

Muslim Planet

News Journal

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The Muslim Planet Project is a non-profit organization offering a technological platform and a services platform for the Muslim Community in North America. We seek to transform the community towards unified positions and action plans to achieve the community goals through representation at all levels: local, state, and federal.

We are the only
organization of its kind in
North America

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Welcome Message

We have a new look. Hope you like it, and you would enjoy reading it. We have the colors of American Flag surrounding the Natural green, with writing in the white.

We have started a serial on the Afghan War that appears on the last page of this News journal. The articles in this series will often be long, so we will only provide links for those.

COVID-19 is a serious national challenge. The community should do all within its reach to protect itself and protect the nation. We already included an article in a supplement for the March issue. We have included another article on the subject in this issue of our News Journal. The article includes a video containing a personal experience of the author. It is the moment for reflection.

Another matter of national import is the 2020 elections in USA. The Muslim Community in USA sadly demonstrates apathy towards democratic elections. Some even go as far as calling the elections and democracy itself as un-Islamic concepts. Mosques generally have played little role in awakening the community towards this matter. However, there are some mosques that are playing a proactive role in 2020 elections. We have, therefore, included an article on “Mosques and 2020 US Elections”. We expect the mosques throughout USA to play the original role of being a community center for all the community matters, as the Prophet (S) had done during his lifetime, and the Khulafa-i-Rashedun had continued after that. The Mosque is a great institute among the Muslims, and together the mosques constitute the greatest asset of our community. Let us use this most valuable asset wisely, widely, and

optimally.

Muslims have gracefulness and generosity that is worth sharing with the world.

With sincere thanks and respectful regards.

The Muslim Planet Project

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North America

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URL: MuslimPlanet.org

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We host websites, blogs, and email services

COVID-19

Source: Dr. Mike Ghouse from Center for Pluralism

<http://centerforpluralism.com/>

A small segment of people within religious groups are challenging the ban on gatherings to minimize the spread of COVID-19 virus. This article presents a few examples and discusses the way forward.

A small group of Orthodox Jews have challenged the government of Israel for their ban on gathering at the western wall.

Some Muslims are ignoring the safety precautions and have chosen to pray in congregations. In contrast, almost all mosques in the world have been shut down, including the holiest of the Mosques in Mecca, Medina, Najaf, Karbala, and other 'sacred' places of worship.

The fundamentalists among Hindus have organized Cow Urine drinking gatherings with the belief that it is a cure for all ailments, including Corona, while a majority has chosen otherwise.

A few Christian conservatives Pastors and Governors in the United States have defied the ban on gatherings and holding prayers in the churches and urging people to go to the beaches.

The Sikh community has taken their belief to their heart, risking their lives and serving the hungry, and disinfecting passing cars, bicycles, and other modes of transportation.

What is common to all of them is a faith in God, as they all have their convictions.

Their behavior is purely human; during difficult times, when we don't understand the complexities of nature, some among us choose to have faith in God, and it comforts them.

Religion is really re-legion to build cohesive societies where every human shall feel securely free about matters of faith, ethnicity, culture, race, and other uniqueness. The idea of religion was to bring peace and harmony to society in general. A majority of people get that right, and a few don't.

Humans have the capability of surviving the calamities, fires, floods, Tsunamis, Katrina's, meteorites, drought, famine, and other deadly diseases. The causer (God) of all creation has uploaded intelligence into humans to survive. Indeed, humans are also known as the honored species for their brains.

Among the human societies, if we can learn to respect the otherness of the others and accept the God-given uniqueness of each one of us, then conflicts fade and solutions emerge.

Excepting few, most people will stay away from gatherings and neither catch nor spread COVID-19 virus. They will take precautions, wash hands, cover mouth and nose, and be careful what they touch. They can accept the directions to keep a distance from others for the time being.

We have seen many epidemics in history, the great plague, Spanish flu, and chicken flu, swine flu, HIV, Ebola and a whole lot. And now, Corona and this shall pass too.

Dr. Zia Shah of the Muslim Times writes about the immune system, "Looking for the answer to this question brings us to our immune system, which is a fantastic, wonderfully organized, a military machine that protect each of us against thousands if not millions of bacteria and viruses. This system has helped us, and our ape ancestors survive for millions of years."

Indeed, most of us will survive and live on, and some of us will not. How do we cope with it? How do we free ourselves, if we live on, or leave this world?

The following video shares the personal story of the author. There are inspirational lessons in this story. Here is the video about life before and after Corona:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qldPryh0Xvo>



Mosques and 2020 US Elections



In a [report](#) Dean [Obeidallah](#) wrote. "It started with Omar and Tlaib (photographed above), and Tuesday, it grew: Four more Muslim women were elected to public office". Here's who they are and what drives them. On Tuesday, four Muslim women from Virginia to Maine to Minnesota won elections and made history as the first to ever hold those positions.

