



THE 500 MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS



2009

FIRST EDITION - 2009



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المركز الملكي للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية (مبدأ)

THE ROYAL ISLAMIC STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTRE

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INTRODUCTION

The publication you have in your hands is the first of what we hope will be an annual series that provides a window into the movers and shakers of the Muslim world. We have strived to highlight people who are *influential as Muslims*, that is, people whose influence is derived from their practice of Islam or from the fact that they are Muslim. We think that this gives valuable insight into the different ways that Muslims impact the world, and also shows the diversity of how people are living as Muslims today.

Influence is a tricky concept. Its meaning derives from the Latin word 'influence' meaning to flow in, pointing to an old astrological idea that unseen forces (like the moon) affect humanity. The figures on this list have the ability to affect humanity too. In a variety of different ways each person on this list has influence over the lives of a large number of people on the earth. The 50 most influential figures are profiled. Their influence comes from a variety of sources, however they are unified by the fact that they each affect huge swathes of humanity.

We have then broken up the 500 leaders into 15 categories—Scholarly, Political, Administrative, Lineage, Preachers, Women, Youth, Philanthropy, Development, Science and Technology, Arts and Culture, Media, Radicals, International Islamic Networks, and Issues of the Day—to help you understand the different kinds of ways Islam and Muslims impact the world today.

The composite lists show how influence works in different ways: International Islamic Networks shows people who are at the head of important transnational networks of Muslims, Issues of the Day highlights individuals whose importance is due to current issues affecting humanity, and Influence by Region gives an overview of figures whose importance is regionally specific.

DISCLAIMER AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Being the first attempt of its kind at a list that shows the broad extent of Muslims' influence on the world we acknowledge that there are likely to be gaps in our categorizing, and are sure that we have missed some influential people. We would like to keep the process as open as possible and ask you to please write in suggestions to 500@rissc.jo

THE DIVERSITY OF ISLAM



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I. THE HOUSE OF ISLAM

The religion of Islam is based on belief in the One God (who in Arabic is called *Allah*). It was founded by the Prophet Muhammad (570-632 CE) in the ancient cities of Mecca and Medina, in the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula (known as the *Hijaz*). God Revealed to the Prophet Muhammad the Holy Qur'an, the Sacred Book of Islam. The religion this created, however, was not a new message but simply a final and total Arabic restatement of God's messages to the Hebrew Prophets and to Jesus. The Holy Qur'an says:

Say ye: we believe in God and that which is revealed unto us and that which was revealed unto Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the Tribes, and that which Moses and Jesus received, and that which the Prophets received from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and unto Him we have submitted. (The Holy Qur'an, 2:136)

Moreover, the Holy Qur'an did not even exclude the possibility of revelations other than those that were given to the Prophets mentioned in the Bible (and thus did not exclude the possibility of other genuine ancient religions other than Judaism, Christianity and Islam). God says, in the Holy Qur'an:

Verily we have sent Messengers before thee [O Muhammad]. About some of them have we told thee, and about some have we not told thee . . . (40:78).

And verily we have raised in every nation a Messenger [pro-claiming]: serve God and shun false gods . . . (16:36).

THE ESSENCE OF ISLAM

The essence and substance of Islam can be easily summed up by three major principles (which are also successive stages in the spiritual life): *Islam* (meaning 'submission to God's will'); *Iman* (meaning 'faith in God'), and *Ihsan* (meaning 'virtue through constant regard to, and awareness of, God'). The second Caliph, the great 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, related that:

One day when we were sitting [in Medina] with the Messenger of God [the Prophet Muhammad] there came unto us a man whose clothes were of exceeding whiteness and whose hair was of exceeding blackness, nor were there any signs of travel upon him, although none of us knew him. He sat down knee upon knee opposite the Prophet, upon whose thighs he placed the palms of his hands, saying: 'O Muhammad; tell me what is the surrender (Islam)'. The Messenger of God answered him saying: 'The surrender is to testify that there is no god but God and that Muhammad is God's Messenger,

to perform the prayer, bestow the alms, fast Ramadan and make if thou canst, the pilgrimage to the Holy House.' He said, 'Thou hast spoken truly,' and we were amazed that having questioned him he should corroborate him. Then he said: 'Tell me what is faith (Iman)'. He answered: 'To believe in God and His Angels and his Books and His Messengers and the Last Day [the Day of Judgement], and to believe that no good or evil cometh but by His Providence.' 'Thou hast spoken truly,' he said, and then: 'Tell me what is excellence (Ihsan).' He answered: 'To worship God as if thou sawest Him, for if Thou seest Him not, yet seeth He thee.' 'Thou hast spoken truly,' he said . . . Then the stranger went away, and I stay the questioner, who he was?' I said, 'God and His Messenger know best.' He said, 'It was Gabriel [the Archangel]. He came unto you to teach you your religion.'¹

Thus *Islam* as such consists of 'five pillars': (1) the *Shahadatayn* or the 'testimony of faith' (whose inward meaning is the acknowledgement of God). (2) The five daily prayers (whose inward meaning is the attachment to God). (3) Giving alms or *Zakat* - one-fortieth of one's income and savings annually to the poor and destitute (whose inward meaning is the detachment from the world). (4) Fasting the Holy month of *Ramadan* annually (whose inward meaning is detachment from the body and from the ego). (5) Making the *Hajj* (whose inner meaning is to return to one's true inner heart, the mysterious square, black-shrouded Ka'ba in Mecca being the outward symbol of this heart). Thus also *Iman* as such consists of belief in all the essential doctrines of religion (and the inner meaning of this is that one should not go through the motions of religion and of the five pillars of Islam blindly or robotically, but rather have real faith and certainty in one's heart). Thus, finally, *Ihsan* as such consists in believing that God always sees us, and therefore that one must be virtuous and sincere in all one's actions. In this connection the Prophet said: '*By Him in whose Hand is my Life, none of you believes till he loves for his neighbour what he loves for himself*'.² In summary, we could say that the essence of Islam is exactly the Two Commandments upon which Jesus said hangs *all the Law and the Prophets*:

*And Jesus answered him, The first of all commandments is...the Lord our God is one Lord; And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy understanding, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second commandment is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*³

THE CANON OF ISLAM

Islam does not, like Christianity, have a clergy. There is no temporal or even spiritual institute that holds it together or unifies it. So how did it hold together—and indeed, flourish—for the last fourteen centuries approximately, when its scholars and temporal

1 *Sahih Muslim*, 'Kitab al-Iman', 1, N.I. (The *Hadiths* of the Prophet, like all sacred texts, are written above in italics).

2 *Sahih Muslim*, 'Kitab al-Iman', 18, n. 72.

3 The Gospel according to Mark 12:29–31. (See also Deuteronomy 6:5; and Matthew 22:37–40).

policymakers keep changing and dying out over time? How did it remain so homogeneous that the Islam of 1900 AD was doctrinally exactly the same as the Islam of 700 AD? Where did its internal checks and balances come from?

The answer is that Islam has a traditional canon:⁴ a collection of sacred texts which everyone has agreed are authoritative and definitive, and which 'fix' the *principles* of belief, practice, law, theology and doctrine throughout the ages. All that Muslim scholars (called *sheikhs* or *imams*) have left to do is to interpret these texts and work out their practical applications and details (and the principles of interpretation and elaboration are themselves 'fixed' by these texts), so that in Islam a person is only considered learned to the extent that he can demonstrate his knowledge of these texts. This does not mean that Islam is a religion of limitations for these texts are a vast ocean and their principles can be inwardly worked out almost infinitely in practice. It does mean, however, that Islam is 'fixed' and has certain limits beyond which it will not go. This *is an extremely important concept to understand*, because misunderstanding it, and setting aside the traditional canon of Islam, leads to people killing and assassinating others in the name of religion. The traditional canon of Islam is what protects not just the religion of Islam itself, but the world (including Muslims themselves) from terrorism, murder and oppression in the name of Islam. The canon is Islam's internal check and balance system; it is what safeguards its moderation; it is 'self-censorship' and its ultimate safety feature.

To be more specific, the traditional Sunni Islamic Canon starts with the Qur'an itself; then the great traditional Commentaries upon it (e. g. Tabari; Razi; Zamakhshari/ Baydawi; Qurtubi; Jalalayn; Ibn Kathir; Nasafi; and al-Wahidi's *Asbab al-Nuzul*); then the eight traditional collections of *Hadith*, the sayings of the Prophet, (e.g. Muslim; Bukhari; Tirmidhi; Ibn Hanbal, al-Nasa'i; al-Sijistani; al-Darimi and Ibn Maja); the later *Muhaddithin*, or Traditionists (e.g. Bayhaqi ; Baghawi; Nawawi and 'Asqalani); then the traditional biographical and historical works of *Sira* (Ibn Ishaq, Ibn Sa'd, Waqidi; Azraqi; Tabari; and Suhayli); the *Risala* of al-Shafi'i; the *Muwatta'* of Imam Malik; the *Ihya' 'Ulum al- Din* of Ghazali; Ash'arite and Maturidian theology; the (original) *Aqida* of Tahawi; Imam Jazuli's *Dala'il al-Khayrat*, and finally—albeit only extrinsically—*Jahiliyya* poetry (as a background reference for the semantic connotations of words in the Arabic language). We give a specific (but not exhaustive) list here in order to minimize the possibility of misunderstanding.

ISLAM IN HISTORY

It is evidently not possible to do justice to the role of Islam in world history, thought and civilization in a few words, but the following paragraph by Britain's Prince Charles attempts it:

The medieval Islamic world, from Central Asia to the shores of the Atlantic, was a world where scholars and men of learning flourished. But because we have tended

4 Even the English word 'canon' comes from the Arabic word *kanun* meaning 'law' or 'principle'.

to see Islam as the enemy, as an alien culture, society, and system of belief, we have tended to ignore or erase its great relevance to our own history. For example, we have underestimated the importance of eight hundred years of Islamic society and culture in Spain between the 8th and 15th centuries. The contribution of Muslim Spain to the preservation of classical learning during the Dark Ages, and to the first flowerings of the Renaissance, has long been recognized. But Islamic Spain was much more than a mere larder where Hellenistic knowledge was kept for later consumption by the emerging modern Western world. Not only did Muslim Spain gather and preserve the intellectual content of ancient Greek and Roman civilization, it also interpreted and expanded upon that civilization, and made a vital contribution of its own in so many fields of human endeavour—in science, astronomy, mathematics, algebra (itself an Arabic word), law, history, medicine, pharmacology, optics, agriculture, architecture, theology, music. Averroes [Ibn Rushd] and Avenzoar [Ibn Zuhr], like their counterparts Avicenna [Ibn Sina] and Rhazes [Abu Bakr al-Razi] in the East, contributed to the study and practice of medicine in ways from which Europe benefited for centuries afterwards.⁵

On 4 June, 2009, US President Barack Obama took this sentiment a step further in his historic speech at Cairo University. His words underline the importance of remembering our shared history when we work towards peace:

As a student of history, I also know civilization's debt to Islam. It was Islam—at places like Al-Azhar—that carried the light of learning through so many centuries, paving the way for Europe's Renaissance and Enlightenment. It was innovation in Muslim communities that developed the order of algebra; our magnetic compass and tools of navigation; our mastery of pens and printing; our understanding of how disease spreads and how it can be healed. Islamic culture has given us majestic arches and soaring spires; timeless poetry and cherished music; elegant calligraphy and places of peaceful contemplation. And throughout history, Islam has demonstrated through words and deeds the possibilities of religious tolerance and racial equality.

I also know that Islam has always been a part of America's story. The first nation to recognize my country was Morocco. In signing the Treaty of Tripoli in 1796, our second President, John Adams, wrote, 'The United States has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquility of Muslims.' And since our founding, American Muslims have enriched the United States. They have fought in our wars, they have served in our government, they have stood for civil rights, they have started businesses, they have taught at our universities, they've excelled in our sports arenas, they've won Nobel Prizes, built our tallest building, and lit the Olympic Torch. And when the first Muslim American was recently elected to Congress, he took the oath to defend our Constitution using the same Holy Koran that one of our Founding Fathers—Thomas Jefferson—kept in his personal library.⁶

5 H.R.H The Prince of Wales, 'Islam and the West', a lecture given at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford on October 27th, 1993, PP.17 - 18.

6 Barack Obama's Cairo Speech, 'Remarks by the President on a New Beginning' June 4, 2009.

II. MAJOR DOCTRINAL DIVISIONS WITHIN ISLAM

MAJOR DOCTRINAL DIVISIONS IN SUNNI ISLAM

1) Ash'ari and Maturidi Schools: Sunni Orthodoxy

These two schools of doctrine are followed by the bulk of Sunni Muslims and differ only in minor details.

Ash'ari School: This school is named after the followers of the 10th century scholar Abu al-Hasan Al-Ash'ari (874-936 CE) and is widely accepted throughout the Sunni Muslim world. They believe that the characteristics of God are ultimately beyond human comprehension, and trust in the Revelation is essential, although the use of rationality is important.

Maturidi School: This school is named after the followers of the 10th century scholar Muhammad Abu Mansur Al-Maturidi (853-944 CE) and has a wide following in regions where Hanafi law is practiced. They have a slightly more pronounced reliance on human reason.

2) Salafi School

Salafis have specific doctrinal beliefs owing to their particular interpretation of Islam that differentiates them from the majority of Sunnis such as a literal anthropomorphic interpretation of God. Salafis place a great emphasis on literal interpretation of the Qur'an and Hadith, with skepticism towards the role of human reason in theology.

3) Mu'tazili School

Most popular in the 8th century, the school relies heavily on logic, including Greek philosophy. Although it no longer has a significant following, a small minority of contemporary intellectuals have sought to revive it. Mutazilites believe that the Qur'an was created as opposed to the Orthodox Sunni view that it is eternal and uncreated. Moreover they advocate using rationalism to understand allegorical readings of the Qur'an.

II. MAJOR DOCTRINAL DIVISIONS WITHIN ISLAM (CONTINUED)

IBADI SCHOOL

Ibadis believe that God created the Qur'an at a certain point in time, and that God will not be seen on the Day of Judgment. They also believe in the eternal nature of hell for all those who enter it.

MAJOR SHI'A THEOLOGICAL POSITIONS

1) The Twelver School

The infallibility (*'Ismah*) of the Twelve Imams descended from the family of the Prophet (*Ahl al-Bayt*) who are believed to be the spiritual and rightful political authorities of the Muslim community (*Ummah*). The twelfth Imam, the Mahdi, is believed to be in occultation to return in the future.

2) Isma'ili School

The Qur'an and Hadiths are said to have truths lying with a single living Imam, descended directly from the Prophet. Also known as 'seveners' for their belief that Isma'il ibn Ja'far was the seventh and final leading Imam of the Muslim community.

3) Zaidi School

The infallibility of the Twelve Imams and the notion of occultation are rejected in favor of accepting the leadership of a living Imam. The Imamate can be held by any descendant of the Prophet (Sayyid). Also known as 'fivers' for their belief that Zayd ibn Ali was the fifth and final leading Imam of the Muslim community.

III. IDEOLOGICAL DIVISIONS

TRADITIONAL ISLAM

Also known as Orthodox Islam, this ideology is not politicized and largely based on consensus of correct opinion—thus including the Sunni, Shi’a, and Ibadi branches of practice (and their subgroups) within the fold of Islam, and not groups such as the Druze or the Ahmadiyya, among others.

ISLAMIC MODERNISM

Emerging from 19th century Ottoman Turkey and Egypt, this subdivision contextualized Islamic ideology for the times—emphasizing the need for religion to evolve with Western advances.

ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

This is a highly politicized religious ideology popularized in the 20th century through movements within both the Shi’a and Sunni branches of Islam—characterized by militancy and reformist attitude toward traditional Islam.

IIIa. TRADITIONAL ISLAM

SUNNI (90% OF THE WORLD'S MUSLIMS)

The largest denomination of Muslims referred to as Ahl as-Sunnah wa'l-Jama'h or 'people of the prophetic tradition and community'—with emphasis on emulating the life of the last Prophet, Muhammad.

SCHOOLS OF ISLAMIC LAW

Hanafi (45.5%)

Named after the followers of **IMAM ABU HANIFA** 699-767 CE/ 89-157 AH) in Iraq.

Shafi'i (28%)

Named after the followers of **IMAM AL-SHAFI'I** (767-820CE/ 150-204 AH) in Medina.

Maliki (15%)

Named after the followers of **IMAM MALIK** (711-795 CE/ 93-179 AH) in Medina.

Hanbali (2%)

Named after the followers of **IMAM AHMAD BIN HANBAL** (780-855 CE/ 164-241 AH) in Iraq.

III.a. TRADITIONAL ISLAM (CONTINUED)

IBADI (0.5% OF THE WORLD'S MUSLIMS)

The Ibadi school has origins in and is linked to the Kharijites, but the modern day community is distinct from the 7th century Islamic sect. It was founded after the death of Prophet Muhammad and is currently practiced by a majority of Oman's Muslim population. Also found across parts of Africa.

SHI'A (9.5% OF THE WORLD'S MUSLIMS)

The second-largest denomination of Muslims referred to as Shi'atu 'Ali or 'the party of 'Ali,' the fourth caliph of Islam and first Imam in Shi'ism.

BRANCHES

SCHOOLS OF ISLAMIC LAW

Twelvers (7.7%)
Named after the followers of **IMAM JA'FAR AS-SADIQ** (702-765 CE/ 83-148 AH) in Medina.

Isma'ilis (Seveners)(1%)
Named after the followers of **MUHAMMAD IBN ISMAIL** (746-809 CE/128-193 AH) in Medina.

Zaidis (Fivers) (0.8%)
Named after the followers of **IMAM ZAID IBN 'ALI** (695-740 CE) in Medina.

Usuli

99% of Twelvers. Derive legal opinions from living Ayatollahs.

Akhbari

Akhbaris reject the use of *ijtihad* or reasoning, and do not follow *marjas* who practice *ijtihad*. They are named after the followers of Muhammad Amin Astarabadi (1627 CE)

IIIa. TRADITIONAL ISLAM (CONTINUED)

MYSTIC BROTHERHOODS

Although reliable statistics are not available for the millions of Muslims who practice Islamic mysticism, it has been estimated that 25% of adult Sunni Muslims in 1900 ascribed to these brotherhoods as either *murids* (followers of the Sufi guide of a particular order) or *mutabarrikin* (supporters or affiliates of a particular Sufi order)

Sunni Orders

Naqshbandiyyah

Founded by Baha al-Din Naqshband (d. 1389) in Bukhara, modern day Uzbekistan. Influence: popular from China to North Africa, Europe and America.

Qadiriyyah

Founded by Persian scholar and saint 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani (1077-1166) in Baghdad, Iraq. Influence: stretches from Morocco to Malaysia, from Central Asia to South Africa.

Tijaniyyah

Founded by the Algerian saint Ahmad al-Tijani (d. 1815) who settled and taught in Fez, Morocco. Influence: major spiritual and religious role in Senegal, Nigeria, Mauritania and much of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Shadiliyyah

Founded by the Moroccan saint Abu'l-Hassan al-Shadili (d. 1258). Influence: most influential in North Africa and Egypt.

Rifa'iyyah

Founded by Ahmad ibn 'Ali al-Rifa'i (d. 1182) in southern Iraq. Influence: widely practiced across the Muslim world with a strong presence in Egypt.

Suhrawardiyyah

Founded by Persian scholar Abu Najib Suhrawardi (d. 1168) in Iraq. Influence: a strong presence in India.

Kubrawiyyah

Founded by Najm al-Din Kubra (d. 1221) from Khawarzm, modern day Uzbekistan. Influence: mostly present across Central Asia.

Shi'a Orders

Irfan

Irfan, which means 'knowing' in Arabic and 'most beautiful and knowledgeable person' in Pashto, is Shi'a mysticism. Mulla Sadr ad-Din Muhammad Shirazi (c.1571-1636) from Iran is considered a leading theorist of Irfan in Shi'a Islam.

Mawlawiyyah

A Turkish order founded by the Persian saint and poet Jalal al-Din Rumi (d. 1273). Influence: mainly in Turkey.

Chishtiyyah

Founded by the Persian saint Mu'in al-Din Chishti (d. 1236) Khurasan. Influence: highly influential in India.

Khalwatiyyah

A Turkish order founded by the Persian saint 'Umar al-Khalwati (d. 1397). Influence: wide presence in the Balkans, Syria, Lebanon and North Africa.

Yashrutiyyah

Founded by 'Ali Nur al-Din al-Yashruti (d. 1892) in Palestine. Influence: strong presence in Syria and Lebanon.

Badawiyyah

An Egyptian order founded by the Moroccan saint Ahmad al-Badawi (d. 1276), considered by many as the patron saint of Egypt. Influence: active role in Egypt and the Sudan.

IIIb. ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

SUNNI

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

The Muslim Brotherhood, or al-Ikhwan al-Muslimeen is a transnational Sunni movement, with no particular ideological adherence. It is the largest political opposition organization in many Arab states, particularly in Egypt where it was founded in opposition to colonial rule by **HASSAN AL-BANNA** in 1928. Al-Banna originally sought to revive Muslim culture from its position of exploitation under colonial rule, through charitable and educational work, to bring Islam into a central role in people's life. Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966) was also a leading member of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood in the 50s and 60s.

WAHHABISM/SALAFISM

Wahhabism/Salafism are terms used interchangeably to refer to a particular brand of Islam. Salaf, meaning predecessors, refers to the very early practice of Islam by Muhammad (pbuh) and his immediate successors. Salafism seeks to revive the practice of Islam as it was at the time of Muhammad and can be critical of too much emphasis being placed on thinkers from after this period. **IBN AL-WAHHAB (1703-1792)** was an important figure in the resurrection of this ideology therefore Salafism is often simply known as Wahhabism.

SHI'A

REVOLUTIONARY SHI'ISM

Revolutionary Shi'ism is an ideology, based on the teachings of **AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI**, which shares many similarities with Marxist revolutionary thought. Khomeini believed that the only way to secure independence from colonial or imperial forces was through the creation of a Shi'a state, under the idea of Velayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the Jurist). This means that all politics is subject to the opinion of the Supreme Leader who is responsible for the continued success of the revolution. It is only practiced in Iran.

IIIc. ISLAMIC MODERNISM

Islamic modernism is a 'reform movement' started by politically-minded urbanites with scant knowledge of traditional Islam. These people had witnessed and studied Western technology and socio-political ideas, and realized that the Islamic world was being 'left behind' technologically by the West and had become too weak to stand up to it. They blamed this weakness on what they saw as 'traditional Islam,' which they thought 'held them back' and was not 'progressive' enough. They thus called for a complete 'overhaul' of Islam, including—or rather in particular— Islamic law (*sharia*) and doctrine (*aqida*).

'Islamic Modernism' remains popularly the object of derision and ridicule, and is scorned by traditional Muslims and fundamentalists alike.

THE TOP 50



1. His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
2. His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Hajj Sayyid Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of Iran
3. His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco
4. His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
5. His Excellency Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, and His Excellency Recep Tayip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
6. His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Sistani, Marja of the Hawza, Najaf
7. His Eminence Sheikh Al-Azhar Dr Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, Grand Sheikh of the Al-Azhar University, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Mosque
8. Dr Yusuf Qaradawi, Scholar of the Muslim Brotherhood
9. His Eminence Sheikh Dr Ali Goma'a, Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt
10. His Eminence Abdul Aziz Aal Al-Sheikh Grand Mufti of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
11. Mohammad Mahdi Akef, Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood
12. Hodjaefendi Fethullah Güllen, Turkish Muslim Preacher

13. Amr Khaled, Preacher and Social Activist
14. Haji Abdul Wahhab, Ameer of the Tablighi Jamaat, Pakistan
15. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said al-Said, Sultan of Oman
16. Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh as-Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III, Sultan of Sokoto
17. Hasan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah
18. Dr KH. Achmad Hasyim Muzadi, Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia
19. Sheikh Salman Al-Ouda, Saudi Scholar and Educator
20. Shah Karim al-Hussayni, The Aga Khan IV, 49th Imam of the Ismaili Muslims
21. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates
22. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces
23. Sheikh M. Sa'id Ramadan Al Bouti, Leading Islamic Scholar in Syria
24. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Perutan of Brunei Darussalam
25. H.E. Professor Dr Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayeb, President of Al-Azhar University
26. His Eminence Mohammad bin Mohammad al-Mansour, Imam of the Zaidi Sect of Shi'a Muslims
27. His Eminence Justice Mufti Maulana Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani, Leading Islamic Scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence, Pakistan
28. His Excellency Muammar Gaddafi Brother Leader of the Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
29. Sheikh Mohammad Ali al-Sabouni, Scholar of Tafsir
30. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah, Scholar of the International Islamic Fiqh Council
31. Sheikha Munira Qubeysi, Leader of the Qubeysi Movement

32. Sheikh Ahmad Ali Tijani Cisse, Leader of Tijaniyya Sufi Order
33. Sheikh al Habib Umar bin Hafi, Director of Dar Al Mustafa, Tarim, Yemen
34. Khaled Mashaal, Leader of Hamas
35. Professor Dr M Din Syamsuddin, Chairman of Muhammadiyah, Indonesia
36. Maulana Mahmood Madani, General Secretary of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, India
37. Habib Ali Zain al-Abideen al-Jifri, General Director of the Tabah Foundation, UAE
38. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson, Founder of the Zaytuna Institute, USA
39. His Eminence Dr Mustafa Efendi Ceric, Grand Mufti of Bosnia Herzegovina
40. His Excellency Professor Dr Ekmelledin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
41. General Mohammad Ali Jafari, Commander of the Revolutionary Guard, Iran
42. Dato' Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, Religious Guide of the Islamic Party of Malaysia
43. Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ameer of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh
44. Professor Sayid Ameen Mian Qaudri, Barelwi Leader and Spiritual Guide
45. Mohammad Burhannuddin, 52nd Da'i l-Mutlaq of the Dawoodi Bohras
46. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Renowned Pakistani Scientist
47. Professor Seyyid Hossein Nasr, Islamic Philosopher
48. Abdullah Gymnastiar, Indonesian Preacher
49. Sheikh Mehmet Nazim Adil Al-Qubrusi Al-Haqqani, Leader of Naqshbandi-Haqqani Sufi Order
50. His Excellency Dr Abd al-Aziz bin Uthman Altwajjiri, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

1

H.M. KING ABDULLAH BIN ‘ABD AL-‘AZIZ AL SAUD King of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

King Abdullah bin ‘Abd Al-‘Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is the most influential Muslim in the world. Saudi Arabia is geopolitically important as the most powerful Arab nation in the region. King Abdullah is also an influential leader domestically due to his role as caretaker of the two holiest Muslim sites and principal figure of an expansive *da’wa* network. He also garners influence internationally for Saudi Arabia’s role in the crude oil market.

Date of Birth: 1 August, 1924

Source of Influence: Political, Administrative, Lineage

Influence: 28 million Saudis, 2.4 million Hajj pilgrims, over 3 million Umrah pilgrims in 2008

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Salafi

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

King Abdullah has authority in the global Muslim community through his custodianship of the two holy sites of Mecca and Medina. Mecca is the main pilgrimage site for 1.5 billion Muslims—of which 2.4 million fulfill their religious obligation annually. He has recently approved an airport expansion program to accommodate 3.8 million Hajj pilgrims and 17.8 million Umrah pilgrims by 2039.

Controls World’s Largest Oil Reserves

King Abdullah reigns over a land of massive crude oil reserves—Saudi Arabia has approximately 25% of the world’s proven oil reserves—making him a key player in the global petroleum industry. The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources reported the production and export of almost 260 billion barrels of oil in 2006.

Controls Largest Da’wa Network

He is also head of the most extensive *da’wa* network of missionary Muslims in the world, promoting the Salafi brand of Islam. An expansive Sunni movement, which stresses a return to the traditional practices of Islam, Salafism is historically rooted in Saudi Arabia, and owes its global spread to financial backing from the Saudi family, which is now controlled in large part by King Abdullah.

Reformer

King Abdullah has proven his domestic influence in Saudi Arabia through his ability to enact multiple landmark reforms to fight corruption, balance the Saudi budget, tailor the education system, address women’s and minority rights, engage in interreligious diplomacy as well as tackle problems in the justice system. He has:

- Appended the Baya Council, a 38-man family council to legitimize the process of choosing successors to the throne.
- Cleaned up corruption in the Royal Family.
- Increased the representation of minorities in Saudi governance including increased Shi’a representation in the Shura Council.
- He increasingly gives women a voice and increased their social participation.



- Took educational administration out of the hands of religious leaders and gave authority instead to the educational establishment.
- Presented a \$10 billion endowment for the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.
- Systematically replaced hard-line Salafi judges with moderate leaders in the Saudi court system. Employed personal interventions within the justice system and in particular regard to marriages.
- Cut the funding power of the morality police.
- Convened a global interfaith summit in 2008 and subsequently issued the *Madrid Declaration*, which calls for tolerance between religions and a culture of peace.
- The first Saudi monarch in 51 years to address the UN General Assembly and the first reigning Saudi monarch to have met with a pope, Pope Benedict XVI in November 2007.
- Donated \$50 million in cash and \$10 million-worth of relief materials for the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake in China and pledged a \$1 billion donation towards the reconstruction of the Palestinian coastal territory during the Israeli war on Gaza.



2

HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH HAJJ SAYYID ALI KHAMENEI

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Grand Ayatollah Khamenei is the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was born in Mashhad in the far north east of Iran, and studied in the leading Iranian religious seminary in Qom, before becoming involved in the struggle with the Pahlavi Regime in the sixties and seventies.

Supreme Leader, Velayat-e Faqih

Khameini's current influence stems from his powerful position as a religious leader, which gives him a unique role in political affairs. His job is to enact the *Velayat-e Faqih*—the guardianship of the jurist. In real terms this means a system where scholars of *fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence) have a controlling say in the political affairs of the state. The rule of the jurist was a concept created by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, based on ideas that have run through Iranian political history since the time of Shah Ismail—who was the first to make Shi'a Islam the national religion of Iran. It was conceived in a battle against oppression as a way of safeguarding the Iranian nation from tyranny, giving the final say in all matters to a group of religious scholars, the Council of Guardians. This Council is headed by a chief arbitrator—the Supreme Leader.

Date of Birth: 17 July 1939
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative
Influence: Supreme Leader of 72 million Iranians
School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'a

Leader of Shi'a Revolution

Khamenei gains much of his influence in Iran from his role as a leader of the Islamic Revolution. The Islamic Republic of Iran was forged out of the 1979 Iranian or Islamic Revolution. Combating what many saw as the tyrannical rule of the Shah, Khamenei joined the Society of Combatant Clergy that staged demonstrations mobilizing many of the protests leading to the Shah's overthrow. After the revolution in 1979 he was one of the founding members of the Islamic Republic Party, and a member of the assembly of experts that was responsible for drafting Iran's new constitution. The constitution enacted a merging of spiritual and temporal powers—known in Persian as *Velayat-e Faqih*.

Iran Versus the Western World

Part of the power of Iran and part of the broader international influence of Khameini is in his opposition to the Western world. This is often displayed in rhetoric but also shown through practical steps that highlight displeasure with the ideals and suspicion of the motives of the Western world. His pivotal position in the Iranian decision-making process, as Supreme Leader, and Iran's central role in global politics—through energy security, nuclear proliferation, Iraq—give him undeniable influence in contemporary global politics.

3

HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI

King of Morocco

Known as *Amir al-Mu'minin*, or Commander of the Faithful, King Mohammad VI of Morocco is lauded for his domestic reform policies and pioneering efforts in modernizing Morocco and countering terrorism. He tackles issues of poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion at home and improved relations with countries abroad. He is an influential leader mainly due to his position as the only legitimate contender for the Islamic Caliphate, for his control of the network of Muslims following the Maliki school of Islamic jurisprudence, and as a leading monarch of Africa.

Date of Birth: 21 August 1963
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative, Development
Influence: 31 million Moroccans
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki

Contender for the Caliphate

King Mohammad VI's lineage makes him the only legitimate contender for the Islamic Caliphate, as successor to a 350 year-old dynasty, which is the longest continuously ruling dynasty in existence. The Alaouite Dynasty links back to the Prophet Muhammad. It is also traced by blood to the tribe of Quraish, to which the Prophet belonged. He possesses the only authentic claim to an Islamic Caliphate, if one were to be established.

Control of Maliki Network

King Mohammad VI also leads the oldest Islamic establishment of Maliki Muslims. The Maliki *madhab* is the third largest school of jurisprudence in Islam. This school bases its rulings on the Qur'an and *Hadith* but also predominantly derives its practices from the work of Malik ibn Anas (c. 711-795) and his texts, the *Al-Muwatta* and *Al-Mudawana*. Since early in his reign, King Mohammed has implemented the *Mudawana* family law code that gives rights to women in divorce and property ownership, as well as citizenship to children born from non-Moroccan fathers. He has also commissioned the Islamic Affairs Ministry to train women preachers, or *Morchidat*, who are now active chaplains to Moroccans across the globe.

Huge Influence Over Muslims in Africa

King Mohammed VI leads the largest African monarchy, with a population of 35 million. Besides political links, Morocco maintains strong spiritual ties with Muslims all over Africa. Morocco is the site of the tomb of a highly revered Sufi Sheikh, Mawlana Ahmed Ibn Mohammed Tijani al-Hassani al-Maghribi, the founder of the Tijaniya Sufi order, whose shrine attracts millions from across the continent. Morocco is also recognized as a source for the spread of Islam through West Africa. Thus, King Mohammed VI exercises vast amounts of power and influence over Muslims in Morocco, throughout Africa, and the rest of the world. He leads one of the most stable constitutional monarchies in the region, which is also the center of a moderate, flourishing Muslim culture.





4

HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH II BIN AL HUSSEIN

King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

King Abdullah II of Jordan has influence in Jordan and around the world due to his lineage in the Hashemite family, his custodianship of Jerusalem and activism on various fronts—from freedom of the press and reformed domestic policy to international diplomacy. He is noted for having developed Jordan’s free market economy, arts and culture scene, as well as addressing issues of homelessness and poverty in his reign as King.

Date of Birth: 30 January 1962

Source of Influence: Political, Lineage

Influence: Approximately 6.2 million Jordanians, Outreach to Traditional Islam

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Prophetic Lineage

King Abdullah II is a member of the Hashemite family and the 42nd generation direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad through the lineage of the Prophet's grandson Al-Hasan. The Hashemites, or *Bani Hashem* link back to the tribe of Quraish. Hashem was the name of the Prophet's great-grandfather. King Abdullah II is thus a member of the *Ahl al-Bayt* (the family of the Prophet Muhammad).

Ruling Dynasty

The Hashemite family ruled Mecca from 1201 CE to 1925 CE and other branches of the family have ruled Mecca from 500 CE, when Qusayy, the grandfather of Hashem, became Mecca's first King. His dynasty is the oldest ruling dynasty in the Islamic world, and the second-oldest in the world, after that of Japan.

Custodian of Holy Sites in Jerusalem

As custodian of the Muslim holy sites in the city of Jerusalem, King Abdullah maintains a unique prestige in the region.

Islamic Outreach

King Abdullah has proven influence at the forefront of a global intrafaith movement, through the creation of the *Amman Message*, a call for greater intra-religions tolerance and unity in Islam that was endorsed by representatives from all major Muslim groups in 2004. He is also credited for the Royal Aal al-Bayt Foundation Institute for Islamic Thought's most authoritative website on Qur'an and *tafsir* or Qur'anic exegesis—Al-Tafsir.com. An extensive resource for Islamic scholarship, Al-Tafsir.com includes Arabic texts from over 90 commentaries of the Qur'an, *Hadith* texts, among other tools for research of the Qur'anic sciences, with daily hits in the thousands.

He is also noted as an interfaith leader for the 2007 initiative, *A Common Word*—the leading historical initiative in Christian-Muslim engagement.

