



Muslim Voice

News Journal: Volume 5, Issue 7
July 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.

July 2022 issue has the following content.

1. [Editorial](#)
2. [News in Brief](#)
3. [Articles for the Muslim Community](#)
 - a. [Pictoriography of Hijrah](#)
 - b. [Muslim Fest](#)
 - c. [Haj 2022](#)
 - d. [By-Elections in Pakistan](#)
 - e. [Putin-Ergodan-Raisi](#)
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 Revolution in Pakistan

What has happened in Pakistan started with business as usual but quickly turned into a tsunami of public outrage flowing towards a revolution.

The removal of Prime Minister Imran Khan was business as usual. It was widely held that Imran Khan succeeded in 2018 because he was the favorite of Pakistan Army. Army has been a King or the King Maker in Pakistan ever since Ayyub Khan kick started the process in 1958, with the exception of the few years of Z. A. Bhutto.

When the Army helped Imran Khan succeed as the Prime Minister in August 2018, the Army was self-assured that they hold the reigns. However, Imran Khan was not a trained horse and did few movements that were not part of his drill. That alarmed the Army, enough to maneuver his ouster in April 2022.

Imran Khan blamed it all on USA, because he could construct a narrative that would provoke the people of Pakistan. But USA was caught in the middle for three reasons. First is the characteristic arrogance and ignorance of most US administrations. Second is the reality of politics in Pakistan where the Army always holds the reigns. Third is a surprise which should not have been so except for the ignorance. The surprise is the fact that they were ignoring the fact that Imran Khan is untrained; which means that he is furiously independent. Because of these reasons, USA walked in thinking of the situation as a convenient target of opportunity.

The Army in its self-assuredness did not think it was anything but business as usual. But the untrained horse kept galloping. And the Army took a strong notice.

To add to the surprise element the courts threw a curve ball. The curve ball was no surprise for Imran Khan who was ready for it. But the Army and the politicians did not even notice the curve, that is until the ball arrived in the form of the by-elections. The Army was bold out, and the politicians were LBW. Neither could play the game in which they were experienced and for which they had rehearsed. Imran Khan came out a clear winner.

The youth in Pakistan have made a bold statement.

The Army and the politicians, are not smart enough to realize that the game is over. In the general elections they will again play the tricks in which they are highly experienced: the game of intimidation and corruption. But the youth of Pakistan are way too smart, and they seem ready and determined. All pointers are that the youth will prevail again.

Welcome to the youthful Pakistan.



[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.

