



# Muslim Voice

News Journal: Volume 5, Issue 6

June 2022

---

[The Muslim Voice](#) Project offers a platform of technology services for the Muslim Community of North America. It provides the needed infrastructure to transform the community towards [unified positions](#) and integrated action plans. It seeks Muslim representation at local, state, and federal levels. So, please [help](#).

---

## Welcome Message

PLEASE CONTINUE READING OR CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ IN YOUR BROWSER.

We wish that you and the community are well, and you will enjoy this issue of the News Journal. Please share it with your family and friends, and forward it to your own email list.

June 2022 issue has the following content.

1. [Editorial](#)
2. [News in Brief](#)
3. [Articles for the Muslim Community](#)
  - a. [Buldozer Justice of India](#)
  - b. [Swedish Cartoonists Vilks died in car accident](#)
  - c. [Overwhelmingly Negative Portrayal of Muslims](#)
  - d. [America's Islamic Heritage Museum](#)
4. [The Great Muslim Nation](#)

Please click [here](#) for the archived issues of the News Journal, and click [here](#) to donate.

Stay in PEACE



[The Muslim Voice](#)

## Editorial

### The Second 911

When 911 had happened, it was not such a global happening. Gradually, it became the pretext for a global transmutation of life, such that it is now well established that the life as we knew it then is gone forever: the pre 911 lifestyle is lost forever worldwide. Every person, everywhere, is less free as a result.

It did not have to be so, but the actions of the West, subsequent to 911, made it so.

The Russian military operation into Ukraine has happened, which is turning out to be another 911, only more intense. Again, it does not have to be so, but the actions of the West, subsequent to the military event, have made sure that it has now become another 911.

The first 911 took only about half a day, and its effect has been devastating in terms of the loss of freedom in global lifestyle. However, this second 911 has already happened for over 120 days, and there is no end in sight yet. Its consequences are already evident: global food crisis, rising fuel costs, and global hardship on the ordinary citizens – and of course loss of a lifestyle. And this is only a prelude, much is yet to happen.

The changes will be permanent and assuredly irreversible.

It is clear that it is a game of thrones, the Westeros is up for grabs by the greedy dollar and euro. However, the hold of Western hegemony is slowly slipping away from USA and its client states in Europe, making USA desperate in a last-ditch struggle to retake it, not realizing that the hegemony that it loved and cherished has slipped away for good. The days of a unipolar hegemony are a thing of the past.

USA is trying hard, strong arming its client states in Europe, hurting its own strategic interests and driving its own citizens into daily sufferings, and of course throwing the people of Europe to the wolves.

In an effort to inflict damage on Russia, the USA has thrown most of its arsenal at Russia right up front, and is now at complete loss after Russia successfully dodged it. USA strategy is two pronged: to hurt Russian economy through applying everything sanctions, and also throwing in the kitchen sink; and to corner Russia militarily by arming Ukrainians to the teeth, and expanding NATO to encircle Russia. The USA boots on the ground are a red line which USA will do its best not to cross; instead, relying on the Europeans to supply the boots. However, the Europeans are not stupid; they will bend backwards short of breaking their backs.

What has happened so far over the 120 days? And please remember that the venture is still ongoing, and NATO asserts that it will go on for years.

So far, the sanctions have mostly boomeranged: instead of hurting Russian economy, which quickly readjusted itself to these barbaric sanctions, the sanctions actually hurt the USA and Europe in terms of inflation, shortages of goods, and sky-high gas prices with shortage of gas supply. The expansion of NATO into Sweden and Norway has run into a snag with Turkey. The supply of sophisticated armament to Ukraine is a component that seems to have worked as expected so far; however, Russian advances, albeit slow, in the East and the South are nevertheless continuing.

Cracks have emerged both in EU united actions as well as NATO united actions. With respect to EU, the cracks are openly visible in the case of clear opposition from Hungary and Serbia, as well as tacit reluctance by Germany, and to some extent by France. As regards NATO, the most active countries are USA, Poland,

and Lithuania; with Germany dragging somewhat on delivery of arms, and Turkey trying to stay somewhat neutral; while France pleads not to isolate Russia.

