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This is the maiden issue of the News Letter for the Muslim Community in USA. It is brought to you by the Muslim Planet Project. You can enjoy this News Letter in three ways:

- By reading it inline within this email.
- By opening the attached PDF file.
- By going to the newsletter blog here: <http://NewsLetter.Muslim-Voice.org>

Please check the accuracy of the information above, about your Islamic Center and update us with any changes by replying to this email. We also will appreciate information about other Islamic Centers and organizations in your area so we can keep our database current.





The Muslim Planet Project

News Letter Volume 1, Issue 1, Number 1, August 2018.

Announcements:

1. We welcome scholarly contributions of timely relevance to the mission of the Muslim Planet Project. See the News Letter section of www.muslimplanet.org and **contact us at:** iCommunity@mail.muslimplanet.org (301-775-9555 and 240-614-6161)
2. We congratulate the Muslims from Pakistan and India on their Independence day.
3. You can participate by using our services and volunteering your time and talent; and help the Ummah's current predicament with your donations, Zakat and Sadaqat. You can contribute by going to <http://muslimplanet.org/donate>

In This Issue:

1. This maiden issue consists of one article contributed by Mr. Sabir Abdur Rahman who is an Islamic Scholar in Interfaith Dialogue. He is a member of the Muslim Community Center, Silver Spring, MD.

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A Timely Appeal to the Muslim Community in USA

By Sabir Abdur Rahman



The New York Times of 28 June 2018 discussed the possible consequences of the retirement and replacement of Justice Anthony Kennedy. It declared:

“In the simplest terms, the Supreme Court is likely to begin siding more often with those who already have power – and against those who don’t have much.”

It is a profound statement with far reaching consequences for the American Muslim Community. Already, some of us have observed that “In the current political and social environment of USA the American Muslim Community does not receive human respect, citizen’s dignity, equal justice, and proper image depiction.” In view of the current composition of the US Supreme Court, this predicament of Muslims in USA is likely to become direr.

Ray Hanania of the Daily Arab News observed that: “Left doesn’t care about Muslims, only uses them as wedge”. Then he goes on to explain: “Activists on the Left often claim that they champion the rights of others including Muslims and sometimes Arabs, but the truth is they really don’t support us. They just don’t mind using us for their own political agendas. Activists on the Left have been no less critical of Muslims and Arabs than activists on the Right. A recent controversy created by the Huffington Post involving Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and gubernatorial candidate Abdul El-Sayed is a good example.” The whole article is in this link, and it is well worth the time anyone invests in reading it:

https://thearabdailynews.com/2018/07/17/left-doesnt-care-about-muslims-only-uses-them-as-wedge/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheArabDailyNews+%28The+Arab+Daily+News%29

Facing such precarious times and situations, it is high time that we the Muslims in USA follow the advice of Iqbal to stop waiting for tomorrow but make our tomorrow with our own efforts, as Quran 53:39 says:

“And that man hath only that for which he maketh effort”, *أَنْ لَّيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَى*.

We need to prepare and take care of ourselves because nobody is going to do it for us if we don’t actively do it for ourselves, as Quran 13:11 says: “Lo! Allah changeth not the

condition of a folk until they (first) change that which is in their hearts”, إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ

ربط و ضبط ملتِ حنیفہ ہے شرق کی نجات
ایشیا والے ہیں اس نکتے سے اب تک خبر

The key is to change our hearts and get organized, identify our needs and proceed to work hard to achieve them. But Iqbal pointed out that it is the very area where we are lacking. He said that the salvation of East lies in a proper organization of the community, but the Asians are as yet unaware of that fact. We are the people he was talking about.

He also told us that we need to put some strength into ourselves before we set out on our mission.

ہر صداقت کے لیے جس دل میں مرنے کی تڑپ
پہلے اپنے سیکرنگال میں جاں پہنکے

Let us do what Quran commands and Iqbal emphasizes. First, we need to get organized and gain strength. We need to come together at a united Muslim Platform to work among ourselves

for accomplishing common goals.