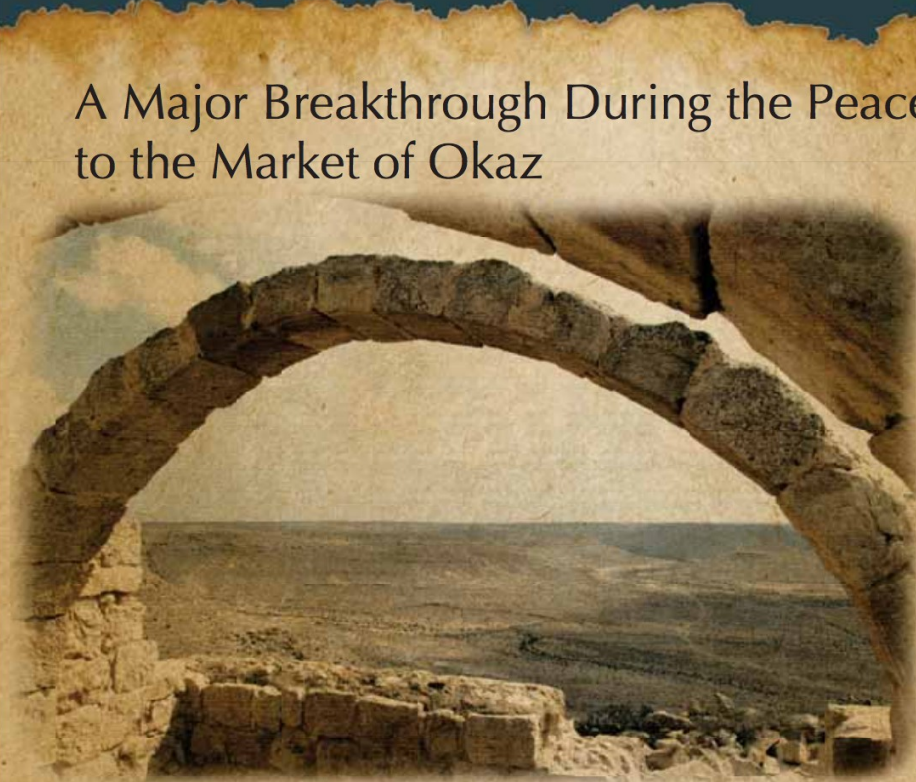
Pictoriography of Hijrah

A SOUND VISION PRODUCTION

1. Market of Okaz

The Peace Movement of Muhammad ﷺ www.SoundVision.com

A Major Breakthrough During the Peace Mission to the Market of Okaz



Ruins like these are all that remain of the Okaz Market

People of Medinah Join the Peace Movement

Delegates from the city of Yathrib (later called Medina) started meeting with the Prophet in secret to avoid confrontation with the Meccans, who were constantly trying to disrupt his work.

Eventually, they pledged their allegiance to Islam and the Prophet's peace movement.

It Happened in the Market of Okaz

Okaz was one of Arabia's seasonal markets. It was also a cultural hub, with poetry sessions and sporting competitions. In addition, people attended to settle disputes, drink, gamble, and engage in prostitution and bloodshed. In one case, a dispute which began there turned into a nine-year-long war.

Prophet Muhammad saw Okaz as another opportunity to spread his message of belief in One God and the establishment of peace and justice for all.

It was during one such trip that some people from the city of Medina heard about the Prophet and his message. They were seeking a way to end the constant and long-lasting bloody tribal wars in their society. They sought peace, justice, law, and order. They liked the Prophet's message of Oneness of God, one humanity, and the firm belief that all people are equal to one another.

©Sound Vision 7

2. Maditat-al-Haram

The Peace Movement of Muhammad ﷺ

www.SoundVision.com

Medina Emerges as a Peace Sanctuary and Center of the Prophet's Peace Movement



After accepting the offer to become leader of Medina, Prophet Muhammad moved to the city. He declared it a peace sanctuary (Al-Haram). No tree could be cut, and no animal, even birds, could be hunted there.

3. Constitution

Prophet Muhammad Developed the First Written Constitution of the World

“There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a non-Arab over an Arab. Neither is the white superior over the black, nor is the black superior over the white - except by piety.”
~ Prophet Muhammad

In Medina, Prophet Muhammad declared that all of its people were one community, without regard to their race, ethnicity, or religion. He enshrined this in a written constitution, agreed to by all citizens of the city. This document laid out rights and responsibilities.

The constitution guaranteed freedom of worship and religion. Medina was composed of pagan and Jewish communities, along with Muslims.

It also established that all citizens of Medina would

defend this peace sanctuary together if attacked.

With this constitution, the Prophet introduced a moral element to politics. He regarded God as the source of Ultimate Authority, and made mutual consultation and consent between people an operating principle.

The whole of this document, word for word, has been reproduced by major historians Ibn Ishaq and Abu Ubaid in their respective books.