In Virginia, there were two wins. [Ghazala Hashmi](#) became the first Muslim woman ever elected to the Virginia State Senate, defeating an incumbent Republican in a red district. While Abrar Omeish, 24, was elected to the Fairfax County School Board, making her not just the first Muslim but, as she told me, the first person of Libyan heritage she believes ever elected to office in the United States. In Maine, [Safiya Khalid](#), 23, was elected as the first Somali immigrant to serve on the city council in Lewiston. While in Minnesota, another young Muslim immigrant was making history, as 23-year old [Nadia Mohamed](#) became the first Somali Muslim ever elected to the St. Louis Park City Council.

What Trump and some of his base don't get is that the Muslim community will not be intimidated into silence nor driven to the shadows. These elected officials are unapologetically Muslim and unapologetically American.

[Ali Harb](#) of Middle East Eye [reports](#) that during US election 2020 some Muslims in Iowa will caucus in their own mosques. Muslim Americans say caucusing at mosques will increase political engagement in the community.

The Democratic Party introduced the concept of "satellite caucuses" to make it easier for Iowans who cannot make it to their specific precinct. The satellite caucus allows participants to participate from locations where they are required to physically be on caucus night, as well as from locations where they may feel more familiar and comfortable.

'You're laying the path forward on how Muslims should be engaging in the political process in this country'. "This is truly a historic moment for you as Muslims in Iowa and Muslims across the country," Ghazala Salam, president of the [Muslim Caucus of America](#), told voters midway through the process. "They're watching you. You're laying the path forward on how Muslims should be engaging in the political process in this country."

Worshippers at the Muslim Community Organization seemed thrilled by the idea of politicking at their own mosque. They said caucusing at the venue could increase voter engagement, and the familiarity of the location could put participants at ease. Sabriya Khan, a project manager who was at Friday prayers, said caucusing at mosques demonstrates the political presence of the Muslim community in Iowa. "It will help with Muslim turnout," she told MEE. "I think it's a way to show the relevance that we've already had, but we've had to prove so many times - that we are consequential." She added that caucusing, which involves cheering, giving speeches and convincing undecideds to join one's favourite candidate's group can be an "[intimidating process](#)" that would be soothed by the "safer environment" at the mosque. "In this safe environment that we're used to coming to amongst people who become your family, you are able to have more of an opinion in front of them," Khan told Middle East Eye.



Activists say holding caucuses at mosques was 'historic' (MEE/Ali Harb)

Abdul Hamed, the imam of the mosque, echoed Khan's comments. He said hosting the caucus on Monday would motivate Muslims who are sceptical of politics to participate in the elections. "Selecting this mosque to be a centre for the caucus is a step in the right direction because if you look at the majority of people that will come here, they are Muslims," Abdul Hamed told MEE. "This is another way of involving Muslims in the political process." Abdul Hamed told MEE that Islam encourages political involvement, stressing that there is "no contradiction" between the religious purpose of the mosque and its serving as a caucus location. "When the Prophet built his mosque, he didn't build it just for salah (prayer)," the Imam said. "He built it for everything that has to be with the social life of the Muslim community during that time. That's where he had the meetings, the shura (council), education. The mosque is a place for everything that concerns Muslims."



Ilhan Omar takes Bernie Sanders' message to Iowa mosque. 'It's not about somebody else. This election cycle is about us,' US congresswoman tells Muslim Americans.

Omar urged worshippers to participate in the caucuses, stressing that Muslims and immigrants are major stakeholders in the outcome of the elections. "It's not about somebody else. This election cycle is about us. This election cycle is about your daughters who are in schools who are dealing with xenophobia, with racism, with Islamophobia," Omar said.

"You girls who don't feel comfortable showing up in their hijabs. This election cycle is about us. It's about our fathers who are working two jobs, three jobs, to put food on the table." "So this election cycle isn't about you, it's about all of us. I am asking all of you to realize the importance of this election."

“We’re all doing a great job. Really? So if we’re doing such a great job, why does it feel like we’re losing?”

– Michael Flynn, a retired three-star Army general



Truth about Afghan War

Source: Special US Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) is appointed by the US Congress for oversight on the reconstruction work in Afghanistan against fraud, corruption, and nepotism etc. The body conducted numerous interviews with important players in Afghanistan. Many of these interviews were candid and offered a picture of the Afghanistan War that is very different from the publicly released information.

Washington Post acquired this material from SIGAR under Freedom of Information Act.

Using the SIGAR material, the Washington Post journalist Craig Whitlock wrote a series of articles in the Washington Post.

The article “At War with the Truth” was published on December 9, 2019, and it reveals that “U.S. officials constantly said they were making progress. They were not, and they knew it”.

You can read the article by [clicking here](#).



Bin Laden Bookshelf

Source: US Directorate of National Intelligence

The Intelligence Agency released the Bin Laden documents because American People deserve to have them.

103 documents were released on May 20, 2015. The translation from the original hand written notes in Arabic is provided by the US Government.

The article that we have included here offers an analysis of the World-Events around 1433 Hijri (2011).

You can read the article by [clicking here](#).

... We talked about psychology and that the military person falls apart after a while and when he leaves the killing arena he starts to hallucinate ...

Osama Bin Laden



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God Bless the Muslim Community

May the World be a Nurturing Home for all

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