Miscellaneous Notes:

- This issue of the News Journal has the following four articles:

o The Great Muslim Nation

o The Goals

o The Technology and Services

o The Sociological Transformation

    Views expressed in the articles are those of their authors and do not necessarily represent the Muslim Planet project.

- We invite the community members, mosques, and other institutes to contribute articles to the News Journal.

- Please DONATE to the project.

May you and your community be blessed.
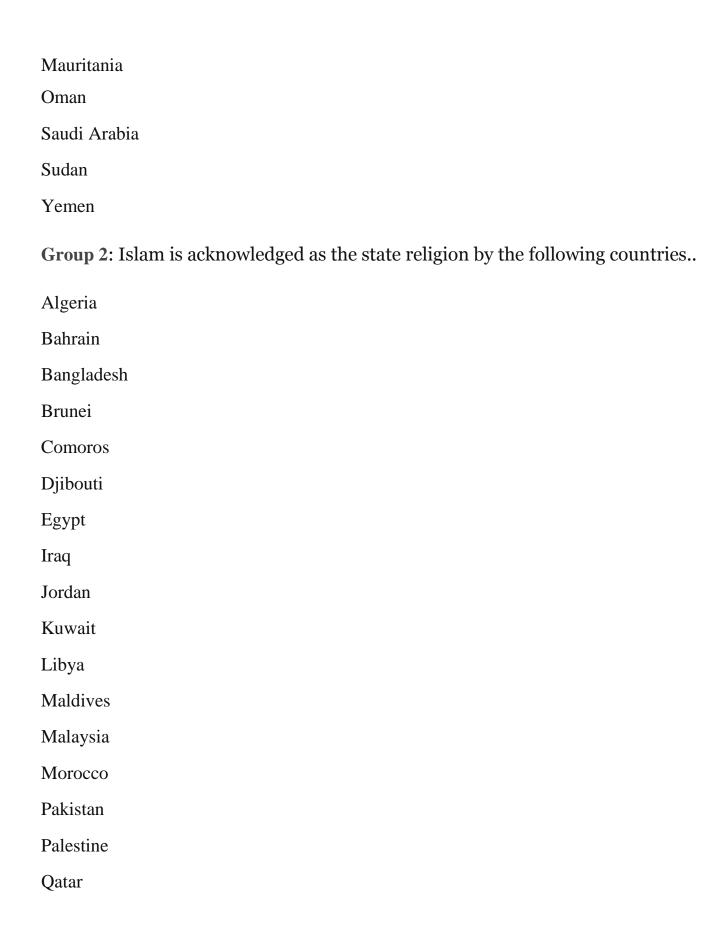

The Great Muslim Nation

The great Muslim Nation comprises of the Muslims of the World. The Muslim majority countries form its core. They stretch from Kazakhstan in the North to Malawi in the South, and from Indonesia in the East to Mauritania in the West. The Great Muslim Nation encompasses hundreds of boundaries and thousands of rich cultures. It represents all races, all colors of humanity, all wonders of spirituality, and the proud achievements of history. It is a Nation without Borders; a nation with a generous heart and an amazing grace.

We list the Muslim majority countries in the following four groups. Many additional countries have their Muslim population half or nearly half of the total but we have not included these in the list.

Group 1: Islam is the constitutional basis for the following countries.

Afghanistan

Iran

Mauritania

Oman

Saudi Arabia

Sudan

Yemen

Group 2: Islam is acknowledged as the state religion by the following countries..

Algeria

Bahrain

Bangladesh

Brunei

Comoros

Djibouti

Egypt

Iraq

Jordan

Kuwait

Libya

Maldives

Malaysia

Morocco

Pakistan

Palestine

Qatar

Sahrawi

Republic

Somalia

Tunisia

United Arab Emirates

Group 3: No explicit acknowledgment is made by the following countries.

Indonesia

Syria

Group 4: Following countries are secular.

Albania

Azerbaijan

Bosnia-

Herzegovina

Burkina Faso

Chad

The Gambia

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Ivory Coast

Kazakhstan

Kosovo

Kyrgyzstan

Lebanon

Mali

Niger

Nigeria

Senegal

Sierra Leone

Tajikistan

Turkey

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan

Together the countries of The Great Muslim Nation possess the lion's share of the world resources. However, they are modest and happily content not to over do with the consumption of these resources because, as a people, they do not like extravagance. The rest of the world is often times a larger consumer of their resources than they themselves are.

A large number of the members of The Great Muslim Nation live in the diaspora. Globally, the members of the diaspora render outstanding services to the humanity and to their host countries. They possess a generous heart at the times of prosperity, and they display an amazing grace in the face of the odds.

The Muslim community in USA is a part of the Great Muslim Nation. 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.