4. Rule of Law

Transforming Medina into a Just and Equitable Society

Instituting Rule of Law

In Medina, Prophet Muhammad proceeded to work toward establishing a stable, secure, and just society. He did this by:

- Ending the tradition of revenge by emphasizing forgiveness and patience, as well as by establishing the rule of law
- Ensuring that laws were equally applicable to all, including the Prophet himself. Since the most powerful man could not violate the laws at will, other officials and the people in general naturally observed them with greater care

Women's Rights

Women's rights were key to establishing a better society. The Prophet declared women to be the "twin halves of men", and guaranteed them:

- The right to life, education, property, inheritance
- Full ownership over their wealth, including after marriage
- The right to initiate marriage and divorce
- The right to be counted and consulted in the affairs of the community



Freeing of Slaves

The Prophet's Anti-Slavery Movement was part of the push for justice in Medinan society

- The Prophet declared that slaves and masters are equal
- Assisted in freeing slaves personally
- He instituted the use of Zakat, among other religious obligations, to free slaves

Financial Reform

The Prophet sought to create equity in Medina by reforming unjust financial practices

- The Prophet instituted labor rights. He ordered people to "pay the worker before his sweat dries"
- He prohibited usury and exploitation
- He insisted on a broader circulation of wealth

5. Mosque opened for Christians

Christians Praying in the Mosque of the Prophet: Respecting Other Faiths

A delegation of 60 Christians were visiting the Prophet in Medina, led by their bishop. When it came time for the Christians to pray, the Prophet responded by saying: "Conduct your service here in the mosque. It is a place consecrated to God."

Some scholars believe it was a Mass service for either Easter or Christmas.

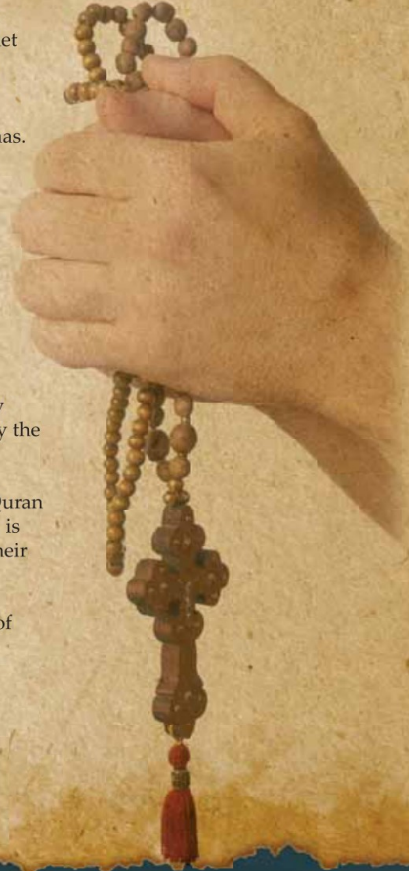
Muslim Belief in Jesus

Muslims and Christians share basic beliefs about Jesus. In Islam, as well as in Christianity, Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary without a father. The Quran describes Jesus as a "Spirit from God," "the Messiah - someone blessed by God", a "Word from God", and "Messenger of God". The Quran describes the miracles Jesus performed, such as healing the sick and raising the dead, as commands of God.

Like Christians, Muslims believe that Jesus will return. Islamic texts say that Jesus will come back on the Day of Judgment, when he will destroy the anti-Christ and unite humanity.

Muslims love and revere Mary, the mother of Jesus. Chapter 19 of the Quran is named after her. Her birth, as well as her role as the mother of Jesus, is mentioned in a number of places in the Quran. Many Muslims name their daughters after her.

Muslims do not believe in original sin, the Trinity, that Jesus is the son of God, or that Jesus was crucified.



6. Jihad

Muslims Forced to Defend the Peace Sanctuary of Medina

Muslims did not want to fight the Meccans who had persecuted them for their faith. This is when God asked them to stand up and defend their peace sanctuary:

“Fighting is imposed upon you although you hate it. But it is possible that you dislike a thing


which is good for you, and that you love a thing which is bad for you. But God knows and you know not” (Quran 2:216).

Prophet Muhammad hated war but submitted to God’s command. Here is what he said about war: “Do not

look for a fight with the enemy. Beg God for peace and security. But if you do end up facing the enemy, then show endurance and remember that Paradise is under the shadow of the swords” (Sahih al-Muslim).