Peace Activist

King Abdullah is the leading player in the dialogue on peace in Israel-Palestine. He has constantly and openly called for a discussion on the negotiations toward a two-state solution in the region, since his ascension to the throne in 1999.

5

HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULLAH GÜL, AND HIS EXCELLENCY RECEP TAYIP ERDOGAN

President, and Prime Minister of Turkey

Recep Tayip Erdogan and Abdullah Gül are the Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Turkey respectively. They are the first openly religious leaders of a government that has remained secular since the end of the Ottoman Empire, and the political leaders of a predominately religious Muslim country.

Country: Turkey

Date of Birth:

Erdogan-26 February 1954

& Gul- 29 October 1950

Source of Influence: Political

Influence: Lead government of
76 Million Turkish Citizens

School of Thought: Modernist
Sunni

Populists

Gül and Erdogan are influential as the leaders of one of the most populous and economically developed Muslim-majority countries in the world. Although Turkey has been run according to the ideals of secularism since the end of the Ottoman Empire, the populace are predominantly practicing Muslims. Their political rise has not been a straightforward one, with two other Islamic political parties closed down before the final success of the currently ruling AK Party (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi; Justice and Development Party). The political power that they now have is in part due to their ability to institute popular reforms. This also gives them the power to institute popular reforms such as a lift on the headscarf ban on women in public universities.

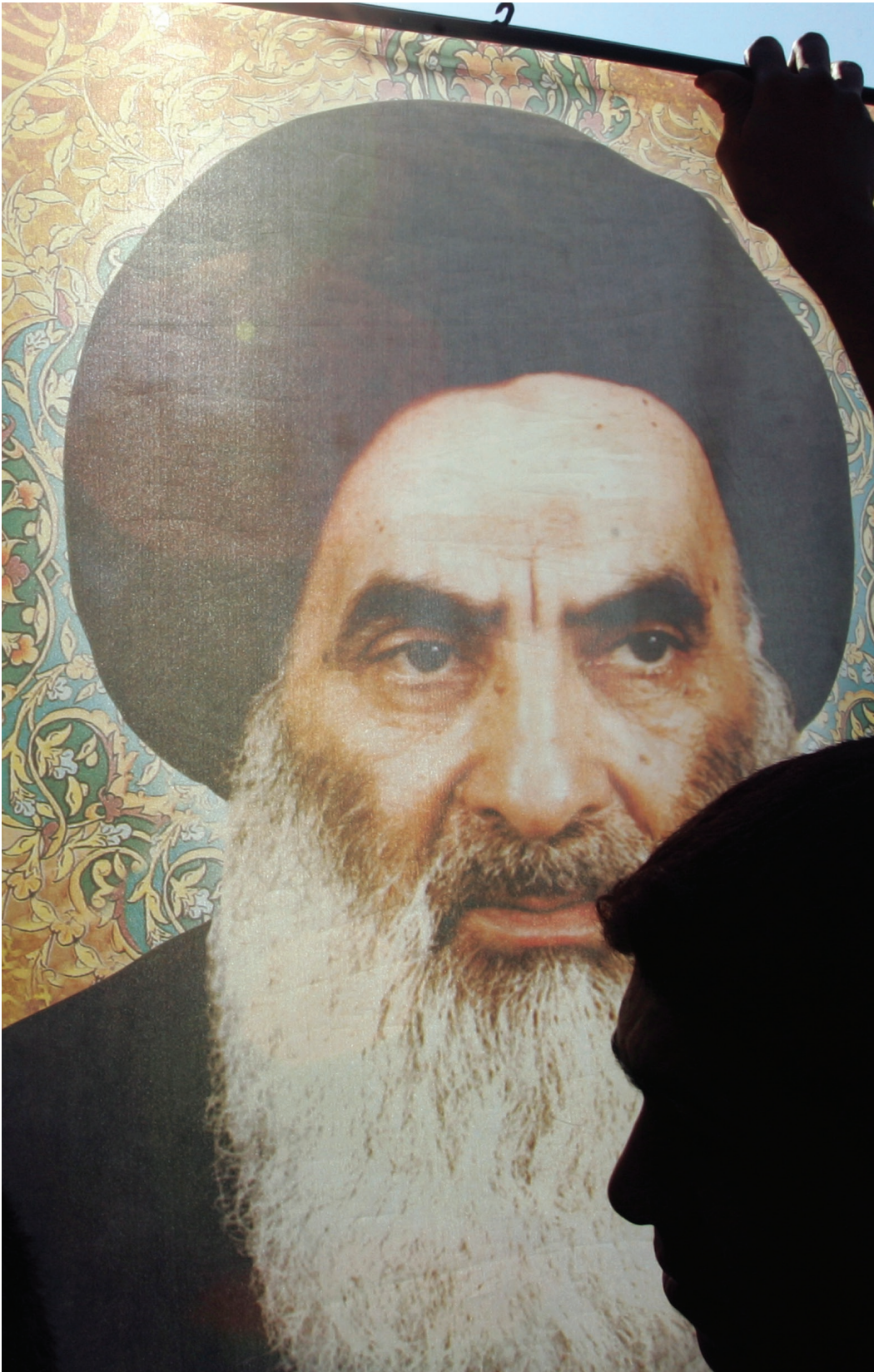
Bridging Divides

The divide between secularism and Islam in Turkey is sharp and the gap is dangerous. Their political influence in Turkey and abroad derives from their ability to navigate the demands of their predominantly religious electorate with that of the strong establishment of Turkish Republican secularism. Both Erdogan and Gül have—at one time or another in their political career—been labeled as exponents of political Islam and have suffered the consequences. Erdogan made a fateful blunder in the late nineties when he was Mayor of Istanbul by quoting a poem that was interpreted as a call to Islamic revolution.

The Power of Pioneers

Erdogan and Gül, due to their positions as the two highest politicians in Turkey, have incredible political influence, moreover due to their rise from outside of the Republican establishment they have been able to act in ways that other Turkish politicians cannot. This independence from the Turkish Republican establishment has enabled them to breach divided associations such as: Armenian-Turkish relations— Gül was the first Turkish politician to visit Armenia; the historic ban on headscarves in Turkish public offices— Gül's wife Hayrünnisa is the first headscarf-wearing Turkish First Lady; the important relations between Turkey and Israel— Erdogan snubbed Israeli President Shimon Peres at the Davos Forum in 2009.





6

HIS EMINENCE GRAND AYATOLLAH SAYYID ALI HUSSEINI SISTANI

Marja of the Hawza, Najaf, Iraq

Grand Ayatollah Ali Hussein Sistani is the Prime *Marja*, or spiritual reference for *Ithna'Asharia* (Twelver) Shi'a Muslims. He is the leader of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq and the pre-eminent Shi'a cleric globally. Sistani is one of the most respected of the *marjaiyya*—the highest position of authority in the Usuli school of Twelver Shi'a *fiqh*.

Preeminent Shi'a Cleric and *Marja Taqlid*

Sistani's influence in the Twelver Shi'a sect stems from his scholarly lineage and education, which has enabled him to reach the status of *marja taqlid*—the highest status in the Usuli branch of Twelver Shi'a Islam. *Marja taqlid* means literally one who is worthy of being imitated—placing Sistani in a position of great authority over Twelver Shi'a Muslims. There are only 29 *marjas* worldwide. Sistani is descended from a family of religious scholars, and was educated in the leading institutions in Iran. He later went to Najaf, Iraq to study under the Grand Ayatollah Abu Al-Qasim Al-Khoei. On Khoei's death in 1992 Sistani took over as Grand Ayatollah, inheriting al-Khoei's following. He soon rose to become the leading cleric in Iraq. With the recent opening of Iraqi shrines to Iranian tourists Sistani is gaining a following outside of Iraq.

Financial Influence

Sistani also has very significant financial clout due to his position as *marja*. As a *marja* his followers give him a religious tax (*khums*, Arabic for one fifth). The redistribution of this tax for the common good is one of the key roles of a *marja*. Much of this remittance is redistributed through the Al Khoei Foundation—the largest Twelver Shi'a development organisation in the world that maintains a network of educational and humanitarian establishments for both Shi'a and non-Shi'a Muslims.

Quietist Influence

Significantly Sistani is against the idea of *Velayat-e Faqih*, suggesting Shi'a clerics should not get involved in politics. Paradoxically this approach has afforded him very strong influence as a religious leader unsullied by politics. We can see this after the Iraq invasion when Sistani issued a legal ruling (*fatwa*) calling on the clergy to guide Iraq's populace, and later during the 2005 elections when he issued a ruling telling Shi'a women that they were religiously obliged to vote. Ali Sistani has used his position of quietist authority to wield influence also as a peacemaker in the turbulent post-invasion Iraq. At a time when Sistani was losing support to Moqtadr Al Sadr, he showed his sway by arranging a lasting deal between Sadr and US forces at the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf in 2005—a deal that secured the Shrine and pushed for an American retreat.

Date of Birth: 4 August 1930

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage

Influence: Highest Authority for 17-20 Million Iraqi Shi'a, and also internationally as a moral and religious authority to Usuli Twelver Shi'a Worldwide

School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'a, Usuli

7

HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH AL AZHAR DR MUHAMMAD SAYYID TANTAWI

Grand Imam of the Al-Azhar Mosque

Sheikh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi is the Grand Imam of the Al-Azhar Mosque and the Grand Sheikh of the Al-Azhar University. He is the leading authority for the vast majority of Sunni Muslims, and the head of the foremost Islamic educational institution.

Date of Birth: 28 October 1928

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Administrative

Influence: Highest Scholarly Authority for a majority of Sunni Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Spiritual Leader of Al-Azhar University

Tantawi's central influence comes from his position as the current head of the Al-Azhar University. Al-Azhar is one of the oldest universities in the world, and is the premiere institution for Sunni Islamic scholarship, with a global outreach through 72 feeder schools, and more affiliated organizations. At any one time there are close to 100,000 students studying there, whose degrees will make them well-respected Muslim scholars in their communities. This immense size and well-grounded respect make the head of Al-Azhar an extraordinarily powerful and academically influential person. His position at the head of such an organization is derived from his education in the leading institutions of Islamic education around the world. He has been a student of the Islamic sciences for over 60 years—studying in Egypt and Libya before leading the postgraduate department of Qur'anic commentary (*tafsir*) at the Islamic University of Medina in Saudi Arabia. In the mid-eighties Tantawi moved back to Egypt to head Al-Azhar's faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic, before being made Mufti of Egypt—a position he held for 10 years until he became the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar.

Key Commentator on the Qur'an

Tantawi's ability to talk about Islam and his scholarly influence are founded on the Islamic practice of *tafsir*, that is, commentary on the Qur'an. His current influence is seen in his close participation with the creation of the first online *tafsir* database—www.altafsir.com.

Moderate Authority

Tantawi has secured his place as the bastion of Islamic moderation through a number of pragmatic legal rulings. He has been most influential as the moderate voice of the Islamic establishment. On thorny issues of the day, Tantawi has kept a cool head seeking judicious and restrained responses. On the issue of terrorism, Tantawi was quick to brand the perpetrators of terrorist acts as heretics, stating that it is not courageous 'to kill an innocent person, or to kill thousands of people, including men and women and children.' On other controversial issues such as apostasy, abortion in cases of rape, and female circumcision Tantawi has bucked popular trends and taken a liberal view.





8

DR YUSUF AL-QARADAWI Scholar of the Muslim Brotherhood

Yusuf Al Qaradawi is an Egyptian scholar. He is articulate, widely read, and is one of the most widely commented on scholars of Islam. He is one of the intellectual leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood movement and a founder of the website IslamOnline.

Leading Figure of the Muslim Brotherhood

Qaradawi is incredibly influential as an intellectual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood—one of the most important modern movements in Islam. He has twice turned down offers to be their leader, preferring to be free of institutional restrictions. Earlier in his life Qaradawi was jailed three times for his relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood and subsequently stripped of his Egyptian Citizenship in the 1970s—driving him to seek exile in Qatar. The Muslim Brotherhood remains the main opposition force in Egypt. Although he has no formal relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood, he remains a leading intellectual force in the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Country: Qatar

Date of Birth: 9 September 1926

Source of Influence: Scholarly

Influence: Leading scholar for global Muslim Brotherhood movement, host of 'ash-Shariah wal-Hayat' on al Jazeera with 40 million viewers in the Arab world

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Muslim Brotherhood

Popular Influence

Qaradawi is incredibly influential as a vociferous voice of criticism of the West and of Israel. Much of Qaradawi's influence over the past decade has been a product of his forthright views on combating social injustice, especially concerning Israeli-Palestinian relations. His view that suicide bombing is a legitimate form of self-defense has landed him in trouble in western Europe, but is reflective of an underlying sentiment among many in the Middle East that oppression deserves such a response—however he goes against the grain of most leading Islamic thinking by supporting suicide as a tactic of war.

Traditional Scholar for Modern Times

Qaradawi's ability to combine the traditional knowledge of Islamic Law with a contemporary understanding of the issues that Muslims face today, have lead him to become one of the best known and most influential contemporary Muslim clerics of our time. He uses a variety of means to connect with people. He is well known for his popular Al Jazeera program 'ash-Shariah wal-Hayat' (Islamic Law and Life) that is watched by an estimated forty million people worldwide. Despite his popularity, Qaradawi is often criticized by fellow scholars regarding his methodology and his occasionally unusual positions. He does however continue to be respected as a knowledgeable scholar and has been praised for his condemnation of the September 11th attacks.

9

ALI GOMA'A

Grand Mufti of Egypt

Sheikh Ali Goma'a is the Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt. He is the second highest Sunni authority in Egypt after Sheikh Tantawi and one of the foremost Islamic scholars in the world. Goma'a is responsible for the Dar al-Ifta al-Masriyyah, a leading institute for Islamic legal research, and the legal arm of the Egyptian Ministry of Justice which is responsible for passing official religious rulings.

Date of Birth: 3 March 1953
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Political
Influence: Legal authority for 76 million Egyptians
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i

Egypt's Weight in Islamic Scholarship

Goma'a's scholarly influence is derived from his position at the centre of many of the most significant institutions of Islamic law in the world. Before becoming Grand Mufti, Goma'a was a Professor of Jurisprudence at Al-Azhar University, and served as a member of the Fatwa Council. He is currently a member of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, the highest institute of Islamic law of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference—an international organisation for Muslim-majority countries.

Personal Popularity

Goma'a has become incredibly popular as a Mufti since he began to appear on popular broadcast and satellite television. Part of his appeal is due to the revival of the old Islamic practice of informal 'knowledge circles' at the Al-Azhar Mosque, and very well-attended Q&A sessions after his Friday sermons at the Sultan Hasan Mosque, where Goma'a makes a point of taking on anyone who tries to simplify or distort Islamic teachings without knowledge of its traditions. This has made him extremely popular with those who are uncomfortable with extremism.

Popularized and Simplified *Fatwas*

Goma'a has immense legal influence through his advocacy of Islamic legal rulings (*fatwa*). Since he was appointed Grand Mufti of Egypt in 2003, Goma'a has modernized the process of issuing *fatwas* in Egypt. He has done this by overhauling the Dar al-Ifta organization into a dynamic institution with worldwide reach, based on a *fatwa* council and a system of checks and balances. He has been forthright in his criticism of poorly thought-out *fatwas* calling those who make such rulings criminals.

High-Tech Influence

Goma'a has authored over 50 books, as well as hundreds of articles. He now uses the Dar al-Ifta to get his scholarly opinion out. His office issues some 5,000 *fatwas* a week, with official ones on important issues written by himself and the routine ones dealt with via phone and Internet by team of subordinate Muftis. He believes that respect for traditionalism is growing in the Muslim world, partly because of the immense demand for *fatwas* issued by his office.





10

HIS EMINENCE ABDUL AZIZ AAL AL-SHEIKH

Grand Mufti of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

As the Grand Mufti, Sheikh Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah Aal Al-Sheikh has the highest position of *religious* authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as an Islamic scholar at the seat of Sunni Islam, and influence as a leading cleric of the expansive global movement of Salafi Muslims.

Date of Birth: b.1941

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Administrative

Influence: Grand Mufti to 28 million Saudis and the global network of Salafi Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Hanbali, Salafi

Head of Sunni Jurisprudential Committees

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Aal Al-Sheikh is Chairman of the Council of Senior Scholars, a scientific consultative commission composed of leading Sunni specialists of *Sharia* (Islamic law). He has been behind *fatwas* that call for more rights for women and children.

Al-Sheikh is also Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Islamic Research and *fatwas* (religious rulings), a special committee designated for the researching and issuing of religious rulings on jurisprudence, the *Hadith*, and creed for the Sunni world.

As head of the Presidency for Scientific Research and Religious Edicts (Dar al-Ifta), Al-Sheikh is often the spokesperson for controversial rulings issued from the Kingdom. He is recognized for his influence in enforcing a distinct view of Islamic tradition. In 2008, he publicly criticized Muslim televangelists who encourage Muslims to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries—stressing, instead, the importance of honoring only Muslim celebrations; mainly, the two occasions of ‘Eid and weekly Friday observations are valid occasions to celebrate. In this regard, and also in his condemnation of Turkish soap operas sweeping the Arab world, Al-Sheikh stressed the importance of eliminating distracting practices. He is also ardently opposed to the practice of marrying off very young girls to older men, stressing its incongruence with human decency and Islamic tradition.

Central Figure of Global Salafi Movement

As Grand Mufti of the Kingdom Saudi Arabia, Al-Sheikh is the leading religious figure of the Saudi-based network of Salafi Muslims. He stresses the importance of adhering to a literal interpretation of the scripture and following Islam as it was practiced by the early generations of Muslims. The rulings derived by Al-Sheikh are based heavily on the Qur’an and emphasize the need to strip away innovative cultural practices that have become a part of Muslims’ lives across cultures. The movement he leads is characterized by an authoritative stance on Islamic religious practice.

Eminent Scholarship

Grand Mufti Al-Sheikh is recognized as a leading contemporary scholar of Islam. He has leveraged this influence by openly speaking out against Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda as entities that push a dangerous ideological terrorism. He spoke for the need for a war—to be fought by academics, the media, religious leaders and even parents—against deviant thought that leads overzealous Muslims toward extremism and violence.

11

MOHAMMAD MAHDI AKEF Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood

Mohammad Mahdi Akef became Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2004 and has since led the largest Islamist political party in Egypt, arranging mass protests criticizing the conflict in Gaza, demanding an apology from the Pope during his trip to Jordan, among other things, all in the face of mounting criticism against the Brotherhood's beliefs and practices.

Leader of an Expansive Muslim Network

Akef heads the oldest and largest Muslim social, religious, and political organization in existence. The Muslim Brotherhood forms the leading opposition party in many Muslim countries and has branches in most of the Muslim world—besides its base in Egypt. Members of the organization are based in Bahrain, Syria, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, Libya as well as the United States.

In his five years leading the Muslim Brotherhood, Akef has constantly spoken out against injustices against Muslims in Egypt and other countries. In May 2009, Akef made a public statement about the need for Egypt to acknowledge gratefulness for Hasan Nasrallah's support of the Palestinian resistance.

Head of a Leading Islamic Reform Movement

Akef distinguishes himself and the Brotherhood through a distinctive take on Islamic law, stating that apostasy should not be punishable, rather permitted as a freedom to all Muslims. With a firm belief that constitutional reform is possible in Egypt, Akef encourages Muslims to be more proactive about staking their claims to a more representative and more Islamic government. Akef has often pushed for the Muslim Brotherhood's mission of political activism and economic development in Muslim countries as an internal process, without the interference of foreign entities. He openly criticized the U.S. 'Greater Middle East Initiative' by presenting a counter proposal in 2006 of political and economic reforms promoted by the Brotherhood—it has been popularly seen in Egypt as more valid than the U.S. proposal.

What makes the Muslim Brotherhood and Akef's work distinct and far more influential than other Islamic political parties is the emphasis on making faith a guidepost in all political endeavors and, importantly, neither a hindrance to political progress nor a deficiency. This has been both a source of massive support, but also criticism—critics saw that the use of 'Islam is the Solution' as a campaign slogan took away from its legitimacy as a political organization.

Country: Egypt

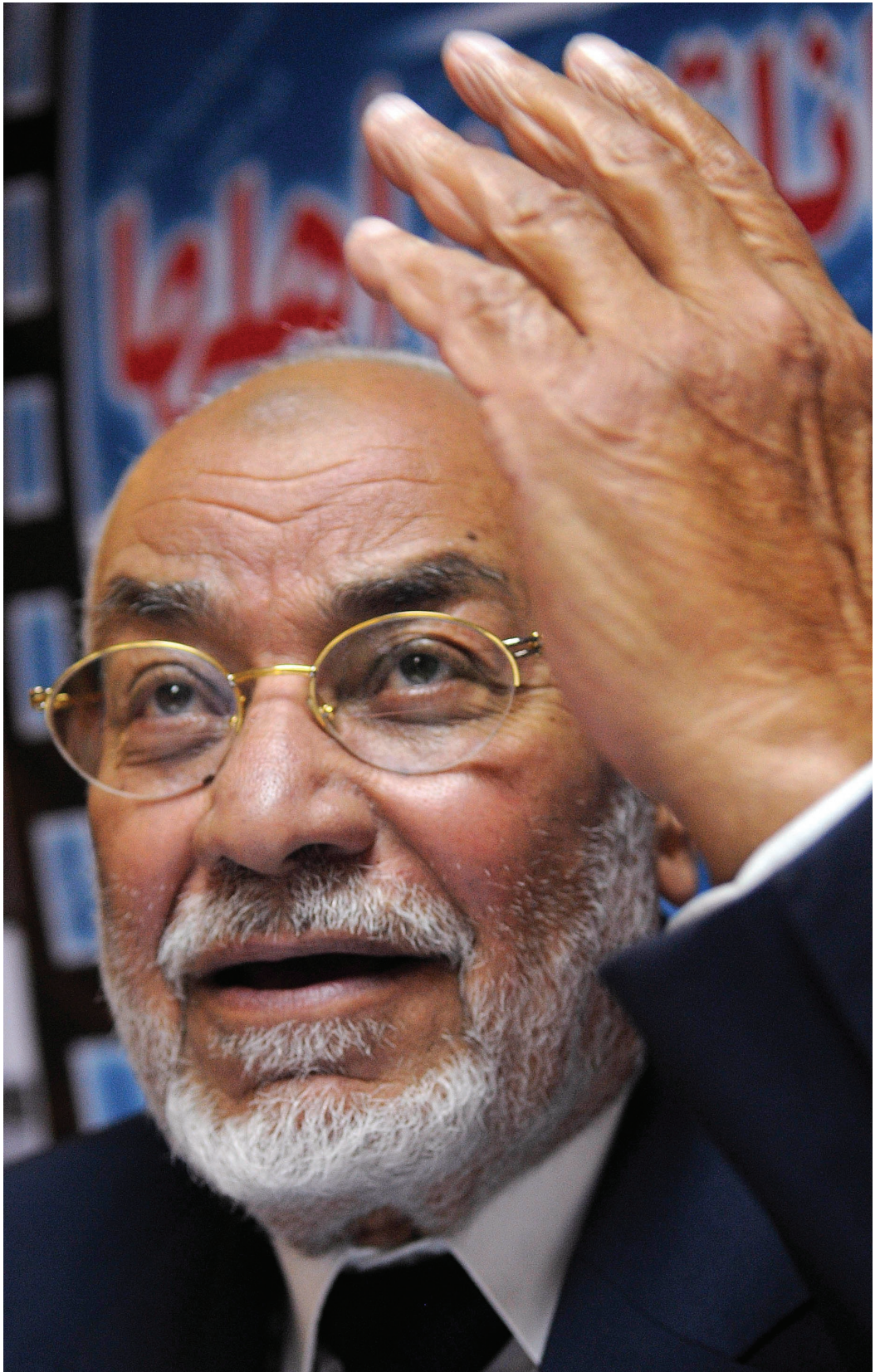
Date of Birth: 12 July 1928

Source of Influence:

Administrative, Political,
International Islamic Networks

Influence: Leader of a transnational
movement across Egypt and the
Middle East, Africa, the UK, and US

School of Thought: Modernist
Sunni, Muslim Brotherhood





12

HODJAEFENDI FETHULLAH GÜLEN

Turkish Muslim Preacher

Fethullah Gülen is a Turkish Muslim preacher whose teachings have inspired millions of Turks to forge a powerful socio-religious community active in publishing, charity, and education.

Humanitarian Reformer

A unique social reformer, Gülen has worked to reconcile the rifts between religion and science, bringing ideologies of the Islamic and Western worlds closer together. His socially-oriented philanthropic efforts give material wealth to beneficiaries, and also promote a new understanding of life and the religion of Islam.

His beliefs underscore that there are no material shortages in the world, he sees no justification for starvation, and has established many charities that channel inequitably distributed wealth to the needy.

Date of Birth: 27 April, 1941

Source of Influence: Scholarly

Influence: 71,000 fans/members

on 91 Facebook groups,

3,500,000 views on YouTube,

figure of spiritual and social

leadership for millions of

Turkish people

School of Thought: Modernist

Sunni, Sufi

Catalyst for Educational Change

When he began preaching in Izmir, in his youth, a network of pupils began to unite as a 'social movement' inspired by Gülen's example. This movement eventually culminated in the development of around 300 schools in Turkey and hundreds more abroad, making him one of Turkey's most well-known and respected public figures and garnering attention by magazines like *The Economist* as a 'scholar of extraordinary proportions.' Graduates from his private schools around the world have taken top honors in university placement tests and consistently finish at the top in the International Knowledge Olympics. They have produced several world champions in math and science among other subjects.

Influence in the Media

The movement has since gone on to open hospitals, charities, a TV and radio station, as well as a bank that operates on Islamic principles. Gülen also has two major mass-circulation daily newspapers (*Zaman* and *Today's Zaman*) affiliated with his movement. The network also spawned a Journalists and Writers Foundation and a Teachers Foundation, each of which publishes journals and organizes symposiums and conferences—providing an umbrella for a host of dialogue groups and charitable organizations.

Thinker

Turkish intellectuals and scholars revere Gülen as 'one of the most serious and important thinkers and writers, and among the wisest activists of twentieth-century Turkey or even of the Muslim world.' The Gülen movement is described as 'one of the most powerful and best-connected of the networks that are competing to influence Muslims around the globe.' Oxford Analytica claims it is 'unique and highly successful' and that it is 'likely to have a lasting impact on the modernization of Islam and its opening to engagement with Western ideas.'

13

AMR KHALED

Preacher and Social Activist

Amr Khaled has been a televangelist to the Islamic world since 1998. Deemed the 'world's most influential Muslim television preacher' by *The New York Times Magazine*, and ranked as the 13th most influential person in the world by *TIME Magazine*. He communicates through his TV shows and web campaigns using Islamic ethics as a way to inspire, foster community development, tolerance and inter-cultural relations.

Popular Media Figure

Part of Khaled's influence derives from the fact that he appeals to the common person. He holds a degree in accounting, and has no formal religious education; wears suits and ties, not flowing robes; and has a clean-shaven face except for a trimmed moustache—everything you do not expect from a Muslim preacher. His everyman appeal has led to immense popularity. Khaled's television shows are broadcast by four Arab satellite stations but air primarily on Saudi-based religious channel Iqraa. Khaled's speeches are published online, on bestselling cassettes and CDs. His website is translated from Arabic to nearly twenty languages and rivals Oprah Winfrey's in terms of traffic.

Voice for the Youth

Amr Khaled is a pioneering Muslim preacher and effective social activist who is revered by many as the leader of a revival in the Muslim world, but his influence stems largely from the fact that he engages young people. Youth in the Middle East and North Africa face disproportionate challenges, such as unemployment and social exclusion—obstacles, which make it difficult to compete with development in other areas of the world. Faith is important to young people in the Middle East, but they do not connect with the majority of preachers whose teachings do not speak to the problems in their lives.

Community Development

Khaled's goal is to encourage community development in the Muslim world by its own people with religious faith as the guiding inspiration—something he believes should be linked to interfaith dialogue, tolerance and moderation. The break up of communities is something he sees as responsible for the malaise in the Muslim world, and something he believes puts the future of young people in jeopardy. One program he has launched to realize this objective of community development is *Life Makers*, which has a stated goal of producing a renaissance for the Arab and Muslim world.

Country: Egypt

Date of Birth: 5 September 1967

Source of Influence: Media, Youth

Influence: 20 million homes around the world tune in to his televised shows according to *Esquire*; 232,219 fans on 79 Facebook groups; Approx. 2,000,000 hits on 200 YouTube videos

School of Thought: Modernist Sunni





Some of the millions that make their way to hear Tablighi leaders at the Biswa ijetma in Bangladesh

14

HAJI ABDUL WAHHAB

Ameer of Tablighi Jamaat, Pakistan

Leader of the Pakistan chapter of the *Tablighi Jamaat*—a transnational Islamic organization dedicated to spreading the message of religious conservatism and renewed spirituality—Haji Abdul Wahhab is a leading Pakistani scholar with a significant following in South Asia and the United Kingdom. Although the organization does not have a central authority, Wahhab has been increasingly influential in his leadership of the throngs of Muslims that follow the international movement in Pakistan and abroad.

Missionary

As *Amir*, or leader of Pakistan's *Tablighi Jamaat*, Haji Abdul Wahhab's influence spans globally due to the organization's emphasis on missionary work. Considered a foremost *da'ee*, or inviter to the faith of Islam, Wahhab has spoken about the need to return to the correct beliefs and practices of Islam at numerous countries and congregations.

Champion of Conservatism

Wahhab urges Muslims to repent for their sins and to emulate the life of the Prophet Muhammad by adhering to the *sunna*—the Prophet's teachings and deeds. Among these is an exhortation to partake in the act of *da'wa* or spreading the message of the faith. The *Tablighi Jamaat* has gradually acquired a massive membership base owing to this core tenet. His work is derived from close ties with the founder of the *Tablighi Jamaat*, Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Kandhelvi, and stems from the renowned Islamic institution Darul Uloom Deoband, in India, where the latter studied before establishing a following in Pakistan.

Mass Appeal

Among the throngs of Pakistanis, diaspora South Asians, and others who carry the flag of the *Tablighi Jamaat* are notable Muslim leaders. In Pakistan alone, Wahhab's influence has effectively won the allegiance of prominent politicians, actors, and athletes. Despite his influence over key Muslim leaders from various fields of social power, he is consistent in his assertion that the organization is wholly apolitical—identifying the work of the *Tablighi Jamaat* as a spiritual revivalist movement.

Advocate of Non-violence

In light of heightened incidences of violence by fringe Islamic militant groups, Wahhab has publicly stated the importance of non-violence in bringing people closer to the faith of Islam. This comes after the tragic Mumbai attacks which investigations found were linked to the Pakistan-based, *Lashkar-e-Taiba*; a militant organization Wahhab has made a point of distancing the *Tablighi Jamaat* from.

Date of Birth: Not Available

Source of Influence:

International Islamic Networks, Scholarly, Administrative

Influence: Leader of a Pakistan-based organization with chapters in 120 countries, an annual conference, *Raiwind Tablighi Ijtimah*, in Punjab, Pakistan which drew 1.5 million attendees in 2008 and attracts approximately three million members attending the annual Biswa Ijtema conference in Bangladesh

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Hanafi

15

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS BIN SA'ID AL SA'ID

Sultan of Oman

Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Al Sa'id, the 14th descendant of the Al Bu Sa'idi dynasty, is a socially and politically active monarch. He has revolutionized and modernized Oman, transforming it from a poor, isolationist country into a land unified with the African continent and devoted to economic development, regional stability, and religious tolerance.

Date of Birth: 18 November 1940

Source of Influence: Lineage, Political, Development

Influence: Leader of 3.4 million citizens and residents of Oman

School of Thought: Traditional Ibadi

Leader of Omani Sultanate

Sultan Qaboos Al Sa'id reigns over a country strategically situated in the Gulf region. Oman has a stake in the crude oil market due to the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Gulf of Oman to the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea transporting about 40% of daily seaborne traded oil and 20% of all oil traded worldwide, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Oman's tourism is also an increasing source of revenue. Historically, Oman is significant as one of the only countries with a large population of Ibadi Muslims and as the most authoritative state in the Ibadi movement—one that is recognized as one of the oldest schools of Islamic thought.

Beacon of Islam

Recognizing the importance of nurturing the spiritual side to nation-building, Sultan Qaboos has helped build or restore thousands of mosques at his personal expense, the grandest being the Sultan Qaboos Mosque, which can accommodate up to 20,000 worshippers. He has guaranteed religious freedom for minority groups, and has given land to Hindu and Christian groups to build houses of worship.

Personal Leadership

The Sultan has raised the Omani standard of living by building up Oman's school system, healthcare, infrastructure, and economy. He has developed several recent projects to encourage Oman's future development, including the *Sanad* microfinance program set up in 2001 and an annual fund for scientific research, which has supported the nation's first doctoral candidate who graduated in 2008. Sultan Qaboos cites political participation as one of his major long-term goals. Within the last two decades, he has introduced political reforms including a bicameral representative body, a basic law, universal suffrage, and a Supreme Court.

International Leader

He has been recognized by organizations such as the United Nations and the National Council of US-Arab Relations for his leadership in the Arabian Gulf region. In 2008, he presided over the GCC Summit, where he was commended for his ongoing efforts toward political and economic cooperation amongst the GCC states. Sultan Qaboos has made it an effort to strengthen ties between Oman and Iran, as well as the strategic partnership between Oman and India—in light of the approximately 500,000 Indians living and working in Oman making them its largest expatriate community.





16

AMIRUL MU'MININ SHEIKH AS-SULTAN MUHAMMADU SA'ADU ABUBAKAR III

Sultan of Sokoto

His Majesty Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh as-Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III is the 20th Sultan of Sokoto. As Sultan of Sokoto, he is considered the spiritual leader of Nigeria's 62 million Muslims, who account for roughly 50 percent of the nation's population. Although the position of Sultan of Sokoto has become largely ceremonial, the holder is still a central figure for Nigerian Muslims.

Lineage Back to Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio

The Sultan of Sokoto is the spiritual leader of Nigeria's enormous Muslim community. He gains this position by lineage. Abubakar is the 20th heir to the two-century-old throne founded by his ancestor, Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio. Dan Fodio, (1754-1817 CE) was a scholar, leader of the Maliki school of Islam and the Qadiri branch of Sufism, and Islamic reformer of the nineteenth century. Dan Fodio believed that Islam should have a more central role in the life of the people of West Africa and led an uprising to institute the changes he sought. His figure and his writings are a very important chapter in the history of Islam in West Africa, and Abubakar by lineage holds a key place in West African Islam, and particularly for the Fulani and Hausa people who followed Dan Fodio.

A Respected Family

The position currently does carry with it some weight—though largely ceremonial since British colonial rule diminished its political significance. Much of this clout is derived from the respect that was earned by Siddiq Abu Bakar dan Usman—17th Sultan and father of Abubakar—who held the Sultanate for over fifty years. The rule of Abubakar's father from 1938 to 1988 earned the position significant social capital and popularity with ordinary Muslims.

Administrative Power

Abubakar holds important administrative influence in Nigerian religious life. Abubakar is the titular ruler of Sokoto in northern Nigeria and also is the head of the Nigerian National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. Leadership of this council means that the Sultan of Sokoto remains the only figure that can legitimately claim to speak on behalf of Nigerian Muslims. This role has become increasingly influential over the years with a rise in interreligious tensions between Nigeria's Muslim-majority North and Christian-majority South. The late Sultan Siddiq Abu Bakar dan Usman was widely respected for trying to ease tensions between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities, which occasionally spill over into sectarian violence. Abubakar also possesses military experience in conflict areas.

Country: Nigeria

Date of Birth: 24 August 1956

Source of Influence: Lineage, Development, Administrative

Influence: Central figure for approximately 62 million Nigerian Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki. Linked to the Qadiriyyah Sufi order by lineage.

