muslim Population
Afghanistan	38,928,346	99.7	38,811,561
Albania	2,877,797	58.8	1,692,145
Algeria	43,851,044	97.7	42,842,470
American Samoa	55,191	< 0.1	< 55
Andorra	77,265	2.6	2,009
Angola	32,866,272	0.3	98,599
Anguilla	15,003	0.6	90
Antigua and Barbuda	97,929	0.3	294
Argentina	45,195,774	0.9	406,762
Armenia	2,963,243	0.03	889
Aruba	106,766	0.4	427
Australia	25,499,884	2.3	586,497
Austria	9,006,398	8	720,512
Azerbaijan	10,139,177	94.3	9,561,244
Bahamas	393,244	0.1	393
Bahrain	1,701,575	73.7	1,254,061

Country/Region	Population	Percent Muslim	Muslim Population
Bangladesh	165,000,000	91	150,150,000
Barbados	287,375	1.5	4,311
Belarus	9,449,323	0.5	47,247
Belgium	11,589,623	7.6	880,811
Belize	397,628	0.2	795
Benin	12,123,200	27.7	3,358,126
Bermuda	62,278	1	623
Bhutan	771,608	0.2	1,543
Bolivia	11,673,021	< 0.1	< 11673
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,280,819	50.7	1,663,375
Botswana	2,351,627	0.4	9,407
Brazil	213,000,000	0.1	213,000
British Virgin Islands	30,231	1.2	363
Brunei	437,479	80.9	353,921
Bulgaria	6,948,445	13.4	931,092
Burkina Faso	20,903,273	63.2	13,210,869
Burundi	11,890,784	10	1,189,078
Cambodia	16,718,965	2	334,379
Cameroon	26,545,863	30	7,963,759
Canada	37,742,154	3.2	1,207,749
Cape Verde	555,987	2	11,120
Cayman Islands	65,722	0.2	131
Central African Republic	4,829,767	15	724,465
Chad	16,425,864	58	9,527,001
Chile	19,116,201	< 0.1	< 19116
China	1,440,000,000	1.7	24,480,000
Colombia	50,882,891	0.2	101,766
Comoros	869,601	98.3	854,818
Congo	5,518,087	2	110,362
Cook Islands	17,564	< 0.1	< 18
Costa Rica	5,094,118	< 0.1	< 5094
Croatia	4,105,267	1.5	61,579
Cuba	11,326,616	0.1	11,327
Cyprus	1,207,359	25.3	305,462
Czech Republic	10,708,981	0.2	21,418
Denmark	5,792,202	5.4	312,779

Country/Region	Population	Percent Muslim	Muslim Population
Djibouti	988,000	97	958,360
Dominica	71,986	0.2	144
Dominican Republic	10,847,910	< 0.1	< 10,848
DR Congo	89,561,403	10	8,956,140
Ecuador	17,643,054	< 0.1	< 17,643
Egypt	102,000,000	90	91,800,000
El Salvador	6,486,205	0.28	18,161
Equatorial Guinea	1,402,985	10	140,299
Eritrea	3,546,421	36.6	1,297,990
Estonia	1,326,535	< 0.1	< 1327
Eswatini	1,160,164	2	23,203
Ethiopia	115,000,000	31.3	35,995,000
Falkland Islands	3,480	< 0.1	< 3
Faroe Islands	48,863	< 0.1	< 49
Fiji	896,445	6.3	56,476
Finland	5,540,720	1.8	99,733
France	65,273,511	8.8	5,744,069
French Guiana	298,682	0.9	2,688
French Polynesia	280,908	< 0.1	< 281
Gabon	2,225,734	10	222,573
Gambia	2,416,668	96.4	2,329,668
Georgia	3,989,167	10.7	426,841
Germany	83,783,942	6.7	5,613,524
Ghana	31,072,940	19.9	6,183,515
Gibraltar	33,691	4	1,348
Greece	10,423,054	2	208,461
Greenland	56,770	< 0.1	< 57
Grenada	112,523	0.3	338
Guadeloupe	400,124	0.4	1,600
Guam	168,775	< 0.1	< 169
Guatemala	17,915,568	< 0.1	< 17,916
Guinea	13,132,795	89.1	11,701,320
Guinea-Bissau	1,968,001	46.1	907,248
Guyana	786,552	7.3	57,418
Haiti	11,402,528	< 0.1	< 11,403
Honduras	9,904,607	0.3	29,714