7. Compensation for a Dog

The Peace Movement of Muhammad  www.SoundVision.com

Compensating for Dogs: The Muslim Geneva Convention


The Islamic rule forbidding the killing of noncombatants was so strong that when a new Muslim commander, Khalid bin Walid, killed a few people, along with their dogs, the Prophet faced the Kaba in distress declaring three times for emphasis "Oh God, I have nothing to do with this!" Then, he paid compensation to the tribe of those killed, including the dogs.

Fight those who fight you for the sake of God. But do not transgress limits; God loves not transgressors.
(Quran 2:190)

Rules of Engagement

Here are Prophet Muhammad's first ten rules:

1. Do not wish for an encounter with the enemy; pray to God to grant you peace and security.
2. Killing non-combatants such as children, women, the elderly, monks, and people in a house of worship is categorically forbidden.
3. Uprooting, burning, or cutting down fruitful trees is prohibited.
4. The enemy's flock of animals cannot be killed except if needed for food.
5. Do not destroy villages, towns, cultivated fields, and gardens.
6. Show mercy to those combatants who surrender.
7. Give preference to feeding prisoners of war over oneself.
8. Treachery and mutilation are forbidden.
9. Punishing with fire (e.g. burning anyone alive) is forbidden.
10. Forced conversion to Islam is not allowed.



©Sound Vision 16

The above pictoriography is created by Ms. Ariya Siddiqui of [SoundVision](http://www.SoundVision.com).

This exhibit consists of twenty 10 feet by 10 feet, portable, full color, panels about the Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him. The exhibit was written by Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid and designed by Michael Schmidt. You can order this exhibit for your next open house or interfaith event and inform Muslims and our neighbors of other faiths about the life of the Prophet Muhammad. [Order this Exhibit for Your Event](#)

[Source link](#)

Muslim Fest

It was in the summer of 2003 that a group of concerned individuals, including Muslim artists like Dawud Wharnsby Ali and community leaders like Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, the President of Sound Vision, and Arif Zia, a founding leader of DawaNet, and other creative minds gathered in the basement of Sound Vision office to brainstorm the most effective and creative ways to connect with our neighbours and to engage Muslim youth. In the post-911 era of global upheaval, hate, and Islamophobia, an urgent need was felt to create opportunities and spaces for Muslim families and youth, as well their neighbours to connect, communicate and collaborate with each other and enjoy artistic performances and cultural shows.

Thus a concept of the first ever Muslim arts and entertainment festival in North America was formalized. MuslimFest, as it was aptly named, became a collaborative initiative of Sound Vision and DawaNet.

These organizations pooled their energies, talent, volunteers, and meager financial resources together to organize this groundbreaking event on August 7, 2004, at the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, which was attended by 7,000 people from all walks of life. Over the years, MuslimFest has been awarded several notable awards and has been offered grants by all levels of the Canadian government.

In addition to organizing the largest Muslim arts festival in North America, over the years, MuslimFest and its Mini-MuslimFest events have been organized in multiple cities across the USA, including, Chicago, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, San Francisco, and St. Louis. MuslimFest also organizes physical and virtual creative arts workshops throughout the year.

MuslimFest is an award-winning collaborative program by Sound Vision and DawaNet that celebrates the best in Muslim arts, culture, and entertainment in the USA and Canada. Its mission is to position art as a community development mechanism for Muslim youth and to connect Muslims and their neighbors with each other through the language of art, culture, comedy, and meaningful entertainment.

Launched in 2004, MuslimFest now attracts over 60,000 attendees and 80 artists from around the world over three days of festivities every summer in Mississauga (a suburb of Toronto).