Even though NATO foresees Ukraine operations to stretch over years, there is little stomach for a prolonged conflict in Europe; while USA who is least impacted can have longer staying power, though the US citizens also have no stomach for war. In the long term, the time is on Russia's side who is engineering new alliances between Russia and China, India, Brazil, as well as Iran. Such alliances are likely to further expand.

What is also significant is the emergence of competing currencies to dollar and euro; which will blunt the instrument of sanctions, which the West has too often used irresponsibly, irrationally, and self-serving unjust manners. There is a wide network of resentment in the non-Western countries due to this behavior of the West, so that now there is enough momentum in the non-Western world to form a counter measure, or roughly speaking an East versus West oriented interests in cultural, educational, economic, political, and defense matters.

Whatever happens, one thing is clear that the lifestyle of the people worldwide will change permanently and irreversibly – much more so than happened as the result of the first 911.



[The Muslim Voice](#)

## News in Brief

Please **click** on the hyperlinks for more details:

1. Watch [Muslim Network News](#) for news coverage in [USA](#) and [Canada](#).
2. Visit [here](#) for other news coverage.
3. The First [Hijabi Police Officer](#) in Illinois Wants to Inspire.
4. [Marvel](#)'s One and Only [Muslim Superhero](#).
5. [Sanctions](#) 'a boomerang and double-edged sword,' says China's Xi.
6. Pres. Raisi to make [speech at BRICS+](#) meeting
7. Watch Indian Police [demolishing minority houses](#).

## Articles for Muslim Community

### Protests: 'bulldozer justice' in India

Via AP news wire Wednesday 15 June 2022 11:36

Protests are erupting in many Indian cities against the demolition of homes and businesses belonging to Muslims in what critics call a growing pattern of “bulldozer justice” aimed at punishing activists from the minority group.

Protests have been erupting in many Indian cities to condemn the demolition of homes and businesses belonging to Muslims, in what critics call a growing pattern of “bulldozer justice” aimed at punishing activists from the minority group.

On Sunday, authorities in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh rode on a bulldozer to raze the home of Javed Ahmad, who they said was connected to Muslim religious protests that turned violent last Friday. Police arrested Ahmad on Saturday.

The protests were sparked by derogatory remarks about Islam and the Prophet Muhammed made recently by two spokespeople of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. The party suspended one of them and expelled the other, issuing a rare statement saying it “strongly denounces insults of any religious personalities.”

Bulldozers also crushed the properties of protesters in two other cities in Uttar Pradesh last week. In April, authorities in New Delhi used bulldozers to destroy Muslim-owned shops days after communal violence in which dozens were arrested. Similar incidents have been reported in other states.

“The demolitions are a gross violation of constitutional norms and ethics,” Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a specialist on Hindu nationalist politics and biographer of Modi, told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

[Source link](#)

---

## Sweden: Cartoonist Vilks died in car crash

Via AP news wire Wednesday 15 June 2022 14:05

Swedish authorities say an exploding tire led the driver of the unmarked police car carrying Swedish artist Lars Vilks to lose control last year and crash head-on with a truck.

An exploding tire led the driver of the unmarked police car carrying Swedish artist Lars Vilks, who had lived under police protection since his controversial 2007 sketch of the Prophet Muhammad, to lose control over the vehicle, which crashed head-on with a truck last year, Swedish authorities said Wednesday.

The crash killed three people, including the 75-year-old cartoonist. Since Vilks was facing death threats for his drawings, it raised the question of whether the crash was a terror attack instead of an accident.

But the Swedish Prosecution Authority said in a statement that it was “a tragic accident” as it announced the closure of the investigation into the Oct. 4 crash after an “extensive analysis, with a technical investigations on the spot and the questioning of witnesses.”

“In summary, it is most likely that a tire on the police vehicle exploded and then the driver lost control of the vehicle, which came over on the other side of the road and collided head-on with the truck,” Chief Prosecutor Per Nichols said. “The extensive investigation now shows that no crime has been committed.”