17

HASAN NASRALLAH Secretary General of Hezbollah

Sheikh Hasan Nasrallah is the current and third Secretary General of Hezbollah (the Party of God). Hezbollah is a Twelver Shi'a Islamic political party and paramilitary organization based in Lebanon. Political and military successes have made Nasrallah a vastly influential figure in Lebanon, and in the Middle East more broadly. Hezbollah's ideology is based on seeking social justice through Islamic ideals.

Military Power

Nasrallah has immense importance in Lebanon as a figure of military power. He gained this influence by leading Hezbollah during the time that Israeli forces withdrew from southern Lebanon. The withdrawal resulted in huge popularity for Nasrallah, giving him increased recognition at home and abroad as a powerful figure in the Middle East. Hezbollah remains a *de facto* security force in southern Lebanon, and its military presence is felt throughout the country, with a force of around 300,000 fighters.

Lebanon's leading Twelver Shi'a

Under Nasrallah, Hezbollah has gained in popularity and in political stature. As Syria and Israel have withdrawn from Lebanon, Hezbollah has begun to position itself as a Lebanese nationalist organization, with revolutionary Shi'ism as the guiding line. Nasrallah was educated at the Hawza Shi'a seminary in Najaf in Iraq, where he met Abbas Musawi, his predecessor as leader of Hezbollah. Nasrallah took over leadership in 1992 and has popularized the party among the Muslim population, and also among non-Muslims. Hezbollah has gained wide popular appeal by providing social services, health care and also running al-Manar—an influential television station.

Social Services

Hezbollah has also won significant grassroots support by cultivating a social welfare system that provides schools, clinics, and housing in the predominantly Shi'ite parts of Lebanon, but also in others. These welfare activities are run with efficiency and rival those carried out by the state, giving the organization even broader appeal.

International Symbol of Resistance Against Israel

Nasrallah has broader influence in the Muslim world as a figure of defiance against Israel. Israel remains a key issue for the Muslim world and for Hezbollah's aim to achieve social justice there. The military successes he had in the late nineties are seen as the main factor for Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon in 2000. Moreover the staunch defense put up by Hezbollah forces against Israel in July 2006 earned Nasrallah many more supporters.

Country: Lebanon

Date of Birth: 31 August 1960

Source of Influence: Political, Development

Influence: Main political leader of approximately 1.5 million Lebanese Shi'a (40% of Lebanon's population), wider support with the Syrian and Iranian Shi'a populations and those who support his resistance to Israel

School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'a, Revolutionary Shi'ism





18

DR KH AHMAD HASYIM MUZADI

Chairman of Indonesia's *Nahdatul Ulama*

Dr KH Ahmad Hasyim Muzadi is the leader of Indonesia's largest independent Muslim organization and one of the world's most influential Islamic organizations, *Nahdatul Ulama* (NU), or 'Awakening of Scholars'. He guides millions through his work with the NU.

Head of Expansive Network

The *Nahdatul Ulama* boasts an expansive network that covers 30 regions with 339 branches, 12 special branches, 2,630 representative councils and 37,125 sub-branch representative councils across Indonesia.

This network practices the doctrine of *Ahlassunah wal jama'ah*, Arabic for people of the *Sunna* [practices of the Prophet Muhammad] and the community. They base their practices on the traditional sources of Islamic jurisprudence—mainly the Qur'an, Hadith, and major schools of law.

Among its aims is the propagation of *Nahdatul Ulama's* message and also an expansion of its already extensive network of members in Indonesia. This is the basis of many of the organization's social reform efforts. With a solid structure of central and regional boards, branch and special branch boards, and various advisory councils, Muzadi sits at the top of this increasingly influential Sunni movement.

Model of Traditionalism

With a mainly rural membership base, the *Nahdatul Ulama* distinguishes itself from other Islamic organizations in Indonesia by positioning itself as a premiere organization of traditional Islam—with an emphasis on education and political engagement based on Islamic principles. He also speaks up against edicts of the Indonesia Ulema Council that are inconsistent with the legal leniency of Islamic law, such as the recent *fatwas* (religious rulings) against smoking, and subsequent proscription against Facebook.

Social Servant

The *Nahdatul Ulama* has made substantial charitable contributions to Indonesian society in the fields of educational development, health care, and poverty alleviation. Although Muzadi stresses that the work of his organization is geared toward establishing a secular nation-state based on a body of modern and moderate Muslims; his agenda items—such as anti-corruption laws and social reform measures—are deeply rooted in Islamic principles.

Country: Indonesia

Date of Birth: 8 August 1944

Source of Influence:

Administrative, Political, Development

Influence: Leader of approximately 30 million members of the *Nahdatul Ulama*

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

19

SHEIKH SALMAN AL-OUDA

Saudi Scholar and Educator

A leading Saudi sheikh, Salman al-Ouda is a former hard-line cleric turned advocate of peaceful coexistence. He is increasingly influential due to his innovative reach in the Muslim world via IslamToday.com and persistent efforts at ministering to the needs of the global Muslim community.

Key Scholar of Salafi Network

Sheikh Salman al-Ouda is a leading scholar of the Salafi movement. Although he is not noted for propagating innovative ideas within the network, he has notable influence in the movement due to his use of multiple modes of education (web, television media, and text) to educate the large body of Salafi Muslims in the Islamic sciences. His website brings together a diverse range of Islamic scholars and educators to provide guidance in Islamic thought.

Influence Through Virtual Islamic Resource

Sheikh al-Ouda supervises all content published on IslamToday.com—a website that offers virtual resources for Islamic education on the Internet in multiple languages. His work has far-reaching impact in an age when religion is spread through media and technology, with IslamToday.com at the forefront of this trend.

Innovative Educator

Al-Ouda developed a following from weekly talks at his local Mosque in Buraydah and has become an authority for Muslims and non-Muslims worldwide who access IslamToday.com—a Saudi-funded website dedicated to providing Islamic educational resources in English, Arabic, French and Chinese. He addresses Islamic issues on the Saudi satellite channel MBC.

Ambassador of Non-violence

In an effort to distance himself from alleged connections to perpetrators of terrorism, al-Ouda is outspoken about the importance of inculcating love and mercy as opposed to violence in the daily life of Muslims—except in valid cases of self-defense. As a prominent member of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, he led the delegation in talks with Arab heads of state and the need for them to unite in opposition to Israel's siege of Gaza in early 2009.

Country: Saudi Arabia

Date of Birth: b. 1955

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Media

Influence: Supervises IslamToday.com with 2,000 daily hits, has published 50 books, numerous television appearances that reach millions of people across the globe

School of Thought: Modernist Sunni, Salafi

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Divulging bedroom secrets

A child's make-believe & the problem of telling lies

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Some people try to explain the indicative nature of faith by saying it is nothing more than a belief in something at the world.

Words of Advice

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Sheikh Salman al-Oadah [May 11, 2009]

All of creation participated in the creation of Earth, the stars and planets, and everything.

Qur'an Showcase

'There is no alteration of Allah's creation'

Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah [May 11, 2009]

Scholars have disagreed on the prohibition of alteration of Allah's creation.

Islamic Law

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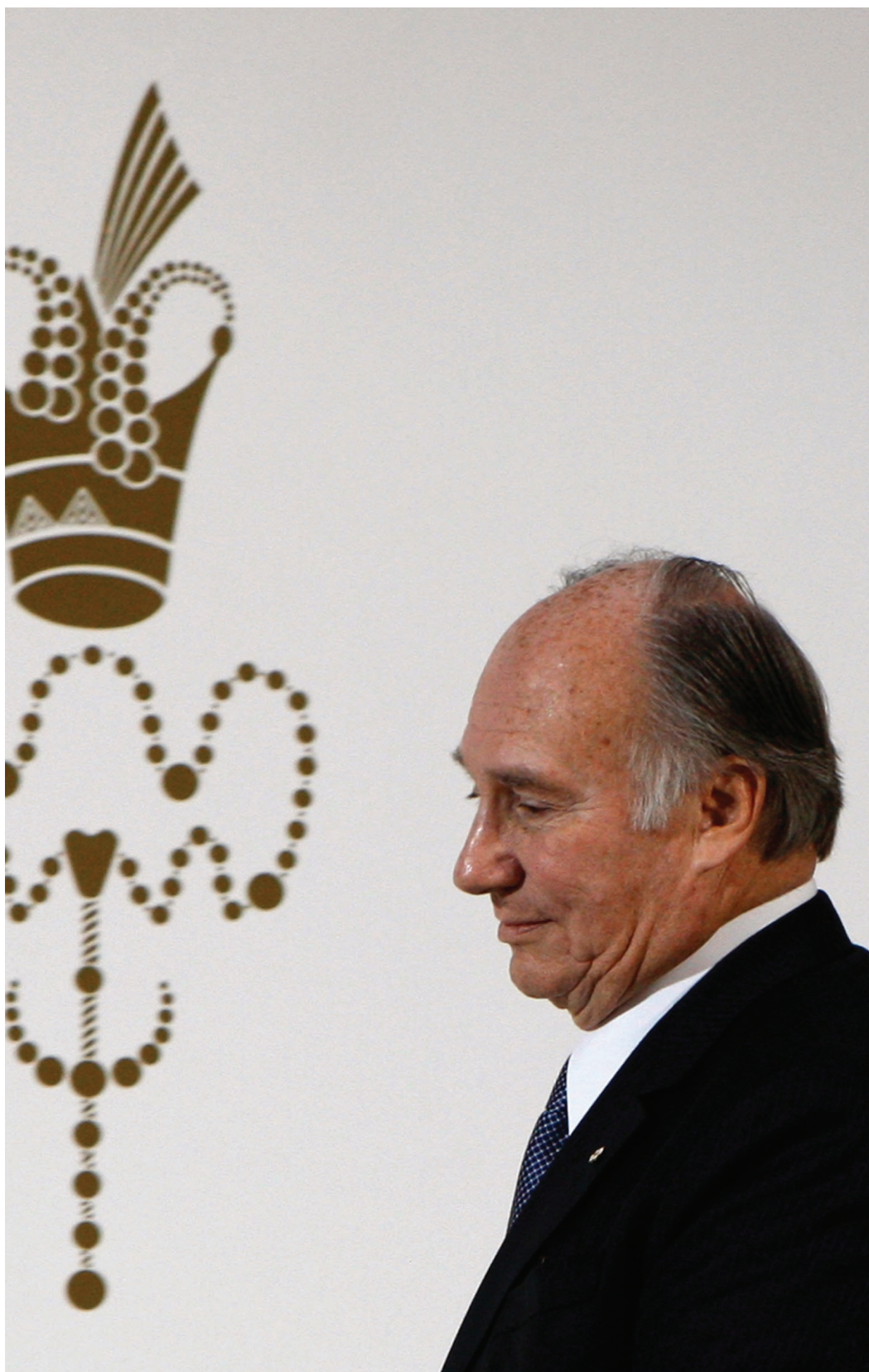
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Salman al-Ouda website, Islam Today, brings together a diverse range of Islamic scholars and educators to provide guidance in Islamic thought



20

SHAH KARIM AL-HUSSAYNI

The Aga Khan IV, 49th Imam of Ismaili Muslims

Shah Karim Al-Hussayni, also known as simply the Aga Khan (Imamate 1957- Present), is the leader of the Shi'a sect of Muslims known as the Nizari Ismailis. For 5 million Nazari Ismaili Muslims he is the 49th hereditary Imam, with lineage descending back to Ali, the cousin of the Prophet Muhammad. He is only the fourth Aga Khan, a hereditary title bestowed upon the Imam by the Shah of Persia in the mid-nineteenth century.

Hereditary Leader of Ismailis

The Aga Khan derives his position of authority from his lineage. He has a direct line of ancestry going back to Imam Ali. For Nizari Ismaili Muslims this ancestry is directly attached to the idea of an Imamate starting with Imam Ali. However their lineage differs from the larger sect of *Ithna'Asharia* (Twelver) Shi'a. Twelver Shi'a heritage derives from the younger son of the sixth Imam Jafar al-Sadiq, whereas Ismaili heritage derives from the elder son. His influence stems from his obligation to lead the community, finding solutions to the ever-changing issues facing his followers. At the age of 21 he bypassed his father and uncle to become the 49th Imam, a choice that his grandfather made because he felt the community needed a leader 'who has been brought up and developed during recent years and in the midst of the new age, and who brings a new outlook on life to his office.'

Unparalleled Philanthropist

The Aga Khan is also an influential philanthropist on the world stage. His influence on development is very significant and disproportionate to the size of the Nizari Ismaili community, which is one of the smaller Muslim sects. To fulfil the Imam's responsibilities in the contemporary world, the Aga Khan set up the Aga Khan Development Network. The AKDN is a collection of development and humanitarian agencies working in areas of poverty. The network is widely known for its architectural and cultural work, including projects that revitalize historic cities. This initiative shows the greatness of Islamic civilization through the renovation of the Old City of Aleppo and the Al-Azhar park in Cairo. His foundation does, however, maintain a strong and enduring presence in developing countries—building health care capacity, promoting economic development in rural areas and helping improve educational opportunities. The work of the AKDN is particularly influential in Central Asia, where it works in areas that are often neglected by other organizations.

Country: UK/France

Date of Birth: 13 December 1936

Source of Influence: Lineage, Administrative

Influence: Approximately 5 million Nizari Ismailis

School of Thought: Modernist Shi'a, Ismaili, Nizari

21

HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Prime Minister and Vice President of the United Arab Emirates

As Prime Minister and Vice President of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is a prominent head of state who has made waves in international business and development as well as domestic economic and social reforms. In terms of economic growth he is one of the most successful figures in the Muslim world.

Vice President of Key Gulf Nation

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum leads the emirates of Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al-Quwain as Vice President. With a highly developed economy, and massive oil and natural gas reserves, Al Maktoum is the leader of one of the richest countries in the world and is himself the fifth richest royal in the world.

With several major seaports and airports, the UAE is noted for its infrastructure and much of its development is credited to Al Maktoum. Over the years, the UAE has developed strong diplomatic ties with many Western countries, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that are the six Arab states of the Persian Gulf, and the Arab League.

Leader of Substantial Muslim Population

Maktoum leads a population of 96% Muslims in the UAE. Dubai's population is Muslim majority as well. The tolerant communities comprised of Muslims living with Christian, Jewish, Hindu and other religious minorities has garnered Dubai a reputation for its permission for the free practice of religion, under Maktoum's leadership.

Avid Developer

Al Maktoum is responsible for managing the construction of the man-made Palm Islands, the luxury hotel *Burj Al Arab*, as well as the *Burj Dubai*, now recognized as the tallest freestanding building in the world. This, in conjunction with its developed economy, makes Dubai a world business hub, and a rapidly developing Gulf state.

Charitable Benefactor

Aside from having pledged 10 billion USD for the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Educational Foundation domestically, Al Maktoum is heralded as a humanitarian for his financial relief efforts. He has donated over 910 million USD for children's educational development as part of the UN Millennium Development Goals. He has also established *Noor Dubai*, an initiative in conjunction with the World Health Organization to address treatable blindness and visual impairment in developing countries by providing medical treatment to, so far, 2 million people.

Country: Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Date of Birth: 22 July 1949

Source of Influence: Political, Administrative

Influence: Immense financial influence in the Gulf as the world's fifth richest royal

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni





H.H.SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and
Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces as well as next in line to be President of the United Arab Emirates. The UAE is increasingly becoming an important centre for global weapons trading, with Abu Dhabi hosting the largest defense expo in 2009.

Political and Military Leadership

Sheikh Al Nahyan is Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council—an executive leadership body in Abu Dhabi, which is constantly engaged in the assessment of public policy. Since becoming Crown Prince in 2004, Al Nahyan has been recognized for his groundbreaking initiatives as an influential leader of Abu Dhabi as well as Deputy Supreme Commander of the armed forces. He is a Special Advisor to UAE President H.R.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Country: Emirate of Abu Dhabi, UAE

Date of Birth: Not Available

Source of Influence: Administrative, Development, Philanthropy

Influence: Military and political leadership, with prospective presidency over an estimated 4.8 million residents of UAE

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Economic Development

With Abu Dhabi sitting on a 10th of the world's proven oil reserves H.R.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan maintains immense political influence in the Muslim world as Crown Prince and leading member of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company—which leads development efforts for the UAE's role in the oil and gas industries. Al Nahyan is also responsible for making Abu Dhabi a thriving economic hub. He is also a key leader and head of the Mubadala Development Company—owned by Abu Dhabi—which is an investment company that works in aerospace, automotives, energy, health care, real estate, telecommunication, and other business sectors.

Humanitarian

Al Nahyan is noted for his philanthropic and humanitarian efforts in charitable giving. He has donated billions of dollars to various causes. In 2009, Al Nahyan pledged the donation of Dh 4 million for student book purchases at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair and is constantly engaged in philanthropic and charitable efforts.

Sustainable Development

Sheikh Al Nahyan has been a champion of sustainable development in Abu Dhabi as an advocate for the implementation of green technologies. He pledged 15 billion USD for the development of clean energy through solar, wind, and hydrogen power.

23

SHEIKH M. SA'ID RAMADAN AL BOUTI

Leading Islamic Scholar in Syria

Sheikh Bouti is the leading Islamic scholar in Syria. He is the Head of the Theology Department in the Faculty of Islamic Law at Damascus University. He preaches very often and is highly respected by many of the leading scholars in the Muslim world.

Date of Birth: b. 1929

Source of Influence: Scholarly

Influence: Leading scholar for 18.5 million Syrian Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Traditionalist Scholar

Bouti is the scholar's scholar, and the bulk of his influence comes from his position of respect and authority among the leading thinkers in Islam today. Bouti has significant influence from his position as a central figure in the Muslim scholarly establishment, writing close to 50 books that have garnered considerable critical acclaim.

Passionate Advocate of Madhabs

Bouti is a keen supporter of *madhabs* (traditional Islamic schools of law), and is one of the leading critics of the significant movement to abandon these schools. He is particularly influential because this movement has led to groups where extremist behaviours are condoned as Islamic. Bouti has referred to the abandonment of *madhabs* as the 'most dangerous *bid'a* [innovation] threatening the Islamic *sharia*.' His view is critical because he says it gives those without knowledge the ability to decide what is and is not Islamic.

A Critic of Salafism

Bouti has very important sway over the debate about the philosophical merits of Salafism versus traditional Islam. He has held important debates with leading Salafi scholars and has performed well, highlighting to his audience the importance of knowledge within Islam. In one of his most noteworthy books on this issue—*Jihad in Islam: How to Understand and Practice it*—Bouti shows how a poor understanding of the term *jihad* has led to its abuse by both Muslims and non-Muslims. His view is that those who are unaware of the basis of *fiqh* have manipulated the idea of *jihad* for their own benefit, underlining that *jihad* must be conducted, according to the basis of Islamic *fiqh*.





24

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH

The Sultan of Brunei

The Sultan of Brunei and Yang Di-Perutan of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah is one of the richest men in the world and 29th Sultan of one of the oldest dynasties in existence today. Brunei is a country with a population of 388,190 on the north coast of the Island of Borneo in Southeast Asia.

House of Bolkiah

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah descends from the House of Bolkiah, which traces back to Sultan Bolkiah, the fifth Sultan of Brunei (who ruled from 1485-1524 CE). The House of Bolkiah has been the reigning Sunni Muslim Royal House in Brunei.

Country: Brunei Darussalam

Date of Birth: 15 July 1946

Source of Influence: Political, Administrative

Influence: Leader of approximately 348,000 citizens of Brunei

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i

Modernizer

Early in his sultanate, Sultan Bolkiah launched the country into a more active role on the global stage by aligning Brunei with the Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN. Recently, he has used ASEAN as a vehicle for strengthening relations between Brunei and the other counties—through youth and cultural exchange programs as well as dialogue on environmental and economic development. Sultan Bolkiah is also credited with bringing in the country as a member state of the United Nations.

Administrative Influence

Sultan Bolkiah has been lauded for attempts at slowly democratizing the country's governance, at the same time as consolidating royal authority. Beginning in the early nineties Sultan Bolkiah began trying to strengthen the role of Islam through the notion of *Melayu Islam Beraja* (or Malay Islamic Monarchy). Dating back to 100 AD and established in the 5th century, *Melayu Islam Beraja* links Malay identity, Islam, and the monarchy as an official ideology. Sultan Bolkiah announced the change in philosophy on 1 January 1984, on Brunei's day of independence. Although a small percentage of Brunei's population adheres to religions other than Islam, the official ideology is tolerant and inclusive of non-Muslims. The Sultan is also an important donor to the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

25

H.E. PROFESSOR DR SHEIKH AHMAD MUHAMMAD AL-TAYEB

President of Al-Azhar University

Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayeb is the President or Rector of Al-Azhar University. Prior to being appointed President of Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Al-Tayeb was the most powerful cleric in Egypt as its Grand Mufti for two years before the appointment of the incumbent Grand Mufti Ali Goma'a.

He has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Aswan, and the Theology Faculty of the International Islamic University in Pakistan. He has also taught in universities in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. His scholarly influence as a leading intellectual of Sunni Islam spans the globe.

Country: Egypt

Date of Birth: b. 1946

Source of Influence:

Administrative

Influence: Runs the foremost Sunni Islamic University with close to 100,000 students

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Runs the Premiere University for Sunni Islam

Since 2003 Al-Tayeb has held the position of Rector of Al-Azhar University in Cairo. He leads one of the oldest universities in the world, where teaching has continued without interruption since 975 CE. Al-Azhar represents the centre of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence. It is a key institution that issues authoritative religious rulings and has provided extensive Islamic education to Egyptian and international students since its inception over a millennium ago. This history makes it a bastion of Sunni traditionalism. The university is considered one of the most renowned Islamic educational institutions, and the foremost centre of Sunni Muslim scholarship worldwide.

Administers the Al-Azhar Education Network

Al-Azhar is also among the biggest educational institutions in the world, having risen from a group of three schools in the 1950s to its current state with 72 feeder schools, and close to 100,000 students studying there at any one time. In spite of his huge workload as Dean and Rector, Al-Tayeb publishes regularly in numerous academic journals, dealing particularly with the reception of Islamic culture and philosophy in the Western world.

He is also a member of the Egyptian Society of Philosophy, the Supreme Court of Islamic Affairs and is the head of the Religious Committee at the Egyptian Radio and Television Union.



26

HIS EMINENCE MOHAMMAD BIN MOHAMMAD AL-MANSOUR

Imam of the Zaidi Sect of Shi'a Muslims

His Eminence Mohammad bin Mohammad al-Mansour is the Imam of the Zaidi branch of the Shi'a sect of Muslims, one of the three main branches of Shi'a Islam. With approximately 10 million followers Zaidis constitute almost half the entire population of Yemen, and a very small minority of around 3% in Saudi Arabia.

Lineage in the Imamate

Al-Mansour is the current Imam of the Zaidi Muslims. Zaidis are a Shi'a sect named after the followers of Zayd bin Ali, grandson of Hussein. The sect was formed by the followers of Zayd bin Ali who led an unsuccessful revolt against the Ummayyad caliph Hisham in 740 CE.

Country: Yemen

Date of Birth: b. 1917

Source of Influence: Lineage, Scholarly

Influence: Imam of approximately 10 million Zaidi Shi'a in Yemen and Saudi Arabia

School of Thought: Traditional Zaidi (Fiver) Shi'a

Current Social Influence

In the past decade a Zaidi movement known as the *Shabab al-Mumineen* led by Hussein al-Houthi has been gaining prominence in the northwest of Yemen. This has stoked some sectarian rivalry in Yemen, between the Zaidi and radical anti-Shi'a groups who are fearful of the resurgence of Zaidi rule in Yemen. Al-Mansour has maintained his quietist approach and has maintained respect in Yemeni society. He was influential in stemming the escalation of conflict in 2005.

27

JUSTICE MUFTI MAULANA SHEIKH MUHAMMAD TAQI USMANI

Leading Scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence

Justice Mufti Maulana Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani is a leading scholar of Islamic jurisprudence. He is considered to be the intellectual leader of the Deobandi movement.

Leading Islamic Finance Scholar

Usmani's chief influence comes from his position as a global authority on the issue of Islamic finance. He has served on the boards and as chairman of over a dozen Islamic banks and financial institutions, and currently leads the International Shariah Council for the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) in Bahrain. He is also Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Fiqh Council of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), one of the highest legal bodies in the Muslim world.

Country: Pakistan

Date of Birth: b. 1943

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage

Influence: One of the most senior figures in Islamic finance, a leading scholar of the Deobandi movement

School of Thought: Modernist Sunni

Deobandi Figurehead

Usmani is very important as a figurehead in the Deobandi movement—one of the most successful of the Islamic revivalist initiatives of the past century. He was born in Deoband, India, to Mufti Muhammad Shafi (the former Grand Mufti of Pakistan) who founded the Darul 'Uloom Deoband, a leading centre of Islamic education in Pakistan.

28

HIS EXCELLENCY MUAMMAR GADDAFI Brother Leader of the Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, also known as Brother Leader of the Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been a central figure in the life of Libya since he seized power there in a bloodless coup in 1969. He is a key figure in *da'wa* (Islamic missionary work) but also in global socialist politics, looking for a more socially just way to arrange society.

Missionary Influence

Gaddafi exerts huge administrative influence through his *da'wa* work. The World Islamic Call Society (Jamiat al-Da'wa al-Islamiya) is one of the most significant Islamic missionary initiatives in the world, with a network of approximately 300 Islamic organizations from more than 80 countries. The World Islamic Call Society carries out a variety of initiatives aimed at spreading the message of Islam and improving relations between Muslims and non-Muslims. Gaddafi's stature and longevity in global politics as well as a significant endowment to the WCIS make him one of the most influential people in the world proselytizing for Islam.

Date of Birth: 7 June 1942
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative
Influence: Leader of 6 million Libyans, controls a huge *da'wa* network
School of Thought: Modernist Sunni

29

SHEIKH MOHAMMED ALI AL SABOUNI Scholar of Tafsir

An internationally renowned Islamic scholar of *tafsir*, or Qur'anic exegesis, Sheikh Mohammed Ali Al Sabouni is widely acclaimed for contributions to Islamic scholarship.

Traditional Authority

The Institute of Scientific Research and Revival of Islamic Heritage commissioned Al Sabouni to investigate the ancient *tafsir* manuscript of Abu Jaafar Al-Nahas (d. 338 AH). His landmark achievement of verifying the only surviving manuscript of the text has come to fruition as a six volume work published by Umm Al-Qura University in Mecca, Saudi Arabia—founded by King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud as part of the King Abdul Aziz University in 1949.

Country: Syria
Date of Birth: Not Available
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Significant scholarly influence as the leading contemporary key figure in Qur'anic commentary (*tafsir*)
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Hanbali

Seasoned Scholar

Al Sabouni has gained much of his influence from his vast experience of teaching *sharia* and Islamic Studies for over 28 years as part of the highly qualified academic staff of Umm Al-Qura University—a prominent public university that was established as one of the first institutions of higher education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. One of his most influential commentaries is the *Tafsir Ayat Al Ahkam*, an exploration of the Qur'anic verses that pertain to legal rulings.

30

SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN BAYYAH Scholar of the International Islamic Fiqh Council

Internationally acclaimed scholar Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah is considered the scholars' scholar—having taught Sheikh Hamza Yusuf in Mauritania, and now as an instructor at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah. He descends from a line of reputable Sheikhs.

Country: Mauritania
Date of Birth: b. 1935
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: Not Available
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki

Diplomat

As a member of the International Islamic Fiqh Council or *Al Majma' al-Fiqhi* of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Bin Bayyah is at the forefront of the legal arm of an expansive organization with a permanent delegation to the United Nations.

Author

Having written numerous texts, his scholarly explorations have gone global through speaking engagements that draw crowds of tens of thousands of Muslims. He has spoken at length about the endurance of the Islamic legal tradition and also written extensively on rulings for Muslims living as minorities in foreign lands, or *fiqh al-aqaliyaat*.

Peace Activism

Bin Bayyah has spoken out against the misuse of the term 'jihad' by terrorists who deny its deeply spiritual meaning: to struggle. He is notable for his stance on Muslim ownership of the misrepresentation of Islam and his emphasis on more adequate and accurate representations of the faith.

31

SHEIKHA MUNIRA QUBEYSI Leader of the Qubeysi Movement

Munira Qubeysi, also referred to as *Al-Anisah* (the Miss) by her followers, is the head of the largest women-only Islamic movement in the world. The movement, with Qubeysi at its head, offers Islamic education exclusively to girls and women. Qubeysi commands around 80 schools in Damascus alone, teaching more than 75 thousand students.

Country: Syria
Date of Birth: b. 1933
Source of Influence: Scholarly
Influence: More than 75 thousand students in Damascus alone
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Female Muslim Order

Munira Qubeysi is influential as the leader of an incredibly successful movement educating female Muslims. The religious education of women had previously been neglected so the emergence of a female-specific educational initiative has become very popular, making the al-Qubaisiat, in numbers, the leading Islamic movement in Syria.

Leading an Islamic Revival in Syria

Qubeysi's influence in Syria is due to the fact that she has been able to grow a very large network of *madrassas* (religious schools) without attracting the criticism of the government which has been dubious of large networks of Muslim organizations.

32

SHEIKH AHMAD TIJANI ALI CISSE

Leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi Order

Sheikh Ahmad Tijani Ali Cisse is the spiritual leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi order. The Tijaniyya is the largest Sufi order in Western Africa, and its leader commands a following of close to 100 million people, who see him as their guide to the true Islam.

Leader of Tijani Muslims

Cisse is based in Senegal, however Tijani Muslims are located throughout Western Africa and further afield. As an order, Tijanis give allegiance to their Sheikh giving him significant influence as a leader. Cisse is installed as Imam of the Grand Mosque in Medina Baye, which is one of Western Africa's key positions of Islamic leadership.

Country: Senegal

Date of Birth: b.1955

Source of Influence: Lineage, Scholarly

Influence: Spiritual leader of around 100 Million Tijani Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Sufi, Tijani

Descendant of Ibrahim Al Tijani, Leader of the *Fayda Tijaniyya* (Spiritual Flood)

The Tijani sect is actually a Sufi order founded by Ahmad Al Tijani Hasani, an Algerian, in the late 18th century. As the spiritual leader of the Tijaniyya, Cisse is considered to be the bearer of a spiritual inspiration called the *Fayda Tijaniyya*, giving him authority to carry on the teachings of Ahmad Al Tijani Hasani. Because of this position, some Tijani Muslims refer to him as the reviver of the *sunna*.

33

SHEIKH AL HABIB UMAR BIN HAFIZ

Director of Dar Al Mustafa, Tarim, Yemen

Sheikh Al Habib Umar bin Hafiz is renowned for his prophetic lineage and status as one of the most influential Sufi scholars alive, primarily due to his active engagement in promoting Islamic scholarship.

Cultivator of Scholarship

Habib Umar founded and runs *Dar al Mustafa*, a center for traditional Islamic scholarship that now hosts an array of international students, in Tarim, Yemen. He has joined the ranks of the world's leading Muslim academics and scholars as a signatory of 'A Common Word Between Us and You,' a document that builds bridges between the Muslim and Christian community. He has also spoken at Cambridge University on the need for such a dialogue.

Date of Birth: Not Available

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage

Influence: Runs one of the foremost centres for Islamic education in the world

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i

Humanitarian

In July 2008, Habib Umar partnered with Muslim Aid Australia as founder of Yemen-based NGO Al-Rafah Charitable Society to address issues of poverty and hunger and lack of sufficient health care that affect areas of Tarim. They established a partnership that will bring shipments of sacrificial meat donated by Muslims in Australia to Yemenis in need.

34

KHALED MASHAAL

Leader of Hamas

Current leader of Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), a Palestinian sociopolitical organization, and head of its Syrian political bureau, Khaled Mashaal is the international representative for the Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation.

Fighter for Social Justice

Since becoming head of Hamas in 2004, Khaled Mashaal has seen the organization through multiple attempts at a roadmap to peace and a major Israeli siege of the Gaza strip, more recently. He is steadfast in his commitment to the Palestinian people and land.

Pioneering Leader

Mashaal has been recognized for his persistence with Hamas's efforts—at present leading in exile from Syria. His determination is combined with a unique effort at diplomacy—a willingness to negotiate with Israel to return to the 1967 borders and grant Palestinians a right of return while implying the necessary existence of the State of Israel, despite Hamas's historic denial of the possibility. He has been one of the most direct leaders in confrontation with Israel and this influence has garnered international recognition.

Country: Palestine

Date of Birth: b. 1956

Source of Influence: Political

Influence: Leader of approximately 1000 members in military wing of Hamas

School of Thought: Modernist, Sunni, Muslim Brotherhood

35

PROFESSOR DR M DIN SYAMSUDDIN

Chairman of Muhammadiyah, Indonesia

As Chairman of the second largest socio-religious organization in Indonesia, as well as a leader of the Indonesian Ulema Council, Din Syamsuddin influences the Muslim world on various fronts.

Social Welfare

The Muhammadiyah is often described as a social welfare entity, Syamsuddin is involved with the health and social welfare efforts of the organization which runs numerous medical clinics and hospitals across the country.

Date of Birth: Not Available

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Administrative, Development

Influence: Over 28 million members in the *Muhammadiyah*, 5,754 affiliate schools, and 5 Islamic universities; 15,000 Facebook friends.

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Leader of Conservative Shift

Syamsuddin is Vice General Chair of the Indonesian Ulema Council. His opposition to religious pluralism has guided his work with the *Muhammadiyah* on a more conservative track, with an emphasis on *ijtihad* (individual interpretation of the Qur'an) and *Hadith* (accounts of practices of the Prophet Muhammad).

Reformist

Syamsuddin recently has extended scholarships for students to study at the *Muhammadiyah* Universities in Indonesia.

36

MAULANA MAHMOOD MADANI Secretary General of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, India

Maulana Mahmood Madani, a leading Islamic scholar and politician in India, has gained influence for his forthright condemnations of terrorism and unfaltering support of the Indian Muslim community.

Religio-Political Heavyweight

Madani has served as Secretary General of the *Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind*, or Organization of Indian Scholars—one of the most prominent Islamic organizations in India. Madani has been outspoken in his opposition to the misuse of the term *jihad* as a tool of terrorism in India. Following fatal bomb blasts in 2008, he and others of the *Darul Uloom* Deoband institution hosted events condemning terrorism as inherently un-Islamic.

Date of Birth: Not Available

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Political, Administrative

Influence: 10 million Muslims are members of Madani's *Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind*

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Deobandi

Defender of the Faith

As a respected political leader and Islamic scholar of India, Madani represented the *Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind* and the esteemed community of scholars at Deoband when he addressed the Pakistani government, and Pakistani High Commissioner Shahid Malik in particular, in an open letter regarding his remarks in December 2008 at the UN Security Council about terrorism stemming from 'mullas in Deoband.' As a firm opponent of terrorism, he is steadfast in his advocacy of non-violence.

37

HABIB 'ALI ZAIN AL-ABIDEEN AL-JIFRI Director General of the Tabah Foundation, UAE

Tracing back his lineage to the family of 'Ali, the fourth Caliph of Islam and cousin of the Prophet Muhammad, Habib 'Ali Zain Al-Abideen Al-Jifri is a leading Islamic scholar and prominent speaker across the Muslim world. He is Director General of the Tabah Foundation in the UAE, member of the board of Dar Al-Mustapha in Yemen, member of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan, and affiliated with various other international Islamic organizations.

Country: Yemen

Date of Birth: 16 April 1971

Source of Influence: Scholarly, Lineage, Philanthropy

Influence: Not Available

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i, Ash'ari, Ba'Alawi Sufi

Sufi Guide

As a Ba'Alawi Sufi, Al-Jifri is part of a tradition that has been based in Yemen for approximately 800 years and traces back to the Prophet Muhammad. He is influential as a Sufi spiritual guide in the Muslim world, and Dar al-Mustafa is an influential Islamic educational institution in Yemen.

Educator

Al-Jifri founded the privately-funded Tabah Foundation, in Abu Dhabi, for Islamic Studies and Research, a young non-profit institution that aspires to become a formidable source of reputable work in Islamic research and thought.