A goal of the Muslim Voice project is for the Muslim community of USA to have a voice of its own. So that the Muslim community in USA be duly accorded human respect, citizen's dignity, equal justice, and proper image depiction.

Please Join us to make USA a better place.

The Goals: 2018-2024

The goals for the Muslim Community of USA are set by a Think Tank. There is a detailed description at the iCommunity forum through which the Think Tank gets formed.

The planning is done on a 3 year cycle and a 6 year cycle. The first one is called the Short term planning, and the second one is called the middle term planning. In addition, there is a long term planning which consists of the planning for the 6 year period that will become operational when the current 6 year plan ends. For example, the current short term plan is for the period 2018-2021, the current middle term plan is for the period 2018-2024, and the current long term plan is for the period 2024-2030.

The short term goals constitute the execution of an *action plan* to achieve the planned goals under the prevailing set of national circumstances and community

priorities. The community priorities are set in keeping with the middle term goals which focus less on the prevailing *events* and more on their *trends*. The long term plan focuses on the aspirations of the community, but it takes a concrete shape in the form of the "next" 6 year plan; thus ensuring continuity of community priorities and a strategy to respond to the national events, their trends, and their projections over the long time.

The program is robust and enduring, and it does not fluctuate in a reactive mode. The set of short, middle, and long term goals is expressly proactive to achieve the aspirations of the community.

The think tank of the Muslim community in USA sets the goals and their relative priorities, assesses the achievements, and provides a supervisory role for the execution. It looks ahead and formulates the goals for the next cycle of the short and middle term goals beyond the current six year period into the next six year period. The next set of short and midterm goals are thus ready when the time arrives.

Short Term Goals (2018-21)

The current short term goals are as follows.

To develop the platform for the community as described under iCommunity, complete with its technology platform and the services.

To work on the Sociological Transformation within the Muslim community in USA. In particular start the News Journal and the Journal for Muslim Culture.

To induce a political transformation within the community towards getting elected Muslim representatives at all levels in the federal, state, and local governments.

To get reelected the three Muslim Representatives into the US House of Representatives, namely House Representatives Ilhan Omar, Rashida Talaib, and Andre Carson.

Mid Term Goals (2018-24)

The middle term goals include the above short term goals. In addition our mid term goals include the following three goals.

Make necessary expansion of the iCommunity platform. This include the expansions of its technological and services section as well as its section for the sociological transformation of the Muslim Community in USA.

Great participation from the Muslim Community in USA and to obtain the needed financial contributions to further develop the iCommunity platform.

To get elected by 2024 another two House Representatives that are Muslim. Thus by 2024 we will have elected 5 Muslim Representatives in the US House of Representatives.

To diligently work to get elected one Muslim Senator by the 2028 elections, as our long term goal for the next mid term planned period.

As stated, one of our immediate goals is to get our three Muslim representatives in the US Congress reelected in 2020 elections. One of the most disturbing threats against Ilhan is groups of bigots attacking her with racist propaganda campaigns on Twitter. And unlike Donald Trump and dark money groups' Facebook ads, these people are spreading horrific, false messages for free.

A recent study from the Social Science Research Council found that before Trump made Ilhan one of his main targets, networks of racist and misogynistic Twitter users "spread hate speech like a virus" during the 2018 midterms. Ilhan and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib were lightning rods for their Islamophobic attacks.

Ilhan is combating hate every day in Congress as she advocates for a humane immigration system and the repeal of the Muslim ban. But she can't fight back against the constant flow of misinformation alone. **Will you chip in $5 or more to make sure her for-the-people agenda isn't drowned out by propaganda?**

The Technology and Services

The technology platform is part of a set of concrete measures. These measures are collectively referred to as the iCommunity Technology Platform. These measures are designed and developed by the community for the purpose of reaching out to the community.

It is a platform that has all the tools needed to enable the community to express themselves in order to have a voice in the main stream USA. It has two main components: the technology and the technological services.

The Technology

The platform embodies the following technologies.

- Computer hardware and software systems with C2 Security.
- Web server technology adapted for the community.

- Secure inter node and intra node communications.

- Content management system.

- Database management server for the content management system.

- Hypertext preprocessor (PHP) scripting.

- Python language with the beautifulsoup.

- Tools for the community to develop their own blogs and websites.

- File transfer protocol for the community members to upload their contents to our servers.

- email server and SMTP services.

- Mailmerge technology for personalized mailing.

- Sending bulk email campaigns in hundreds of thousands.

These technologies for the platform are already built. They are now operational; ready in the service of the community. More services will be added and the technology will be expanded in capabilities, performance, security, and scope.

Technology Services

iCommunity is a platform by the community and for the community. It is community's platform. Technologically speaking, it is rich in functionality and features that are enabled using the leading edge technology that we designed into it. And we are not stingy when it comes to the resources that we place at your disposal. We have also unlocked most restrictions that are common elsewhere, so that you can explore all the possibilities.