Country/Region	Population	Percent Muslim	Muslim Population
Hong Kong	7,496,981	4.1	307,376
Hungary	9,660,351	0.057	5,506
Iceland	341,243	0.2	682
India	1,411,732,144	14.6	206,112,893
Indonesia	274,000,000	86.7	237,558,000
Iran	83,992,949	99.4	83,488,991
Iraq	40,222,493	95.7	38,492,926
Ireland	4,937,786	1.4	69,129
Isle of Man	85,033	0.2	170
Israel	8,655,535	18	1,557,996
Italy	60,461,826	4.8	2,902,168
Ivory Coast	26,378,274	42.9	11,316,280
Jamaica	2,961,167	0.2	5,922
Japan	126,000,000	0.1	126,000
Jordan	10,203,134	97.2	9,917,446
Kazakhstan	18,776,707	70.2	13,181,248
Kenya	53,771,296	11.2	6,022,385
Kiribati	119,449	< 0.1	< 119
Kosovo	1,880,000	95.6	1,797,280
Kuwait	4,270,571	74.6	3,185,846
Kyrgyzstan	6,524,195	90	5,871,776
Laos	7,275,560	< 0.1	< 7276
Latvia	1,886,198	0.2	3,772
Lebanon	6,825,445	67.8	4,627,652
Lesotho	2,142,249	0.1	2,142
Liberia	5,057,681	20	1,011,536
Libya	6,871,292	97	6,665,153
Liechtenstein	38,128	5.4	2,059
Lithuania	2,722,289	0.1	2,722
Luxembourg	625,978	2.3	14,397
Macau	649,335	0.1	649
Madagascar	27,691,018	10	2,769,102
Malawi	19,129,952	20	3,825,990
Malaysia	32,365,999	61.3	19,840,357
Maldives	540,544	100	540,544
Mali	20,250,833	95	19,238,291

Country/Region	Population	Percent Muslim	Muslim Population
Malta	441,543	2.6	11,480
Marshall Islands	59,190	< 0.1	< 59
Martinique	375,265	0.2	751
Mauritania	4,649,658	99.9	4,645,008
Mauritius	1,271,768	17.3	220,016
Mayotte	272,815	97	264,631
Mexico	129,000,000	0.01	12,900
Micronesia	548,914	< 0.1	< 549
Moldova	4,033,963	0.4	16,136
Monaco	39,242	0.8	314
Mongolia	3,278,290	5	163,915
Montenegro	628,066	19.1	119,961
Montserrat	4,992	0.1	5
Morocco	36,910,560	95	35,065,032
Mozambique	31,255,435	18.9	5,907,277
Myanmar	54,409,800	4.3	2,339,621
Namibia	2,540,905	0.4	10,164
Nauru	10,824	< 0.1	< 11
Nepal	29,136,808	4.2	1,223,746
Netherlands	17,134,872	2.1	359,832
New Caledonia	285,498	2.8	7,994
New Zealand	4,822,233	0.9	43,400
Nicaragua	6,624,554	< 0.1	< 6625
Niger	24,206,644	98.3	23,795,131
Nigeria	206,000,000	48.5	99,910,000
Niue	1,626	< 0.1	< 2
North Korea	25,778,816	0.1	25,779
North Macedonia	2,083,374	33.3	693,764
Northern Mariana Islands	57,559	0.7	403
Norway	5,421,241	3.2	173,480
Oman	5,106,626	86	4,391,698
Pakistan	221,000,000	96.5	213,265,000
Palau	18,094	< 0.1	< 18
Palestine	5,101,414	97.5	4,973,879
Panama	4,314,767	0.7	30,203
Papua New Guinea	8,947,024	< 0.1	< 8947

Country/Region	Population	Percent Muslim	Muslim Population
Paraguay	7,132,538	< 0.1	< 7133
Peru	32,971,854	< 0.1	< 32972
Philippines	110,000,000	5.57	6,127,000
Poland	37,846,611	0.02	7569
Portugal	10,196,709	0.4	40,787
Puerto Rico	2,860,853	< 0.1	< 2861
Qatar	2,881,053	77.5	2,232,816
Réunion	895,312	4.2	37,603
Romania	19,237,691	0.3	57,713
Russia	146,000,000	10	14,600,000
Rwanda	12,952,218	4.8	621,706
Saint Helena	6,077	< 0.1	< 6
Saint Kitts & Nevis	53,199	0.3	160
Saint Lucia	183,627	< 0.1	< 184
Saint Pierre & Miquelon	5,794	0.2	12
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	110,940	1.7	1,886
Samoa	198,414	< 0.1	< 198
San Marino	33,931	< 0.1	< 34
São Tomé and Príncipe	219,159	3	6,575
Saudi Arabia	34,813,871	96.2	33,490,944
Senegal	16,743,927	97.2	16,275,097
Serbia	8,737,371	2.1	183,485
Seychelles	98,347	1.1	1,082
Sierra Leone	7,976,983	78.6	6,269,909
Singapore	5,850,342	15.6	912,653
Slovakia	5,459,642	0.1	5,460
Slovenia	2,078,938	3.6	74,842
Solomon Islands	686,884	< 0.1	< 687
Somalia	15,893,222	99.8	15,861,436
South Africa	59,308,690	1.9	1,126,865
South Korea	51,269,185	0.1	51,269
South Sudan	11,193,725	20	2,238,745
Spain	46,754,778	2.6	1,215,624
Sri Lanka	21,413,249	9.7	2,077,085
Sudan	43,849,260	96	42,095,290
Suriname	586,632	14.3	83,888