38

SHEIKH HAMZA YUSUF HANSON

Founder of Zaytuna Institute, United States of America

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson is the Western world's most influential Islamic scholar. He is seen as the Western world's foremost authority on Islam, having spent a decade learning at some of the premiere institutions in the Islamic world. He runs the incredibly successful Zaytuna Institute in California.

American Scholar

Hanson is fundamentally an American scholar. His popularity, and accordingly his influence, stem from the fact that although his knowledge of Islamic scholarship is comparable to that of important scholars in Muslim countries, his application of it is rooted in the lived experience of a normal American. In his speeches he is able to relate Islamic teachings in a way that American Muslims find easy to understand.

Educator

Hanson is one of the founders of the Zaytuna Institute. This institute is one of the most well respected centers of Islamic education in North America. It has been groundbreaking in combining cutting edge educational technologies with traditional Islamic education. Setting the standard for Islamic education in the West, Hanson has built a huge grassroots following, particularly among young western Muslims.

Date of Birth: b. 1960

Source of Influence: Scholarly

Influence: Leading Islamic authority in a country with 4.6 million Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki, Asha'ri

39

HIS EMINENCE DR MUSTAFA EFENDI CERIC

Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mustafa Ceric is a guiding light for Islam in Europe and the leading Islamic authority; he became Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1993. He is outspoken on interfaith work in the Muslim world and considered one of the most influential Muslim leaders of our time.

Cross-Cultural Advocate

In 2006, Ceric issued the 'Declaration of European Muslims' to the European Union stating that European Muslims are dedicated to the common values of law, tolerance, democracy and human rights, the value of life, faith, freedom, property, and dignity. In May 2009 Ceric stood against warnings of possible violent protest by visiting Serbia and spoke at a sermon in the town of Tutin about the need for Bosnian and Serbian Muslims to unite as one entity.

Date of Birth: b. 1952

Source of Influence: Administrative, Scholarly

Influence: Grand Mufti of approximately 2.3 million Bosnian Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Peace Activist

Ceric joined the International Religious Advisory Council of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation in 2008, committing himself to its mission of promoting respect and religious pluralism while through discussions on social injustices in need of attention and compassion.

40

H.E. PROFESSOR DR EKMELLEDIN IHSANOGLU

Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

H.E. Professor Dr Ekmelledin Ihsanoglu is Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)—the largest Islamic organization in the world, and the second largest public organization after the United Nations.

Voice for the Muslim World

Ihsanoglu is also influential in that he represents the only pan-Islamic organization in the world. This gives him a very significant voice to speak for Muslims, to Muslims and to the rest of the world. The OIC often has more influence over certain issues than other organizations and can have a key role to play in world events—being more inclusive than the Arab League and able to tackle specific injustices that the United Nations Security Council cannot.

Country: Turkey

Date of Birth: b. 1943

Source of Influence: Administrative, Political

Influence: Leader of an organization comprised of 56 Muslim-majority states

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Reviving the OIC

The OIC had been seen as a dysfunctional organization until recently when it has had a radical overhaul of its practice, and aims. Under the leadership of Ihsanoglu the organization's remit has widened away from its previously staple issues of Islamic solidarity towards more immediate humanitarian concerns of economic and social deprivation around the Muslim world, making the organization more akin to the United Nations in its work.

41

GENERAL MOHAMMAD ALI JAFARI,

Chief Commander of the Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution

General Mohammad Ali Jafari is the Chief Commander of the Iranian Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution (also known as the Revolutionary Guard). The Revolutionary Guard is an elite faction of the Iranian armed forces—separate from the army—that report directly to the *Velayat-e Faqih*.

Enforcer of the Islamic Revolution

The Revolutionary Guard came into existence as a set of revolutionary fighters loyal to Imam Khomeini—the leader of the Iranian Revolution of 1979.

Country: Iran

Date of Birth: b. 1957

Source of Influence: Political, Administrative

Influence: Leader of 100,000 permanent troops and close to 300,000 reservists

School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'ism, Revolutionary Shi'ism

Political Power

As the leader of the Revolutionary Guard, Jafari commands a force of close to 400,000—with a potential strength of up to 11 million if circumstances require. Jafari's influence is due to his popularity with younger troops who make up a disproportionately large segment of the population. His experience with asymmetrical warfare gained during the Iran-Iraq war makes him a key figure in plans for defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran against threats from Israel or America.

42

DATO' HAJI NIK ABDUL AZIZ NIK MAT Religious Guide of the Islamic Party of Malaysia

Dato' Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat is a Malaysian politician, an Islamic scholar and the current Chief Minister of the State of Kelantan. He holds the position of *Mursyidul Am*—the Religious Guide of the Islamic Party of Malaysia—within the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS).

Scholarly Influence Over Malaysian Politics

As the Religious Guide of the Islamic Party of Malaysia, Nik Mat is the spiritual leader of Malaysian Islamic politics and holds very important sway over the tenor of politics in the nation. His advocacy of *sharia* law to be applied to all Malay Muslims has, however, drawn criticism, as well as his suggestion that women would be at a lower risk of being raped if they abandoned wearing lipstick.

Date of Birth: b. 1931

Source of Influence: Administrative, Political, Scholarly

Influence: Spiritual leader of largest Islamic political party in Malaysia

School of Thought: Modernist Sunni

Political Importance in Malaysia

Nik Abdul Aziz's fundamentalist party has close to one million members and enjoys strong support from the northern rural and conservative states such as Kelantan and Terengganu. Nik Mat is the Chief Minister of the Kelantan state, the only one of Malaysia's thirteen states that is not ruled by the governing coalition.

43

MOTIUR RAHMAN NIZAMI Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh

Leader of the third largest political party and the largest Islamic political party in Bangladesh—*Jamaat-e-Islami*—Motiur Rahman Nizami has played an active role in pushing the mission of the organization through political and social reforms and propagating Islamic educational initiatives.

Political Activist

Nizami is a champion of democratic organization within the *Jamaat-e-Islami* as well as the governance of Bangladesh. A core principle of the *Jamaat-e-Islami* is the need for Islam to be the guidepost in politics and the belief that Islam should be implemented by the government to maintain the cultural and religious values of Bangladesh.

Date of Birth: 31 March 1943

Source of Influence: Political, Administrative

Influence: Political and religious guide to Bangladesh's nearly 140 million Muslims

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Humanitarian

Nizami has also been an advocate of educational reforms—following threats to remove religious education by the new government, in which he was not re-elected to parliament—as well as calling out instances of state-sponsored terror. In light of the *Jamaat-e-Islami* objective to bring peace to Bangladesh, Nizami has called for a list of immediate needs to be addressed by the government, from adherence to environmental regulations to shortages in gas, water, and electricity.

44

PROFESSOR SAYID AMEEN MIAN QAUDRI

Barelwi Leader and Spiritual Guide

Professor Sayid Ameen Mian Qaudri is leader of the Indian Barelwis and *sajjada nashin*, or Sufi disciple of the *Barkatiya* Sufi tradition which stems from the Qadiriyyah tradition of eminent Sufi master, Abdul-Qadir Gilani (1077-116 CE).

Sufi Guide

A missionary movement, the Barelwis of the South Asian subcontinent have spread their message within the region and also among diaspora communities in Europe, North America, and South Africa. Centered on elevation of the last Prophet Muhammad as the perfect person who is ever-present, this group is distinct from Deobandi Muslims—who practice a more conservative brand of Islam and criticize the Sufi group as illicit innovators of Islam.

Country: India

Date of Birth: Not Available

Source of Influence:

Administrative, Scholarly

Influence: Approximately 2 million *Barkatiya* Barelwis worldwide

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Hanafi, Sufi

Counter of Extremism

Qaudri is professor of Urdu language at India's esteemed Aligarh Muslim University and also leader of a South Asian Sufi movement based in a volatile region where religion has been used as a platform for violence—despite this, it thrives as an active and socially engaged mystical movement, nevertheless. The Barelwis are an apolitical group that emphasizes social cohesion and spiritual upliftment.

45

MOHAMMAD BURHANUDDIN

The 52nd Da'ī l-Mutlaq of the Dawoodi Bohras

Mohammad Burhanuddin is the 52nd *Da'ī l-Mutlaq*, and leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, which stems from the Ismaili Shi'a sect of Islam. As leader of the Bohra, he has been influential in the fields of education and the development of community institutions in Mumbai, India and across the globe.

Absolute Missionary

Mohammad Burhanuddin was appointed to be *Da'ī* of the Dawoodi Bohra by his father who was the previous *Da'ī l-Mutlaq*, or absolute missionary. Burhanuddin succeeded his father, upon the latter's death, when he was 53 years of age. The Dawoodi's are the main branch of the Bohras, a Musta'li subsect of Isma'ili Shi'a Islam. The subsect is based in India although the Dawoodi Bohra school of thought originates from Yemen.

Country: India

Date of Birth: 6 March 1915

Source of Influence:

Administrative

Influence: 1 million Dawoodi Bohras

School of Thought: Traditional Ismaili Shi'a, Dawoodi Bohra

Mansuru l-Yaman

Mohammad Burhanuddin has been widely recognized by governmental and non-governmental organizations for promoting peace in the world. He is noted for the construction of numerous mosques, mausoleums, and community structures for the Dawoodi Bohra in various parts of the world and particularly in Yemen. This is why he is referred to as *Mansuru l-Yaman*.

46

DR ABDUL QADEER KHAN Renowned Pakistani Scientist

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan is the father of the 'Islamic Bomb', being the scientist who brought nuclear technology, and nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan. Pakistan was the first—and remains the only—Muslim country to have nuclear weapons.

Scientific and Technological Influence

Khan is viewed with adoration by a large proportion of the Pakistani population for founding the country's nuclear program and introducing nuclear science and technology to the Muslim world. His work in helping establish the Pakistani nuclear program in the 1970s has made him a figure of great international interest. He has continued to use his financial success and stature to improve the quality of education, building educational institutions around Pakistan.

Political Influence

Khan's work has had very important political implications internationally, turning a conflict between old-rivals India and Pakistan into a potential war between nuclear powers. Khan also may have had more far reaching political influence through his alleged attempts to sell nuclear technology to Libya, Iran, and North Korea.

Country: Pakistan

Date of Birth: 1 April 1936

Source of Influence: Science and Technology, Political

Influence: Gave nuclear technology to 170 million Pakistanis

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

47

PROF. DR SEYYED HOSSEIN NASR Islamic Philosopher

Professor Seyyed Hossein Nasr is an Islamic Studies Professor at George Washington University. He remains one of the most influential Muslim scholars in the world for his work on the Islamic tradition and philosophy.

Reviver of Tradition

Nasr is influential throughout the world, not just in the West for his studies of philosophy. Nasr has been well known to intellectuals in the Arab world for over forty years—when he gave a series of public lectures in Beirut called 'Dimensions of Islam'. The lectures echoed a strong desire within the Arab world to revivify the traditional teachings of Islam in a modern context. The lectures attracted unprecedented audiences, and were discussed around the Middle East and Muslim world.

Islamic Environmentalism

Nasr's work has been ahead of his time in predicting the disastrous consequences of the environmental crisis. Books such as *The Encounter of Man and Nature: The Spiritual Crisis of Modern Man* (1968), and *Religion and the Order of Nature* (1996), narrate the rise of a secular, modern conception of nature as inert matter to be conquered by modern technology, and attempt to revive a sacred notion of nature.

Country: United States

Date of Birth: April 7 1933

Source of Influence: Scholarly

Influence: Written countless scholarly books, and given major public lectures

School of Thought: Traditional Shi'a

48

ABDULLAH 'AA GYM' GYMNASTIAR

Indonesian Preacher

Abdullah Gymnastiar, more commonly known as Aa Gym (Elder Brother), is Indonesia's most popular preacher. He has built an incredible following and a media empire with his style of modern, youthful, enjoyable preaching. His popularity has waned recently with news that he took a second wife.

Indonesia's Televangelist

His energetic and unique approach to everyday life as a Muslim and his messages of self-control, personal morality, tolerance and faith have made him a household name, giving him a regular audience of around 80 million Indonesians. Gymnastiar is both preacher and performer. In his events, Gymnastiar, a young charismatic, attractive man, makes jokes, smiles, tells stories and then sings *nasheed* (religious songs) accompanied by lights, dry ice, and a band.

Reformer

His style has been revolutionary in Indonesia where people are more used to stolid older men preaching to them, and young Indonesians have been keen to soak up his particular brand of religious teaching. His use of SMS text messaging to transmit religious teachings is also groundbreaking; drastically altering the expectations Indonesians have of their preachers and the sway those preachers have over their lives.

Country: Indonesia

Date of Birth: 30 February 1962

Source of Influence: Scholarly

Influence: Regular audience of over 80 million Indonesians, approval rating of close to 90%

School of Thought: Modernist Sunni

49

SHEIKH MEHMET NAZIM ADIL AL-QUBRUSI AL-HAQQANI

Leader of Naqshbandi-Haqqani Sufi Order

As Sufi master and leader of the Naqshbandi-Haqqani order, Sheikh Mehmet Nazim Adil Al-Qubrusi is influential as one of the highest ranking Sufi spiritual guides and traces his lineage back to the prominent Sufis Abdul Qadir Jilani (11th century) and Jalaluddin Rumi (13th century).

Stalwart Missionary

Al-Haqqani's travels have taken him to meet with students and followers of the Naqshbandi Sufi order across the globe.

This order, which traces its spiritual lineage back to Prophet Muhammad's companion Abu Bakr, is one that practices silent remembrance of God. He has a great deal of influence with Muslims around the globe, having spent time with the Muslim communities in the former Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Syria, and Uzbekistan—where the tomb of the founder of the Naqshbandi Sufi order is located.

Guide to Royalty

In the course of his travels, Al-Haqqani has ministered to the Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkhiah, Sir Sultan Hamengkubuwono X of Indonesia, and members of the Malaysian royal family. He is credited for the growing popularity of the Naqshbandi order, which reaches millions through his followers.

Country: Cyprus

Date of Birth: 25 April 1922

Source of Influence: Lineage, Scholarly

Influence: Not Available

School of Thought: Traditional, Sunni, Naqshbandi Sufi

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HIS EXCELLENCY

DR ABD AL-AZIZ BIN 'UTHMAN ALTWAIJIRI

Secretary General of the OIC's Islamic Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference's Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), His Excellency Dr Abd Al-Aziz bin 'Uthman Altwaijiri has exercised his influence by promoting educational development for OIC member states.

Educational Influence

Through his leadership with ISESCO, Altwaijiri has engaged in work with Muslim institutions in Europe, Asia and Latin America having established the Supreme Council of Education, Science and Culture; an alliance designated for work outside of the Islamic world.

Country: Morocco/Saudi Arabia

Date of Birth: 3 April 1950

Source of Influence: Development, Administrative

Influence: Head of largest Islamic educational organization

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

Voice of Diplomacy

Altwaijiri, as a spokesman for ISESCO has categorically condemned acts of terrorism from the bomb blasts on a mosque in southeast Iran to suicide attacks in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province in 2009. On US President Obama's inaugural visit to the Middle East, Altwaijiri extended a gesture of willingness to develop positive relations between the US and the Muslim world toward tolerance and the cause of justice.

THE LISTS



THE LISTS CONTENTS

The following 450 leaders are categorized by their diverse fields of work and appear unranked. The top 50 are not listed except in *International Islamic Networks and Issues of the Day*.

SCHOLARLY **P.82**

These scholars, thinkers, and educators are well respected leaders who have made significant contributions to the study and cultivation of Islamic knowledge and Muslim culture.

POLITICAL **P.92**

These leaders possess high positions of power over substantial groups of people and maintain authority from their elevated status, reputation, or political clout.

ADMINISTRATIVE **P.98**

These agents of change are responsible for founding and directing some of the most influential and innovative global institutions—most often these are based in the Muslim world.

LINEAGE **P.107**

These individuals exercise influence in the Muslim world and global society by virtue of their lineage. They are from some of the oldest existing dynasties and thriving scholarly traditions that link directly to the Prophet Muhammad.

PREACHERS **P.109**

These dynamic preachers have become increasingly influential in an age of technology, which presents uplifting sermons and lessons on Islam to packed stadium audiences, millions of televisions tuned in to satellite networks, and innumerable web videos viewed multiple times a day across the world.

WOMEN **P.110**

These women have been trailblazers in their respective fields, often as the first woman to have influence in breaking social boundaries through her efforts.

YOUTH **P.115**

Given that young people are an increasingly large sector of our societies, these activists have garnered influence in the fields of youth work and education, as young and pioneering leaders in various fields.

PHILANTHROPY **P.117**
These philanthropists have used their wealth and goodwill towards affecting the world through their charitable giving across the globe, thereby alleviating the key crises of the day.

DEVELOPMENT **P.118**
These organizers have dedicated their lives to civic engagement, community work, activism and conflict resolution to influence communities through policy change, governance, and pushing for sustainable development.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY **P.128**
Scientific and technological innovation is key to the impact of these leaders who influence the world.

ARTS AND CULTURE **P.130**
These are artists and cultural ambassadors whose work is part of the daily life of people throughout the globe.

MEDIA **P.136**
In an age of impulsive news and innovative media, these personalities have garnered influence from their control of media organizations or popularity as commentators on life.

RADICALS **P.140**
These infamous individuals have incredible influence on vast amounts of people—often cited for heinous acts and controversial statements made from their platforms of authority.

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC NETWORKS **P.142**
These leading movements in the Muslim world command a huge following and the individuals leading them are globally significant for their ability to affect change on an institutional level.

ISSUES OF THE DAY **P.144**
The past year has witnessed several global crises and major events, from economic recession, and environmental concerns to the election of Barack Obama. These are the key figures that have influence on these issues.

SCHOLARLY

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

CHERIF, H.E. PROF. DR MUSTAFA

Mustafa Cherif, a former Ambassador of Algeria, is a philosopher and researcher specializing in international relations and dialogue between cultures. Co-founder and co-chair of the Muslim Christian Friendship in France and the Mediterranean, Cherif has written numerous works on religion, civilization and dialogue between cultures.

BAHRAIN

AL-MOHMOOD, ABED AL-LATEEF

Abed Al-Lateef Mohmood is a university professor and the Chairman of the Bahrain Islamic Bank's *sharia* supervisory board. A prominent cleric, Mohmood is the President of the Islamic Society of Bahrain and was the head of the Arabic Language and Islamic Studies Department at the University of Bahrain from September 2001 to 2005.

YAQUBY, NIZAM

Nizam Yaquby is one of the most respected scholars of Islamic Finance and sits on many advisory boards including HSBC Amanah. A highly sought-after expert with an immense breadth of experience with the Muslim community of Bahrain, Yaquby received the Annual Islamic Finance Summit's Outstanding Contribution to Islamic Finance award.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NAYED, PROF. DR AREF ALI

Nayed is an important scholar on Christian-Muslim relations. He is a former professor at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (Rome), a former professor at the International Institute for Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC, Malaysia), and a Senior Advisor to the Cambridge Interfaith Program at the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge, UK. He was one of the key Islamic scholars responsible for 'A Common Word'; a document of historical importance in the dialogue between Muslims and Christians.

EGYPT

AL-'AWA, SHEIKH DR MOHAMMED SALIM

Mohammed Salim is the Secretary General of the International Union of Muslim Scholars and the Head of the Egyptian Association for Culture and Dialogue. He is also a founder of Egypt's moderate Islamic political party 'Al Wasat' and regularly appears on Egyptian television and on the Al-Jazeera channel.

EZAT, DR, HIBA

Hiba Ezat is an activist and a professor of politics in Egypt and writes on issues concerning Islam, modernity and human rights. A member of the Council of 100 initiative for Islamic-Western understanding, Ezat is also a co-founder of IslamOnline and consults on many contemporary issues facing the Muslim world.

KAHLAWI, PROF. DR 'ABLA MOHAMMED

Kahlawi is the Dean of Islamic and Arabic Studies at Al-Azhar University Women's College. She is a senior authority on issues of specific concern to women, and the head of one of the most well respected centres for Muslim women's scholarship in the world.

SCHOLARLY

EGYPT

SHUQAIR, PROF. DR HASAN JABR HASAN

Shuqair is the Dean of the Islamic Da'wa School at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo. The school is the main body for training missionaries of the Al-Azhar University.

IRAN

DAMAD, AYATOLLAH PROF. DR SEYYED MOSTAFA MOHAGHEGH

Damad is one of the very few high-level clerics in Iran who have been educated in international law in the West. Damad is a forceful advocate for a more progressive interpretation of *sharia*. He is a very well respected scholar, Dean of the Department of Islamic Studies at The Academy of Sciences of Iran, and a Professor of Law and Islamic Philosophy at Tehran University.

SOROUSH, ABDOLKARIM

Soroush is a very well-known figure in the religious intellectual movement in Iran. His writings were essential reading during the time of the Iranian Revolution in 1979. He is a leading scholar on Islam. He lectures at universities, and has become a key public intellectual in Iran by criticizing the Iranian government from a religious perspective.

YAZDI, AYATOLLAH MOHAMMAD TAGHI MESBAH

Yazdi is the Director of the Imam Khomeini Education and Research Institute. He is one of the key players in Qom; the centre of Shi'a learning in Iran, and his writings are immensely influential in Iranian political and religious circles.

IRAQ

KUBAISI, SHEIKH DR AHMAD

Kubaisi is Iraq's most prominent Sunni cleric. He is a leader of the Iraqi National Movement, and the founder of the 'Ulema Organization of Iraq. He is also the Imam of the Abu Hanifa Mosque, the most important Sunni Mosque in Iraq. Kubaisi has been an advocate of Sunni-Shi'a cooperation.

AL-SADR, AYATOLLAH AL-FAQIH SEYYED HUSSEIN ISMAIL

Ayatollah Al-Faqih Seyyed Hussein Ismail Al-Sadr is the most senior Shi'a religious cleric in Baghdad, Iraq. He heads the Ayatollah Seyyed Hussain Ismail Al-Sadr Foundation Trust which runs humanitarian, development, and peace and reconciliation projects in Iraq.

JORDAN

AL-ABBADI, ABDUL-SALAM

Al-Abbadi is the current Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of Saudi Arabia. The academy is the highest legal authority of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. He is a Professor of Islamic Jurisprudence, and former President of the Aal al-Bayt University.

AL-QUDAH, H.E. SHEIKHDR NUH ALI SALMAN

Al-Qudah is currently the Grand Mufti of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and has held other notable positions in the past including Chief Islamic Justice of Jordan. He is formerly a religious leader in the Jordanian army with the rank of Major General in 1992.

AL-SAQQAF, SHEIKH SEYYED HASAN

Al-Saqqaf is Director of Dar Al-Imam Al-Nawawi, an Amman-based publishing and distribution organization.

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LEBANON

FADLALLAH, H.E. GRAND AYATOLLAH SAYEED MOHAMMAD HUSSEIN

Grand Ayatollah Fadlallah is Lebanon's highest Shi'a religious authority who has reached the status of *marja* (the highest scholarly status in Usuli Twelver Islam). He has an important popular following among the Shi'a in Lebanon and has founded several orphanages, schools, Islamic centres and religious schools including Lebanon's Islamic Sharia Institute.

QABBANI, DR MOHAMMAD RASHID

Mohammad Rashid Qabbani is the Grand Mufti of Lebanon and therefore the country's leading Sunni scholar. He speaks out regularly against sectarianism and violence.

MOROCCO

ABDUL-RAHMAN, DR TAHA

Abdul-Rahman is a Moroccan philosopher famous for his work in trying to create an ethical humanistic modernism on the basis of the ethics and values of Islam. He has taught logic in Muhammad V University for over 30 years. He has won the Moroccan book prize twice, and was awarded the ISESCO prize for Islamic philosophy in 2006. He is the President of the Wisdom Circle of Thinkers, Morocco, and a member of the International Union of Muslim Scholars.

AZZOUZI, PROF. DR ABDELHAQ

President of CMIESI, the Moroccan Center for Interdisciplinary International and Strategic Studies. CMIESI is a significant organisation working in innovative ways to address issues of concern whether they be social, geopolitical, diplomatic, or political.

AL-MURINI, DR AL-JILANI

Al-Murini is a professor at Sidi Mohammad bin Abdullah University in Fez. He is an expert on Islamic Philosophy and Muslim Spain and speaks at numerous international conferences on these topics.

PALESTINE

AL-TAMIMI, H.E. SHEIKH DR TAYSEER RAJAB

Al-Tamimi is a leading scholar and Chief Islamic Justice of Palestine. He is the head of the Palestinian Center for Religion and Civilization Dialogue. He is popular as an outspoken thinker and leader on Palestinian-Israeli relations.

AL-SAFFAR, SHEIKH HASAN MUSA

Hassan Musa Al-Saffar is a Saudi Shi'a reformist leader who has made significant progress in communicating with Salafi leaders and other senior officials in Saudi Arabia.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-QARNI, DR AAIDH

Dr Aaidh Al-Qarni is a prominent Saudi scholar, author, and activist preacher, best known for his popular self-help book *Don't Be Sad (La Tahzan)*, which has sold millions of copies around the world. Dr Al-Qarni has over 800 Islamic audio lectures and is a prolific writer and preacher for tolerance.

SUDAN

AL- TURABI, HASSAN ABDALLAH

Al-Turabi is a Sudanese religious leader. He is widely regarded as a moderate and uses Islamic teachings to foster social development. He is an advocate for women's rights, and believes Muslim fundamentalists place prohibitions above social development. He has recently stated that Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir should give himself up to the International Criminal Court for the sake of Sudan.

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SYRIA

AL-BIZM, DR ABDUL-FATTAH

Al-Bizm is the Grand Mufti of Damascus and the Director of the Al-Fatih Islamic Institute, Syria. The Al-Fatih Islamic Institute is one of the leading educational institutes in Syria. Al-Bizm teaches law at the institute and has cited the environment as a central responsibility for Muslims.

HASSOUN, H.E. SHEIKH DR AHMAD BADR AL-DIN

Hassoun is the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Syria. He graduated in *sharia* studies at Al-Azhar in Egypt. Hassoun was Mufti of Aleppo until the death of Ahmed Kuftaro in 2004. He is an advocate of interfaith dialogue, and is very vocal in his opinion that states should be ruled on a civil rather than religious basis, believing that secularism is not synonymous with atheism.

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

HAJJI OMAR IDRIS

Omar Idris is a mufti and senior official of Somalia's Union of Islamic Courts (UIC). A proponent of Muslim unity, he is the current chair of the Addis Ababa Majlis and also the chair of the Addis Ababa Ulema Unity Forum.

UGANDA

MAMDANI, MAHMOOD

Mamdani is the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government in the Departments of Anthropology and Political Science at Columbia University in the United States. Mamdani is also the Director of Columbia's Institute of African Studies. He is a former President of the Council for Development of Social Research in Africa in Dakar, Senegal. He is well known for his recent book *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror*.

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

DOKORI, DR ABU BAKR

Abu Bakr Dokori is the President of the Islamic University of Ouagadougou. He is a major scholar and advisor to the Republican President. Dokori is also the Burkina Faso Representative to the ISESCO. He is one of the leading Muslim scholars in a country with around 7 million Muslims.

COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)

DAMBOLI, SHEIKH MOHAMMAD

Mohammad Damboli is one of the most prolific Islamic missionaries and an Imam in the Ivory Coast region.

GAMBIA

JAH, H.E. PROF. DR OMAR

Jah is an important figure in the Muslim community of Gambia and in Gambian scholarship on Islam. Jah was the former Gambian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He is now the Secretary of the Muslim Scholars Council, Gambia; and a Professor of Islamic Civilization and Thought at the University of Gambia where he is the Dean of the Humanities Faculty.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

ESACK, PROFESSOR FARID

Esack is a visiting professor at the Harvard Divinity School. He was active in the struggle against

SCHOLARLY

apartheid, forming the Muslim group Call of Islam. After the end of apartheid rule in South Africa he was appointed by Nelson Mandela as a gender equity commissioner. In 1996, he wrote a major work on Islamic liberation theology.

SOUTH AFRICA

HENDRICKS, SHEIKH SERAJ

Hendricks is the Mufti of Cape Town. He is a leading scholar on Sufism in South Africa, and a Patron of Dome Publications. He is seen as one of the highest authorities on Islamic scholarship for South African Muslims.

MOOSA, PROFESSOR EBRAHIM

Moosa is Islamic scholar at Duke and Stanford Universities, he wrote for Arabia: The Islamic World Review, MEED (Middle East Economic Digest) and "Afkar/Inquiry" magazine in Britain, and later became political writer for the Cape Times in South Africa.

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

QATTAN, DR AHMAD

Qattan is a Muslim convert from Palestinian origins. He is the co-founder of the Arab Islamic Center in Salvador. Qattan has been a *da'wa* activist for the past 17 years, and has published more than a 100,000 copies of a book introducing Islam that has been read by an estimated 250,000 people.

MEXICO

ROJAS, ISA

Rojas is a *da'wa* activist and author of numerous articles about Islam in Spanish and French. He is also a student of religion at Al-Madina University, Saudi Arabia. Around 4 million people or more have read his articles and translations that are published on various Islamic websites. He is one of the writers and editors at Islamweb.net.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

GARCIA, PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD ISA

Garcia was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He studied Arabic language and Islamic studies and theology at Umm Al-Qura University in Mecca. He is a specialist in the origins of prophetic traditions. Garcia has translated numerous books, with many only available in his translation. He is also the author of a series named 'Know Islam.'

COLOMBIA

AL-COLOMBI, DAWOOD ABDEL GHAFUR

Al-Colombi is one of the most well respected Muslim scholars in Colombia. He is the most active and influential *da'wa* activist in Colombia, being present at the conversions of over 1000 people. He is the founder of a mosque in the city of Pereira and of the Centro Cultural Islamico Colombian's *da'wa* project. He hosts conferences and awareness lectures for Muslims and non-Muslims, and he is known for his talent for conveying the principles of Islam to non-Muslims. He is also the author of several articles in Spanish and has created the only library of Islamic books in Colombia.

CHILE

TORRES, ISMAIL

Ismail Torres is a distinguished Sheikh and *da'wa* activist in Chile.

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ECUADOR

DASSUM, DR LAYLA

Dassum is the Vice President and co-founder of the Islamic Centre of Ecuador and the Director of the Muslim Ladies Committee. A well-known *da'wa* activist in Ecuador, Dassum hosts conferences and awareness lectures locally and internationally and teaches women about Islam and the Qur'an. Dr Dassum has also represented her country in many conferences in the Islamic world.

ASIA

AZERBAIJAN

IBRAHIMOGLU, ILGAR

Ibrahimoglu is a charismatic young Islamic scholar and human rights activist, who is the head of a pro-Iranian Shi'a congregation in Baku. He received his religious education in Qom, Iran, but also studied human rights in Poland.

BRUNEI

HADDAD, GIBRIL

Haddad is a well-known scholar and religious leader of Lebanese-American background. He has emerged as one of the clearest voices of traditional Islam in the West. A scholar and translator of classical Islamic texts, Haddad converted to Islam while in his undergraduate years and then travelled to Damascus to pursue his studies. A prolific author and a *Hadith* expert, Haddad has translated and published over 30 works including *Allah's Names and Attributes* by Imam al-Bayhaqi and *The Prophet's Night Journey and Heavenly Ascent* by Sheikh Muhammad ibn `Alawi al-Maliki.

JUNED, DR USTAZ HAJI AWANG ABD AZIZ BIN

Juned is the State Mufti of Brunei. He is a scholar of deep knowledge who advises the government and the royal family on matters of faith.

AL-MAHDALI, ABD AL-HAMID

Al-Mahdali is a leading scholar of Islamic theology at the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA), which is the main university for Islamic scholarship in Brunei. He is also a public intellectual who has been invited all over Brunei to speak about Islam.

INDIA

ENGINEER, ASGHAR ALI

Engineer is a Dawoodi Bohra Ismaili. He is the leader of the progressive Dawoodi Bohra Movement. He is a prominent scholar of Islam who is famous for his take on Islam and contemporary issues. He has written many books and published articles in many international journals. He is the founding Chairman of the Asian Muslim Action Network, and of the Institute of Islamic Studies, and the Center for the Study of Society and Secularism.

KHAN, WAHIDUDDIN

Khan has been called 'Islam's spiritual ambassador to the world'. Khan aims to teach about Islam as a spiritual and peaceful way of life. He established the Islamic Center in Delhi in 1970, and has written over 200 books since.

INDONESIA

AZRA, AZYUMARDI

Azra is a world renowned Indonesian scholar who has taught in numerous universities around the world. He is a superlative academic—publishing numerous books and articles. Besides being an advisor to the Indonesian Vice President, he is an informal diplomat for Indonesia, particularly in presenting Islam and democracy through being speaker in conferences. He is also a member of the

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Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), New York (2006-present). He has a regular column in 'Republika,' a national newspaper.

INDONESIA

MAARIF, SYAFII

Maarif is one of Indonesia's most famous scholars whose political comments get significant attention. This former president of the Muhammadiyah organization is actively involved in the interfaith and peace movements both domestically and internationally. Maarif is also a professor of History at National University of Yogyakarta, and a productive author and columnist currently writing two columns in Republika newspaper and in GATRA magazine.

MALAYSIA

KAMALI, PROF. DR MOHAMMAD HASHIM

Kamali is one of the most prodigious producers of quality scholarship on Islam in the world. He is a Dean and Professor at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) and the International Islamic University in Malaysia. His books range from social issues and legal texts to works on theology.

PAKISTAN

AHMED, DR ISRAR

Ahmed is the founder of Tanzeem-e-Islami. He is a well-respected figure among the Muslim populations of Pakistan, the Middle East, and North America, specifically for his efforts to bring educated Muslims towards the teachings of the Qur'an. He believes in a dynamic conception of Islam with the ultimate objective of establishing a true Islamic State. Ahmad has a daily show on Peace TV, has written over 60 books, and has been lauded by the State of Pakistan for his work.

RAHMAN, ATTA-UR

Atta-Ur Rahman is the coordinator general of the OIC Ministerial Committee COMSTECH and former Pakistani federal minister for science and technology, chairman of the Higher Education Commission and president of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He is the first Muslim scientist to win the 1999 UNESCO Science Prize.

SINGAPORE

KASSIM, USTAZ IBRAHIM

Ibrahim Kassim is one of Singapore's most respected Islamic scholars. A judge of the Shariyah Court in Singapore and the Sheikh of the Chistiyyah Sufi Tariqah in Singapore, Kassim is deeply involved in the rehabilitation of Jemaah Islamiyah members that are under detention for plotting terrorists attacks in Singapore.

SALLEH, MAAROF

Salleh is the Director General of the Center for Contemporary Islamic Studies. This centre is an interdisciplinary organization where people can exchange ideas on issues facing the Muslim community. It also does considerable interfaith work. He is also the former head of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore.

UZBEKISTAN

YUSUF, H.E. SHEIKH MUHAMMAD SODIQ MOHAMMAD

Yusuf is the leading authority on Islam in Uzbekistan. He was the former Grand Mufti of the Muslim Spiritual Administration of Central Asia, and the first Mufti of Uzbekistan in the post-Soviet era. He is one of the most popular writers on Islam in the whole of Central Asia and Russia. He has studied in Libya and has written a popular commentary on the Qur'an.

SCHOLARLY

EUROPE

ESTONIA

HARSINOV, AHMED

Ahmad Harisnov is the Mufti of Estonia who campaigns for the rights of Estonia's Muslims to be recognised while assuring the rest of the country's Christian population that Muslims are a peaceful people.

BELGIUM

MICHOT, YAHYA M.

Yahya M. Michot is a Belgian professor of Islamic studies and Christian-Muslim relations at the Macdonald Center at the Hartford Seminary. In addition to working as a consultant for several universities and international organizations, Michot was president of the Higher Council of Muslims in Belgium from 1995-1998.