In parallel with the prosecutor’s investigation, police had conducted a preliminary investigation into possible murder in the case. That probe, which also was closed Wednesday, concluded it was an accident.

Vilks was largely unknown outside Sweden before his Muhammad drawing. At home, he was best known for building a sculpture of driftwood in a nature reserve in southern Sweden without permission, triggering a lengthy legal battle. He was fined, but the seaside sculpture — a jumble of wood nailed together in chaotic fashion — still draws tens of thousands of visitors a year.

The artist's life changed radically after he drew a sketch of Muhammad with a dog’s body. Dogs are considered unclean by conservative Muslims, and Islamic law generally opposes any depiction of the prophet, even favorable, for fear it could lead to idolatry.

Al-Qaida put a bounty on Vilks’ head. In 2010, two men tried to burn down his house in southern Sweden and in 2014 a woman from Pennsylvania pleaded guilty in a plot to try to kill him.

The following year, a free-speech seminar that Vilks attended in Copenhagen, Denmark, was attacked by a lone gunman who killed a Danish film director and wounded three police officers.

Vilks, who was widely believed to have been the intended target of that 2015 attack, was whisked away unharmed by bodyguards. The gunman later killed a Jewish security guard outside a synagogue and wounded two more officers before he was killed in a firefight with police.

[Source link](#)

---

## Overwhelmingly Negative Portrayal of Muslims

Maya Gayler, AMT Reporter, Jun 17, 2022 10:53 AM CDT

*Scholars reviewed over 1.5 million articles over a 21-year period, to conclude that Muslims are more often framed negatively than other religious groups.*

Anti-Islamic views are not a new phenomenon. Muslims have not seen the same respect as other religious groups have in the news and entertainment media for decades.

Researchers Erik Bleich and A. Maurits van der Veen collected more than 1.5 million articles between 1996 and 2016 from the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom that featured Muslims and added them to a database to analyze the tone compared to articles about other religious groups.

“We were interested in understanding how to measure Islamophobia in the media, and how to use big data techniques to analyze huge numbers of articles that no set of researchers can study simply by reading them,” said Erik Bleich, a political science professor at Middlebury College.

The articles were reviewed for negative language and themes regarding Islam and then compared to articles about Catholics, Jews and Hindus. It was found that 80% of articles featuring Muslims contained negative framing, compared to an average 50-50 split for articles about the other groups.

Bleich and van der Veen published the full extent of their research in their book “Covering Muslims: American Newspapers in Comparative Perspective” this year.

“As we started seeing the results, we were struck by just how negative the articles mentioning Muslims or Islam were relative to those about other groups,” said Bleich. “That encouraged us to keep digging to better understand why.”

The disproportionate amount of negative coverage of Islam in media may contribute to dangerous attitudes toward Muslim people in Western societies. Muslims make up just 1.1% of the U.S. population, yet 78% of Muslim adults say they are discriminated against compared to Jews and evangelical Christians.

Muniba Saleem, associate professor of media psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, says accurate media representation is important for Muslims because “most people don't actually have a lot of interactions with people that are outside of their social groups.”

People tend to rely on news and entertainment media for knowledge and understanding of minority groups they are not a part of.

“And if media is consistently and pervasively showing a negative representation of a group, then our work is showing that that has consequences both for the group that is kind of watching from the outside, but also the group that's being depicted themselves,” said Saleem.

Intolerance towards Muslims existed in the West prior to 9/11 but became more prevalent in the mainstream media after the terrorist attack. Saleem says since that event American audiences became interested in Islam, however, most of the media coverage was from a negative frame. The existing minority Muslim population in the U.S. had few opportunities to redeem themselves, due to their lack of numbers or resources.

In their research, Bleich and van der Veen found that some of the negative articles were about conflict zones, violence and extremist groups.

“But even if you were to take all of those kinds of articles out of our study, coverage of Muslims is still more negative than for any other group we have identified,” said Bleich.

Saleem suggests that Muslims should combat stereotypes and misinformation by having conversations in social media comment sections. Journalists also have a major responsibility to accurately portray Muslim people and culture.