Country/Region	Population	Percent Muslim	Muslim Population
Sweden	10,099,265	7.1	717,048
Switzerland	8,654,622	5.2	450,040
Syria	17,500,658	86	15,050,566
Taiwan	23,816,775	0.3	71,450
Tajikistan	9,537,645	97.9	9,337,354
Tanzania	59,734,218	35.2	21,026,445
Thailand	69,799,978	5.4	3,769,199
Timor-Leste	1,318,445	0.1	1,318
Togo	8,278,724	20	1,655,745
Tokelau	1,357	< 0.1	< 1
Tonga	105,695	< 0.1	< 106
Trinidad and Tobago	1,399,488	5.8	81,170
Tunisia	11,818,619	97.8	11,558,609
Türkiye	84,339,067	84.3	71,097,833
Turkmenistan	6,031,200	93.7	5,651,234
Turks and Caicos Islands	38,717	< 0.1	< 39
Tuvalu	11,792	0.1	12
U.S. Virgin Islands	104,425	0.1	104
Uganda	45,741,007	14	6,403,741
Ukraine	43,733,762	0.9	393,604
United Arab Emirates	9,890,402	72	7,121,089
United Kingdom	67,886,011	3.3	2,240,238
United States	331,000,000	1.1	3,641,000
Uruguay	3,473,730	< 0.1	< 3474
Uzbekistan	33,469,203	88.7	29,687,183
Vanuatu	307,145	< 0.1	< 307
Vatican City	801	0	0
Venezuela	28,435,940	0.4	113,744
Vietnam	97,338,579	0.1	97,339
Wallis & Futuna	11,239	< 0.1	< 11
Western Sahara	597,339	99.4	593,755
Yemen	29,825,964	97.2	28,990,837
Zambia	18,383,955	1	183,840
Zimbabwe	14,862,924	0.7	104,040
TOTAL	7,830,031,274	23%	1,930,564,364

Muslim population statistics taken from Wikipedia. org. World populations taken from www. worldometers. info.

APPENDIX II
Social Media Statistics

Top Social Media Statistics of *The Muslim 500*

This is a list showing the most popular social media sites (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) run by Muslims.

(Rounded values in millions)

Rank	Name	Age	Country
1	Salman Khan	56	India
2	Shahrukh Khan	56	India
3	Paul Pogba	29	France
4	Mesut Özil	33	Germany
5	Mohamed Salah	30	Egypt
6	Mustafa Hosny	44	Egypt
7	DJ Khaled	46	USA
8	A.R. Rahman	55	India
9	Ahmad Al Shugairi	49	Saudi Arabia
10	Shaquille O' Neal	50	USA
11	Tamer Hosny	45	Egypt
12	Amr Diab	60	Egypt
13	Aamir Khan	57	India
14	Ice Cube	53	USA
15	Amr Khaled	55	Egypt
16	Ahmed Helmy	52	Egypt
17	Sheikh Mishary bin Rashid Alafasy	46	Kuwait
18	Muhammad Alarefe	52	Saudi Arabia
19	Khabib Nurmagomedov	34	Russia
20	Aidh Al-Qarni	63	Saudi Arabia
21	Recep Tayyip Erdoğan	68	Turkey
22	Imran Khan	70	Pakistan
23	Maher Zain	41	Sweden
24	HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah	52	Jordan
25	Zinedine Zidane	50	France
26	Ahlam Alshamsi	53	UAE
27	Atif Aslam	39	Pakistan
28	Haifa Wehbe	50	Lebanon
29	Yasmin Sabri	34	Egypt
30	Hanna Elzahed	28	Egypt
31	Kadim Al Sahir	65	Iraq
32	HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum	73	UAE
33	Salman Al Ouda	65	Saudi Arabia
34	Muhammad Assaf	33	Palestine
35	Bassem Youssef	48	Egypt