FRANCE

BENCHEIKH, SHEIKH SOHAIB

Bencheikh is a theologian and the modernist Mufti of Marseilles. Marseilles has a huge population of North African-ancestry French Muslims. Bencheikh is a passionate advocate for integration of the Muslim population.

GERMANY

HOFFMANN, H.E. AMB. DR MURAD

Hoffman is an author and Muslim intellectual. He was a prominent former German diplomat and author, writing several books on Islam, including 'Journey to Makkah' and 'Islam'. Many of his books and essays focus on Islam's place in the West and, after September 11 in particular, in the United States.

KÖHLER, AYYUB AXEL

Köhler is Chairman of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany. Ayyub Axel Köhler has numerous articles primarily in Islamic magazines such as 'Al-Islam' of the Islamic Center of Munich, 'Al-Fajr' of the Islamic Center of Hamburg and has published newsletters for the Muslim League in which he is mostly concerned with the integration of Islamic ways of life into German society.

SWITZERLAND

RAMADAN, TARIQ

Ramadan is Europe's preeminent Muslim figure writing about Islam in public life. He is a Professor of Islamic Studies at Oxford University and a Visiting Professor at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. He has a weekly television show, Islam and Life, on Press TV, and is an advisor to the European Union on religion. He has written 15 books and produced over 100 recordings.

UNITED KINGDOM

HELLYER, DR HISHAM A.

Hellyer is Associate Fellow at the University of Warwick, a former researcher at the Brookings Institution, and a columnist for the Guardian newspaper. His expertise is chiefly in interethnic relations.

WINTER, TIMOTHY (ABDUL-HAKIM MURAD)

Winter is Britain's leading Muslim scholar. He is an academic omnivore writing about various different areas, from British Muslim history, through theological discourse to social issues and more. Winter teaches theology at Cambridge University.

SCHOLARLY

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

ALY, WALEED

Aly is an Australian academic, lawyer, and Muslim community leader. He is a frequent and authoritative commentator on Australian Muslim affairs. He currently works as a lecturer at the Global Terrorism Research Centre at Monash University. He was invited to participate in the Australian Prime Minister's 'Australia 2020 Summit' in 2008.

EL-IMAM, SHEIKH FEHMI

El-Imam is one of Australia's most senior Islamic scholars and leaders. As the founder of Victoria's Islamic community, he has had a major influence on the development of Islam in Australia. He is Secretary General of the Victorian Board of Imams. He is also Senior Imam at the Preston Mosque in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

KUTTY, SHEIKH AHMAD

Sheikh Kutty is senior lecturer and Imam at the Islamic Institute of Toronto and a non-resident Imam/Khatib (orator) at the Islamic Center of Canada, Bosnian Islamic Center, and Ansar Mosque. He is often featured as guest speaker in interfaith dialogues and has written extensively on Islamic law.

EL-MASRY, DR MOHAMMAD

El-Masry is Professor Emeritus at the University of Waterloo and founder and former president of the Canadian Islamic Congress. He has written extensively about engineering issues but is most famous for his contributions to the media about Islam and the Palestinian conflict. El-Masry's website www.islamnow.com has received 30,000+ unique visitors.

RABBANI, SHEIKH FARAZ

Sheikh Rabbani is the educational director and instructor at SeekersGuidance.com, an education website featuring online lectures. He was formerly affiliated with SunniPath and Islamica Magazine, and served as president of the University of Toronto Muslim Students Association from 1994 to 1996. SunniPath has approximately 10,000 views a day.

UNITED STATES

ABDULLAH, UMAR FARUQ

Abdullah is an American convert to Islam who founded and now directs the Nawawi Foundation (Chicago-based NFP that educates Muslim immigrants about Islamic teachings) and researches Islam in America.

ABOU EL FADL, DR KHALED

Dr El Fadl is a leading authority on Islamic law and an Omar and Azmeralda Alfi Professor at UCLA Law. He often acts as an expert witness in international litigations involving Middle Eastern law and was appointed by President W. Bush to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

AHMED, AMBASSADOR AKBAR SALAHUDDIN

Ambassador Ahmed is Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at the American University in Washington, D.C. and Chair of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the Naval Academy, and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He is a prolific author, foreign policy advisor, and expert on contemporary Islam.

SCHOLARLY

UNITED STATES

AYOUB, DR MAHMOUD

Ayoub is Faculty Associate in Shi'ite Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at the Hartford Seminary. He has published over 50 scholarly articles, and has written numerous books on Muslim history.

ESTES, SHEIKH YUSUF

Yusuf is a well-known Muslim preacher who lectures all over the world. He is the national Muslim Chaplain for American Muslims and uses technology, such as uploading lectures on the Internet and appearing on television to spread Islam in an easily-understood manner. His website has close to 7 million unique hits.

DELORENZO, SHEIKH YUSUF TALAL

DeLorenzo is the Chief Sharia Officer at Sharia Capital and has served as a *sharia* advisor to over 20 global financial providers. He has helped set up the Dow Jones Islamic Markets Index and written the leading English-Arabic Islamic banking guide used by financial institutions.

AL-ISLAM, AMIR

Amir Al-Islam is a Distinguished Lecturer of African-American history and Islam and World Civilization at CUNY Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. He has been a leader and participant in many summits and organizations, with institutions like the United Nations and the Vatican. He is Chairman of the board of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network.

KABBANI, SHEIKH MUHAMMAD HISHAM

Kabbani is the founder and Chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America, the Chairman of the American Muslim Assistance relief organization, the founder of Kamilat, an international Muslim women's organization, the Chairman of the As-Sunnah Foundation of America, and the founder and President of 'Muslim Magazine'. He is a spiritual teacher of the Naqshbandi-Haqqani Sufi Order.

KELLER, SHEIKH NUH

Keller is a scholar and specialist in Islamic law. He holds the distinction of writing the first Islamic legal work in a European language to receive certification from al-Azhar. He possesses a number of *ijazas* in Islamic jurisprudence, and teaches students from all over the world.

NYANG, SULAYMAN S.

Nyang is a Professor of African Studies at Howard University, writing extensively on Islam in Africa. He is a former deputy ambassador and head of chancery at the Gambian Embassy in Saudi Arabia, and a former consultant to several national and international agencies.

SHAKIR, IMAM ZAID

Shakir is an influential Islamic scholar currently affiliated with the Zaytuna Institute. He founded Masjid al-Islam in Connecticut, founded the Tri-State Muslim Education Initiative and the Connecticut Muslim Coordinating Committee.

SIDDIQUI, PROF. DR MUZAMMIL H.

Professor Siddiqui is Chairman of the Fiqh Council of North America, he is a prolific lecturer, adjunct professor of Islamic Studies, director of the Islamic Society of Orange County mosque, with around 7,000 members, and is former President of the Islamic Society of North America. He is very active in interfaith efforts and the author of a weekly column on Islamic law.

JACKSON, SHERMAN

Jackson is an Arthur F Thurnau Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Michigan and a writer on Black American Islam. He is the co-founder of the American Learning Institute for Muslims and is featured on the Washington Post-Newsweek blog 'On Faith'.

POLITICAL

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

HADDAM, ANWAR N.

Haddam is the President and co-founder of the Movement for Liberty and Social Justice (MLJS). He was elected to the Algerian Parliament under the Islamic Front for Salvation in 1991. A leading activist, he is an initiator and signatory of the National Contract for a Peaceful and Political Solution to the Algerian Crisis.

EGYPT

MUBARAK, MUHAMMAD HOSNI

Muhammad Hosni Mubarak has been serving as Egypt's President since 1981. Trained as a fighter pilot in the 1960s and 1970s, he was appointed by then-President Sadat as Vice President in 1975, becoming the Vice Chairman of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in 1978.

EL-ZAYAT, MR. MUNTASIR

Muntasir El-Zayat is the Secretary General of the Egyptian Bar Association and currently the lawyer of the exiled Egyptian cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr. He is said to have also been the lawyer for the Al Qaeda leader Ayman Al Zawahiri.

IRAN

AHMADINEJAD, MAHMOUD

Ahmadinejad is President of Iran and a former University of Science and Industry lecturer in Iran; he supported the Iranian Islamic Revolution and was a founder of the student union that occupied the U.S. Embassy. He served as Governor of Arbadil province and Mayor of Tehran.

JALILI, SAAED

Jalili is Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and the chief Iranian nuclear negotiator. He was brought in after former negotiator Ali Larajani resigned. His role is pivotal in the future security of the Islamic Republic and the success of the peaceful use of nuclear power in Iran.

KHATAMI, MOHAMMAD

Mohammad Khatami is a reformer who served as President of Iran from 1997 to 2005. He was elected to the First Majles al-Shura. Khatami is known for his proposal to the UN termed 'Dialogue Among Civilizations', to counter the prevailing sentiment that there was a 'Clash of Civilizations'.

MONTAZERI, GRAND AYATOLLAH HOSSEIN ALI

Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri has been an outspoken critic of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign and domestic policy. A religious and political heavyweight, he is an advocate of transparent governance, and has been an activist of civil and women's rights in Iran.

MOUSAVI, NIR-HOSSEIN

Mousavi is a leading reformer who has served as Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister from 1981-1989. A painter and architect, Mousavi was the leading political opposition candidate in Iran's contested presidential elections of 2009.

RAFSANJANI, AYATOLLAH ALI AKBAR HASHEMI

Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is a reformer who has served as President of Iran. He currently holds the position of Head of the Expediency Council, a position designed to settle disputes between the Iranian Parliament and the Council of Guardians. It is one of the most

POLITICAL

senior positions in Iranian politics as the Expediency Council has the power to sack the Supreme Leader.

LEBANON

HARIRI, SAAD RAFIC

Saad Rafic Hariri is a Lebanese businessman and the son of the former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri. The President of the Future Movement, he entered Parliament in 2005. He is one of the most prominent leaders of the March 14th group.

OMAN

AL-KHALILI, H.E. SHEIKH AHMAD

Sheikh Al-Khalili is the Grand Mufti of Oman. He ensures that the religious teachings of Oman follow a moderate path, issues *fatwas*, and represents Oman in Islamic events abroad.

PALESTINE

ABBAS, MAHMOUD

Abbas is a co-founder of Fatah, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and President of the Palestinian National Authority. Considered a moderate, he advocated negotiations with Israel and initiated dialogue with Jewish and pacifist movements in the 1970s.

HANIYAH, ISMAIL

Haniyah, Ismail is a senior political leader of Hamas and one of two disputed Prime Ministers of the Palestinian Authority, a matter under political and legal dispute. After being dismissed by President Mahmoud Abbas, Haniyah continued to exercise Prime Ministerial authority in the Gaza Strip.

SUDAN

AL BASHIR, OMAR

Al Bashir is the current President of Sudan and head of the National Congress Party. He came to power in an coup in 1989 and has since instituted elements of *sharia* law throughout the country, including Christian and animist areas. The ICC issued an arrest warrant for al Bashir in 2009, indicting him on five counts of crimes against humanity (murder, extermination, forcible transfer, torture and rape) and two counts of war crimes (pillaging and intentionally directing attacks against civilians).

SYRIA

AL ASSAD, BASHAR

Al Assad is an Alawite Shi'a and President of the Syrian Arab Republic. He changed the law soon after taking office to allow the wearing of hijab in public schools. He also began to allow soldiers to pray in mosques. Assad has also made an increasing amount of references to Syria's Islamic heritage in official speeches, signaling that Islam is not as feared as it once was by the Syrian government.

TUNISIA

BACCOUCHE, H.E. PROF. DR HEDI

Dr Hedi Baccouche is former Tunisian Prime Minister (1987-1989). He has since gone on to become a vocal figure in criticizing discussion based on violence and division. He was formerly the leader of the nationalist Neo-Destour Party, then party director of the Destourian Socialist Party during the 1980s.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL NAHYAN, HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED

Al Nahyan is the President of one of the fastest growing nations in the world, the United Arab Emirates. He has significant power over the direction that the Emirates go in and has very clear opinions about Islam's role in the economic development of the UAE, saying that women are accorded the right to work where they please as long as they are accorded the right respect.

POLITICAL

MIDDLE AFRICA

CHAD

BICHARA, AHMAT ISMAEL

Bichara is a 29 year old Islamic spiritual leader. He is an influential figure with a small army of followers. He was arrested in 2008 for threatening to launch a holy war against Christians and atheists from Africa to Europe. Sixty-six of his followers were killed in a battle with Chad's armed forces.

DEBY, IDRIS

Deby is the President of Chad and the head of the Patriotic Salvation Movement. He took power in 1990 leading a predominantly Muslim army. Muslims make up around 50% of Chad's 11 million people.

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

AHMED, SHEIKH SHARIF SHEIKH

Ahmad is the 9th President of Somalia and former Commander in Chief of the Islamic Courts Union. He was educated in *sharia* in Sudan and Libya. He is a *Hafiz al-Qur'an* and the spiritual leader of the Idriseeyah sect of Sufi Islam in Somalia.

AWEYS, SHEIKH HASSAN DAHIR

Aweys is an influential Somali leader. He is a Salafi and the former head of the Shura Council of the Islamic Courts Union of Somalia. In April 2009 Aweys returned to Somalia declaring a war on the African Peace Keeping Forces (AMISOM).

WEST AFRICA

MALI

TOURÉ, AMADOU TOUMANI

Touré is the President of Mali. Mali has a 95% majority of Muslims. He overthrew the military ruler, Moussa Traoré in 1991, then handed power to civilian authorities the next year. He won the presidential elections in 2002, with a broad coalition of support and was easily re-elected in 2007.

NIGERIA

YAR'ADUA, UMARU MUSA

Yar'Adua is the President of Nigeria, a country with an estimated 70 million Muslims. He served as governor of Katsina State in northern Nigeria from 1999 to 2007, where, in 2000, during his administration, Katsina became the fifth northern Nigerian state to adopt *sharia* (Islamic law). He was declared the winner of the controversial Nigerian presidential election held on 2007. He is a member of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP).

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

KARZAI, HAMID

Hamid Karzai was elected as President of Afghanistan for a full five-year term in September 2004, becoming the first directly elected President in the country's history. Karzai has been able to build up considerable support from the Afghans and under his Presidency, Afghanistan's economy has been growing rapidly for the first time in many years.

POLITICAL

AFGHANISTAN

MOJADDEDI, SIBGHATULLAH

Sibghatullah Mojaddedi served as the first President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan after the fall of the communist regime in 1992 and is currently the president of the Meshrano Jirga (Senate/Upper House), head of the Afghanistan National Independent Peace and Reconciliation Commission, for which he is widely respected by pro- and anti-government parties, and is also the leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front.

AZERBAIJAN

ALIYEV, ILHAM

Ilham Aliyev is the current President of Azerbaijan and the Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party. Although not outwardly religious, he is a Muslim and his advocacy of a moderate cultural Islam is representative of the population of the country. Azerbaijan, with a population of approximately 7.5 million Muslims is an active member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

INDONESIA

WAHID, DR ABDUL RAHMAN

Wahid is a former President of the Republic Indonesia. He still remains a leading figure in the country as a former long-time President of the Nahdlatul Ulama and the founder of the National Awakening Party (PKB). Wahid is especially significant because he was the first elected president of Indonesia after the fall of the Suharto regime in 1998. Currently he is still a very influential religious and political leader. He writes books and article, and hosts a radio talk show.

YUDHOYONO, SUSILO BAMBANG

Yudhoyono is the political leader of the most populous Muslim country in the world. He is the President of the Republic of Indonesia. He was also a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his success in peace-building efforts in Aceh. His political party (The Democratic Party) is the winner of the recent general election-April 2009 by a 20.8% vote.

MALAYSIA

IBRAHIM, H.E. DR ANWAR

Ibrahim is a Malaysian politician of global stature. He is the former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, former Finance Minister and is currently the leader of the Malaysian opposition coalition. He is well-known for his liberal Islamic stance on politics, and is incredibly influential as a leader and role model for young people.

MOHAMMAD, DR MAHATHIR

Mahathir Mohammad was Malaysia's longest-serving Prime Minister and has been credited for engineering Malaysia's rapid modernization and spearheading the phenomenal growth of the Malaysian economy. Mahathir is known for his outspoken attitude towards the West, especially the US, and was highly critical of George Bush's actions against Iraq.

PAKISTAN

AHSAN, BARRISTER CHAUDHRY AITZAZ

Ahsan has been a vocal opponent of President Pervez Musharraf's rule. When Musharraf dismissed the head of the Supreme Court in March 2007, Ahsan led the legal challenge to reinstate the chief justice. He organized a protest of thousands of lawyers. Today, he is a senior member of the Pakistan Peoples Party (the largest political party in Pakistan), formerly led by Benazir Bhutto, and is one of the country's most recognizable politicians.

POLITICAL

PAKISTAN

KAYANI, ASHFAQ

Kayani is the Pakistan Army's Chief-of-Staff. He has immense influence as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's leading military figure. He has particular influence as the country undergoes unrest with significant amounts of power in the hands of non-government-controlled militia.

PHILLIPINES

MISUARI, NUR

Nur Misuari is a revolutionary leader of the Bangsamoro and began his campaign for better treatment of the people of Mindanao by the Manila government through the Mindanao Independence Movement (MIM) in the 1970's which later became the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Under Misuari's leadership, the MNLF challenged the government until the Tripoli Agreement was negotiated in 1976.

THAILAND

PITSUWAN, DR SURIN

Pitsuwan is the Secretary General of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and a former Foreign Minister of Thailand. He is an advocate for better relations with Muslims in South East Asia, speaking out against the marginalization of Muslim communities.

TURKMENISTAN

BERDIMUHAMEDOW, GURBANGULY MÄLIKULYÝEWIÇ

Berdimuhamedow has been the President of Turkmenistan since 21 December, 2006. In April 2007, Berdimuhamedow visited Islamic holy sites in Medina. He is a moderate Muslim traditionalist who has sought to normalize life in Turkmenistan after the more unorthodox religious beliefs of his predecessor Niyazov.

UZBEKISTAN

KARIMOV, ISLAM

Karimov is the most powerful figure in Uzbekistan. He has served as the President of Uzbekistan since 1991. He has tried to stem the growth of extremist groups in Uzbekistan and those groups linked to the drug trade that passes through Uzbekistan.

EUROPE

DENMARK

KHADER, NASSER

Khader is Denmark's leading Muslim politician. As a member of parliament, he has represented both the Social Liberal Party and the Liberal Alliance, the latter until 5 January, 2009 as founding leader. A leading proponent of peaceful co-existence of democracy and Islam, he established a new movement, Moderate Muslims (later renamed Democratic Muslims), when the Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy started.

KOSOVO

THACHI, HASHIM

Thachi was formerly a political leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The KLA was the guerrilla group that fought against Serb forces in the late 1990s. Thachi is the first President of the newly formed Kosovan national government.

RUSSIA

KADYROV, RAMZAN

President of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov is son of rebel leader and preacher Akhmad Kadyrov. He maintains an iron grip on Chechnya's government and institutions.

POLITICAL

RUSSIA

SHAIMIEV, MINTIMER

Shaimiev is the first and current President of the Republic of Tatarstan, a Muslim republic in the Russian Federation. He was awarded the King Faisal International Prize 2007 for his services to the Muslim population.

UMAROV, DOKKA

Umarov is the underground, self-proclaimed leader of the Caucasian Emirate of Ichkeria, an as of yet non-existent state on the eastern side of Russia. He works to unify rebel movements across many north Caucasian states.

YEVLOYEV, AKHMED

Yevloyev is an important rebel leader based in Ingushetia, a region bordering Chechnya. He is part of the broader Caucasian Front movement, which is trying to set up an Islamic free-state on the southern border of Russia.

UNITED KINGDOM

MALIK, SHAHID

Malik is formerly the most senior British Muslim politician, holding two important ministerial positions as Justice Minister and International Development Minister. He still remains a leading figure in the Labour Party and an important spokesperson for Muslims in the United Kingdom.

WARSI, SAYEEDA

Warsi is the most senior Muslim in the Conservative Party. She is the Shadow Minister for Community Cohesion and Social Action, and a member of the Shadow Cabinet. She was part of the successful mission by British Muslim politicians to Sudan to secure the release of an imprisoned British teacher in 2007.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ELLISON, KEITH

Keith Ellison is serving his second term in the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota in the United States House of Representatives and also serves on Financial Services and Foreign Affairs Committees. He is the first Muslim to serve in US Congress.

HUSSAIN, RASHAD

Rashad Hussain is the first Indian-American to be appointed Deputy Associate Counsel to the President; he was appointed by President Obama. He is a former trial attorney at the US Department of Justice, a former legislative assistant to the House Judiciary Committee, and a former editor of the Yale Law Journal.

KHALILZAD, ZALMAY

Zalmay Khalilzad is counsellor at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. He was the highest ranking Afghan-American under President Bush, and served as US Permanent Representative to the UN (2007-2009), the US Ambassador to the UN (2007-2008), Ambassador to Iraq (2005-2007), Ambassador to Afghanistan (2003-2005), and special envoy to Afghanistan (2001-2003).

ADMINISTRATIVE

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

EL-BARADEI, H.E. DR MOHAMMAD

El-Baradei is the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Before working with the IAEA he was an international lawyer working with the Egyptian diplomatic corps, and a career United Nations professional. His religion and his nationality have given him significant weight when dealing with nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

IRAN

SHAHRESTANI, SEYYED JAVAD

Shahrestani is the envoy of Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani in Iran. Many Iranians see Sistani as their marja, and therefore pay khums (one fifth of their earnings) to him through Shahrestani. Shahrestani is Sistani's son-in-law.

VAEZ-TABASI, AYATOLLAH ABBAS

Vaez-Tabasi is at the head of Iran's single richest institution, the Holy Estate of Imam Reza. The Holy Estate owns hundreds of companies, and resources. His revenue is supplemented by the donations of the millions of pilgrims that make the journey to Mashhad, where Imam Reza (the eighth of the Twelver Imams) is buried.

JORDAN

FARHAN, ISHAQ

Farhan is the leader of the Islamic Action Front (IAF). The IAF is the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. He is known as a moderate, and was an early advocate of the participation of women in the movement. He also holds a place as President of Zarqa Private University, one of the foremost educational establishments in Jordan.

HLAYYEL, H.E. PROF. DR SHEIKH AHMAD

Hlayyel is the Chief Islamic Justice of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He is also the Imam of the Hashemite Court; former Minister of Religious Affairs, and professor of the Qur'anic sciences.

LEBANON

DAOUK, AMINE M

Daouk is the head of the Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association of Beirut. Makassed is one of the oldest modern Islamic development organizations in Lebanon. It started as an initiative to make free education available to girls and has developed into a major Muslim development organization, working on education, health care, and social issues.

JABRI, DR ABDUL-NASSER

Jabri is the Dean of the Islamic College of Da'wah in Beirut. The college is one of the foremost centres for da'wa education in Lebanon.

LEBANON

NASHABEH, PROF. DR HISHAM

Nashabeh is the Chairman of the Board of Higher Education and the Dean of Education at the Makassed Association, Lebanon. He oversees the educational work of all the institutions in the Makassed network. He is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Palestine Studies and the Director of the Institute of Higher Islamic Studies, both based in Beirut.

ADMINISTRATIVE

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

AL-SHARIF, PROF. DR MUHAMMAD AHMED

Al-Sharif is the Secretary General of the World Islamic Call Society (WICS), Tripoli. The WICS is one of the leading organizations working globally to promote the Islamic faith. It has worked largely in Africa, to spread the message of Islam and also for development work there. It is a huge network of organizations with a powerful patron: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

MOROCCO

BENBIN, PROF. DR AHMAD SHAWQI

Benbin is the Director of the Hasaniyya (Royal) Library, Morocco. He is an eminent Professor renowned for his research in the study of manuscripts. He has published many books and specialized studies.

OMAN

AL-KHALILI, H.E. SHEIK HAHMAD

Sheikh al-Khalili is the Grand Mufti of Oman. He is head of religious institutions there, and is charged with ensuring that the religious teachings of Oman follow a moderate path. He issues *fatwas* on behalf of Oman's establishment, and represents Oman in Islamic events abroad.

PALESTINE

SABRI, H.E. SHEIKH DR IKRIMA SAID

Sabri is head of the Supreme Islamic Council, and a former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and All of Palestine. He remains an Imam of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, preaching there regularly. He is an important figure who is well-respected by many in Palestine for his forthright views on Israel.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL RAJHI, SULAIMAN ABDUL AZIZ

Sulaiman Abdul Aziz Al Rajhi owns the biggest stake in the world's largest organization for Islamic banking and finance, Al Rajhi Bank, with roughly 60 outlets in Saudi Arabia and more in Malaysia. As Saudi Arabia's richest non-royals, members of the Al Rajhi family are among the world's leading philanthropists. They also run the SARR Foundation: a network of charities and research organizations.

SYRIA

ALCHAAR, DR MOHAMMED NEDAL

Alchaar is the Secretary General of the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI). The AAOIFI is an independent international corporate organization supported by its 200 members from 45 countries around the globe which comprise the international Islamic banking and finance industry. It is one of the key organizations creating standards for the Islamic banking industry.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

HENDRICKS, MAULANA IGSHAAN

Hendricks is the President of the Muslim Judicial Council of Cape Town. The Muslim Judicial Council is one of the central Islamic organizations in South Africa, doing educational work as well as social work for the Muslim community. The organization runs the International Peace University of South Africa (IPSA), and oversees administration of Cape Town's Al-Azhar Institute.

ADMINISTRATIVE

MIDDLE AFRICA

CHAD

ABAKAR, SHEIKH HUSSAIN HASSAN

Sheikh Hussain Hassan Abakar is the Imam of the Muslims of Chad and the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs in Chad. He is also a founding member of the Muslim World League (MWL). Abakar oversees the activities of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs in implementing educational and cultural programs through Islamic schools, educational books and training courses for Imams. He has been important in fundraising for the education of Muslims in Chad.

EAST AFRICA

MALAWI

KING'OMBE, SHEIKH AMAN

King'ombe is the Spiritual Advisor of the Celebrations of the Birth of the Prophet Muhammad. He is a cleric responsible for the organization of the festivities. The festivities are attended by thousands of Muslims from the around Africa. In 2009 he extended an invitation to the Christian population of Malawi to partake in the festival.

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

BAH, PROF. DR MOHAMMED EL-MOKHTAR OULD

Bah is the President of the Chinguetti Modern University, Mauritania. Chinguetti is a UNESCO World Heritage site because of its importance a city of Islamic learning in the North West coast of Africa.

NIGERIA

ADEGBITE, DR LATEEF OLADIMEJI

Lateef Oladimeji is the acting Secretary and Legal Adviser of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and he co-founded the Muslim Student's Society Nigeria (M.S.S.N) in 1954.

ORIRE, JUSTICE ABDULKADIR

Orire is a key figure in Nigeria. He is the Secretary General of the umbrella organization Jama'atu Nasril Islam, that acts as a bridge between the Sufi orders and anti-Sufi population of Nigeria. Orrie is the national Chairman of the Ulema and advocates for a *sharia*-governed country.

CARIBBEAN

JAMAICA

MUHAMMAD, MUSTAFA

Muhammad has been the President of the Islamic Council of Jamaica for the past 14 years. His work involves education and halal certification. He oversees the eleven Mosques in Jamaica. An estimated 5,000 Muslims regularly attend Mosques in Jamaica.

TIJANI, MARUFAT

Tijani is the Principal of the Islamiyah Basic School with the Islamic Council of Jamaica. It is a one-room school dedicated to teaching Arabic and other basic skills.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ALI, IMAM YACOOB

Ali is the President of the largest and most influential Muslim organisation in Trinidad and Tobago,

ADMINISTRATIVE

the Anjuman Sunnat-ul-Jamaat Association (ASJA) which was founded in 1936. The Muslim community in Trinidad and Tobago is largely comprised of people from Indian descent. His organization runs numerous schools and focuses on the importance of education for Muslim youth.

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

AL SALVADORI, MUSTAFA

Mustafa Al Salvadori is the President of the Shia community in El Salvador. His work, besides that with his own community, has tended to involve education about Islam to the mainly Catholic population of El Salvador who have become fearful of Islam over the past decade.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

HALLAR, MUHAMMAD YUSUF

Hallar is an active figure in Argentina involved in community development for Latino Muslims. He has conducted comprehensive research on the Muslims in Latin America and holds a number of positions including Secretary General of the Islamic Organization of Latin America and also Director of the Office of Islamic Culture and a member of the Expert Committee on Minority Rights for the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

BRAZIL

OTHMAN, ABDUL-BAQI SAYED

Othman is the Director of the Charitable Society of Muslims (Sociedad de Beneficente Muculmana) of Rio de Janeiro. He has represented Brazilian Muslims in many international conferences. He is also a *da'wa* activist, and runs the 'IQRA' publishing center in Brazil where he helps publish translations of various Islamic books.

SAIFI, AHMED

Saifi is a very active *da'wa* activist in Brazil. He is considered a distinguished member of Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslimeen. He has been sent to several conferences as the representative of the Brazilian Muslim community.

ECUADOR

SUQUILLO, JUAN

Suquillo is an Imam and the Director and Co-Founder of the Islamic Centre of Ecuador. He has been awarded for his Services to the Nation, and has translated many books into Spanish. These have become very popular since the 9/11 attacks when non-Muslims became interested in learning about Islam. His books have become bestsellers since then. He is very well-respected by South American Muslim scholars.

ASIA

BANGLADESH

RAHMAN, MOHAMMAD FAZLUR

Rahman is the leader of the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh. The Islamic Foundation is a quasi-governmental organization working under the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Bangladesh. Its chief aims are educational, and organizational, researching, publishing, offering scholarships and also providing funding to maintain mosques. The head office is in Dhaka, and is supported by six regional offices and 58 district offices. The organization runs seven Imam training centers and 29 centres for *da'wa*.

ADMINISTRATIVE

INDIA

AHMAD, SHEIKH ABOOBACKAR

Ahmad is the Secretary-General of the Kerala-based Sunni Cultural Center Markazu Saqafathi Sunniya. He is credited with creating a resurgence in the religiosity of Southern India's Muslim population. The centre has become one of the more significant educational organizations in Kerala with 40 schools going from primary school to university level. There are about 9,000 students at the schools, many of them orphans.

CHINA

GUANGYUAN, IMAM CHEN

Chen Guangyuan is the Grand Imam of China as well as the President of the Islamic Association of China and the President of the Chinese-Islamic Institute. He has a very important position, with China's roughly 20 million Muslims coming almost exclusively from minority groups.

HONG KONG

ARSHAD, MUFTI MOHAMMAD

Mohammed Arshad is the Chief Imam of Hong Kong and the *khateeb* (orator) of the largest mosque in Hong Kong. Arshad keeps good relations with the government, police and foreign consulates. Approximately 50,000 Muslims live in Hong Kong.

INDONESIA

UMAR, DR NASARUDDIN

Nasaruddin is the Director General of the Religious Guidance of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. He is also a rector of the Institute for Advanced Qur'anic Studies in Indonesia and Secretary General of the Nahdhatul Ulama Consultative Council.

UZBEKISTAN

ALEMOV, USMAN

Alemov is the Chief Mufti of Uzbekistan. He has had this position since 2006. He is respected for his moderate stance and proven record in coping with extremists in the Samarkand region where he was formerly a *mufti*. He was instrumental in making Tashkent the ISESCO Capital of Islamic Culture for 2007.

EUROPE

ALBANIA

KOCI, HAFIZ SABRI

Sabri Koci is Chairman of the Muslim Committee in Albania which is the country's ruling Islamic body. He spent 27 years in a prison labour camp under the communist rule during which he authored many books about Islam. These works were so inspiring that he was elected as leader of Albanian Muslims after his release.

MUCHA, HAXHI SELIM

Haxhi Selim Mucha is President of the Islamic Community of Albania and the leader of Muslims there.

AUSTRIA

BAGHAJATI, AMINA

Baghajati is the spokesperson for the Austrian Muslim Association (IGGIOe). She was the organizer of the Conference of European Imams working with the Austrian Foreign Ministry to bring together 130 Muslim leaders from across Europe. The conference ended with a final declaration calling for European Muslims to become more deeply integrated while preserving their identities.

ADMINISTRATIVE

AUSTRIA

SHAKFEH, ANNAS

Shakfeh is the head of the Islamic Faith Community in Austria (IGGiOe). He has been president for around a decade, building a close relationship with the Austrian state on community integration. Shakfeh also leads the Islamic Education Authority. In 2008 he was decorated for his services to the Republic of Austria by President Heinz Fischer.

BELARUS

SHA'ABANOVIC, SHEIKH ABU BAKER

Belarusian mufti, and head of the Muslim Religious Organisation of Belarus. There are about 20 Muslim communities all around Belarus. They are currently building a mosque in the capital, Minsk.

VORONOVICH, ISMAIL MUKHAREMOVICH

Voronovich runs the Muslim Spiritual Directorate of Belarus. It is linked to a number of small communities around Belarus, with the largest based at a mosque in Slonim.

BELGIUM

AL YAHYA, DR ABDUL-AZIZ MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH

Al Yahya is the Director of the Islamic Cultural Center in Brussels, Belgium. In 1969, the Islamic Cultural Center in Brussels was founded as an institution housing a mosque, a library, and information service as well as offices. It was funded by the Muslim World League and Saudi Arabia, and it hosted the European Council of Mosques for several years. It mainly functioned as an intermediary between the Muslim community and the Belgian State, negotiating the needs and interests of Muslims.

CZECH REPUBLIC

SANKA, VLADIMIR

Vladimir Sanka is the head of the Islamic Centre in Prague. The Czech Republic is one of the least religious countries in Europe, however Sanka's centre bucks this trend, leading the fastest-growing religious community in Prague, and reflecting a larger movement throughout Europe.

ITALY

PALLAVICINI, IMAM YAHYA SERGIO YAHE

Pallavicini is an important figure in the religious life of Italian Muslims as well as in European relations with the Muslim world. He is Vice President of CO.RE.IS (Comunità Religiosa Islamica, the Islamic Religious Community), Italy, the Chairman of the ISESCO Council for Education and Culture in the West, and an advisor for Islamic Affairs to the Italian Minister of Interior. He is also the Imam of the al-Wahid Mosque of Milan in Via Meda, where he organizes the training of Imams in Italian.

DENMARK

PEDERSON, ABDUL WAHID

Abdul Wahid Pederson is the Vice President of Muslims in Dialogue, which promotes Islam within Denmark, the principal of three elementary schools, vice chairman of the Islamic Christian Study Centre, and Secretary General of the charity Danish Muslim Aid. He is the first Imam to hold Friday sermons in Danish.

FINLAND

DAHER, OKAN

Okan Daher is the Chairman of the Tatar Muslim population of Helsinki. He is influential in both community relations with the majority-Christian society of Finland, promoting ways to adapt flexibly while maintaining cultural heritage, and also by promoting relations with the various Tatar communities in Europe.

ADMINISTRATIVE

FRANCE

ABU BAKR, SHEIKH PROF. DALIL ABU BAKR

Sheikh Prof. Dalil Abu Bakr is the Chairman of the France Supreme Council of the Islamic Religion, and the Dean of the Paris Mosque. France has one of the largest populations of Muslims in Europe, and the Paris Mosque is a key feature in the landscape of Islam in the country. The Paris Mosque is also an important intercultural venue for people to learn about Islam.

ICELAND

TAMIMI, SALMANN

Salmann Tamimi is the President of the Muslim Association of Iceland and performed the first Icelandic Muslim marriage in 2009.

KOSOVO

TRNAVA, H.E. SHEIKH NAIM

Naim Trnava is the Grand Mufti of Kosovo. He is the leading religious figure in Kosovo, a new country that emerged after an ethno-religious war that caused widespread loss of life and destruction. Trnava is a key figure in the attempts of the country's Muslim population to overcome the horrors of war. He was instrumental in the creation of the Inter-Religious Council Organization for Interfaith Relations.

LITHUANIA

JAKUBAUSKAS, ROMAS

Imam of Kaunas Mosque, Lithuania. Kaunas has the largest population of native Tatar Muslims in Lithuania.