For that we need resources. These have already been created and are readily available for the community to use. Availability of these resources makes it easy for us to work together for our collective goals. *AlHamdoLillah.*

We need to generate authoritative content about our community, about the issues and problems facing the community, about the goals and objectives we together want to accomplish, and of course about our heritage and history. Late Dr. Aftab Ahmad Khan used to say that if we do not tell our story, who will? If we let others tell our story, they will not tell the real story, and definitely not tell the way it should be told. Only we can tell our real story and tell it right. Listen to what others are saying about us and read what they are writing, and we see the wisdom of what Aftab Bhai had said. The prevailing narrative about us is at such great variance from the reality. We need to take control of our narrative and project our real image. Only we can do it. Let us start to do it using the resources which have already been created and are readily available. *MaShaAllah.*

The Muslim Planet platform has been created and established to provide all the technological and sociological capabilities needed for collection, storage and dissemination of the vast information about our community, our identity, our heritage, our history, our issues, and our mission going forward. The platform is up and running to provide these capabilities in an end-to-end manner. It is the platform of the American Muslim Community that is designed and operated for the community and by the community. It seeks to enhance the potential of the Muslim community in USA to strengthen itself and to prosper; share prosperity with everyone, and to outreach about the Muslim contributions to the world. You can read more details about it at its website: www.muslimplanet.org. It is the platform of the Muslim Community in USA.

We need to build more comprehensive content into this platform. Our community is highly resourceful and educated, containing a large number of scholarly individuals with

treasures of knowledge, ideas and writings. The Muslim Planet platform is available to display their works and share them with the world. The platform offers the community members a suite of capabilities to share their ideas and writings with the world. It will host their websites for them to share their knowledge globally; it will provide them the blogging platform to share their writings; it will give them email addresses at mail.muslimplanet.org; it will electronically publish their scholarly works; and it will also print their scholarly works in hard copy. The community members are urged to share themselves with the larger Muslim community in USA while availing of these services. There is charge for our book publication services in print.

Muslim Planet has developed a local mailing list for Washington DC metropolitan area as well as a list for USA. These are already good sized lists though efforts continue to expand the lists in comprehensiveness and in scope. These will be valuable in accomplishing the goals of our community.

Contributions from the community are respectfully requested. Contribution is often viewed in financial terms, but here it also means active participation by the individual members of the community, and the support of community organizations. While financial help is indeed desired, we are also talking in terms of contribution to the content, to add to the e-mail lists, to volunteer your time and expertise, and to spread the word about the Muslim Planet platform with an appeal that it should be used widely.

For example, consider the website hosting for the mosques. Currently it is all random. Mosques are hosted with a myriad of hosting companies. Mosques have .com domains, .org domains, and .us domains; and there is no naming convention for the domain names. A common strategy for the Muslim community in USA would be impossible to implement in such chaotic conditions. And that is not all. Look at what each mosque is paying for their website hosting charges?


The Muslim Planet platform will change all that. *InShaAllah*. It will advise mosques about the domain names, it will host the mosque websites with the community goals in mind, and it will provide hosting services at no cost.

It is therefore imperative, in the interest of the Muslim community in USA, that the mosques migrate their websites from whichever company is hosting them to the services of the Muslim Planet platform – the platform of the Muslim community in USA. The service from the Muslim Planet platform will serve the community far better, and the money that each mosque saves will funnel back into the service of the community. *InShaAllah*. Out of these savings, the mosque can choose to provide a small voluntary contribution for the services of the Muslim Planet.

Muslim Planet platform is not for profit; it currently runs on private funds and volunteer services. Therefore, each mosque is respectfully urged to do as suggested above, namely to migrate their websites to the Muslim Planet platform. Please circulate this letter within your email list, so that the community members can use the services; and forward this

letter to other area mosques to enable them to have a website with the Muslim Planet platform.

Last but not the least, you are strongly urged to help the current predicament of the Muslim Ummah by helping the Muslim Planet Project with your donations, Zakat and Sadaqat.

You can donate by clicking on this link: <http://muslimplanet.org/donate> 



May Allah bless you and your community.
We offer our sincere thanks and respectful regards.



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