Occupations	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	Total
Actor	51m	44m	55m	150m
Actor	43m	43m	31m	117m
Sports	25m	10m	56m	91m
Footballer	37m	26m	24m	87m
Footballer	16m	17m	53m	86m
Preacher	35m	12m	19m	66m
Musician	21m	6m	31m	58m
Musician	25m	24m	7m	56m
Show Host	21m	18m	16m	55m
Sports	10m	16m	27m	52m
Musician	24m	4m	23m	51m
Musician	22m	11m	15m	48m
Actor	18m	26m	3m	48m
Rapper	17m	6m	25m	47m
Preacher	31m	11m	5m	46m
Actor	18m	10m	17m	44m
Qur'an Reciter	22m	15m	6m	42m
Scholar	22m	19m	N/A	41m
Sports	5m	2m	34m	40m
Scholar	16m	21m	4m	40m
Politician	10m	19m	10m	39m
Politician	12m	18m	8m	37m
Musician	29m	2m	6m	36m
Royalty	18m	10m	7m	34m
Sports	N/A	N/A	34m	34m
Musician	10m	9m	14m	33m
Musician	24m	1m	7m	31m
Musician	14m	7m	11m	31m
Artist	4m	5m	20m	28m
Acress	6m	2m	18m	26m
Musician	15m	7m	4m	26m
Royalty	4m	11m	7m	22m
Scholar	7m	13m	2m	21m
Musician	12m	3m	6m	20m
Show Host	6m	11m	4m	20m

Top Social Media Statistics of the General Public

This is a list showing the most popular social media sites (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

(Rounded values in millions)

Rank	Name	Age	Country
1	Cristiano Ronaldo	37	Portugal
2	Selena Gomez	30	USA
3	Kylie Jenner	25	USA
4	Justin Bieber	28	Canada
5	Dwayne Johnson (The Rock)	50	USA
6	Lionel Messi (Leo Messi)	35	Argentina
7	Kim Kardashian	42	USA
8	Taylor Swift	32	USA
9	Ariana Grande	29	USA
10	Ariana Grande	29	USA
11	Katy Perry	38	USA
12	Beyonce	42	USA
13	Rihanna	33	Barbados
14	Jennifer Lopez	53	USA
15	Khloé Kardashian	38	USA
16	Neymar	30	Brazil
17	Kendal Jenner	26	USA
18	Virat Kohil	34	India
19	Nicki Minaj	41	USA
20	Miley Cyrus	30	USA
21	Kevin Hart	43	USA
22	Will Smith	54	USA
23	Shakira	45	Colombia
24	Demi Lovato	30	USA
25	Barack Obama	61	USA
26	Drake	35	Canada
27	LeBron James	37	USA
28	Charli D'Amelio	18	USA
29	Chris Brown	34	USA
30	Lady Gaga	36	USA
31	Narendra Modi	72	India
32	Cardi B	29	USA
33	Vin Diesel	54	USA
34	Billie Eilish	20	USA
35	Justin Timberlake	41	USA

Occupations	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	Total
Footballer	153m	104m	486m	742m
Musician	87m	66m	350m	546m
Media	33m	40m	371m	492m
Musician	91m	114m	261m	491m
Wrestler	59m	17m	341m	477m
Footballer	106m	N/A	366m	473m
Reality Star	34m	74m	332m	446m
Musician	76m	91m	227m	408m
Actress	43m	N/A	334m	405m
Musician	43m	N/A	334m	376m
Musician	69m	109m	175m	359m
Musician	56m	16m	278m	349m
Musician	102m	107m	137m	345m
Musician	60m	46m	224m	344m
Media	24m	30m	276m	334m
Footballer	88m	58m	180m	326m
Model and Media	21m	32m	259m	316m
Cricketer	49m	51m	217m	316m
Musician	48m	27m	203m	294m
Musician	46m	47m	185m	291m
Comedian	36m	38m	155m	258m
Actor	111m	N/A	63m	246m
Musician	116m	53m	76m	245m
Actress - Musician	33m	54m	141m	232m
Politician	55m	133m	35m	223m
Musician	52m	40m	122m	213m
Athlete - NBA	27m	52m	134m	213m
Media	3m	5m	49m	204m
Musician	50m	32m	122m	204m
Musician	55m	85m	53m	201m
Politician	47m	83m	70m	200m
Musician	34m	24m	142m	200m
Actor	107m	N/A	83m	192m
Musician	32m	7m	106m	191m
Musician	43m	63m	67m	173m

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ أُنذِرْتَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ



تُنذِرُهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٦﴾ خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَى سَمْعِهِمْ
وَعَلَى أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشْوَةً وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٧﴾ وَمِنَ النَّاسِ
مَنْ يَقُولُ ءَامَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَا هُمْ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٨﴾
يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَمَا يَخْدَعُونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ
وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿١٩﴾ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ فَزَادَهُمُ اللَّهُ مَرَضًا
وَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٠﴾ مَا كَانُوا يَكْذِبُونَ ﴿٢١﴾ وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ



لَا تَفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ



أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِن لَّا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾ وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ
ءَامِنُوا كَمَا ءَامَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ كَمَا ءَامَنَ السُّفَهَاءُ
أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِن لَّا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٣﴾ وَإِذَا لَعَنُوا
الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قَالُوا ءَامَنُوا وَإِذَا خَلَوْا إِلَىٰ شِيَطَانِهِمْ قَالُوا إِنَّا
مَعَكُمْ إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُسْتَهْزَءُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾ اللَّهُ يَسْتَهْزِئُ بِهِمْ وَيَمُدُّهُمْ
فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرَوُا الضَّلَالََةَ



بِالْهُدَىٰ فَإِن يَخْتِمْ لَهُمْ رَبُّكَ مَا كَانُوا يَمْتَدِّينَ

As for the disbelievers, alike it is for them whether you have warned them or have not warned them, they do not believe. ﴿16﴾ God has set a seal on their hearts, and on their hearing; and on their eyes is a covering; and for them there will be a mighty chastisement. ﴿17﴾ And some people there are who say, 'We believe in God and the Last Day'; but they are not believers. ﴿18﴾ They would deceive God and the believers; and only themselves they deceive; and they are not aware. ﴿19﴾ In their hearts is a sickness; and God has increased their sickness; and there awaits them a painful chastisement because they used to lie. ﴿20﴾ When it is said to them, 'Do not corruption in the land', they say, 'We are only putting things right'. ﴿21﴾ Truly, they are the agents of corruption, but they perceive not. ﴿22﴾ When it is said to them, 'Believe as the people believe', they say, 'Shall we believe as fools believe?' Truly, they are the foolish ones, but they know not. ﴿23﴾ When they meet those who believe, they say, 'We believe'; but when they go apart to their devils they say, 'We are with you; we were only mocking'. ﴿24﴾ God [Himself] mocks them, leaving them in their insolence, bewildered. ﴿25﴾ Those are they who have bought error for guidance; so their commerce has not profited them; nor are they guided. ﴿

GLOSSARY OF ISLAMIC TERMS

Ahl al-Bayt (or Aal al-Bayt): Literally, “The People of the House”; refers to the family of the Prophet Muhammad.

Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama’ah: Literally, “The People of the Prophetic Practice and Community”; refers to Sunni Muslims as a community.

Al-Fatiha: Literally, “The Opening” or “The Beginning”. This is the title for the first chapter of the Holy Qur’an that is recited as a fundamental part of Muslims’ daily prayers.

Aqida: Creed. This refers to theological and doctrinal beliefs of Muslims.

Ash’ari: Theological school of Sunni Orthodoxy named after the followers of the 9th century scholar Abu al Hasan Al-Ash’ari (874–936 CE).

Awqaf: Plural of waqf (see below).

Azaan/Adhan: The call to prayer.

Bid’a: Literally “innovation”; this refers to the act of creating superfluous, or non-prescribed traditions in the practice of Islam. It is used in common speech as a denunciation toward those not acting in accordance with the prescriptions of Islam.

Caliph: From Arabic khalifa (“successor”), the head of the entire community of Muslims, either current or in the past. Is also used by certain sects and Sufi tariqas to refer to their own leader his successor.

Chador: A loose cloth traditionally worn by Muslim women usually covering the body from head to foot.

Da’i/ Da’ee: Islamic missionary.

Da’wa: Islamic missionary work; literally ‘inviting’ to Islam or to acts of virtue.

Emir (or Amir): A title accorded to a leader, prince, or commander-in-chief.

Fatwa: A religious ruling issued by a mufti (a top legal scholar) regarding particulars of an issue in Islamic law based on circumstances surrounding the question, such as its time, place, people, and other details. Unlike the ruling of a judge (qadi), it is not normally binding.

Fiqh: Islamic jurisprudence. A branch of the Sharia that deals with rulings related to human actions, as opposed to faith or spirituality.

Fiqh al-Aqaliyyat: Islamic rulings for Muslims living as minorities in predominantly non-Muslim lands.

Ghazal: Love poetry used for describing the beauty of the loved one as well as the emotions the poet has towards the beloved.