PORTUGAL

MUNIR, DAVID

David Munir has been the Imam of the Central Mosque of Lisbon since the age of 23. A key representative of the Muslim community in Lisbon, Munir is involved in interfaith dialogue with members of other Abrahamic faiths.

RUSSIA

HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH RAVIL ISMAGILOVICH GAYNUTDINOV

Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdinov is a Moscow-based Muslim scholar. Among various academic roles he is Grand Mufti of Russia and Chairman of the Union of Muftis of Russia. He is a key figure in relations between the Kremlin and Russia's Muslim population as a member of the Russian President's Council for Relations with Religious Associations.

SWEDEN

AL-DEBE, MAHMOUD JAMIL

Mahmoud Jamil al-Debe is the Chairman of the Muslim Association of Sweden and an advocate for the rights of Muslims in Sweden. The Muslim Association of Sweden is the country's largest Muslim organization, which represents around 70,000 Muslims in Sweden.

OUDA, HELENA BIN

She is Chairwoman of the Muslim Council of Sweden, The Muslim Council of Sweden is the main Muslim representative body in Sweden. The Council is an umbrella organization of Islamic organizations in Sweden. The Muslim Council of Sweden currently has nine member organizations, with a total number of about 100,000 members from its member organizations.

ADMINISTRATIVE

TURKEY

BARDAKOGLU, ALI

Ali Bardakoglu is the President of the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Turkey. He is a moderate Islamic leader who supports interfaith initiatives and in 2005, appointed two women to the position of Vice Mufti. He is former Professor of Islamic Law at the University of Marmara.

ÇAGRICI, PROF. DR MUSTAFA

Mustafa Çagrıcı is the Mufti of Istanbul as well as a theology professor and is a respected figure among the Turks. He welcomed and prayed with Pope Benedict XVI in the Blue Mosque in 2006.

EREN, HALIT

Eren is the Director General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA). The IRCICA is the leading centre for research on the Ottoman Caliphate, and an important centre for research on Islamic history. Eren is an expert on minority and non-Arab Muslim communities.

GORMEZ, DR MEHMET

Gormez is the Vice President of the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Turkey. He has attracted a lot of attention recently for a large research program that the Presidency is carrying out to understand the role of *Hadith* in contemporary Turkey.

UNITED KINGDOM

AHSAN, DR MANAZIR

Ahsan is the Director General of the Islamic Foundation, Leicester. The Islamic Foundation is one of the main centres working for integration and understanding of the British Muslim population. Although the centre has occasionally been referred to as extremist, it does accurately reflect the diversity of the British Muslim community.

ALI, AMJAD

Ali Amjad is the Head of HSBC Amanah UK branch of the HSBC. HSBC Amanah is the UK's largest provider of *sharia*-compliant financial services. HSBC Amanah UK is HSBC's first venture in Islamic banking outside the Muslim world.

EL-DIWANY, TAREQ

El Diwany is a key figure in British Islamic finance circles who wrote 'The Problem with Interest', a key text on the Islamic perspective on banking, in 1997. He is a prominent speaker and continues to be an editor of *islamic-finance.com*, as well as a partner in Zest Advisory LLP, which offers consulting services in Islamic Banking.

GHAFFUR, TARIQUE

Ghaffur is a former high-ranking British police officer in London's Metropolitan Police Service. As the UK's highest-ranking Muslim Police officer, he often used his position to comment on issues of alleged racism in the Metropolitan Police Service. He has spoken out, blaming discrimination against Muslims as a contributing factor to the incitement of radical Islam.

OCEANIA

NEW ZEALAND

KHAN, JAVED

Khan is President of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ). His work leading FIANZ has been significant, building bridges with the government as well as with the New Zealand community and other faiths. He was also recipient of the Queen's Service Medal in 2006.

ADMINISTRATIVE

NEW ZEALAND

KIREKA-WHAANGA

Kireka-Whaanga is the leader of 'Aotearoa Maori Muslim Association' (AMMA); the main organization for New Zealand's Maori Muslims. Islam is the fastest growing religion amongst the Maori community.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

DELIC, IMAM ZIAD

Imam Delic is National Executive Director of the Canadian Islamic Congress. The CIC is made up of 24 organizations plus 180 unaffiliated individuals, the CIC's newsletter has 300,000 subscribers worldwide, the British Columbia Muslim Association represents 40,000/57,000 Muslims living in BC. He is a scholar who writes about how Muslims can integrate into Canadian society, and has been a consultant to the Canadian government and various NGOs. He is the former imam of the British Columbia Muslim Association.

UNITED STATES

ALI, MOHAMMAD SHAMSI

Imam Mohammad Shamsi Ali is Imam of three New York City mosques, including at 96th Street Mosque, the city's largest mosque and Chairman of the Muslim Day Parade. He works with Muslims from many ethnic backgrounds and is very active in interfaith efforts throughout New York City.

AMR, HADY

Amr is a very senior policy analyst working on relations with the Muslim world with significant influence over policy debates. He is the founding director of the Brookings Center in Doha, and a fellow at the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy. He also serves on the World Economic Forum Council of 100 Leaders on Western-Islamic World Relations.

AL-ERIAN, DR MOHAMED

Dr El-Erian is the CEO and CIO of PIMCO, one of the world's largest asset management companies. Previously, he served as the investment manager of Harvard University's endowment fund, and deputy director of the International Monetary Fund. He is the bestselling author of books on international economics and finance.

GHAZI, ABIDULLAH

Ghazi is the creator of the IQRA' International Educational Foundation, a non-profit organization that creates Islamic studies textbooks and educational materials especially for children. He developed IQRA', the first-ever Islamic studies standardized test which was piloted in April 2009 in Chicago and is currently being used in 20 countries around the world.

HELMINSKI, SHEIKHKABIR

Helminski is a Sheikh of the Mevlevi Tariqah (an order of Sufism founded by the followers of Rumi). He is an author and translator of books on Sufi poetry; co-director of the Book Foundation; co-director, along with his wife, of the Threshold Society, which is an NGO dedicated to education about Sufi traditions.

KAVAKCI, PROF. DR HAFIZ YUSUF Z.

Kavakci is one of America's foremost Islamic educators. Past roles include Resident Scholar of the Islamic Association of North Texas; founder and instructor at the IANT Qur'anic Academy; and the founding Dean of the Suffa Islamic Seminary, Dallas, Texas, USA. His latest initiative, the Yusuf Ziya Kavakci Institute, is his most ambitious, aiming to introduce a full system of combined Muslim and secular education to the US, creating social scientists who are able to recite the Qur'an.

ADMINISTRATIVE

UNITED STATES

MAGID, IMAM MOHAMED

Imam Magid is the Executive Director and Imam at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center in Virginia. He is an advocate for youth and women, is the Vice President of ISNA, and serves on the FBI's Muslim, Sikh, and Arab Advisory Committee.

AL SHABAZZ, ILYASAH

Ilyasah al Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, is an author, activist and lecturer who serves as corporation president and trustee of the Malcolm X & Dr Betty Shabazz Memorial, Educational, and Cultural Centre. She has been involved in community service in New York City.

WAHHAJ, SIRAJ

Siraj Wahhaj is Imam of the controversial al-Taqwa Mosque in Brooklyn, a prolific lecturer, the leader of the Muslim Alliance in North America, and former Vice President of ISNA. In 1991, he became the first Muslim to recite opening prayer at the US House of Representatives.

LINEAGE

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRAQ

AL-SADR, MUQTADA

Muqtada al-Sadr is an influential Shia political leader. He has gained prominence since the death of Saddam Hussein and created the anti-American Mahdi Army in 2003, an armed insurgency movement that has formed its own courts and law enforcement. He promotes a Shia-controlled government.

JORDAN

TALAL, PRINCE HASSAN BIN

Prince Hassan bin Talal is an eminent thinker on development and Islam, and has been recognized around the globe for his work, winning a number of awards for his interfaith work. He has been at the forefront of numerous international intellectual initiatives, and was the founder of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies and the Aal al-Bayt Foundation in Jordan.

SUDAN

AL-MAHDI, H.E. IMAM SAYYED AL-SADIQ

Sadiq al-Mahdi is the President of the moderate Islamic Umma Party, and Imam of the Sufi order Ansar. He was Prime Minister of Sudan until the government was overthrown. He was forced into exile, but now has returned and is working to restore peace and democracy in the Sudan.

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA

BAYERO, HIS EMINENCE EMIR OF KANO AL-HAJI DR ADO

Ado Bayero is the current Emir of Kano. The Emir is the traditional ruler of the Nigerian city of Kano, which is the capital of the current Kano State. Bayero is a popular leader amongst a wide variety of Nigerian Muslims. He is an influential Tijani Sheikh, with lineage back to the prominent Fulani jihadist, and religious reformer, Osman Dan Fodio. He is regarded as a wise counselor both at home and abroad because of his experience, and ability to mediate between cultures, which makes him an important asset in promoting mutual understanding and resolving conflicts between different ethnic and religious groups.

EUROPE

ALBANIA

BARDHI, HIS EMINENCE HAXHI DEDE RESHAT

HE Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi is the world leader of the Bektashi community, a seven million member strong Sufi sect based in Albania. He has been internationally recognized for his active role in interfaith cooperation and encouraging peace in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

PREACHERS

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

ABDELKAFY, SHEIKH DR OMAR

Abdelkafy is an Egyptian preacher and *da'wa* practitioner. He is very well respected by his peers as a *Hafiz al Qur'an* (one who has memorized the entire Qur'an). He is the Director of the Qur'anic Studies Centre at the Dubai International Holy Qur'an Award in Dubai. As well as working in his native Egypt he travels abroad to help Muslim communities; working specifically with the Muslim community in Canada

ISRAEL

SALAH, SHEIKH RAED

Raed Salah is the head of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement, in Israel. He is widely respected in the Islamic world as a spiritual leader. From 1989 to 2001 Salah also served as the mayor of Umm al-Fahm, an Israeli-Arab city, before taking on the leadership of the Islamic Movement in Israel.

SAUDI ARABIA

KALBANI, SHEIKH ADIL

Kalbani was selected by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to be the first man of African descent to lead prayers at the Grand Mosque in Mecca. He has been an Imam since 1984, gradually being transferred to larger mosques. He is famous for his excellent recitation of the Qur'an.

SUDAN

AL- TURABI, HASSAN ABDALLAH

Al-Turabi is a Sudanese religious leader. He is widely regarded as a moderate and uses Islamic teachings to foster social development. He is an advocate for women's rights, and believes Muslim fundamentalists place prohibitions above social development. He has recently stated that Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir should give himself up to the International Criminal Court for the sake of Sudan.

EL-BASHIR, H.E. DR ISSAM

El-Bashir is the Secretary General of the International Moderation Centre (IMC) in Kuwait. The IMC is an organization set up by the Higher Committee for the Promotion of Moderation, of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the Republic of Kuwait to promote Islamic moderation in Kuwait and around the world. The centre has worked with communities in Britain and Russia, among other places, to promote moderation among the extremist elements of their Muslim population. Locally it trains over 700 Imams at a time with a focus on practices of moderation.

ASIA

INDIA

NAIK, ZAKIR ABDUL-KARIM

Zakir Abdul-Karim Naik is an Indian public intellectual teaching about Islam. He hosts huge public events where he speaks on Islam, highlighting misconceptions and promoting understanding about Islam. He also challenges leaders in other faiths to public debates that are broadcast around the world on Peace TV—a satellite channel that he helped to found.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

BADAWI, DR JAMAL

Dr Jamal Badawi is an Egyptian-Canadian Muslim preacher and highly sought-after speaker on Islam, a prolific writer, interfaith advocate, and activist. He has authored numerous books on Islam and founded the Islamic Information Foundation in Canada.

WOMEN

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

KHEDDAR, CHERIFA

Cherifa Kheddar is the outspoken President and founder of Djazairouna (Our Algeria) Association, which provides support to victims of the Algerian civil war. She is the winner of the 2009 International Service Human Rights Award for the Defense of the Human Rights of Women.

EGYPT

AL-HALAFAWI, JIHAN

Jihan al-Halafawi, the wife of a senior member of Alexandria's chapter of the Muslim Brotherhood, is the organization's first female political candidate. She ran for the Egyptian Parliament in 2000 and 2002, but the government prevented her from winning due to her affiliation with the party.

MOROCCO

MERNISSI, FATEMA

Mernissi is a Moroccan feminist writer and sociologist. She has done sociological research for UNESCO and the International Labour Organization as well as for the Moroccan authorities. Mernissi is currently a lecturer at the Mohammed V University of Rabat and a research scholar at the University Institute for Scientific Research, in the same city.

IRAN

EBADI, SHIRIN

Shirin Ebadi is a lawyer who, in 2003, became the first Iranian to win the Nobel Peace Prize. She is the founder of Children's Rights Support Association and has defended and supported the rights of children and women. She lectures about the human rights situation in Iran.

HASHEMI, FAEZEH

Iranian politician and social activist known equally for in her role as a Majlis representative as she is for being the younger daughter of powerful politician and former President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

IRAN

RAHNAVARD, ZAHRA

A staunch critic of Ahmadinejad, the author Zahra Rahnavard was working on her husband's 2009 presidential campaign, becoming the first woman to do so in Iran. She served as Political Advisor under President Khatami, and was the first female Chancellor of Alzahra University post-Revolution.

MOROCCO

YASSINE, NADIA

Nadia Yassine is the head of the women's branch of the most powerful Islamist movement in Morocco, *Al Adl Wa Al Ihsane*. She has traveled to Europe, promoting the mission of the movement to the Moroccan diaspora. She was recently prosecuted for criticizing the monarchy in a weekly newspaper.

ZITAN, NAIMA

Naima Zitan is a Moroccan playwright and drama teacher in the Faculty of Education and professor in animation at the National Museum of Science and Archaeological Heritage. She is also the president of the Association 'Theatre Aquarium' and an advisor to the Global Fund for Women in Morocco.

WOMEN

JORDAN

HER MAJESTY QUEEN RANIA AL-ABDULLAH

Queen Rania is renowned for her philanthropic work. She has pushed for education reform, fighting for better school facilities and mandatory English language training. She is also an enthusiastic supporter of the micro-fund movement which provides financial assistance to would-be entrepreneurs. Queen Rania has an amazingly popular YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/QueenRania, and website www.queenrania.jo

PALESTINE

EL-FAQEEH, KHOULOOD

Khouloud el-Faqeeh is the first female judge in Palestine and one of the first female judges in the Islamic world for a *sharia*-based court. She graduated top of her class at Al-Quds University and has her own private practice.

QATAR

HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA MOZAH BINT NASSER

HH Sheikha Mozah is the wife of the ruler of Qatar, HH Sheikh al Thani. She is a public figure, advocating for women's and children's rights. She was the driving force behind Education City and Al Jazeera Children. She holds several political positions, including Chair of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development.

SAUDI ARABIA

ABU-SULAYMAN, MUNA

Muna Abu-Sulayman is Executive Director of Alwaleed bin Talal Foundation, a philanthropic organization which provides humanitarian assistance to the poor. She is the founding co-host of a popular television show, and in 2005, became the first Saudi woman to be appointed as a UN Goodwill Ambassador.

AL-FAIZ, NORAH ABDALLAH

Norah al-Faiz is the deputy minister for women's education, becoming the first woman ever to serve in the Saudi Arabia Council of Ministers. She was formerly principal of a girls school and was director of the women's section at the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh.

AL-HUWAIDER, WAJEHA

Wajeha al-Huwaider is a feminist author, poet, and journalist who is a staunch critic of Saudi policies in regards to women. The government banned her from all Saudi media in 2003, and since then she has led numerous human rights protests, especially concerning the driving ban for women.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

HRH PRINCESS HAYA BINT AL HUSSEIN

HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan is married to HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. She is renowned for her efforts in developing initiatives in humanitarianism, sports, health, science, culture and business as well as advancing the Millennium Development Goals toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

OSMAN, HIBAAQ

A Somali activist, Hibaaq Osman is V-Day Special Representative to Africa and founder of Karama, a regional movement working to end violence against women in the Arab World. She is also founding

WOMEN

CEO of the Arab Women's Fund and founder of the Center for the Strategic Initiatives of Women (CSIW).

WEST AFRICA

MAURITANIA

MOKHTAR, AMINETOU EL

Aminetou el Mokhtar is a Nouakchott-based human rights lawyer and President of the Association des Femmes Chefs de Famille, which defends and supports women heads of households and their children. She is also Chair of the African Democracy Forum, a network of organizations promoting democracy.

NIGER

MINDAOUDOU, AICHATOU

Dodo Aichatou Mindaoudou is the Nigerien Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and African Integrity. She has served the government since the mid-1990s, and is the former Secretary General for the Network for Rural Law. She has written extensively about economic development and women's issues.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

SAMAR, SIMA

Sima Samar is chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the UN's special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan. Samar is also the founder and director of the Shuhada Organization in Quetta, Pakistan, a humanitarian organization that assists Afghani women and refugees.

INDONESIA

MULIA, SITI MUSDAH

Siti Mulia is Chair of the social organization Muslimat Nahdlatul Ulema. In 1999, she became the first female professor at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. She helped produce the Counter Legal Draft, which would have revised the Islamic legal code to ban polygamy and child marriages.

MUNIR, LILY ZAKIYAH

Lily Zakiyah Munir is the founder and Director of the Centre for Pesantren and Democracy Studies, an organization educating Muslim boarding schools about human rights and political participation, especially during elections. She was the only woman and only Muslim to serve on the Monitoring Commission for the election in Afghanistan.

ULFAH, HAJJAH MARIA

Hajjah Maria Ulfah is an internationally renowned reciter of the Holy Qur'an and is the first woman to win an international Qur'an recitation competition. She has popularized the Egyptian style of recitation and serves as Director of the Women's Department of the Institute for Qur'an Study in Indonesia.

MALAYSIA

ALJEFFRI, SHARIFAH ZURIAH

Sharifah Aljeffri is an artist and curator incorporating the Chinese brush style with Arabic calligraphy to produce unique works of art. She is also an outspoken social activist who founded Sisters in Islam, an organization committed to gender issues and increasing respect for women.

WOMEN

MALAYSIA

ANWAR, ZAYNAH

Zaynah Anwar is the Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, an organization committed to gender issues and increasing respect for women. She is also a journalist who has contributed to the New Straits Times and the Star and has written a book about Islam in Malaysia.

PAKISTAN

BIBI, MUKHTARAN

After she was sexually assaulted in a much-publicized case, Mukhtaran Bibi founded the Mukhtaran Mai Women's Welfare Organization, which aims to educate young girls about women's rights and honour killings. Her memoir is a bestseller and she has been the subject of a documentary about sexual violence.

LODI, MALEEHA

Maleeha Lodi is a renowned journalist, diplomat and academic. She previously served on the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Affairs and as ambassador to the US and Britain. Lodi is the recipient of the President's Award of Hilal-e-Imtiaz for Public service in Pakistan.

NAIM, TANVEER KAUSAR

Tanveer Kausar Naim is director of the Science, Technology Research and Training Institute of the OIC standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTech). Naim is member of UNESCO's Gender Advisory Board and the UNESCO International Advisory Board on reform of Higher Education and Science and Technology in Nigeria.

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WARIS, DIRIE

Dirie Waris is a Somali-Austrian women's rights activist and former international supermodel. She was appointed UN Special Ambassador for the Elimination of FGM (female genital mutilation), and founded several organizations including the Waris Dirie Foundation to raise awareness about FGM. She has written several bestselling books.

BELGIUM

OZDEMIR, MAHINUR

Ozdemir is a young politician and Europe's first hijab-wearing Minister of Parliament. She was sworn in to parliament, while wearing a head scarf, in Belgium. The event garnered mass interest in Turkey, where Merve Kavakci was denied the right to swear her oath of office because of her hijab. Ozdemir is of Turkish origin. She is a Member of the Francophone Christian Democrat party.

TURKEY

FADILLIOGLU, ZEYNEP

Zeynep Fadillioglu is an architect and interior decorator who is most famous for her work in designing the Sakirin Mosque, the first mosque to be designed by a woman. She has previously worked on boutique hotels and restaurants for the wealthy.

GUL, HAYRUNISA

Hayrunisa Gul is the wife of President Gul and is the first First Lady in Turkey to wear the hijab, causing controversy from the secularist citizens and members of government. In the early 1990s, she appealed to the European Court of Human Rights to overturn Turkey's hijab ban.

WOMEN

UNITED KINGDOM

JANMOHAMED, SHELINA ZAHRA

Shelina Zahra JanMohamed is a British writer and commentator who gained web renown for her blog 'spirit21', and has recently become exceedingly influential as a leading female writer and author of 'Love in a Headscarf'.

KHAN, IRENE ZUBAIDA

Irene Khan is the Secretary General of Amnesty International, becoming the first woman and first Muslim to hold the position. She initiated a campaign against gender-based violence with Amnesty International. Previously, she served in various high positions in Macedonia and India for the UNHCR.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ASSILMI, AMINA

Amina Assilmi is President of the International Union of Muslim Women. She overcame challenges in her conversion, including a custody case that influenced a change in Colorado law saying that one cannot be denied custody because of religion. In 1996, she organized children to send the United States Postal Service their ideas for an 'Eid stamp.

KAVAKCI, MERVE

Merve Kavakci is a Lecturer on Culture and International Affairs at George Washington University. In 1999, she was barred from a position in the Turkish Parliament for refusing to remove her hijab. She is an important symbolic figure for the headscarf issue in Turkey and promotes Muslim women's rights at events all over the world, criticizing Turkey's anti-Islamic policies. She has also memorized the entire Qur'an.

MATTSON, INGRID

Ingrid Mattson is the director of the Islamic Chaplaincy and Professor at the Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. In 2001 she was elected Vice President of ISNA and in 2006 she was elected President, becoming the first woman and the first convert to hold such high positions within the organization.

UNITED STATES

MOGAHED, DALIA

Dalia Mogahed is the Executive Director and a Senior Analyst at the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies and director of the Muslim-West Facts Initiative. She was appointed by President Obama to serve on the Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighbourhood Partnerships.

NIAZ, ROBINA

Robina Niaz is the Executive Director of Turning Point for Women and Families, a New York City-based domestic violence agency especially for Muslim and South Asian women. She is an active participant in interfaith and women's rights events throughout the city.

WADUD, AMINA

Amina Wadud is a modernist Muslim feminist who controversially led both men and women in Friday prayer in 2005 in New York City. She has interpreted women's roles outlined in the Qur'an, in her book 'Qur'an and Woman'. She is currently a visiting scholar at the Starr King School in California.

YOUTH

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

BAHRAIN

AL BAHARNA, SADIQ

Sadiq Al Baharna, a business student in Dubai has become an inspiration for young social activists through his work in Bahrain mentoring youth who suffer from abuse, suicidal tendencies, and drug abuse—fostering global influence as a recipient of international awards and recognition.

EGYPT

HOSNI, MOSTAFA

Mostafa Hosni is a commerce student-turned televangelist who is increasingly influential for his innovative approach to preaching Islam on weekly programs with Saudi satellite channel, 'Iqraa TV'. A proponent of moderate Islam, Hosni works at an international private school on character development and cultivating a positive religious identity with Egyptian youth.

MASOUD, MOEZ

Founder of '*Al-Tareeq Al-Sah'* (The Right Way) Institute, Moez Masoud is a leading activist for Islamic education and a popular preacher trained in the Islamic Sciences renowned for his global influence through media productions on television and on YouTube.

QATAR

YOUNIS, AHMED

Ahmed Younis is a former Senior Consultant for the Gallup Organization and a Senior Analyst for the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies and the Muslim-West Facts Initiative. He is interested in tracking the experiences of Muslims in post-9/11 America, and is a prominent lecturer and advisor to government agencies. He now works in Qatar for Silatech, an organization seeking to create employment opportunities for young people in the Middle East and North Africa.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-SHUGAIRI, AHMAD

At the forefront of a religious revivalist youth movement across the Middle East, Ahmad Al-Shugairi is a Saudi television host and founder of a coffee shop designed for young people, Andalus cafe. With no formal Islamic training and an MBA, his popularity comes from repackaging a balanced understanding of Islam for his throngs of fans of all ages.

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

ABASS, MOHAMMED

Abass Mohammed is President and spokesperson of the Ghana Muslim Students Association (GMSA) for the Greater Accra Region, an organization noted for its professionalism, as well as its staunch commitment to community activism and spiritual development.

YOUTH

ASIA

PAKISTAN

ZARDARI, BILAWAL BHUTTO

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, born in 1988, is the Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), the largest political party in Pakistan. He is the youngest appointee to the position as of December 2007, after the assassination of his mother, former Chairperson of the PPP and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto.

SINGAPORE

LAZIM, RAZAK MOHAMED

Razak Mohamed Lazim is Chairman of *Al Irsyad Al Islamiah Madrasa* a multidisciplinary and progressive educational system, of primary and secondary school, that instructs students in both religious and secular subjects—winning a reputation as ‘the future of Islamic education.’

NASSIR, MOHAMMED

Mohammed Nassir is Director of SimplyIslam.sg, a Singapore-based virtual portal for ‘a new way to learn’ Islam through courses with leading Islamic scholars. Nassir is credited for drawing international Muslim leaders to the Muslim community of Singapore and for his dedicated efforts to developing youth programs.

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM

IMRAN, MOHAMMED

Mohammed Imran is founder and CEO of the Muslim Youth Helpline, a volunteer-based confidential helpline for young Muslims based in London, England that provides a network of community support and counseling services through a toll free phone line and interactive website.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

HOULI, BACHAR

Bachar Houli, an up and coming athlete with the Australian Football League has become an inspiration to young Muslims as a devout and practicing Muslim who successfully negotiates his religious identity and commitment to the sport. Houli was a 2008 nominee for the AFL Rising Star award.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ALI, BABA

Ali Ardekani, popularly known as Baba Ali, is a comedian and co-founder of Ummah Films, which produces comedy dealing with everyday issues faced by Muslims. His work has been well received by the NY Times amongst other newspapers. He is an Internet celebrity and also performs all over the world.

PATEL, DR EBOO

Eboo Patel is founder and Executive Director of Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago-based non-profit organization that brings together religiously diverse youth to participate in interreligious dialogue and community service. Patel writes for the Washington Post’s blog, ‘On Faith’ and is on President Obama’s Advisory Council of the Office for Faith-Based and Neighbourhood Partnerships.

PHILANTHROPY

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRAQ

AL-KHOEI, SAYYED JAWAD

Sayyed Al-Khoei is the Secretary General of the London-based Al-Khoei International Foundation, an international charity promoting the welfare of Shi'a communities throughout the world. He spends his time between the United Kingdom and his native Iraq.

SAUDI ARABIA

KREIDIE, DR SAMIR

Dr Kreidie is Managing Director of the Rabya Trading & Agriculture Company. He is the founder of the Inma Foundation, which helps provide humanitarian support to impoverished people in Lebanon, and a Director at Development Foundation International, an organization which strives to increase American participation in Lebanese humanitarian efforts.

AL-MADANI, HIS EXCELLENCY DR AHMAD MOHAMED ALI

Dr al-Madani is the President of the Islamic Development Bank, which aims to provide long and short term solutions to poverty alleviation in the Muslim world. Previously, he served as the Deputy Minister of Education in Saudi Arabia, and as Secretary General of the Muslim World League.

KUWAIT

AL-KHARAFI, NASSER

Nasser Kharafi—one of the richest people in the world—is the president of Kharafi & Sons, one of the largest Middle Eastern companies with an estimated capital of 5 billion dollars. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by HM King Abdallah II of Jordan in 2005 for his philanthropic efforts and contributions to relief agencies.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CHEEMA, TARIQ H.

Dr Cheema is the founder of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, a Chicago-based organization. He is a physician by profession and in 1998 he co-founded Doctors Worldwide, which provides medical relief in 18 countries. He was former Associate Director of the Islamic Medical Association of North America.

DEVELOPMENT

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

BAHRAIN

SHAWQI, FATIMA

Fatima Shawqi is Researcher at Al Tajdeed Cultural & Social Society, and member of the Environmental Citizenship Program of Bahrain. She is also a member of the Women's Association for Human Development, which has initiated groundbreaking efforts in environmental education for kindergarten-age children.

IRAQ

ODHAIB, MADEEHA HASAN

Madeeha Hasan Odhaib is a member of the District Council of Karada, in Baghdad, where she leads a community initiative to employ Iraqi women as seamstresses—alleviating poverty in the war-torn region. She is also a dedicated humanitarian who works with the Red Cross and other aid agencies on local relief efforts.

KUWAIT

AL-GHONEIM, H.E. PROF. DR ABDULLAH YUSUF

Abdullah Yusuf Al-Ghoneim is former Minister of Education and the director of the Kuwaiti Centre for Research and Studies on Kuwait, an innovative think tank dedicated to the study of Kuwaiti affairs and particularly to addressing Iraqi aggressions against the country.

LEBANON

FAHS, SHEIKH SEYYED HANI

Sheikh Seyyed Hani Fahs is a member of the Supreme Shi'a Committee in Lebanon, the Permanent Committee for Lebanese Dialogue and a founding member of the Arab Committee for Islamic-Christian Dialogue—comprised of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims and Christian dialogue participants from across the Arab world.

AL-SADR, RABAB

Rabab Al-Sadr is a social and human rights activist and a philanthropist. A dynamic thinker, Rabab is the President of the successful Imam Al-Sadr Foundation which comprises of six schools and an orphanage.

LIBYA

AL-GADDAFI, SAIF AL-ISLAM MUAMMAR

Saif al-Islam Muammar al-Gaddafi is President of the Libyan National Association for Drugs and Narcotics Control and founder of the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, which addresses humanitarian and relief efforts in Libya. Al-Gaddafi is noted for his 'Isratine' proposal for a one-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

PALESTINE

ABU AWWAD, ALI

Ali Abu Awwad is a Palestinian activist with the Bereaved Families Forum, a network of Palestinian and Israeli families that have suffered losses due to the crisis and advocates a message of non-violent reconciliation instead of retribution.

ABU ELAISH, DR IZZELDIN

Dr Izzeldin Abu Elaish is a Palestinian peace activist nominated for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for

DEVELOPMENT

his efforts in the region as a gynecologist, public health expert, and outspoken advocate of a lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace.

QATAR

HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA AISHA BINT FALEH BINNASSER AL THANI

Sheikha Aisha Al Thani is the founder of the Doha Academy and board member of Reach out to Asia, Qatar. She is a modernist development thinker, who promotes a more pronounced and well-judged engagement with people of faith.

AL-THANI, HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA MAYASSA BINT HAMAD

Sheikha Mayassa is the Chairperson of Reach Out To Asia an NGO that is under the Qatar Foundation, that contributes to the development of societies in Asia, including the Middle East, with specific emphasis on improving both primary and secondary education quality, in addition to achieving some of the UNESCO's Education For All (EFA) and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

SAUDI ARABIA

BIN LADEN, BAKR

Bakr bin Laden, half-brother of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, is the chairman of the Saudi Binladin Group. The Binladin Group is a sizeable multinational construction company with operations in Saudi Arabia and over 30 countries—making him an increasingly influential power broker in Saudi business capital.

SUDAN

OSMAN, SALIH MAHMOUD

Salih Mahmoud Osman is a Sudanese lawyer, human rights advocate and a member of the Sudan National Assembly. Listed in European Voices' 50 most influential people in 2007, Osman also received the 2005 Human Rights Watch Award and the American Bar Association's 2006 International Human Rights Award.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL-MAHMOUDI, HUSSEIN MOHAMMAD

Hussein Mohammad Al-Mahmoudi is Director General of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, dedicated to improving the standard of living and advancing humanitarian efforts in the region—from educational initiatives (including Tatweer, a leadership development program) to various social and welfare services and environmental protection projects.

TUNISIA

ENNAIFER, PROF. DR HMIDA

Dr Ennaifer was one of three leaders of an Islamic movement in Tunisia which gave birth to the 'Mouvement de la Tendence Islamique' (Later renamed Ennahda) in the early eighties. It represents, in the Islamic movement, the moderate intellectual wing. Ennaifer was formerly a Professor of Islamic Theology at the Zitouna University. In 1985, he joined the Group of Islamic-Christian Research (GRIC). From 1989 to 1991, he was responsible for advising the Minister for National Education and Religious Issues in Tunisia. Since 2005 he has held the position of Co-Chairman of the GRIC.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL-ABBAR, MOHAMMED BIN ALI

Member of the Executive Board of the Government of Dubai and the Director of the Department of Economic Development he is one of the main assistants of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

DEVELOPMENT

YEMEN

BAOBAID, MOHAMMAD BAOBAID

Baobaid is a Muslim activist working on domestic violence at the University of Sana'a. He advocates for men, like him, to combat domestic violence and be part of the solution to the mistreatment of women in Yemen. He is also a project coordinator of the Muslim Family Safety Project, an initiative to help victims of violence in the Muslim community in Ontario.

MIDDLE AFRICA

ANGOLA

DRAME, FAMAR

Drame is founder and Vice President of Associaçao Islamica de Desenvolvimento de Angola. It is the first and the only Islamic organization in a country of 15 million people and the only Islamic organization recognized and authorized by the government of the Republic of Angola. It is charged with the responsibility to build a Mosque with a school attached to it to teach Islamic knowledge, Arabic and Portuguese.

EAST AFRICA

BURUNDI

NKUNDUWIGA, HARUNA

Nkunduwiga is the Secretary General of the Muslim Community of Burundi. He has been working recently to battle the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Burundi with other faith leaders to raise awareness, asking people to 'stay clean'.

KENYA

KHALIFA, SHEIKH MOHAMMED

Khalifa is the organizing secretary of the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya, he is also the head of the as yet unregistered Islamic Party of Kenya. Islamic speakers blasted the government for what they termed harassment of Muslims after being branded as terror suspects.

MALAWI

CHABULIKA, SHEIKH DINALA

He is the Islamic Information Bureau's National Coordinator. He is known as an Islamic rights activist and has taken it upon himself to present the need to address social issues as religious duties. He works on health issues, exploitation, and has built bridges with the non-Muslims in Malawi. He has also fought against the forced teaching of religious texts to school children.

MOZAMBIQUE

CHEBA, SHEIK MUHAMMADE ABOULAI

Cheba is the provincial director of 139 registered *madrassas* (Islamic schools), where pupils start learning about AIDS as early as six years of age. He raises awareness that the disease is not a divine punishment, and sees mosques as the perfect place for the dissemination of such knowledge.

SOMALIA

ELMI, ASHA HAJI

Asha Haji Elmi is a peace activist in Somalia who in 2008 won the Right Livelihood Award (known as the alternative Nobel Prize). She is an activist for women's rights and formed the Six Clan movement when women were excluded from the peace process in Somalia that involved the five traditional clans. She is also the founder of Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC) and campaigns internationally against female genital mutilation in Somalia and in other areas of Africa.

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WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

ABOUBAKARY, MAIGA

Aboubakary is the Secretary General of the Burkina Faso Islamic Organization in Population and Development. His organization promotes family-planning in mosques around the country.

COTE D'IVOIRE

ABDOULAZIZ, SHEIKH SARBA

Abdoulaziz is the leader of the Association Soulatine Pour Les Actions De Bienfaisance. He works in Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to achieve a sustainable development of Islam, and a fair treatment of Muslims. He has been active at major international conferences trying to deal with the problem of Islamophobia.

NIGERIA

ASHAFA, IMAM MUHAMMAD

Imam Muhammad Ashafa is the co-director of the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Centre in the city of Kaduna, Northern Nigeria—leading task-forces to resolve conflicts across the country. He works with Christian Pastor James Wuye to promote peace between religions. Both were injured and affected by inter-religious violence.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

CAJEE, ZEINOUL ABEDIEN

Cajee is the CEO of the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa. The National Awqaf Foundation is an independent community-based and community-owned trust, dedicated to the institution of Waqf and the empowerment of communities.