“Generally, it tends to be news media that is the worst culprit and that's because of a lot of reasons but entertainment media is a little bit better because they have the time and the scope to work on stories that are more than just two minutes,” said Saleem.

Bleich hopes that journalists and citizens will begin to recognize this issue of inherent negativity and implement mindfulness into stories about Muslims.

“Journalists can avoid using negative words when they are not necessary, and readers can ask themselves if stories are associating Muslims with more negativity than is called for,” said Bleich. “This is a step in the right direction; though, of course, it will not by itself solve the entrenched problem of Islamophobia.”

To effectively combat the negative view of Muslims in the West, Saleem says it is important to recognize the discrepancy between the large number of articles containing Muslim terrorists versus the reality of a peaceful religious group. She says this can be challenged.

“In some studies, we've looked at how positive depiction of Muslims can reduce the prejudice, [and] reduce the negative thoughts that people have towards them,” said Saleem. “So that's telling us a little bit about what the media entertainment industry can do in terms of the way that they depict or talk about Muslims.”

[Source link](#)

---



## America's Islamic heritage museum



**Kim Hjelmgaard**

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – One of the greatest stories rarely told about the long history of Muslim immigration to the United States stretching back hundreds of years is actually being told most days by Amir Muhammad, the founder and chief curator of America's Islamic Heritage Museum, a tiny institution with a do-it-yourself collector's vibe and a modest entrance fee that sits in an out-of-the-way corner of southeast Washington, D.C.

But, in an age of American political sectarianism when immigrant and minority-rights groups and U.S. lawmakers have blasted President Donald Trump's incendiary comments, not many people are paying attention to the story Muhammad is revealing about the Muslim experience.

"American Muslims haven't been great at explaining our side, at engaging with folks – you know? Not too many Americans come out here. We get some schools and international guests," said Muhammad, 64, in a recent interview.

As Muhammad spoke in one of the museum's small airless hallways, the lights kept flickering. Nearby, a smoke alarm chirped in need of batteries. Dusty glass displays featured Qurans from around the world. Outside, the run-down front entrance was framed by a sign in a blue font: America's Islamic Heritage Museum. Orange-yellow streaks of rust ran down the face of it.

"Once, a French documentary crew stopped by," he added. "It's like that."



America's Islamic Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, Washington DC.

## *Vestiges of Islam*

[America's Islamic Heritage Museum](#) started in 1996 as a traveling exhibition called Collections and Stories of American Muslims. Since moving, in 2011, to its location on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, the museum has introduced and entertained about 52,000 people with artifacts, documents and photographs that explore the contributions and legacies of American Muslims. Last year, about 8,000 people visited, a figure far from the more than 30 million visits made last year to the 19 museums, galleries and National Zoological Park that comprise the Smithsonian Institution a few miles away.

"This area's kind of the hood of the hood," said Muhammad, using slang to describe an economically deprived area, and also to justify why some Americans may deliberately choose to give his museum a wide berth. But "from darkness comes light," he added, noting that the neighborhood was improving.

But there are other reasons, too.



[America's Islamic Heritage Museum](#) and Cultural Center welcomes about 8000 visitors each year.

"It was a struggle for a long time to even get American Muslims behind our idea," said Emad Al-Turk, referring to the International Museum of Muslim Cultures in Jackson, Mississippi, an institution he co-founded about six months before the 9/11 attacks.

The International Museum of Muslim Cultures is perhaps less well known than America's Islamic Heritage Museum, partly because it is located far from any major city in a predominantly rural state. And its focus is on educating the public about Islamic history and culture and Muslim contributions to world civilization, not just America's.

"At the time, people were really scared about what was happening and how the relationship between American Muslims and non-Muslims was changing," Al-Turk said.

In "Al' America," his 2008 book about America's Arab and Islamic roots, the writer and journalist Jonathan Curiel notes that since the 9/11 terrorist attacks it has been difficult for some Americans to "see Arab and

Muslim culture as anything other than terrorism and fundamentalism ... 'Arab' and 'Muslim' have become code words of alarm."