Hadith: Literally “saying”. These are a collection of sayings—or direct observations—of the Prophet Muhammad. There are numerous ahadeeth (plural of “hadith”), and the practice of verifying them is an Islamic scholarly practice of its own that has been carried out since the life of the Prophet.

Hafiz (or Hafiza) al-Qur’an: A person who has committed the entire Qur’an to memory, and can recite the Qur’an at will. This is important in Islam because the Qur’an was originally revealed as an oral text, and until today, the authenticity of Qur’anic transmission is based primarily on oral, then written, transmission.

Hajj: The pilgrimage to Makkah, one of the five pillars of Islam. It is a once-in-a-lifetime obligation upon every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it. The pilgrimage occurs from the 8th-12th days of Dhu al-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic calendar.

Halal: Permissible. A term referring to actions or objects that are permissible according to Islamic law. Commonly refers to food items that are permissible for Muslims to eat.

Haram: In the context of a sacred precinct, like Makkah, Medina, or al-Aqsa, this term means “invulnerable”. In most contexts, this term means “forbidden”, and relates to actions that are impermissible according to Islamic law.

Hijab: Normally refers to the headscarf worn by Muslim women but refers to both the head cover and attire worn by Muslim women to preserve their modesty. It obligatory by the consensus of all classical Islamic schools of thought. In some contexts, it can mean segregation, as in between genders.

Hijaz: The region along the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula that separates Najd in the east from Tihamah in the west.

Ibadi: The Ibadi school has origins in and is linked to the Kharijites, but the modern day community is distinct from the 7th century Islamic sect. It was founded after the death of the Prophet Muhammad and is currently practiced by a majority of Oman's Muslim population. It is also found across parts of Africa.

Ihsan: Virtue through constant regard to, and awareness of, God.

Ijaza: Certification given to a student for acquiring knowledge of a particular discipline under the authorization of a higher authority usually by face-to-face interactions, thereby enabling the student to transmit the knowledge the teacher has. This is performed under the supervision of a certified sheikh whose chain of narrations often leads to the Prophet (peace be upon him).

Ijtihad: Independent reasoning, or individual interpretation of the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Imam: (1) In both Sunni and Shia Islam an imam is the leader of congregational prayers who may also deliver the sermon of the Friday (Jumu'ah) prayers; more generally, a person of authority within the community. (2) In Shia Islam this exclusively refers to a series of people, descended from the Prophet Muhammad, who by lineage are considered divinely guided spiritual leaders.

Imamate: The position or institution, in Shia Islam, that is comprised of a series of divinely guided imams.

Iman: Faith in God.

Islam: Submission to God's will.

Isnad: The chain of narrators of the Hadith; it is the list of authorities who have transmitted the sayings, actions or approbations of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) via one of his companions or a later authority (tabi'i). The reliability of the isnad is the main criteria in the validity of Hadith. Modern practices of scientific citation and historical method owe a great deal to the rigour of the isnad tradition of early Muslims.

Jihad: Literally, "struggle". An exertion of effort in any field, not just in war, in order to achieve good or prevent evil, done so for the sake of God's pleasure. The highest level of jihad is to overcome one's ego

and lower self. It is considered a religious duty upon every Muslim.

Kaaba: The large cubic structure in the Grand Mosque in Makkah, adorned in gold-embroidered black fabric, referred to by Muslims as the "House of God". This structure marks the direction in which Muslims pray and is central to the Hajj pilgrimage.

Khat: Script. Refers to Arabic calligraphy, which is the artistic practice of handwriting Arabic phrases, often in the form of verses of the Qur'an or Islamic prayers.

Khateeb: Refers to the person who delivers the Islamic sermon (khutbah) during certain occasions such as the Friday or Eid prayers. He is usually the imam or leader of the prayer.

Khalifa: See "caliph".

Khanqah: A building designed specifically for gatherings of a Sufi brotherhood, or tariqa, and is a place for spiritual retreat and character reformation. It is also synonymous with the regional terms ribat, tekke, and zawiya.

Khawarij: A group of Muslims in early Islamic history who went against the larger community and became outsiders. A term used to describe political deviants.

Khums: Literally, "one-fifth" in Arabic; a religious tax of one-fifth of one's income owed by followers of Usuli Twelver Shia to a very senior cleric and poor Muslims.

Madhab: A traditional school of Islamic legal methodology (e.g. Hanbali, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanafi, Ja'fari).

Madrassa: The Arabic word for "school". Can refer to a religious school.

Majlis al-Shura: Consultative religio-legislative body.