JEENAH, NAEEM

Jeenah is a former Muslim Youth Movement President (MYM). He is a progressive Muslim activist and an international solidarity activist currently working with the Freedom of Expression Institute in Johannesburg, South Africa.

PATEL, EBRAHIM

Patel is the current Minister for Economic Development of South Africa and a former Spokesperson for COSATU (the umbrella organization for South African Trade Unions). He is influential because of both the AIDS situation and also the fact that South Africa has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world due to the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe.

SOOLIMAN, DR IMTIAZ ISMAIL

Sooliman is the founder of the Gift of the Givers Foundation. It is the largest disaster relief organization of African origin on the African continent. His organization has delivered over 37 million USD in aid to 25 countries around the world. They have designed and developed the world's first and largest containerized mobile hospital, which has been deployed in Bosnia. Besides this, it runs 24 development projects in South Africa and Malawi.

CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO

WESTON, OMAR

Weston is a British convert and the head of the Islamic Mexican Cultural Center. He is a founding

DEVELOPMENT

member of Organizacion Islamica Para America Latina y el Caribe, the Caribbean Muslim Forum, and ‘Campania Libertad Religiosa y Derechos de Expression’, an active group that focuses on religious tolerance and freedom of religious practices. Weston is the Director of the following registered centers in Mexico: Dar as Salam Centre Mexico, Centro Cultural Islamico de Mexico, Viva Halal which assesses and certifies Mexican companies.

SOUTH AMERICA

GUYANA

KHAN, FAIZUL

Faizul Khan has been credited with founding an Islamic school in Guyana at the age of seventeen and has played a strategic role in developing Muslim institutions in Guyana and abroad—particularly in the US, where he is chapter member of the Islamic Society of North America.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

GHANI, ASHRAF

Ashraf Ghani is an academic and the Chairman of the Institute of State Effectiveness, an organization set up in January 2005 to promote the ability of states to serve their citizens. He served as the Finance Minister of Afghanistan between July 2002 and December 2004. Since then, he has begun to pave the path for the country’s economic recovery post-Taliban. Ghani is also a 2009 Presidential Candidate.

SARABI, HABIBA

Habiba Sarabi became the first female Governor in Afghanistan in 2005. She is hematologist by profession who encourages environmental reform. In 2008, she was honoured by Time magazine for her help in establishing the country’s first national park, Band-e Amir.

BANGLADESH

YUNUS, MOHAMMAD

Mohammad Yunus is the founder of the Grameen Bank. He developed the concept of microcredit for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 2006. The bank is *sharia*-based but not *sharia* compliant; it is pro-poor but takes interest. His efforts to create economic and social development and to help the impoverished escape poverty by providing loans on terms suitable to them and by teaching them a few sound financial principles have been recognized by many international organizations including the King Hussien Foundation, Jordan and UNESCO.

CHINA

MARIAH, MAH

Mariah Mah has been an educator for over 30 years while also upholding and continuing her family tradition of carrying out charity work for the underprivileged, the poor and the needy in various rural areas of China. Along with other volunteers, Mah provides many community services including organizing Qurban/Aqidah during the holy month of Dzul Hijjah, sponsoring poor students and orphans for education, distributing zakat, food and clothing to the poor and needy, building toilet facilities in rural areas and setting up kindergartens and study centers in remote villages in China. Mah also works with local travel agents to provide travel tours around China.

INDONESIA

ANWAR, SYAFI’I

Anwar is the head of the International Center for Islam and Pluralism; and the Chair of the South East Asia Forum for Islam and Democracy. He vocally denounced the fatwa of the Indonesian Ulema Council that deemed pluralism as ‘religiously unlawful’. His organization sees education as

DEVELOPMENT

a key part in the promotion of moderation and works to teach human rights to children in Islamic boarding schools.

MALAYSIA

KADER, MOHIDEEN ABDUL

Kader is Vice President of the Consumers' Association of Penang which works to secure the rights of every person to basic needs, clean and safe environment, and the development of indigenous culture and knowledge. He is also a Board member of Citizens International, an NGO working on international political issues.

PAKISTAN

CHAUDRY, CHIEF JUSTICE IFTIKHAR M.

Chaudry is the former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan, and a key leader of the Lawyers' Movement. The movement started when he was suspended by President General Musharraf in March, 2007, when he refused to oblige Musharraf by refusing to resign. In March 2009 he was reinstated in his former position.

EDHI, ABDUL SATTAR

Abdul Sattar Edhi is the founder of Edhi Foundation; the largest and most organized social welfare system in Pakistan. For over 50 years, Edhi has devoted his time and resources to help those less fortunate by providing a range of services including a 24-hour emergency service across the country through 300 Edhi centers which provide free shrouding and burial of unclaimed dead bodies; shelter for the destitute, orphans and handicapped persons; free hospitals and dispensaries; rehabilitation of drug addicts; national and international relief efforts for victims.

AL-QADRI, DR MUHAMMAD TAHIR

Dr Tahir Al-Qadri is a politician, Professor, and the founder of Minhaj ul Qur'an International Worldwide, an organization whose aim is to establish unity and understanding between communities, and also the founder of the Minhaj Welfare Foundation which provides welfare for the needy. He has authored some 450 published works and given more than 6,000 lectures on economics and political studies, religious and social philosophy, law and medical sciences which are aired on international satellite channels such as QTV (ARY), PTV Prime and the Islam Channel. He also served as a Jurist Consult (legal advisor) on Islamic Law for the Supreme Court and the Federal Shariah Court of Pakistan and has worked as a specialist adviser on Islamic curricula for the Federal Ministry of Education of Pakistan.

PHILLIPINES

ABUBAKAR, ISMAEL

Abubakar is the former Speaker of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao's Regional Legislative Assembly. He is now concentrating on business and interfaith dialogue, convening the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy. He is from the predominantly Muslim Sama tribe, which garners a significant amount of respect in dealing with the Muslim militants.

ASKALANI, GENERAL MUHAMMAD NUR

General Askalani is the head of the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG) whose mandate it is to monitor violations of the ceasefire agreement with Muslim militants in the Philippines. He is from the traditionally Muslim Tausug tribe.

RASUL-BERNANDO, AMINA

Rasul-Bernando is a noted peace and human rights advocate in Asia, and the Director of the Philippine Council on Islam and Democracy (PCID), she is the recipient of Muslim Democrat of the Year Award from the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy for her long term advocacy for

DEVELOPMENT

democracy and peace in the Muslim Mindanao region. She is also a founding member of the Muslim Professional and Business Women Association of the Philippines. She has worked to develop mutual-guarantee associations among Muslim and indigenous women to finance cottage enterprises and small businesses. A founding member of the Magbassa Kita Foundation, she served as the first Chief Operating Officer, responsible for raising 2 million USD to support the foundation's literacy program for Muslim and indigenous communities.

THAILAND

LANGPUTEH, DR SUKREE

Langputeh is a former member of the National Reconciliation Commission which dealt with the aftermath of the South Thailand insurgency. He is currently an academic at the Thai Center for Muslim and Democratic Development.

SABUR, M ABDUS

Sabur is the Secretary General and co-founder of the Asian Resource Foundation and the Asian Muslim Action Network. He is also co-director of the School of Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation in Bangkok. In the nineties he served as Coordinator of the Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD). He has edited a number of publications on peace and dialogue in southeast Asia including 'Understanding Human Rights: Perspectives from South Asia', 'Interfaith Conference on the Culture of Peace', 'Globalization and Asian Perspectives for an Alternative Development' and 'Towards Peace in Multi-Ethnic Asia'.

EUROPE

BELARUS

IBRAGIM KANAPATSKY

Kanapatsky is the Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Association of Belarus. The Islamic Association is currently developing the infrastructure for Muslim communities in Belarus, building a mosque in Minsk, as well as renovating the ancient mosque in Smilovichi and the Muslim cemeteries that exist throughout the country.

BOSNIA

MAHMUTCEHAJIC, HE PROF. DR RUSMIR

Mahmutcehajic is the President of the International Forum Bosnia, and a former Vice President of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has been incredibly important in efforts to heal the ethnic, religious and social divisions that happened as a result of the Bosnian war in the 1990s. His projects are some of the most successful at producing real healing among communities. He works in his home town of Stolac which is one of the most deeply divided towns in Bosnia.

BULGARIA

HADZHI, MUSTAFA ALISH

Hadzhi is Bulgaria's Chief Mufti. Bulgaria has recently been referred to as Istanbulbulgaria because of the importance of Turkish-Bulgarian relations. Hadzhi is important as the leader of the Muslim community in a predominantly Christian state with a large influx of Muslims. Bulgaria's Mufti, Mustafa Alish Hadzhi, has recently been in the news because of a decision to prevent the building of a new mosque, and is taking the case to the EU.

FINLAND

ISMAIL, ATIK

Ismail is a famous former professional footballer and a Tatar community leader in the city of Kuopio, Finland. He regularly speaks on television to explain the indigenous brand of Islam of his Tatar community, and debate exponents of more radical interpretations of Islam. He is well-received by the Finnish public who identify with him.

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GERMANY

RIEGER, ABU BAKR

Abu Bakr Rieger is the chairman of the European Muslims Union, which aims to be an umbrella organization for various institutions and area entities that serve the broader Muslim community in Europe. He is also the editor of the 'Islamische Zeitung.'

GIBRALTAR

MOHAMED SASRI

Mohamed Sasri is the President of the Moroccan Workers Association and an advocate of social justice and equality for the Muslims of Gibraltar and immigrant workers in particular. He has been active in the fight for more rights in regards to unemployment benefits for all workers.

SPAIN

ESCUDERO, DR MANSUR A.

Dr Mansur A. Escudero is Secretary General of the Islamic Commission of Spain, which is outspoken against terrorism in the name of Islam, and is a founding member of multiple Islamic institutions in Spain. He gained international attention when he lobbied for permission for Muslims to pray at the former Great Mosque at Cordoba in 2007.

TURKEY

BENLI, FATMA

Fatma Benli is a Turkish lawyer and women's rights advocate, specifically known for her advocacy of Turkish women's right to wear the hijab. Benli is also the Vice President of the Women's Rights Association against Discrimination AKDER. Benli has become especially influential recently due to the continued legal battles on *hijab* permissibility at universities.

KALIN, DR IBRAHIM

Kalin is the Director of the SETA Foundation in Ankara, Turkey. SETA is a non-profit research institute dedicated to innovative studies on national, regional, and international issues. Kalin is one of the key advisors on social issues and religious affairs to the Turkish government.

UNITED KINGDOM

AZMI, WAQAR

Waqar Azmi founded the British Federation of Racial Equality Councils and is currently the Chief Diversity Adviser at the Cabinet Office. In 2001 he became the youngest person from an ethnic minority to have a senior executive role in the private sector. In 2002 Azmi received an OBE for his work.

AL-BANNA, DR HANY

Hany al-Banna is the co-founder and President of Islamic Relief, the largest Western-based international Muslim relief and development NGO. Established in 1983, the organization provides assistance in over 30 countries worldwide and al-Banna's work was honoured by Queen Elizabeth who gave him an OBE for his services to the community.

HELLYER, DR HISHAM A.

Hellyer is an Associate Fellow at the University of Warwick, a former researcher at the Brookings Institution, and a columnist for the Guardian newspaper. His expertise is chiefly in interethnic relations.

DEVELOPMENT

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

EL-MASRI, HAZEM

Hazem El-Masri is a professional rugby league footballer for the Bulldogs Club of the National Rugby League. A devout Muslim, Masri is a respected figure in his community for his work with young people.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

DOUEIRI, DANY

Dany Doueiri is the Arabic Language program coordinator at California State University-Sen Bernardino and co-founder of Islamicity, one of the world's most popular websites on Islam. He is Vice President of Human Assistance & Development International, which aims to promote educational development and relief efforts.

SLIMI, IMAM HAMID

Imam Hamid Slimi, is a Toronto Imam and Chairman of the Canadian Council of Imams. A writer on terrorism and Islam, Slimi is also the founder and Executive Director of the Faith of Life Network and was asked to help in the rehabilitation of Guantanamo Bay captive Omar Khadr upon his release.

UNITED STATES

ABDUL-RASHID, IMAM TALIB

Imam Abdul-Rashid is the leader of the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood (MIB) in Harlem, New York. He is a counselor and advocate for Muslims living with AIDS and has worked with interfaith organizations and in many prisons as a Muslim chaplain and also has his own monthly radio show.

ABDUR-RAUF, FEISAL

Imam Feisal Abdur-Rauf is founder of American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA), a non-profit Islamic organization dedicated to building bridges between American Muslims and the broader public through educational and leadership initiatives such as the 'Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow.' He is also Imam of New York's Masjid Al-Farah and author of 'What's Right with Islam: A New Vision for Muslims and the West.'

AWAD, NIHAD

Nihad Awad is the National Executive Director and co-founder of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). He is a signatory of the letter from Islamic scholars to Christian leaders calling for understanding between the faiths and is involved in helping Muslims claim employment and civil rights.

CADER, RUSHDI ABDUL

Rushdi Abdul Cader is a co-founder and Advisory Board member of the UMMA Community Clinic. Working to improve the health and well-being of the underprivileged, Cader dedicates his time and passion to helping others for over ten years since the clinic first opened in 1996.

CLAY, MOHAMMAD ALI

Muhammad Ali is a legendary three-time World Heavyweight Boxing champion who was crowned Sportsman of the Century in 1999 by Sports Illustrated. His 1975 fight, Thrilla in Manila, inspired the first Rocky movie. Now, in retirement, he travels throughout the world promoting social justice issues.

DEVELOPMENT

UNITED STATES

IDRISS, SHAMIL

Shamil Idriss is the Acting Director of the Office of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Prior to this he was director of the Search for Common Ground Organization where he facilitated the first public visit of Americans to Iran since 1979.

KATHWARI, FAROOQ

Farooq Kathwari has transformed Ethan Allen Interiors Inc. into a leading brand in his roles as Chairman, CEO, and President. He is chairman and board member of several NGOs and NFPs including Refugees International and International Kashmir Study Group and has received numerous accolades for his work which include the Outstanding American by Choice Award.

KHAN, MANSUR

Mansur is co-founder of the University Muslim Medical Association of LA, which is a full-time medical clinic which serves LA's poorest residents and has succeeded and grown despite the failure of many other similar charitable clinics.

KHERA, FARHANA

Farhana Khera is the Executive Director of Muslim Advocates and the National Association of Muslim Lawyers (NAML). Previously, she was Counsel to the US Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights and focused on civil liberty issues in post-9/11 USA.

LATIE, IMAM KHALID

Imam Khalid Latif is the chaplain and director of the Islamic Center at New York University and the Muslim chaplain for the New York Police Department. He posts podcasts of his Friday sermons which are heard in 40-50 countries, and works with many organizations within New York on interfaith relations.

AL-MARAYATI, SALAM

Salam al-Marayati is the Executive Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council in Los Angeles. He is a journalist who writes in respected newspapers about the Middle East, Islam, and human rights. Additionally, he has promoted interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue between Muslims and Americans.

NASHASHIBI, RAMI

Rami Nashashibi is the Executive Director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), a Chicago-based community organization. A community activist and an advocate for the poor living in inner cities, Nashashibi works on making Islam more relevant and significant to those living in urban areas.

OMAR, MANAL

Manal Omar is the Executive Director of the Washington DC-based US Institute of Peace (USIP) and was the former Regional Program Manager for the Middle East for Oxfam. For the past 10 years Omar has been working on women's issues on a global level, working for Iraqi women's constitutional rights.

RIAZ, DR KHALID

Dr Riaz is an Illinois-based cardiologist and co-chairman of the Human Development Foundation's (HDF) Board of Directors. He develops networks in North America for the HDF, which aims to increase the living and educational standards of the poor in Pakistan.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRAN

AGHAZADEH, GHOLAM REZA

Gholam Reza Aghazadeh has been the Vice President of the Atomic Energy Organization in Iran since 1997 and is now President of the organization, which is responsible for all nuclear energy operations in the country. He has held various top positions in the post-revolution Iranian government, including Minister of Petroleum.

GHOLSHANI, DR MEHDI

Dr Mehdi Golshani is a Professor of Physics and founding Chairman of the Faculty of Philosophy of Science at Sharif University of Technology. He has written extensively on Islamic science, arguing for its relevance in the modern world.

KUWAIT

AL-SHAMLAN, H.E. PROF. DR ALI ABDULLAH

Dr Al-Shamlan, a geologist by education, is the Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, Dean of the Faculty of Science at Kuwait University, and Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of the Developing World. He served as Minister of Higher Education from 1988-1992.

SYRIA

DAYEH, KAWKAB AL-SABAH MOHAMMAD JAMIL

Kawkab al-Sabah Mohammad Jamil Dayeh, Deputy Minister of Health and Director of the Bureau of Health, Environment and Population for the General Union of Women, is Syria's newly appointed Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, a position left vacant for the past five years.

ASIA

INDIA

KALAM, DR A. P. J. ABDUL

An engineer by profession, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is former President of India and highly influential as the leader responsible for developing India's nuclear technology program during his presidency (2002-2007). He is also author of 'India 2020' which presents his vision of an Indian super power by the year 2020.

EUROPE

FINLAND

EL-FATATRY, MOHAMED

Mohamed El-Fatetry, a Finland-based Egyptian entrepreneur, is Chairman and CEO of Muxlim.com, a social networking website for Muslims. The online community, created in 2005, has been recognized as a growing private venture, empowering users with a Muslim-friendly environment for cross-cultural communication.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TURKEY

YAHYA, HARUN

Writing under the pen name Harun Yahya, Adnan Oktar has gained international prominence as a spokesperson for creationism but garners influence from his numerous and extensively distributed publications about Islam, 'the myth of evolution', and Islamic children's books.

UNITED KINGDOM

ALI, RANA

Ali is the inventor of Qiblasat, a device that locates *Qibla* via GPS (Global Positioning System) and gives accurate prayer times anywhere in the world. The device also includes a compass to show prayer direction.

KHALID, FAZLUN

Fazlun Khalid is the founder and Director of the Birmingham-based Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences. He is an expert on Islamic environmentalism, and has written extensively on religion and conservation. He facilitated a 1995 conference where all major faiths pledged to cooperate on environmental issues.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CHAKAKI, MOHAMAD

Mohamad Chakaki is a founding member of Green Muslims, a Washington DC-based group that seeks to relate sustainable environmental policy to faith. He is an environmental and community development consultant working on projects in the US and the Middle East.

EL-HIBRI, FUAD

Fuad el-Hibri is the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Emergent BioSolutions Inc., a multinational biopharmaceutical company which is the sole holder of an FDA-approved anthrax vaccine. He is the Chairman of the consulting firm East West Resources Corp., and Chairman and Treasurer of El Hibri Charitable Foundation.

OZ, DR MEHMET

Dr Mehmet Oz is a cardiothoracic surgeon who has been a frequent guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show. He is Professor of Cardiac Surgery at Columbia University, leads numerous organizations and charities, and has authored three books about personal health. He will star in his own talk show called Dr Oz in late 2009.

ZEWAIL, AHMED

Ahmed Zewail is a Linus Pauling Professor at the California Institute of Technology who won the 1999 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research in femtochemistry. He has recently accepted President Obama's invitation to serve on the Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

ARTS AND CULTURE

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

AUF, DR EZZAT ABO

Abo Auf is President of the Cairo International Film Festival. A successful actor and co-host of the highly popular on-air talk show 'Cairo Today', Abo Auf is also an accomplished musician, having played with some of today's most renowned Egyptian musicians.

IRAN

ABEDINI, REZA

Reza Abedini is a renowned Iranian designer and a Professor of graphic design and visual culture at Tehran University. He has won dozens of national and international design awards, including the 2006 Principal Prince Claus Award in recognition of his personal creativity.

NAZERI, SHAHRAM

Shahram Nazeri is a world renowned icon of classical Persian, folkloric Kurdish and Sufi music. Hailed as 'Iran's Pavarotti' by the Christian Science Monitor, Master Nazeri has released over 40 recordings to date and has performed in major venues worldwide.

IRAQ

AL-BAGHDADI, ABBAS SHAKIR AL-FATTAL

Abbas Shakir al-Fattal al-Baghdadi is one of the world's foremost exponents of Islamic calligraphy. He was born in 1951 in Baghdad. Al-Baghdadi is distinguished in his career as a calligrapher and teacher of calligraphy. He adheres strictly to the rules of classical calligraphy and is adverse to 'modern calligraphy', especially when its practitioners do not master the art in its traditional form. He is well-known for the balance, clarity and readability of his works.

JORDAN

AL-MEHEID, MINWER

Minwer al-Meheid is Director of the College of Traditional Arts and Sciences at Balqa University in Amman, Jordan. The influence of the College of Traditional Arts and Sciences is beginning to be felt across the Arab world, as wealthy Muslims and others from countries beyond Jordan commission work from its craftsmen. He has been prominent for leading the recreation of the famous Minbar of Salahuddin from old photographs and actual remains.

BUHAIRI, MUHAMMAD AHMAD

Muhammad Buhairi is a prominent Algerian calligrapher renowned in the Middle East, and globally, for his skill. He studied at the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, in Turkey, where he received his *ijaza* (certification) in *khat* (script). He has been working at the Institute of Traditional Islamic Art & Architecture in Amman, Jordan.

LEBANON

ASSAF, ROGER

Roger Assaf is a convert to Shi'ism. He is a renowned Lebanese director, actor and playwright. With his actress wife Hanane Hajj-Ali, he co-founded *Al-Hakawati* (Storyteller) Theatre Company and the Shams Cultural Cooperative for Youth in Theatre and Culture, an organization providing underprivileged individuals with a forum for self-expression through drama.

ARTS AND CULTURE

WEST AFRICA

MALI

KEITA, SALIF

Known as the 'golden voice of Africa', Salif Keita is an Afro-pop singer-songwriter from Mali. His West African music shares influences from Europe and the Americas, with an overall Islamic style. In 1977 Keita received a National Order Award from Guianese president Sékou Touré.

SENEGAL

N'DOUR, YOUSOU

Yousou N'dour is a preeminent Senegalese composer, singer, percussionist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. In 2005, N'Dour received a Grammy Award for 'Best Contemporary World Music Album' for 'Egypt'. As a cultural icon in Senegal, he is actively involved in social and political issues.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

AMLA, HASHIM

Amla is a South African cricketer. In 2004 he became the first South African team player of Indian descent. As a devout Muslim, he has actively campaigned to remove all alcohol-promoting logos from merchandise and playing gear.

SOUTH AFRICA

BHIKA, ZAIN

Zain Bhika is a South African singer-songwriter and pioneer performer of nasheed songs. He is known for his collaborative efforts with other prominent Muslim entertainers including Yusuf Islam and Dawud Warnsby Ali. Bhika also writes and directs plays written specifically for schools.

SOUTH AMERICA

GUYANA

SHAH, RYHAAN

Ryhaan Shah is considered among the best contemporary writers in Guyana and the Caribbean, best known for her 2005 novel *a Silent Life*. Shah is also an active public figure as the President of the Guyanese Indian Heritage Association.

ASIA

AZERBAIJAN

QASIMOV, ALIM

Alim Qasimov is an Azerbaijani musician and one of most recognized *Mugham* singers in Azerbaijan. In 1999, he was awarded the prestigious International IMC-UNESCO Music Prize. Qasimov has recorded nine albums, and performed in many concerts around the world.

CHINA

CHENGZHI, ZHANG

Zhang Chengzhi is considered by many to be the most influential contemporary Muslim writer in China. His historical narrative 'History of the Soul', about the rise of the Jahriyya Sufi Tariqah in China's northwest, was the second-most popular book in China in 1994.

ARTS AND CULTURE

CHINA

NOOR DEEN, HAJI (MI GUANG JIANG)

Haji Noor Deen is a world renowned Chinese master and lecturer of Arabic calligraphy. In 1997 he became the first Chinese Muslim to be awarded the Egyptian Certificate of Arabic Calligraphy and to be admitted as a member of the Association of Egyptian Calligraphy.

YUE, MA

Ma Yue is a Chinese martial artist and National Champion of Wushu. His Muslim Hui family's association with marital arts goes back six generations. Yue is a two-time gold medalist and a graduate of the Wushu University of China.

INDIA

KHAN, SHAHRUKH

Named by Newsweek as one of the 50 most powerful people in 2008, Shahrukh Khan is a prominent Indian Bollywood star, film producer and television host. Khan is the founder and owner of two production companies, Dreamz Unlimited and Red Chillies Entertainment.

INDIA

RAHMAN, ALLAH RAKHA

Allah Rakha Rahman is an influential music composer for the Indian film industry, record producer, and musician. He is the first Indian to receive a Golden Globe Award and two Academy Awards for his soundtrack of Slumdog Millionaire. In 2004, Rahman was appointed the Global Ambassador of Stop TB Partnership, a WHO project.

INDONESIA

ROSA, HELVY TIANA

Helvy Tiana Rosa is a prominent Indonesian writer and an instructor of literature at the State University of Jakarta (UNJ). Rosa is a member of Majelis Sastra Asia Tenggara (the Southeast Asia Board of Literature) and often represents Indonesia in literary events at home and abroad.

MALAYSIA

RAIHAN

Raihan are a world famous Malaysian Nasheed group with four members: Che Amran Idris, Abu Bakar Md Yatim, Amran Ibrahim and Zulfadli Bin Mustaza. Since their coming together in 1996, they have made 11 albums and have received many awards in Malaysia.

PAKISTAN

AHMAD, SALMAN

Salman Ahmad is a Sufi Muslim and one of Pakistan's most internationally renowned musicians. With a successful career as guitarist with rock band 'Junoon', he has performed across the globe. Ahmad is also a UN Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS with a focus on raising awareness in South Asia.

SINGAPORE

JALIL, ISKANDAR

Iskandar Jalil is a renowned Singaporean ceramist whose work integrates Japanese and Islamic styles. His art is featured in many international public and private collections. Though retired, Jalil continues to give weekly lectures on pottery at the National University of Singapore.

ARTS AND CULTURE

EUROPE

DENMARK

BACHIRI, ISAM AND QADRI, WAQAS

An award-winning group of diverse hip-hop artists, Bachiri, Qadri and Lenny Martinez (who is not Muslim), form Outlandish—an increasingly influential voice for the Muslim youth around the world and particularly, in Europe. They have performed internationally with hip-hop, R&B, and soul musical influence in multiple languages.

LATVIA

ULDIS, BERZINS

Berzins Uldis is a Latvian poet and translator. Uldis has been teaching Turkish at the Modern Languages Department of the University of Latvia since 2002 and is known for spending fifteen years on the first translation of the Qur'an in Latvian, published in 2009.

NETHERLANDS

BENALI, ABDELKADER

Abdelkader Benali is a Moroccan-Dutch writer and journalist. For his second novel, *De langverwachte* (The long-awaited one), Benalis received the 'Libris Prize for Literature'. Besides writing novels and theatrical plays, Benali publishes essays and reviews in various media.

EL MOUHANDIZ, RAJAE

Rajae El Mouhandiz is a Dutch-Moroccan/Algerian poet, singer, composer/producer and founder of the record label Truthseeker Records. After being the first Moroccan to study at a Dutch conservatory, El Mouhandiz left classical music to follow her own artistic path, seeking to incorporate her cultural roots.

TURKEY

YALÇIN, RABIA

Rabia Yalçin is a Turkish fashion designer. Her creations represent a synthesis of local and international cultures and are inspired by the opulence of her homeland's Ottoman past. With her line Rabia Yalçin Haute Couture, Yalçin has a strong presence in the European fashion scene.

UNITED KINGDOM

AZZAM, KHALED

Khaled Azzam is an Egyptian-British architect and the director of the Prince's School of Traditional Arts (PSTA) in London.

HADID, ZAHA

Zaha Hadid is a preeminent British-Iraqi deconstructionist architect and is currently professor at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria. In 2004, Hadid became the first woman to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize, architecture's equivalent of the Nobel Prize for her outstanding work.

ISLAM, YUSUF

Formerly known as Cat Stevens, Yusuf Islam is a British musician and singer-songwriter. In 1977, he converted to Islam and left music for educational and philanthropic causes. Since the 1990s he has made a gradual return with his latest albums 'An Other Cup' and 'Roadsinger'.

MIRZA, JEFF

EMMA-award-winning Jeff Mirza is 'Europe's top Asian Stand-up'. His acting credits include 'Bend It Like Beckham' and the role of Mo in the TV adaptation of Zadie Smith's 'White Teeth'.

ARTS AND CULTURE

UNITED KINGDOM

SANDERS, PETER

Sanders is a notable photographer and convert to Islam. He was granted exclusive privileges to photograph Hajj pilgrimage rituals in 1971, and subsequently has become an influential figure in photography as author of 'In the Shade of the Tree,' 'A Visit to A Prophet,' and other books that display his exploration of the Muslim world.

YUSUF, SAMI

Sami Yusuf is an internationally popular British singer-songwriter whose music has revolutionized the *nasheed* industry. Yusuf's music is mostly comprised of Islamic themes and about being a Muslim in today's world. He is also known for his extensive involvement in charity work.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

CARLAND, SUSAN AND DEBAB, JEHAD

Susan Carland is a well-known Australian convert to Islam who has been a regular panelist on the Muslim community talk show Salam Cafe. In 2004, Carland was awarded the Australian Muslim of the Year Award. Jihad Debab is Director of Salam Cafe. In 2005, the program was awarded the award for Best Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Program and Best Faith-Based and Spiritual Development Program at the Antennas Awards; Australia's national community television awards.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

ALI, DAWUD WHARNSBY

Dawud Wharnsby Ali is a singer-songwriter and performer, most famous for his ten albums featuring English language nasheed. His music is eclectic and inspirational. He has collaborated with many musicians and has hosted various television programs, including an internationally distributed film about the Muslim experience in Canada.

AMIR, AMIN

Amin Amir is a controversial Somali-Canadian artist whose political cartoons address issues faced by Somalis living at home and abroad. He maintains a website where he sells his work, and won the 2007 Exploration Grant of Edmonton.

K'NAAN (KANAAN WARSAME)

K'naan is a Somali-Canadian poet, rapper and musician who has produced three critically-acclaimed albums. He is lauded for his honest presentation of social and political issues through a blend of traditional Somali and modern hip-hop music.

NAWAZ, ZARQA

Zarqa Nawaz is a journalist and filmmaker who produced the award-winning Canadian sitcom 'Little Mosque on the Prairie,' a comedy about a Muslim family living in Saskatchewan. She owns a company called FUNDamentalist Films which produces films about Muslims living in North America.

ARTS AND CULTURE

UNITED STATES

CHAPPELLE, DAVE

Dave Chappelle is a comedian who starred in a two-time Emmy Award-winning weekly sketch called Chappelle's Show. Since he ended the show, he has produced the documentary Dave Chappelle's Block Party in 2006. He is also Producer of 'Allah Made Me Funny—the Official Muslim Comedy Tour' film.

HAMMAD, SUHEIR

Suheir Hammad is a poet and writer whose work represents her Palestinian heritage and identity as a Muslim woman. She was signed by Russell Simmons to Def Poetry Jam and subsequently went on tour.

MEMON, JAVED

Javed Memon, also known as HijabMan, is a young social entrepreneur. With a website that gets 30,000 hits per day, Memon has launched an innovative shirt business (with catchy slogans like 'My name causes national security alerts. What does yours do?') globally after being featured on Comedy Central's Colbert Report.

MOS DEF

Mos Def is an actor and hip-hop artist recently popular for his acting career, which garnered Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. He is noted for his stance against the misinterpretation of the Qur'an during a 2007 appearance on 'Real Time with Bill Maher.'

SULAIMAN, AMIR

Amir Sulaiman is an acclaimed rapper who has performed on HBO's Def Poetry showcase and toured North America with spoken word performances that addresses social justice and issues of everyday life. Sulaiman is considered a leading community activist.

USMAN, AZHAR

A prolific comedian and co-founder of 'Allah Made me Funny,' featured in over 100 world media outlets, Azhar Usman is star and creator of Tinku's World (a web comedy show) and is a leading American Muslim on the international comedy scene.

ZAKARIYA, MOHAMED

An engineer by training, Mohamed Zakariya is now an award-winning Arabic calligrapher whose work is displayed all over the United States. In 2001, he designed the 'Eid holiday stamp for the USPS and in 2002, he was featured in the PBS documentary 'Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet.'

MEDIA

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

HEIKAL, MOHAMMAD HASSANEIN

Mohammad Hassanein Heikal is a highly influential Egyptian journalist and social commentator. He has been a respected observer of Arab affairs for over 50 years and from 1957-1974 was editor-in-chief of Al-Ahram Newspaper in Cairo. He covered the 2008 US elections for Al Jazeera which also broadcasts his lectures.

SCHLEIFER, PROF. DR SULEIMAN ABDALLAH

Abdallah Schleifer is a Middle East expert who has covered the region for over thirty years. He has worked for the NBC and many other international media outlets. A Professor Emeritus of the American University in Cairo, Schleifer is considered a bridge-builder between cultures.

KUWAIT

AL-AFASY, SHEIKH MISHARY BIN RASHID

Mishary bin Rashid Al-Afasy is a famous reciter of the Qur'an and singer of traditional Islamic songs. He is the Imam of Masjid Al-Kabir in Kuwait city and in 2008, he was awarded the first Arab Creativity Oscar by the Arab Creativity Union; he owns two satellite channels.

AL-MUTAWA, JASSEM

Jassem Al-Mutawa is the President of Iqraa satellite channel, an Islamic TV channel presenting programs on everyday life problems concerning spiritual, cultural, social and economic issues from a modern Islamic perspective.

AL-MUTAWA, NAIF

Naif Al-Mutawa is founder and CEO of Teshkeel Media Group and creator of the popular Islamic-themed comic series 'The 99'. In addition to having authored multiple children's books, Dr Al-Mutawa holds a Ph.D in clinical psychology and has practiced in the field for many years.

SWEIDAN, SHEIKH DR TARIQ

Tariq Sweidan is the CEO and owner of Gulf Innovation Group in Kuwait and the general manager of Al-Resalah Satellite TV. An entrepreneur and a TV personality, Sweidan is prominent as a Muslim author and speaker.

PALESTINE

KUTTAB, DAUD

Daoud Kuttat is an internationally recognized Palestinian media activist, and journalist. He founded the Institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University, established the Jerusalem Film Institute and helped in establishing the Arabic Media Internet Network (AMIN). In 2007, Kuttat established AmmanNet, the Arab world's first Internet radio station.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

PHILIPS, DR ABU AMEENAH BILAL

A notable convert and Islamic scholar, Dr Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips is founder of the virtual educational institution Islamic Online University and Discover Islam, an Islamic centre based in Dubai. He reaches mass Muslim audiences through his television appearances on India-based satellite channel, Peace TV.

MEDIA

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AL-ROSTAMANI, DR AMINA

Al-Rostamani is CEO of TECOM Investments Corporation, the investment wing of the Dubai Technology and Media Free Trade Zone since July of 2005. Al-Rostamani obtained the rank of 80 out of the 100 most powerful figures in the Arab World 2009.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

HAFFAJEE, FERIAL

Haffajee is Editor of the 'Mail and Guardian', South Africa's premiere investigative newspaper. She was the first non-white woman, and first Muslim woman to become the editor of a major daily newspaper.

MORTON, SHAFIQ

Shafiq Morton is an award-winning journalist, photographer and presenter of the current affairs program 'Drivertime Show' on the Muslim radio station Voice of the Cape.

ASIA

INDONESIA

BAGIR, HAIDAR

Haidar Bagir is the founder and director of Mizan, a large publishing company that significantly shapes the development of Islamic discourse in Indonesia. He has founded and lectured in many educational institutions, and his philanthropic contributions include work with an organisation which focuses on community development. He has written extensively on Sufism.

EUROPE

NETHERLANDS

DAMI, ABDELLAH

Abdellah Dami, is presenter of several Dutch TV shows that address Islamic issues in Holland and Europe. He also hosts a weekly show on national radio aimed at young people on which he discusses and advises on matters of Islam and interfaith relations.