In addition to organizing the largest Muslim arts festival in North America, over the years, Sound Vision has organized MuslimFest and Mini-MuslimFest events in multiple cities across the USA, including, Chicago, Boston, Detroit, Dallas, St. Louis, and San Francisco with attendance ranging from 500 to 6,000. Each of these MuslimFest events were true to its mission of building bridges of understanding among neighbors through a variety of artistic expressions. Mini-MuslimFests were mostly aimed at the younger participants and included puppet shows along with music, comedy, and the parades. MuslimFest also organizes physical and virtual creative arts workshops throughout the year.

General features of the festival include creative workshops, live artist demos, international bazaar, art exhibit, film festival, fun village, children's shows, live plays, and fashion shows. A performance finale at the end of the final day typically includes spoken word artists, Muslim musicians, and a comedy show.



Watch [Muslim Fest](#) 2016

[Source link](#)

Haj 2022: Six Glorious Days from July 7 to July 12



Huge crowds of robed Muslim pilgrims prayed on Saudi Arabia's Mount Arafat on Friday, the climax of the biggest hajj pilgrimage since the pandemic forced drastic cuts in numbers two years in a row.

Groups of worshippers, many holding umbrellas against the fierce sun, recited verses from the Koran on the rocky rise where the Prophet Mohammed is believed to have given his final sermon.

Prayers on Mount Arafat, also known as the "Mount of Mercy", are the highlight of the pilgrimage, capped this year at one million people including 850,000 from abroad after Covid greatly reduced numbers over 2020 and 2021.

Pilgrims, many of them in simple white robes and chanting "Oh God, here I am", reached Mount Arafat on foot or in buses from the tents nearby where they spent the night.

After sunset, they will journey the short distance to Muzdalifah, where they will sleep under the stars before performing the symbolic "stoning of the devil" ceremony on Saturday.

"I am so happy to be here, like everyone else. This is the biggest hajj in the coronavirus era, but it isn't big enough yet," Egyptian pilgrim Saad Farhat Khalil, 49, told AFP.

"There are one million here today, but if the Saudis allowed more, 10 million would have come," he added. Entry roads were packed with worshippers as helicopters buzzed overhead and volunteers handed out bottles of water and collected rubbish in green plastic bags.

"Let's keep the purest of all lands clean," read a sign on a large garbage container.



Muslim pilgrims pray atop Mount Arafat, also known as Jabal al-Rahma (Mount of Mercy). © Christina Assi, AFP

The hajj, usually one of the world's largest annual religious gatherings, is among the five pillars of Islam and must be undertaken by all Muslims with the means at least once in their lives.

In 2019, as in previous years, some 2.5 million Muslims from around the world took part, a figure that dropped to a few thousand in 2020 and 60,000 in 2021.

Even though the crowds are back, Covid fears remain and the hajj is taking place against the backdrop of a resurgence in the region, with some Gulf countries tightening restrictions to keep outbreaks in check.

All participants were required to submit proof of full vaccination and negative PCR tests. On reaching their white-tent encampment at Mina on Thursday, they were handed small bags containing masks and sanitiser.

Heat warnings

The pilgrimage can be physically draining even in ideal conditions, but worshippers this year have faced an added challenge: scorching sun and temperatures rising to 42 degrees Celsius (108 degrees Fahrenheit).

Islam forbids men from wearing hats once the rites start, and many have been seen shielding themselves with umbrellas, prayer mats and even, in one case, a small bucket filled with water.

Women, meanwhile, are obliged to cover their heads with scarves.

"We can tolerate (the heat). We are here for the hajj. The more we tolerate, the more our pilgrimage is accepted," Laila, a 64-year-old Iraqi pilgrim who gave only her first name, told AFP in Mecca, where the rituals started.



In 2019, some 2.5 million Muslims from around the world took part, a figure that dropped to a few thousand in 2020 and 60,000 in 2021. © Christina Assi, AFP

Saudi officials have touted their preparations for the extreme conditions, highlighting the hundreds of hospital beds allocated for heatstroke patients and the "large number of misting fans" they have provided.

A truck has also been allocated to distribute umbrellas, water bottles and small fans.