Marja'/Marja'iyya: The highest position of authority in the Usuli school of Twelver Shia fiqh whose authority lies after the Qur'an, prophets, and imams. Also referred to as marja' taqlid (literally "one who is worthy of being imitated"), they have the authority to make legal decisions within the confines of Islamic law for laymen and less-qualified clerics.

Masjid: Arabic for “mosque”.

Maturidi: Theological school of Sunni Orthodoxy named after the followers of the 9th century scholar Muhammad Abu Mansur al-Maturidi (853-944 CE).

Melayu Islam Beraja: The concept of Malay Islamic monarchy.

Morchidat: Literally, “(female) guides”. Refers to the Moroccan cadre of trained female preachers.

Mufti: A Muslim legal expert who is empowered to give rulings on religious matters.

Mujahid: Someone engaged in acts of jihad.

Muqri: Someone qualified to teach others proper recitation of the Qur’an.

Murid: Disciple of a Sufi guide or order.

Mursyidul Am: Malaysian term for religious guide.

Mushaf: A printing of the Qur’an, referring to the physical bound volume of the Holy Book.

Mutabarrrik: Supporter or affiliate of a Sufi guide or order, someone less serious in treading the spiritual path than a murid.

Mu’tazili: An almost obsolete school of Sunni Islam, popular in the 8th century, that advocates the belief that the Qur’an is created—as opposed to the Orthodox Sunni view that it is eternal and uncreated.

Nasheed: Islamic song. Islamic vocal music, sung individually or by a group and sometimes accompanied by the daf, a shallow drum similar to the tambourine. The words sung may refer to religion, history, current issues, or anything related to Islam.

Pancasila: Indonesian concept of five basic, national principles: belief in the Oneness of God, just and civilized humanity, the unity of Indonesia, democracy, and social justice.

PBUH: An acronym for “Peace be upon him”.

Pesantren: The term for Islamic schools in Indonesia.

Qibla: The direction in which Muslims offer their five

daily prayers; the direction of the Kaaba in Makkah.

Ramadan: Holy month of fasting, ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

Salafi: A movement of Sunni Muslims that places great emphasis on literal interpretation of the Qur’an and Hadith, with skepticism towards the role of human intellect.

Salawat: Prayers of peace upon the Prophet which have many distinct formulas, often consisting of the basic *Allahumma salli ala sayyidina Muhammad wa ala ahlihi wa sallim* (O God send your prayers and blessings upon Muhammad and his family).

Shahadatayn: The two testimonies of faith: “There is no deity but God. Muhammad is the Messenger of God.” Stating these two sentences is sufficient to become a Muslim.

Sharia: Literally, “the way to the source”, this refers to Islamic law. Islamic law is not, as is widely perceived, a standard set of written rules, but is rather an unwritten text that is interpreted by legal scholars in specific instances, drawing on the Qur’an and other reliable religious sources relevant to the tradition followed.

Sheikh: (1) A position of authority granted to people who are respected in society. (2) A religious or tribal official.

Shia: The second largest denomination of Muslims referred to as Shi’atu ‘Ali or “party of Ali”, the fourth caliph of Islam and first imam in Shia Islam.

Sunnah: Literally “the trodden path”, this refers to the ways and practices of the Prophet Muhammad. Reference to these practices can be found in the Qur’an and in the Hadith.

Sunni: The largest denomination of Muslims referred to as *Ahl al-Sunnah wal-Jama’ah* or “The People of the Prophetic Tradition and Community”—with emphasis on emulating the life of the Prophet Muhammad.

Tafsir: Interpretation of the Qur’an, either by commentary or exegesis.

Taqlid: The practice of following rulings without questioning the religious authority. This is a core ten-

et of the Shia Usuli school of Islamic law.

Waqf: A religious endowment or charitable trust.

Tariqa: any particular brotherhood of Sufism (spiritual travel) that leads to a path to the Divine. It consists of a group of seekers following their guide (spiritual leader), and through spiritual deeds and guidance one reaches the ultimate truth of knowing God.

Zakat: Mandatory distribution of excess wealth to the poor, and one of the five pillars of Islam. It typically consists of distributing 2.5% (one fortieth) of one's excess wealth every year, as well as mandatory charity during Eid al-Fitr, following Ramadan.

Ummah: The collective Muslim community.

Zawiya: See khanqah, above.

Umrah: The "lesser pilgrimage" to Makkah. It can be performed any time of the year and has fewer rites than the hajj.

Usul ad Din: The basic foundations of the Islamic religion, represent creed, behaviour, and intellectual conduct and all are based on the rudiments of the Islamic faith.