MIRZA, UMAR

Umar Mirza is Chief Editor of *Wijblijvenhier.nl*, the biggest Muslim weblog in the Netherlands and President of the *Al Hidayah* organization which organizes Islamic courses, seminars and festivals throughout the country.

TURKEY

BULAÇ, ALI

Ali Bulaç is an influential pro-Islamic intellectual and journalist who writes about Islam, social change, and politics. He writes for the popular daily newspaper *Zaman* and promotes the superiority of Islamic values and the revival of Islamic intellectualism in contemporary Turkey.

DUMANLI, EKREM

Ekrem Dumanli is the General Broadcasting Manager of *Zaman*, a popular Turkish daily newspaper with close ties to the Gulen movement. He has published five books and has written a play.

MEDIA

UNITED KINGDOM

ALIBHAI-BROWN, YASMIN

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown is a British journalist and author. She writes regularly for The Independent and the Evening Standard and is a noted commentator on issues of immigration, diversity and multiculturalism in Britain. She has received many awards and was appointed Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2001 which she later returned.

ALI, BARON WAHEED

Waheed Ali became the youngest peer in Parliament at the age of 34 and worked closely with the then Prime Minister Tony Blair. An openly gay Muslim, Ali is a British multimillionaire media entrepreneur, and managing director at Carlton Television Productions.

ATWAN, ABDEL BARI

Abdel Bari Atwan is a renowned Palestinian-British journalist and editor-in-chief of the major daily Arabic newspaper *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*. An expert on Middle Eastern and current affairs, Atwan is a leading writer and commentator, making regular appearances as a media consultant on major news networks.

BAIG, ANILA

Anila Baig is a feature writer for UK's highest circulated tabloid newspaper, The Sun. She won the Regional Press Award in 2004.

NAHDI, FUAD

Fuad Nahdi is Founding Editor of Q News a leading British Muslim magazine and Director of The Radical Middle Way, a UK-based Muslim initiative set-up to promote youth activism, authentic Islamic scholarship and education and the development of a distinct British Muslim identity.

OMAAAR, RAGEH

Rageh Omaar is a television news presenter and writer who was stationed and reported on Iraq and South Africa. He was the world affairs correspondent for the BBC from 1991 until 2006 when he moved to Al Jazeera English, where he currently presents the documentary series 'Witness'.

SARDAR, ZIAUDDIN

Sardar is a London-based scholar, writer and cultural-critic who specializes in contemporary Islam, science and cultural relations. He has published close to 50 books on subjects from the future of Islam to critiques of postmodernism, contemporary aspects of science in Muslim societies, colonialism and cultural relations, literary criticism, and travel.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

BAKSH, NAZIM

Baksh is a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television and radio producer specializing in root causes of terrorism. He also covers issues relating to traditionalist Islam. He is a former Massey Fellow and has produced the international affairs radio program 'Dispatches' since 2000.

UNITED STATES

AMANULLAH, SHAHED

Shahed Amanullah is the Editor-in-Chief of altmuslim.com, a site dedicated to opinions and social analyses from the Muslim world. An award-winning journalist, Amanullah is also the creator of a number of websites that serve as resources for Muslim products and mosques.

MEDIA

UNITED STATES

ASLAN, REZA

Aslan is a writer and scholar of religions. He is a public intellectual who appears regularly on American national television to speak about Muslim history. He is a columnist for the Daily Beast, serves on the board of directors of the Ploughshares Fund, Abraham's Vision, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at UC Riverside.

CANON, ANAS

Anas Canon is a DJ and Director and Executive Producer of the record label Remarkable Current, which promotes Muslim acts and talent, especially within the hip-hop genre. The label features international artists including Mos Def and Ahabab Al Mustafa and sponsors performance arts events all over the world.

GOVERNEUR, AISHA

Aisha Gouverneur is the founder of the Islamic Texts Society and director of the non-profit, charitable foundation and publishing company Fons Vitae. Gouverneur is the co-writer of 'The Life of the Prophet Muhammad'.

LEKOVIC, EDINA

Edina Lekovic is an outspoken Muslim advocate and Communications Director at the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC). She is prominent for her appearances as a spokesperson on major media outlets such as CNN, MSNBC, BBC, FoxNews and various print publications.

TAYLOR, TAYYIBAH

Tayyibah Taylor is the founder, publisher, and editor-in-chief of 'Azizah', a magazine for American Muslim women. She is the former Administrator and co-founder of the Islamic School of Seattle and has worked on many interfaith programmes and initiatives and has lectured throughout the world on Islam and women.

WOLFE, MICHAEL

Michael Wolfe is the President and Executive Producer of Unity Productions Foundation, which promotes peace through media. He has written a number of works on Islam and also hosted a televised account of the Hajj for Nightline in 1997 which was nominated for several awards.

ZAKARIA, FAREED

Fareed Zakaria is one of the United States' foremost public intellectuals. He is a political commentator, journalist, bestselling author, and TV host specializing in international affairs. He has been editor of Newsweek International since 2000, and was former editor of Foreign Affairs, and has hosted several political shows, his current being 'Fareed Zakaria GPS' on CNN.

RADICALS

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

AL-ZAWAHIRI, AYMAN

Ayman Al-Zawahiri is considered the second-in-command of Al-Qaeda. An alleged radical since age 15 as leader of Egypt's Islamic Jihad, he is a qualified surgeon, and is said to be the key ideological leader and author of numerous Al-Qaeda statements.

IRAQ

AL BAGHDADI, ABU OMAR

Abu Omar Al Baghdadi is the alleged leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq. A reclusive figure whose existence remains in question, it has been claimed by the Iraqi security forces that he has been captured; a report that has been refuted by the American government.

SAUDI ARABIA

BIN LADEN, OSAMA

Osama Bin Laden is the son of a wealthy Saudi businessman. The leader of Al-Qaeda, 'the Base', he is considered the internationally most wanted man for several terrorist attacks –the largest of which was the 9/11 attacks in New York City, that resulted in the deaths of 3000 civilians.

AL MADKHALI, SHEIKH RABI' IBN HAADI 'UMAYR

Sheikh Rabi' Ibn Haadi 'Umayr al Madkhali is one of the most significant thinkers in the Salafi movement. He is an influential writer and speaker, whose influence has led to an independent faction within Salafism; his adherents are known as Madkhali Salafis. Madkhali Salafis make up one of the most significant and influential branches inside the Salafi movement.

AL-HAWALI, SAFAR BIN ABDUL-RAHMAN

Safar bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Hawali is a Saudi Salafi Islamic scholar who lives in Mecca. Earning a doctorate in Islamic Theology from Umm al-Qura University, he was imprisoned during the 1990s for inciting people against the Saudi government. He was one of the founders of the Sahwa (Awakening) movement in Saudi Arabia.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

OMAR, MULLAH MUHAMMAD

Mullah Muhammad Omar is the reclusive leader of Afghanistan's Taliban. A prominent figure during Afghanistan's struggle against Soviet occupation, he is better known for his support of Osama Bin Laden. He is believed to be directing the Taliban in their war against NATO and Afghanistan forces.

PAKISTAN

MEHSUD, BAITULLAH

Baitullah Mehsud is a Pashtun from the Mehsud tribe. A prominent figure in the Waziristan tribal region of Pakistan, he was instrumental in the short-lived Srarogha peace accord between government forces and the newly formed Taliban of Pakistan. He allegedly ordered the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

RADICALS

PAKISTAN

SAEED, HAFIZ MOHAMMAD

Hafiz Muhammad Saeed is the supposed leader of *Jama'at-ud-Da'wah*, Pakistan. He is formerly a professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Engineering and Technology (Lahore) Pakistan. His group is suggested to have inflicted severe casualties on Indian forces in the disputed Kashmir region as well as terror attacks on the Indian parliament house in New Delhi. He is the founder of the Pakistani-based *Lashkar-e-Taiba* militant group which is alleged to have organized the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR

AZHAR, MAULANA MASOOD

Maulana Masood Azhar is a Muslim separatist fighting in Indian-administered Kashmir. He is the supposed leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad which is accused of many deadly attacks on Indian targets, one of which targeted the parliament house in Delhi in December 2001.

INDONESIA

BASHIR, ABU BAKAR

Abu Bakar Bashir is an Indonesian Muslim cleric and leader of the Indonesian Mujahedeen Council (MMI). He runs the Al-Mukmin boarding school in Ngruki, Central Java. It is alleged that he is the spiritual head of *Jemaah Islamiyah* with supposed links to Al-Qaeda; a suggestion he has denied, stating that he does not believe *Jemaah Islamiyah* exists.

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC NETWORKS

This list includes influential leaders from the top 50 and next 450 categories list for their ability to command a massive following and to lead global movements.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD *AL-IKHWAN AL-MUSLIMEEN*

EGYPT

AKEF, MOHAMMED MAHDI

Mohammad Mahdi Akef became Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2004 and has since led the largest Islamist political party, worldwide. The Muslim Brotherhood, or *al-Ikhwan al-Muslimeen* organizes political dissent in Egypt, recently having arranged mass protests criticizing the conflict in Gaza, and demanded an apology from the Pope in Jordan, all in the face of mounting criticism against the Brotherhood's beliefs and practices. The Muslim Brotherhood is active throughout the Middle East, North Africa and also in many Western countries.

HIZB UT TAHRIR

JORDAN

RASHTA, ATA ABU

Ata Abu Rashta is the global leader of the Islamic political party Hizb Ut Tahrir. Having worked closely with the founder of the party Taqiuddin an-Nabhani, Abu Rashta became prominent in Jordan during the Persian Gulf War when he contested the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and became the leader of the party in 2003. Hizb ut Tahrir is popular in the Levant, the former Soviet Union, South and South East Asia, and in Western Europe.

GÜLEN MOVEMENT

TURKEY

GÜLEN, FETHULLAH

Fethullah Gülen is a preacher, author of over sixty books, and leader of the Gülen Movement, an expansive network of his students. He became a public figure in Turkey, giving popular sermons in mosques, but was tried in 2000 for promoting an Islamist state; he now lives in the USA. The Gülen Movement started out as a distinctly Turkish movement but has since spread worldwide. Gülen has schools in almost every corner of the globe.

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC NETWORKS

HEZBOLLAH

LEBANON

NASRALLAH, HASAN

Sheikh Hasan Nasrallah is the current and third Secretary General of Hezbollah (the Party of God). Hezbollah is a Twelver Shi'a Islamic political party and paramilitary organization based in Lebanon. Political and military successes have made Nasrallah a vastly influential figure in Lebanon, and in the Middle East more broadly. Hezbollah's ideology is based on seeking social justice through Islamic ideals. Hezbollah appears at first to be a Lebanese national party, however its broad support from across the Middle East from individuals and communities supporting the idea of revolutionary Shi'ism have made it an global network. It has a significant following in Iran and Syria.

MARJAIYYA

IRAQ

SISTANI, GRAND AYATOLLAH ALI HUSSEINI

Ali Hussein Sistani, a Grand Ayatollah and Twelver Shi'a *marja* is currently the highest-ranking Shi'a religious scholar in Iraq and leads the seminary of traditional Shi'a Islamic studies in Najaf. Since the Iraq war, Sistani has played a wider political role in Iraq. He has been referred to as a key figure in the so-called 'Shi'a revival', for his central place in the *Marjaiyya* (the community of *Marjas*).

CAUCASIAN REBEL MOVEMENTS

RUSSIA

UMAROV, DOKKA

Umarov is the underground, self-proclaimed leader of the Caucasian Emirate of Ichkeria, an as of yet non-existent state on the eastern side of Russia. He works to unify rebel movements across many north Caucasian states.

TABLIGHI JAMAAT

PAKISTAN

WAHHAB, HAJI ABDUL

Wahhab is the leader of the Pakistan-based organization, Tablighi Jamaat, which has chapters in 120 countries. The Tablighi Jamaat's Raiwind Tablighi Ijtimah annual conference, in the Punjab, Pakistan drew 1.5 million attendees in 2008. With approximately three million members attending the annual Biswa Ijtema conference in Bangladesh, the Tablighi Jamaat is an increasingly influential Muslim network from South Asia.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

This list includes influential leaders from the top 50 and next 450 categories list who have been key figures in major world events in the past year.

INTERFAITH

GLOBAL

THE 'A COMMON WORD' GROUP

This group of 138 Islamic scholars and clerics is the catalyst behind a global bridge-building effort between Christians and Muslims. 'A Common Word Between Us and You' is an open letter issued from the Muslim leaders to Christians about the common ground between both religious communities, highlighting points of commonality found in the commandment to love God and one's neighbor.

ENVIRONMENT

UNITED STATES

NASR, SEYYID HOSSEIN

Nasr has tackled issues regarding the environment from a scholarly perspective, leading a movement to use Islamic teachings to help in the fight against climate change. The term he employs is 'eco-theology'. His is an important contribution in advocacy that promotes environmentalism underscored as a matter of religious duty.

ECONOMICS/RECESSION

TURKEY

SIMSEK, MEHMET

Mehmet Simsek is the Finance Minister of Turkey. He is a member of the pro-Islamic AK Party (Justice and Development Party), representing one of the only countries in the world that the OEDC (Organization of Economically Developed Countries) believes will be able to weather the recession well. Turkey is the Muslim country best prepared to handle the recession.

AIDS/HIV

SOUTH AFRICA

STUURMAN, MARIAM, SWART, RAOUL AND ESACK, FARID

Mariam Stuurman, Raoul Swart and Farid Esack run a faith-based organisation in the field of HIV and AIDS. Their organization, Positive Muslims, was established in 2000. It offers services from an Islamic perspective. Encouraging compassion, mercy and non-judgementalism towards all human-kind. South Africa is one of the areas worst affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

NUCLEAR IRAN

IRAN

AGHAZADEH, GHOLAM REZA

Gholam Reza Aghazadeh has been the Vice President of the Atomic Energy Organization in Iran since 1997 and is now President of the organization, which is responsible for all nuclear energy operations in the country. He has held various top positions in the post-revolution Iranian government, including Minister of Petroleum.

GAZA SIEGE

PALESTINE

HANIYAH, ISMAEL

Haniyah is a senior political leader of Hamas and one of two disputed Prime Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority, the matter being under political and legal dispute. President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed Haniyah from office on 14 June 2007 at the height of the Fatah-Hamas conflict, but Haniyah did not acknowledge the decree and continues to exercise prime ministerial authority in the Gaza Strip.

POVERTY

BANGLADESH

YUNUS, DR MUHAMMAD

Dr Muhammad Yunus is a Bangladeshi banker and economist, as well as founder of Grameen Bank, and is known for his pioneering efforts in microcredit. He is a founding member of Global Elders, a group of global leaders dedicated to solving global problems, and serves on the Board of Directors of the United Nations Foundation, a public charity. Yunus was awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to create economic and social development. His banking is not strictly sharia compliant since it is based around taking interest, but some commentators have called it sharia-based because of the pro-poor nature of the bank's work. He is currently seeking an endowment to make a sharia compliant micro-credit institution.

MUSLIM WOMEN'S RIGHTS

UNITED STATES

NOMANI, ASMA Q

Nomani is a journalist, author, and filmmaker. She is the author of the 'Islamic Bill of Rights for Women in the Mosque'. On return from Hajj, Nomani was concerned that the freedom of movement of women in mosques did not equate to the experience she had in Mecca, and decided to write a declaration to make women's experiences of visiting mosques more comparable to that of men.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

HIJAB RIGHTS

BELGIUM

OZDEMIR, MAHINUR

Ozdemir is a young politician and Europe's first hijab-wearing Minister of Parliament. She was sworn in to parliament, while wearing a head scarf, in Belgium. The event garnered mass interest in Turkey, where Merve Kavakci was denied the right to swear her oath of office because of her hijab. Ozdemir is of Turkish origin. She is a Member of the Francophone Christian Democrat party.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

QATAR

YOUNIS, AHMED

Younis is the young former National Director of MPAC. His current job is to create strategic partnerships at Silatech, an organization that recently started to push for greater youth employment in the Middle East and North Africa. This region in particular has one of the world's highest youth unemployment rates.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH AFRICA

PATEL, EBRAHIM

Patel is currently one of South Africa's most important figures. He is the Minister for Economic Development, and Former Spokesperson for COSATU, the umbrella organization for South African Trade Unions. His experience and position are critical at present because of the huge unemployment rates in South Africa.

BARACK OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

UNITED STATES

PANDITH, FARAH

Pandith was the Senior Adviser on Muslim engagement in the European and Eurasian region at the State Department. This position was created for the first time in US history. Prior to the State Department, she served on the National Security Council at the White House where she worked on Muslim engagement and combating extremism. She worked at the US Agency for International Development in the early 1990s and again in 2003. She also served in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2004. Pandith, a Muslim, immigrated to the United States with her parents from Srinagar, India. She has said that she sees her personal experience as an illustration of how Muslim immigrants to the US can successfully integrate into American society.

GLOSSARY



Aqida: Creed; this refers to the theological and doctrinal beliefs of Muslims.

Azaan/Adhan: The call to prayer.

Bid'a: Literally 'innovation'; this refers to the act of creating superfluous, or non-prescribed traditions in the practice of Islam. It is used in common speech as a denunciation toward those not acting in accordance with the prescriptions of Islam. The prescriptions of Islam are however open to scholarly interpretation due to perceived ambiguities in the Qur'an, or to scientific or technological innovations which present new questions to scholars.

Caliph: The head of the community of Muslims, either current or in the past.

Da'i/ Da'ee: Missionary.

Da'wa: Islamic missionary work; literally 'making an invitation' to the religion.

Fatwa : Islamic legal ruling, or legal pronouncement. It is not synonymous with a death sentence as is sometimes thought in the West.

Fiqh: Islamic Jurisprudence (the philosophy of law). This is the scholarly pursuit that enables individuals to have an educated understanding of Islamic law.

Hadith: Literally 'sayings'. These are a set of references to the life of the Prophet Muhammad. There are numerous *Hadith*, and the practice of verifying them is an Islamic scholarly practice of its own that has been carried out since the life of the Prophet.

Hafiz (or Hafiza) al Qur'an: A person who has committed the entire Qur'an to memory, and can recite the Qur'an at will. This is important in Islam because the Qur'an was originally revealed as an oral text, documented on paper only after the death of the Prophet Muhammad.

Hajj: The pilgrimage to Mecca, mandatory for every able-bodied Muslim is one of the five pillars of Islam.

Hijab : Head scarf worn traditionally by Muslim women.

Ihsan : Virtue through constant regard to, and awareness of God.

Ijtihad: Independent reasoning.

Imam: (1) In both Sunni and Shi'a Islam this the leader of congregational prayers who may also deliver the Friday prayer (*Jum'a*) sermon; more generally, a person of authority within the community. (2) In Shi'a Islam this exclusively refers to a series of people, descended from the Prophet Muhammad, who by lineage are considered divinely guided spiritual leaders.

Imamate: The position or institution, in Shi'a Islam, that is comprised of a series of divinely guided Imams.

Iman: Faith in God.

Islam: Submission to God's will.

Ka'ba: The cubic Mosque, adorned in gold embroidered black fabric, referred to by Muslims as the 'House of God'. This structure marks the direction in which Muslims pray and is central to the Hajj pilgrimage when it is circumambulated—a practice rooted in pre-Islamic

Arabia when it contained idols subsequently removed by the Prophet Muhammad.

Khateeb: One who traditionally delivers a sermon; orator.

Khawerij : A group of Muslims in early Islamic history who went against the larger community and became outsiders. A term used to describe political deviants.

Khums: Literally, 1/5 in Arabic; a religious tax of 1/5 of one's income owed by followers of Usuli Twelver Shi'a to a very senior cleric.

Madhabs: Traditional Islamic schools of Islamic Legal Methodology (e.g. Hanbali, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanafi, Jafari), that draw on the teachings and followers of four highly regarded scholars.

Madrassa: Religious school.

Manhaj: Literally 'methodology'; often used to refer to both the methodology of Salafi Muslims, or to a person of very high scholarly status in Salafi Islam who can lead methodological thinking.

Marja/Marjaiyya: The highest position of authority in the Usuli school of Twelver Shi'i fiqh.

Murid: Follower of a Sufi guide or order.

Mutabarrik: Supporter or affiliate of a Sufi guide or order.

Nasheed: Religious song traditionally performed without musical instruments.

Qibla: The direction in which Muslims make their five daily prayers; the direction of the Ka'ba in Mecca.

Ramadan: Holy month of fasting.

Shahadatayn: Testimony of faith.

Sharia: Literally, 'the way to the source', this refers to Islamic law. Islamic law is not, as is widely perceived, a standard set of written rules, but is rather an unwritten text that is interpreted by legal scholars in specific instances, drawing on the Qur'an and other reliable religious sources relevant to the tradition followed.

Sheikh: (1) A position of authority granted to people who are respected in society. (2) A religious official.

Sunna: Literally 'the trodden path'; this refers to the ways and practices of the Prophet Muhammad. Reference to these practices can be found in the Qur'an and in the *Hadith*.

Tafsir: Interpretation of the Qur'an, either by commentary or exegesis.

Velayat-e Faqih: A position of both spiritual and temporal powers in the Republic of Iran. Literally, Guardianship of the Jurists, referring to the fact that while the Mahdi (awaited one) is in occultation, the jurists should have guardianship over the earth.

Zakat: Alms-giving that amounts to one-fortieth of one's income and savings designated for the poor and destitute.

APPENDIX



INFLUENCE BY REGION



MUSLIM POPULATIONS

The Muslim world spans far and wide with majority Muslim countries nestled around the equator and concentrated in many parts of North Africa, the Middle East, South and South East Asia. An estimated one fifth of the world's population is Muslim—spanning approximately 50 countries as a majority and speaking around 60 different first languages.

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Central Asia	Afghanistan	28,226,000	97.890	27,630,431
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Albania	3,208,000	38.790	1,244,383
Middle East and North Africa	Algeria	34,373,000	96.680	33,231,816
South Pacific	American Samoa	68,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	Andorra	75,000	0.630	473
East and Southern Africa	Angola	17,499,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Anguilla	13,000	0.550	72
North America and Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	86,000	0.400	344
Central and South America	Argentina	39,934,000	1.950	778,713
Central Asia	Armenia	2,996,000	1.200	35,952
North America and Caribbean	Aruba	104,000	0.280	291
South Pacific	Australia	20,951,000	1.330	278,648
Western Europe	Austria	8,391,000	2.230	187,119
Central Asia	Azerbaijan	8,534,000	83.670	7,140,398
North America and Caribbean	Bahamas	335,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Bahrain	766,000	82.370	630,954
South Asia	Bangladesh	161,318,000	85.600	138,088,208
North America and Caribbean	Barbados	295,000	0.750	2,213
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Belarus	9,635,000	0.100	9,635
Western Europe	Belgium	10,480,000	3.600	377,280
Central and South America	Belize	294,000	0.580	1,705
West and Central Africa	Benin	9,309,000	20.030	1,864,593
North America and Caribbean	Bermuda	65,000	0.000	0
South Asia	Bhutan	667,000	4.000	26,680
Central and South America	Bolivia	9,694,000	0.020	1,939
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Bosnia-Herzegovina	3,940,000	60.060	2,366,364

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
East and Southern Africa	Botswana	1,906,000	0.200	3,812
Central and South America	Brazil	194,228,000	0.100	194,228
South Asia	British Indian Ocean Territory	2,000	0.200	4
North America and Caribbean	British Virgin Islands	23,000	0.400	92
Southeast Asia	Brunei	398,000	64.370	256,193
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Bulgaria	7,584,000	11.870	900,221
West and Central Africa	Burkina Faso	15,213,000	50.000	7,606,500
East and Southern Africa	Burundi	8,856,000	3.000	265,680
Southeast Asia	Cambodia	14,697,000	3.900	573,183
West and Central Africa	Cameroon	18,920,000	25.000	4,730,000
North America and Caribbean	Canada	33,170,000	1.600	530,720
West and Central Africa	Cape Verde	542,000	2.770	15,013
North America and Caribbean	Cayman Islands	48,000	0.190	91
West and Central Africa	Central African Republic	4,424,000	15.600	690,144
West and Central Africa	Chad	11,088,000	55.000	6,098,400
Central and South America	Chile	16,803,000	0.030	5,041
Northeast Asia	China	1,336,311,000	2.000	26,726,220
Northeast Asia	China, Hong Kong	7,279,000	1.500	109,185
Northeast Asia	China, Macao	484,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Christmas Island	1,560	27.000	421
South Pacific	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	660	51.300	339
Central and South America	Colombia	46,741,000	0.110	51,415
East and Southern Africa	Comoros	860,000	98.070	843,402
West and Central Africa	Congo, Democratic Republic Of	64,704,000	1.100	711,744
West and Central Africa	Congo, The Republic Of	3,847,000	1.300	50,011
South Pacific	Cook Islands	13,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Costa Rica	4,534,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Cote d'Ivoire	19,624,000	38.600	7,574,864
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Croatia	4,550,000	3.000	136,500
North America and Caribbean	Cuba	11,265,000	0.080	9,012

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Western Europe	Cyprus	864,000	23.000	198,720
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Czech Republic	10,183,000	0.200	20,366
Western Europe	Denmark	5,453,000	3.020	164,681
East and Southern Africa	Djibouti	848,000	93.900	796,272
North America and Caribbean	Dominica	67,000	0.200	134
North America and Caribbean	Dominican Republic	9,904,000	0.020	1,981
Southeast Asia	East Timor	1,193,000	2.100	25,053
Central and South America	Ecuador	13,481,000	0.020	2,696
Middle East and North Africa	Egypt	76,840,000	86.520	66,481,968
Central and South America	El Salvador	6,953,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Equatorial Guinea	520,000	0.600	3,120
East and Southern Africa	Eritrea	5,006,000	47.970	2,401,378
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Estonia	1,331,000	0.700	9,317
East and Southern Africa	Ethiopia	85,219,000	31.000	26,417,890
Central and South America	Falkland Islands	3,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	Faroe Islands	49,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Fiji	844,000	7.000	59,080
Western Europe	Finland	5,293,000	0.180	9,527
Western Europe	France	61,946,000	10.000	6,194,600
Central and South America	French Guiana	207,000	1.900	3,933
South Pacific	French Polynesia	266,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Gabon	1,350,000	6.500	87,750
West and Central Africa	Gambia	1,754,000	88.800	1,557,552
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Georgia	4,361,000	20.000	872,200
Western Europe	Germany	82,534,000	3.700	3,053,758
West and Central Africa	Ghana	23,947,000	21.000	5,028,870
Western Europe	Gibraltar	29,000	8.500	2,465
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Greece	11,172,000	3.300	368,676
North America and Caribbean	Greenland	58,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Grenada	106,000	0.300	318
North America and Caribbean	Guadeloupe	448,000	0.400	1,792
South Pacific	Guam	176,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Guatemala	13,686,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Guinea	9,572,000	85.410	8,175,445
West and Central Africa	Guinea-Bissau	1,746,000	43.000	750,780

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Central and South America	Guyana	736,000	8.700	64,032
North America and Caribbean	Haiti	9,751,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Honduras	7,246,000	0.160	11,594
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Hungary	10,000,000	0.100	10,000
Western Europe	Iceland	303,000	0.040	121
South Asia	India	1,186,186,000	12.500	148,273,250
Southeast Asia	Indonesia	234,342,000	80.300	188,176,626
Central Asia	Iran	72,212,000	99.020	71,504,322
Middle East and North Africa	Iraq	29,492,000	96.850	28,563,002
Western Europe	Ireland	4,380,000	0.010	438
Western Europe	Isle of Man	79,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Israel	7,045,000	14.600	1,028,570
Western Europe	Italy	58,946,000	2.400	1,414,704
North America and Caribbean	Jamaica	2,728,000	0.200	5,456
Northeast Asia	Japan	127,938,000	0.120	153,526
Middle East and North Africa	Jordan	6,119,000	96.190	5,885,866
Central Asia	Kazakhstan	15,532,000	60.500	9,396,860
East and Southern Africa	Kenya	38,550,000	8.000	3,084,000
South Pacific	Kiribati (Gilbert)	97,000	0.000	0
Northeast Asia	Korea, North	23,867,000	0.000	0
Northeast Asia	Korea, South	48,388,000	0.070	33,872
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Kosovo	2,126,700	85.390	1,815,989
Middle East and North Africa	Kuwait	2,919,000	87.430	2,552,082
Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan	5,376,000	78.080	4,197,581
Southeast Asia	Laos	5,963,000	1.100	65,593
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Latvia	2,265,000	0.380	8,607
Middle East and North Africa	Lebanon	4,142,000	59.760	2,475,259
East and Southern Africa	Lesotho	2,020,000	0.010	202
West and Central Africa	Liberia	3,942,000	13.000	512,460
Middle East and North Africa	Libya	6,283,000	96.960	6,091,997
Western Europe	Liechtenstein	36,000	3.430	1,235
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Lithuania	3,371,000	0.140	4,719
Western Europe	Luxembourg	472,000	1.100	5,192
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Macedonia	2,040,000	25.000	510,000
East and Southern Africa	Madagascar	20,215,000	6.000	1,212,900
East and Southern Africa	Malawi	14,288,000	17.000	2,428,960

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Southeast Asia	Malaysia	27,027,000	58.000	15,675,660
South Asia	Maldives	311,000	99.410	309,165
West and Central Africa	Mali	12,716,000	87.000	11,062,920
Western Europe	Malta	408,000	1.100	4,488
South Pacific	Marshall Islands	61,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Martinique	400,000	0.500	2,000
West and Central Africa	Mauritania	3,204,000	99.840	3,198,874
East and Southern Africa	Mauritius	1,272,000	16.300	207,336
East and Southern Africa	Mayotte	123,416	96.500	119,096
North America and Caribbean	Mexico	107,801,000	0.030	32,340
South Pacific	Micronesia, Federated States	112,000	0.000	0
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Moldova	3,760,000	0.200	7,520
Western Europe	Monaco	33,000	0.500	165
Northeast Asia	Mongolia	2,654,000	4.000	106,160
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Montenegro	598,000	16.200	96,876
North America and Caribbean	Montserrat	6,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Morocco	31,606,000	99.850	31,558,591
East and Southern Africa	Mozambique	21,813,000	18.100	3,948,153
Southeast Asia	Myanmar (Burma)	49,221,000	3.800	1,870,398
East and Southern Africa	Namibia	2,102,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Nauru	10,000	0.000	0
South Asia	Nepal	28,757,000	5.000	1,437,850
Western Europe	Netherlands	16,450,000	5.400	888,300
North America and Caribbean	Netherlands Antilles	194,000	0.310	601
South Pacific	New Caledonia	245,000	3.500	8,575
South Pacific	New Zealand	4,215,000	0.460	19,389
Central and South America	Nicaragua	5,676,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Niger	14,731,000	97.590	14,375,983
West and Central Africa	Nigeria	151,478,000	41.000	62,105,980
South Pacific	Niue	2,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Norfolk Island	2,200	0.000	0
South Pacific	Northern Mariana Islands	85,000	0.000	0

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Western Europe	Norway	4,727,000	1.040	49,161
Middle East and North Africa	Oman	2,651,000	92.660	2,456,417
Central Asia	Pakistan	166,961,000	96.080	160,416,129
South Pacific	Palau	20,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Palestine (West Bank / Gaza)	4,147,000	86.560	3,589,643
Central and South America	Panama	3,399,000	3.500	118,965
South Pacific	Papua New Guinea	6,458,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Paraguay	6,238,000	0.050	3,119
Central and South America	Peru	28,221,000	0.000	0
Southeast Asia	Philippines	89,651,000	5.000	4,482,550
South Pacific	Pitcairn Islands	50	0.000	0
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Poland	38,022,000	0.010	3,802
Western Europe	Portugal	10,662,000	0.500	53,310
North America and Caribbean	Puerto Rico	4,012,000	0.130	5,216
Middle East and North Africa	Qatar	856,000	79.430	679,921
East and Southern Africa	Reunion	817,000	2.150	17,566
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Romania	21,344,000	1.000	213,440
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Russia	141,780,000	10.200	14,461,560
East and Southern Africa	Rwanda	10,009,000	10.500	1,050,945
East and Southern Africa	Saint Helena	7,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Saint Kitts and Nevis	51,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Saint Lucia	167,000	0.500	835
North America and Caribbean	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	6,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Samoa	189,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	San Marino	31,000	0.000	0
West and Central Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	160,000	0.300	480
Middle East and North Africa	Saudi Arabia	25,293,000	92.830	23,479,492
West and Central Africa	Senegal	12,688,000	92.070	11,681,842
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Serbia	8,032,300	2.500	200,808
East and Southern Africa	Seychelles	87,000	0.210	183
West and Central Africa	Sierra Leone	5,969,000	70.000	4,178,300
Southeast Asia	Singapore	4,490,000	14.900	669,010
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Slovakia	5,392,000	0.020	1,078

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Slovenia	2,002,000	1.550	31,031
South Pacific	Solomon Islands	507,000	0.000	0
East and Southern Africa	Somalia	8,956,000	99.950	8,951,522
East and Southern Africa	South Africa	48,832,000	1.450	708,064
Western Europe	Spain	44,593,000	1.200	535,116
South Asia	Sri Lanka	19,394,000	8.000	1,551,520
North America and Caribbean	St Vincent and Grenadines	121,000	1.000	1,210
East and Southern Africa	Sudan	39,445,000	65.000	25,639,250
Central and South America	Suriname	461,000	19.400	89,434
Western Europe	Svalbard	3,980	0.000	0
East and Southern Africa	Swaziland	1,148,000	0.950	10,906
Western Europe	Sweden	9,160,000	3.100	283,960
Western Europe	Switzerland	7,512,000	3.100	232,872
Middle East and North Africa	Syria	20,447,000	90.320	18,467,730
Northeast Asia	Taiwan	23,308,370	0.350	81,579
Central Asia	Tajikistan	6,839,000	89.500	6,120,905
East and Southern Africa	Tanzania	41,464,000	31.800	13,185,552
Southeast Asia	Thailand	64,316,000	5.240	3,370,158
West and Central Africa	Togo	6,762,000	24.000	1,622,880
South Pacific	Tokelau	1,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Tonga	101,000	0.000	0
North America and Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago	1,338,000	5.700	76,266
Middle East and North Africa	Tunisia	10,440,000	99.660	10,404,504
Central Asia	Turkey	75,830,000	99.640	75,557,012
Central Asia	Turkmenistan	5,031,000	91.840	4,620,470
North America and Caribbean	Turks and Caicos Islands	26,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Tuvalu	11,000	0.000	0
East and Southern Africa	Uganda	31,903,000	6.000	1,914,180
Eastern Europe and Eurasia	Ukraine	45,859,000	0.450	206,366
Middle East and North Africa	United Arab Emirates	4,503,000	65.450	2,947,214
Western Europe	United Kingdom	61,019,000	2.000	1,220,380
North America and Caribbean	United States	308,798,000	1.490	4,601,090

Region	Country	Population	Islam	
			%	Total
Central and South America	Uruguay	3,350,000	0.000	0
Central Asia	Uzbekistan	27,769,000	83.500	23,187,115
South Pacific	Vanuatu	232,000	0.000	0
Western Europe	Vatican City	1,000	0.000	0
Central and South America	Venezuela	28,122,000	0.350	98,427
Southeast Asia	Vietnam	88,537,000	0.700	619,759
North America and Caribbean	Virgin Islands (U.S.)	111,000	0.000	0
South Pacific	Wallis and Futuna Islands	15,000	0.000	0
Middle East and North Africa	Western Sahara	497,000	99.900	496,503
Middle East and North Africa	Yemen	23,066,000	99.940	23,052,160
East and Southern Africa	Zambia	12,154,000	1.400	170,156
East and Southern Africa	Zimbabwe	13,481,000	1.000	134,810
TOTAL		6,773,254,236	21.839	1,479,200,275



المركز الملكي للبحوث والدراسات الإسلامية (مبدأً)
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