Nevertheless, the National Centre for Meteorology, which has set up an office in Mina, is sending warnings to pilgrims on their mobile phones, urging them to avoid outdoor rituals at certain times of the day, especially at noon.

On Saturday, Muslim pilgrims will take part in the "stoning", the last major ritual of the hajj which has previously led to deadly stampedes, as hundreds of thousands of participants converge on a small space.

After the stoning ritual, pilgrims return to the Grand Mosque in Mecca to perform a final "tawaf" or circling of the Kaaba, the cubic structure draped in a gold-embroidered black cloth that is the focal point of Islam.

Eid al-Adha, the feast of the sacrifice that begins on Saturday, marks the end of hajj.

(AFP)

[Source link](#)

By-Elections in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD —

Pakistan's opposition party of deposed Prime Minister Imran Khan swept by-elections in the country's most populous Punjab province Sunday, dealing a serious blow to the central coalition government and possibly paving the way for snap national polls.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won 15 of the 20 seats up for grabs, according to unofficial results reported by the state-run radio Pakistan and independent television stations.



The rival Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif secured four seats and one went to an independent candidate, his party leaders confirmed at a late-night news conference.

The outcome has given the PTI the requisite majority in the provincial legislature to reclaim power from the PML-N government of incumbent Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz, son of Sharif, who took an oath of office only eight weeks ago.

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif and other top PML-N leaders in separate statements congratulated the PTI for its “historic” victory.

“We accept the opinion of the public. They are constitutionally the real decision-makers and this is democracy,” said Marriyum Aurangzeb, federal information minister.

Khan thanked his party workers, voters and allies for helping the PTI win Sunday's elections and renewed his demand for snap elections in Pakistan.

Call for snap elections

“The only way forward from here is to hold fair & free elections under a credible ECP (Election Commission of Pakistan). Any other path will only lead to greater political uncertainty & further economic chaos,” Khan tweeted.

Punjab was ruled by a PTI-led coalition until mid-April when then-Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar resigned shortly after Khan’s four-year-old central government fell in a parliamentary vote of no-confidence earlier that month. That paved the way for Sharif to replace him as the country’s new prime minister and form a multiparty coalition.

Khan’s subsequent nominee for the post of chief minister was defeated after a faction among his party provincial lawmakers voted for Hamza Shebaz instead.

The PTI successfully petitioned the Election Commission of Pakistan to unseat the legislators in question for voting against the party in breach of anti-defection laws, leaving 20 Punjab seats vacant for which voting was eventually held Sunday.

Khan, the nearly 70-year-old former cricket legend, has accused Sharif and his other partners in the ruling coalition of conspiring with the powerful military and the United States to bring down his government. The U.S. government denied the allegation.

The deposed prime minister has since drawn tens of thousands to rallies across the country, condemning the Sharif administration in his televised speeches and media interviews as an “imported government” imposed on Pakistan by the alleged Washington-led conspiracy.

Khan has been pressing Sharif to hold early general elections. He has been urging his supporters during campaigning for the by-elections and media interviews to vote for his party to help him end dynastic family rule and the alleged U.S. influence on Pakistan's foreign policy.

Incumbent's challenges

The provincial election came as Sharif’s administration struggles to deal with the highest inflation facing the country in 13 years. Central bank foreign exchange reserves also have rapidly depleted to around \$9.7 billion, barely enough to cover a few weeks of imports.

Last week, Islamabad and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to revive a bailout financial package for the cash-strapped South Asian nation to help it tackle a payment crisis in the wake of high global price of energy imports, mainly blamed on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The agreement, subject to the approval by the IMF board, was struck only after Sharif took politically unpopular decisions of raising energy prices and taxes to meet requirements mutually agreed with the global lending agency.

“The poll was a referendum on both the new gov’t’s performance and on Khan’s narrative about his ouster,” Michael Kugelman, an expert on South Asian affairs at Washington's Wilson Center, tweeted while commenting on the results of the by-elections

"If the new beleaguered government was looking for a boost to its mandate, it clearly didn't get it," Kugelman said. "Now it's stuck with a free-falling economy, it lacks a public mandate, and it confronts a galvanized opposition."