That is because we are not for profit. We do not lure you with free teasers with very restrictive scope so that you will need to upgrade to the premier or business levels to do anything meaningful. What we provide you is already premium and

business class. It is community's platform; it is for the community, and it is by the community.

The iCommunity Technological Services are offered for the community members to reach out to the community at personal, business, and organizational levels. We emphasize to promote intra community networking, exploring synergistic connections, business cooperation, organizational outreach, and strength and prosperity that arises from strong community foundations and bonding.

Currently, following services are available on the iCommunity technology platform. You are invited to use them as befits.

First, we have web technology. It allows us to provide you with websites. We can even give this service away because we host the websites ourselves. We will provide you with generous amount of storage space, and speedy Internet connectivity to this storage.

You can use your website to introduce yourself to the Muslim Community in USA, or to the entire world. If you are a business or a service provider, you can market your products and services using this website. For example, the mosques and institutions can host their websites on the iCommunity platform to reach out to the community. We offer the service to the mosques and organizations free of charge.

We hope to achieve a strong network of mosques interacting among themselves and gradually expanding their scope nationally. Additionally, we have databases of mosques and organizations. This enables us to send out email campaigns on the national level.

All this is offered free of charge.

Second, we have content management technology which allows us to provide you with your own Blogging space in the Internet Cloud. You can share your ideas, services, and activities using your own Blog. You can even market your business capabilities and services on this Blog.

Mosques and institutions can use their Blogs for community outreach. We provide the services free of charge to the mosques and the community institutes.

Third, we have our own email servers. We use a reputed SMTP server in order to send out bulk emails. That means two things. First, we can provide the community members opportunity to run their own email server. Having your own email server on iCommunity platform is a very privileged capability. It is far bigger than just having your own email addresses. Second, we can send bulk emails. This means that we can send hundreds of thousands emails. These emails can even be customized. For example, we can send email announcements, brochures, or newsletters to all the Mosques in USA, or all the Muslim Businesses in USA, or all the Muslim Organizations in USA.

Fourth, we have document management capability. This allows us to electronically publish materials from the members of the community. This material can be a book that you have written or want to write. It could also be your recent article, your collected essays, collection of your poems, your novel, your biography, your analysis of social and political events, or whatever is dear to your heart. We will publish your material electronically and make it globally available on our iCommunity platform.

Fifth, we intend to establish The Muslim Planet Publishing House for hard copy book publishing. Members of the community can choose to publish their works in hard binding or paperback formats.

These services are offered to the community members free or at cost.

The Sociological Transformation

The technological platform of iCommunity provides a set of services. These are currently available on the iCommunity technology platform. More services will be added as need for them arises from within the community, and resources become available.

The overarching principle for providing these services is to bring the community on one platform, and to encourage an open intra-community dialogue. The dialogue is towards a unified stance to commit to a forward looking proactive action plan. These objectives are collectively referred to as the Sociological Platform of iCommunity.

The action plan for the Sociological Platform has the following objectives:

- to empower the community within the context of the US mainstream geopolitics,
- to have its own representatives in the House and the Senate, and at the State and Local levels.
- to capitalize on Islamic oriented businesses,

- to establish a mutual support system of welfare within the community, and

- to spread prosperity within the community and beyond.

It is a tall order, and we have begun the necessary steps towards accomplishing it. The process is two pronged: thought oriented and mobilization oriented.

For the thought orientation we establish a "Think Tank" of the community, by the community, and for the community. This think tank analyses the community needs, resources, possibilities, risks, and opportunities.

For mobilization of the community we analyze the community membership and bring them to a platform for the purpose of actualizing the opportunities and mitigating the risks.

Below we explain how the Think Tank will come into being, and how the mobilization of the community will take place; and how The Muslim Planet Project plays as the enabling catalyst.

The Think Tank

The services on the iCommunity platform constitute the backdrop for the community to coalesce as they come together to

- start interacting,

- develop common understanding,

- adopt unified positions, and

- agree to a dynamically proactive action plan.

The services act as attractors for the community to gravitate with cohesion. The dynamics of the intra-community interactions begin to serve as a "Virtual Think

Tank". Out of this "virtual think tank" will gradually arise a group of individuals who will organize to rise to the occasion. This will morph into a physical Think Tank. They must come together with great commitment, energy, passion, resources, extraordinary capabilities, and the magic of inclusiveness and teamwork.

This think tank can over time begin to formulate the long-term and middle-term goals for the Muslim Community in USA.