Velayat-e-Faqih: A position of both spiritual and temporal powers in the Republic of Iran. Literally, "Guardianship of the Jurist", referring to the fact that while the Mahdi (awaited one) is in occultation, the jurists should have guardianship over the earth.



In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Say: 'He is God, One.

God, the Self-Sufficient, Besought of all.

He neither begot, nor was begotten.

Nor is there anyone equal to Him.'

The Unity, 1-4

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا ① وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَّهَا ② وَالنَّهَارِ
 إِذَا جَلَّهَا ③ وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَاهَا ④ وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا
 بَنَاهَا ⑤ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا طَحَّهَا ⑥ وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا
 ⑦ فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا ⑧ قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا
 ⑨ وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا ⑩ كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ
 بِطَغْوَاهَا ⑪ إِذِ انبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا ⑫ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ
 اللَّهِ نَاقَةَ اللَّهِ وَسُقْيَاهَا ⑬ فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَعَقَرُوهَا فَلَمْ يَأْتِ
 عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُم بِذَنبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا ⑭ وَلَا يَخَافُ عِقَابَهَا ⑮

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

By the sun and her morning light, and by the moon when it follows her, and by the day when it reveals her, and by the night when it enshrouds her. By the heaven and the One Who built it, and by the earth and the One Who spread it, and by the soul and the One Who proportioned it, and inspired to discern its vices and piety. Successful indeed will be the one who purifies it, and he will indeed have failed he who eclipses it. Thamūd denied because of their rebellious nature, when the most wretched of them was dispatched. But then the messenger of God said to them, 'This is the she-camel of God, so let her have her drink!' But they denied him, then hamstrung her. So their Lord closed in on them because of their sin, and meted it equally among them. And He does not fear the consequence of it.

The Sun, 1-15

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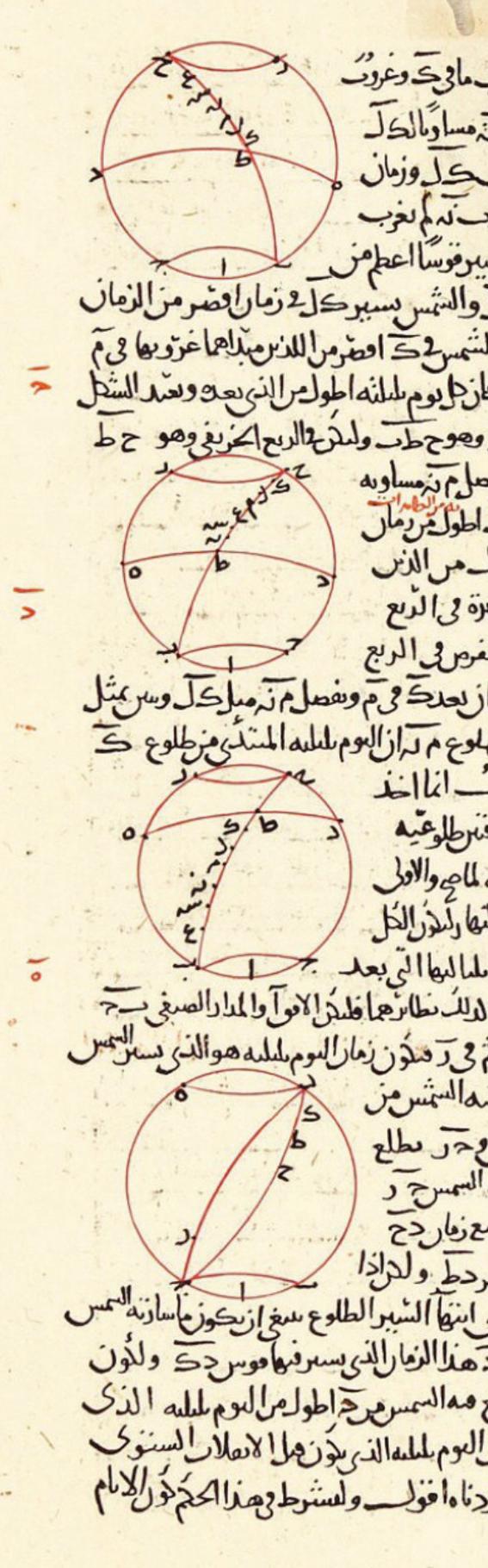
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A detail from Majmu'at al-Mutawassitat, (The Compendium of Intermediate Books), a rare and highly important compendium of treatises on mathematics and astronomy compiled by Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, copied in Baghdad in 682 AH/1283 AD, the final part completed in 706 AH/1306 AD



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