[Source link](#)

Putin and Erdogan in Iran to Discuss Syria's Future, Ukraine War

Russian, Iranian presidents aim to prevent Turkey from a new offensive in northern Syria.

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 / BY: John Drennan; Sarhang Hamasaeed; Mona Yacoubian

PUBLICATION TYPE: Analysis and Commentary

The leaders of Russia, Turkey and Iran are gathering in Tehran, with Ankara's threat of a new incursion into northern Syria likely to top the agenda. While Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has both domestic and strategic reasons for the move, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi want to maintain the status quo in Syria, where both their countries have expended significant resources to prop up the Assad regime. Russia's war on Ukraine will also feature prominently at the trilateral summit. Iran has offered to provide Moscow with drones and Putin and Erdogan are reportedly set to discuss restarting Ukrainian grain exports in the Black Sea.

USIP's Mona Yacoubian, Sarhang Hamasaeed and John Drennan examine Erdogan's threat to initiate a new offensive, why it matters to the United States, and the impact of the Ukraine war on Moscow's ties with Ankara and Tehran.

Over the past several weeks, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened a new incursion into northern Syria against Kurdish militants. What is behind Erdogan's threats? How likely is he to get a “green light” from Russia and Iran to move forward on this?

Yacoubian: Erdogan's repeated threat of a new offensive into northern Syria stems from both domestic and foreign policy imperatives. Turkey has underscored its staunch opposition to the creation of an autonomous Kurdish entity in northern Syria and considers the presence of Syrian Kurdish forces — known as the People's Defense Units or YPG — on its southern border to be an existential threat. Since 2016, Turkey has undertaken three incursions into northern Syria in pursuit of the establishment of a 30-km (roughly 19 miles)

deep buffer zone inside Syria. Ankara considers the YPG as indistinguishable from the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged a decades-long insurgency inside Turkey. A recent uptick in suspected YPG attacks inside Turkish-controlled enclaves in northern Syria has further angered Turkey.

Increasingly, domestic factors also drive Erdogan's decision-making on a new offensive into Syria. Turkey's economy is in crisis, marked by nearly 80 percent inflation causing growing hardship for Turkish consumers and deepening anxiety across the country. Turkey's worsening economic woes are also stoking greater hostility toward the 3.6 million Syrian refugees living in Turkey. With elections looming in 2023, Erdogan likely calculates he can win voter sympathy with another incursion into Syria, at times tying it to an aspirational promise that Turkey will return one million Syrian refugees to Syria.

To varying degrees, both Russia and Iran oppose a new Turkish offensive. Russia holds the most sway on the ground in Syria, and a Turkish move would likely be predicated on a Russian "green light," however pale. Iran has been more adamant in its opposition to another Turkish incursion, yet continues to focus on a diplomatic resolution. Given the high stakes for Erdogan, he is unlikely to be dissuaded from making at least a symbolic move into Syria. As such, the July 19 trilateral summit could focus on a three-way negotiation delineating the parameters, constraints and timing of a limited Turkish operation, although a last-minute diplomatic resolution could yet forestall another Turkish incursion — at least in the short term.

The United States will not be in the room but has raised objections to any Turkish offensive in Syria. What's at stake for the United States and more broadly on the ground in Syria should Erdogan make good on his threat?

Hamasaeed: The United States has warned and objects to a Turkish offensive in Syria because it is concerned about the adverse effects of such operation on U.S. interests and stability in north and northeast Syria. The potential Turkish operation would affect areas that are controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a U.S. partner in fighting ISIS, comprised of the YPG as well as local Arab elements. A Turkish operation could force the SDF to direct resources to defend their constituents and associated territories at the expense of anti-ISIS efforts.