The think tank needs to represent the entirety of the community. As is generally true for any community, the Muslim community also consists of constituent population groups. The man in the street generally prefers to be in a supporting role for those who end up taking a lead role. Thus there are those individuals within the community that end up playing a lead role, and the others that end up playing the support role. This generally depends upon individual temperament, education, experience, and the role that an individual plays in the society.

Among the Muslim community, each of these groups further divide into two broad segments. Roughly speaking, one segment is college educated with scientific bent of mind, and the second segment is religiously oriented madrassa graduated with theological bent of mind. These segments exist among those who lead as well as those in the support role.

The Think Tank needs to take this diversity into account, and do so most respectfully.

Community Mobilization

The Think Tank reflects an understanding of the Muslim Community in USA, and a way for the community to grow into a coherent body that sets and achieves its

own objectives using its own resources, in a self contained and independent manner.

The community mobilization is set in motion via the Think Tank. There are practical steps that are taken to move the mobilization forward. These steps are according to the needs of the various segments of the community, with an objective to bring them all to one platform to work for the prosperity and dignity of the entire community.

These steps are discussed below together with the segments of the community which they serve.

News Journal

The mosques incorporate all parts of the community. However, the imams in the mosques largely represent the population with religiously oriented madrassa type background. Because the imams deliver the sermons, they are in a position to influence the community in accordance with their own background, education, training, and capabilities.

The imams are numerically small in number though their influence on the community is very significant. They already constitute sort of a think tank to influence the community.

It is therefore important to establish a dialogue between the imams and the rest of the community. The mechanism invented for this purpose is a News Journal that we have been writing and delivering to the mosques in USA.

The News Journal invites the imams, and the community in general, to a more encompassing community platform. This platform addresses all needs of the

community: religion, humanity, jobs, schools, roads, courts, immigration, economy, business, and politics. It addresses all such aspects nationwide. It invites the imams to think of the needs of the community in today's context to encompass all such dimensions. The mosque need to become more relevant to all segments of the society. The mosques are a biggest asset of the community and can be used in the service of the community in all facets of life in the modern times.

We urge the mosques and imams to consult the News Journal and contribute to it through their real life experiences, progressive ideas, and effective solutions.

Scholarly Journal

The college graduated progressive segment of the Muslim community are very significant in numbers and resourcefulness. However, they exist only in their roles as professionals, and unlike the imams, they do not constitute a think tank type capability. Therefore, they do not significantly influence the community, except through donations to the mosques and other causes. Their true potential for the community remains untapped.

There are academicians among them who regularly do research and publish their findings. We invite all of them to research their experience with the Muslim communities, focusing on the cultural and civilizational aspects. They shall apply the findings to resolve the modern life situations experienced by the Muslim community in USA.

We invite the community members to submit their research results to our peer reviewed Journal of Muslim Culture. This will enable the community members to discover another dimension to their professional lives. It will also give rise to a

recognized community of intellectuals, scholars, and subject matter experts. In this way, the intellectuals and professionals in our community can form a specialized think tank type capability that allows them to contribute to the community at large in a systematic and meaningful way.

We urge the community members to take advantage of our Journal of Muslim Culture and contribute to it through their analytical insights and resourcefulness.

Annual Conference

We have described the following three types of specialized think tanks.

We have a "virtual think tank" that exists in the cyberspace using our iCommunity platform. Everyone can participate in it. It is the grand bazaar of our community.

Next we have a specialized think tank that consists of the imams within the mosques and the Islamic centers. Generally speaking, only the traditionally oriented madrassa educated members can belong to this think tank. It may not have to be so but our mosques are thus formatted.

Another specialized think tank emerges from the highly educated professionals like the scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, politicians, and businessmen.

The Think Tank for the entire Muslim community in USA presumably arises out of these. For that to happen, there is a strong need to bring these specialized think tanks together on one platform.

The Annual Conference of Muslim Mosques and Intellectuals is designed for this purpose.

This conference would have participants from the mosques and from the professional intellectuals within the community. The participants from the mosques would include imams, members of the boards of directors, executive presidents, and other prominent members. The participants from the professional intellectuals would include scientists, engineers, doctors, economists, politicians, and business owners. The latter group of people would become visible through contributions to the Journal of Muslim Culture.

This conference would have a technical aspect, and it would also have a strategic and tactical planning aspect.

The technical component would be like any other professional conference, for example containing plenary sessions and the parallel sessions on focused areas. The planning component would look at the short-term and middle-term goals for the Muslim Community in USA. They would evaluate if the short-term plan is being implemented satisfactorily. They would look ahead for the next cycle of short and middle term plans, which constitutes the long-term strategic planning. In the light of the long term planning, they can recommend surgical adjustments to the current middle-term plan, as a course correction maneuver.

The body that performs this planning function is the Think Tank for the Muslim Community in USA. Naturally, this body would be elected presumably from the participants of the conference.