There has also been a tendency, Curiel believes, to reject any historical claims Arab and Muslim culture might have on American culture – to view it as "their" culture, not "ours."

And yet:

Did you know there are two towns in the United States called Mohammad? There's also a Palestine, in Texas, and an Aladdin, in Wyoming. There's been a U.S. post office in Mecca, Indiana, since 1888. In fact, from New Orleans to the Alamo, Moorish styles of architecture can be detected in buildings across the USA. Even the pointed arches that once stood at the base of the fallen World Trade Center towers in New York City mimicked Islamic geometric tradition. Blues music may be a uniquely American art form that originated in the Deep South – music ethnographers have established that many of its harmonies and note changes resemble Muslim prayers and other recitations, a result of the African slaves who came to the U.S. from Muslim areas on that continent.



Amir Muhammad is the founder and chief curator of American Islamic Heritage Museum.

Scholars of the Middle East say that there are many possible explanations for an apparent lack of interest in the USA's Islamic heritage, not least that many Americans simply don't know it exists.

"A lot of people might assume Muslim immigration started in 1965 when the U.S. had a period of immigration reform, others will date it back to the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, yet others to the 9/11 attacks, but usually no one looks further back than the 1960s and certainly not beyond the 20th century for this history at the popular level," said Hussein Rashid, who teaches at Columbia University.

Some point to the rhetoric of President Donald Trump as a more recent reason for the dearth of interest in Islam in America.

Not only has the president signed executive orders targeting immigration from some majority-Muslim countries, but Trump himself has frequently negatively associated Islam and the Middle East more generally with violence and cultural differences claimed to be anathema to American life and identity.

"Islam hates us," Trump said on the campaign trail in 2016.

"Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in," he tweeted on Oct. 22 after ordering the military to be on alert for a caravan of migrants from Central America attempting to enter the U.S. despite efforts to have them stopped at the border.

"For Trump, there appears to a whole lot of people who are not fully American. Muslims aren't. Mexican-American communities aren't. Women. Black people," said Rashid.

But experts on Islam say there is a problem with Trump's Muslim narrative: Muslims have been coming to America since at least the 17th century, with anywhere from a third to a quarter of the enslaved Africans brought to the U.S. against their will likely Muslims.

There is also evidence that Muslims were on the ships that the Italian explorer, navigator and colonist Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in the 15th century.

There are even reports of Chinese Muslims making it to American shores, in California, in the 9th century. They arrived as pirates or fleeing religious persecution.

"We have autobiographies, we have oral histories, we have mosques, cemeteries, tombstones. We also have a lot of conjectural evidence: For example, the way people are buried facing Mecca (Islam's holiest city, in Saudi Arabia)," Rashid said.

Cornelia Walker Bailey, who died last year aged 73, wrote in her memoir that children on Sapelo Island, Georgia, where she grew up, learned to say their prayers facing east toward Mecca in keeping with Muslim practice. Bailey, like many African-Americans from Sapelo Island, claim Bilali Muhammad, a Muslim scholar from West Africa who was brought to Georgia as a teenage slave in the 18th century, as a distant relative.

[Source link](#) (Watch the video here)

---



## **The Great Muslim Nation**

We are the only organization of its kind in North America

eMail : [iCommunity@mail.MuslimPlanet.org](mailto:iCommunity@mail.MuslimPlanet.org)

Website : <http://MuslimVoice.org/>

We are nonprofit though not yet registered as a 501 (C) 3 organization due to lack of resources.

The donations are not tax deductible.

We urge you to [JOIN](#) the cause.

Please click to [DONATE ONLINE](#) using Credit/Debit card or PayPal.

You can mail your Donation Checks to:

Muslim Voice, 12719 Hillmeade Station Dr, Bowie, MD 20720, USA.

---

### **Our Projects**

[The Muslim Voice Publishers,](#)

[The Muslim Planet Project,](#)

[The News Journal](#)

[Journal of Muslim Culture,](#)

[Muslim Spirituality,](#)

[Travelogue](#)

[Technological Platform for Muslims](#)

[Sociological Platform for Muslims](#)

---

**Prepared for:**