ISIS could benefit by seizing the opportunity to attack the SDF and prisons where some 10,000 ISIS fighters are held as well as al-Hol camp, where thousands of ISIS family members are located. Earlier this year, ISIS attacked al-Sinaa prison in al-Hasakah province and managed to free fighters. It took direct U.S. military support to bring the situation under control and recapture most of the prisoners who had escaped. It is a declared objective of ISIS to free its fighters and affiliated family members.

A military operation could also displace thousands of Syrians and further stress communities that are struggling with economic, health and security hardships. Local and regional interlocutors are asking for the United States to stop its NATO partner, but they are also eyeing the summit between Erdogan, Putin and Raisi to see if Moscow and Tehran would prevent or allow the Turkish operation in exchange for securing other interests.

The war in Ukraine has given Turkey more leverage in Syria and beyond with the United States, Russia and Europe. It is expected it would use such leverage to downsize the SDF and Kurdish influence in Syria. Turkey has conducted several military operations in northern Iraq against the PKK and has not shied away from publicly stating its interests in creating a deep security zone along its borders with Syria and Iraq. In the past few years, it has taken incremental steps toward accomplishing that goal. While the United States

understands Turkey's national security interests, it believes a more effective and lasting outcome would come through dialogue and political solution.

The war in Ukraine also looms large as the three leaders meet. Iran has reportedly agreed to provide Russia with drones. How has Russia managed its relations with both Turkey and Iran following Russia's invasion of Ukraine? What will Putin look to achieve in the meeting?

Drennan: Russia's invasion of Ukraine and resultant push by the West to isolate Moscow has driven Russia and Iran closer together, while Russia-Turkey relations have been more complicated. Officially, Putin is traveling to Tehran to meet with his Iranian and Turkish counterparts as part of the Astana process, seeking a settlement to the conflict in Syria. He is also meeting with each bilaterally, as well as Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Putin likely has at least two goals for his meeting with Raisi, who he has met with two other times since January. In the immediate term, he is likely trying to secure military assistance to support the Russian war effort in Ukraine. Jake Sullivan, President Biden's national security advisor, recently went on record to say that Iran is planning to provide Russia with unmanned systems to assist with long-range artillery targeting. Other U.S. officials have stated that the Iranians could begin providing up to 300 remotely piloted aircraft and begin training Russian servicemembers in their use as early as this month.

More broadly, both countries have been isolated by Western sanctions, creating an opening — or perhaps forcing function — for them to improve their relations. Ahead of the visit, Kremlin spokesman Dmitri Peskov noted that the two countries could soon sign a treaty on strategic cooperation, bolstering financial and banking ties in a bid to move away from dollar-denominated trade.

Russia's relations with Turkey have been fraught. On Syria specifically, both Russia and Iran are united in their opposition to any new Turkish offensive, so Putin will likely push Erdogan on this issue when they meet. Putin and Erdogan may also discuss the contours of a notional deal between Moscow and Kyiv on lifting Russia's blockade of Ukrainian Black Sea ports to allow grain exports to leave. Earlier this month, Erdogan suggested that a deal was close to being reached.

Erdogan's role as go-between in this proposed deal follows from his role elsewhere in the conflict, where he has sought to play an active role in the Russia-Ukraine peace process. Turkey hosted two rounds of negotiations in Istanbul in March that ended as Russia expanded its offensive in Ukraine. The Turkish president has indicated a willingness to continue playing that role, to little apparent interest from Russia. Ankara has been reluctant to sign on to the broader Western sanctions regime against Russia. At the same time, Turkey has supplied Ukraine with Bayraktar TB2 unmanned aerial vehicles, which the Ukrainian military has used to great effect against Russian artillery and tanks. Putin may attempt to pressure Erdogan into limiting or ending future sales, but Turkey has previously framed the provision of Bayraktars as a private company's decision, not a state-to-state sale.

[Source link](#)



The Great Muslim Nation

We are the only organization of its kind in North America

eMail : 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: